

21-25 September 2020, Uganda

What is EVIDENCE 2020?

EVIDENCE is the biennial gathering hosted by the Africa Evidence Network (AEN), a community of over 3000 individuals from across sectors with an interest in evidence-use in Africa. It brings together a variety of expertise from across the African evidence ecosystem – from government officials to civil society organisations, from health researchers to technology experts – with the aim to advance support for evidence-use in Africa. As the most diverse and innovative evidence-use gathering in the world, EVIDENCE 2020 promises to bring together people with incredible evidence-use experiences who are willing to share their stories. Are you one of these people?

EVIDENCE 2020 will be rooted in three work streams: 1) Advancing the art and science of evidence-use in Africa; 2) Enhancing evidence capacities; and 3) Making connections and building collaborations. Participants of EVIDENCE 2020 will actively contribute to the development of concepts, manifestos, or visualisations – among other things – within these different work streams.

Work streams of EVIDENCE 2020

[Work stream one: Advancing the art and science of evidence-use in Africa](#)

This work stream aims to advance the knowledge and understanding of how to support EIDM in Africa. To achieve this aim, participants in this work stream will be involved in developing a shared consensus on a theoretical framework about what EIDM in Africa means. At EVIDENCE 2020, participants will run five sessions under this work stream: 1) stories of successful evidence-use that spotlight the different mechanisms participants have used; 2) drafting and finalising a position paper on conceptualising support for using evidence in Africa; 3) refining this position paper into ten key principles for advancing the art and science of evidence-use in Africa; 4) engaging in a rigorous critique and debate to test participants' collective position; and 5) sharing the collective position on advancing the art and science of supporting evidence-use during a plenary talk that aims to elicit buy-in from other participants at EVIDENCE 2020.

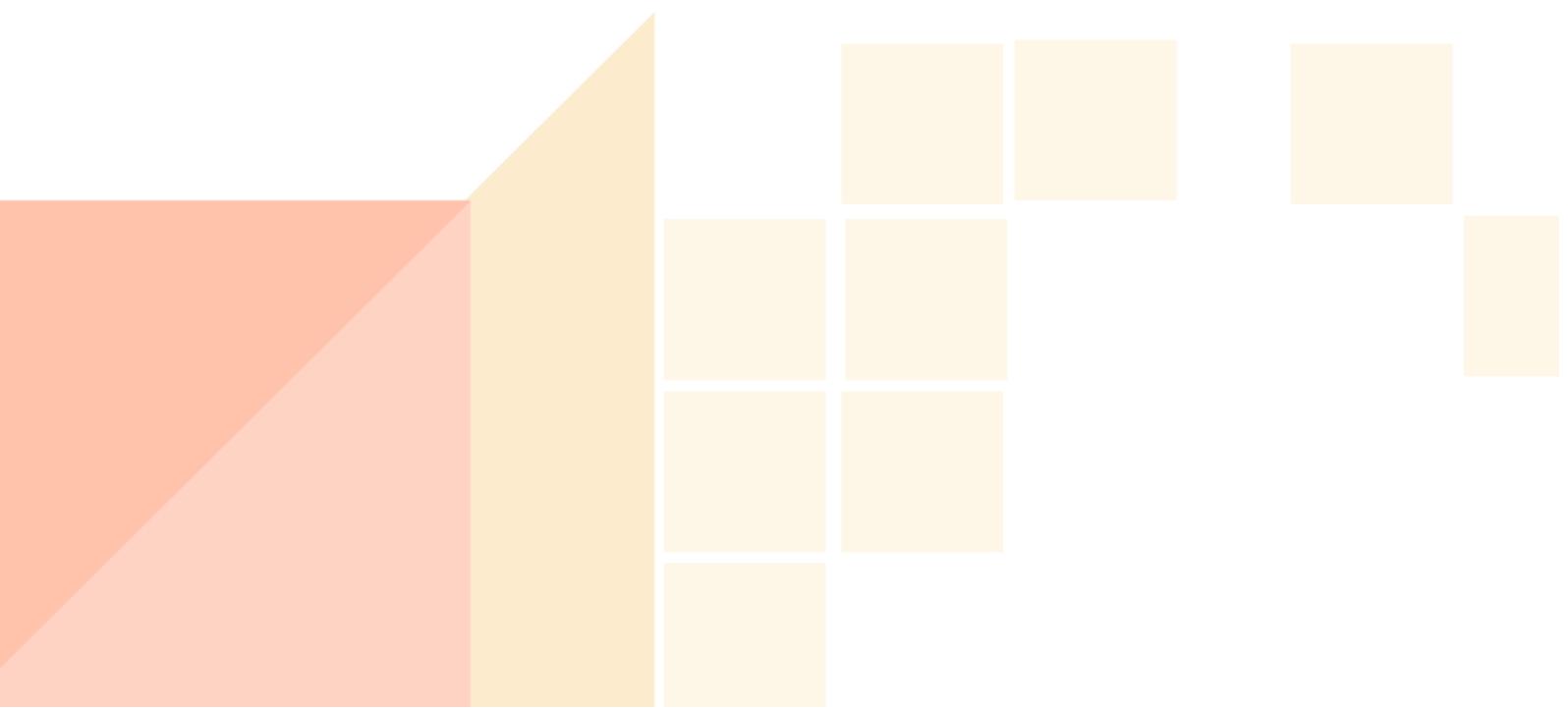
[Work stream two: Enhancing evidence capacities](#)

The main goal of the second work stream gathering at EVIDENCE 2020 is to share capacities across the EIDM ecosystem in Africa. EVIDENCE 2020 will be used to facilitate learning among participants and advance discussions, debates, and solutions for capacity within the African EIDM ecosystem. Participants in this work stream at EVIDENCE 2020 have an incredible opportunity to imagine a new agenda for capacity-development for African EIDM, taking further the models already used, by sharing and discovering different ways of looking at how to develop capacity. By the end of EVIDENCE 2020, this work stream hopes to have: (1) engaged a keynote on the decolonisation of capacity development in Africa; (2) presented five case studies of alternative approaches to capacity development; (3) understood what the implications are of alternatives ways of advancing evidence capacities for various stakeholders, such as funders and capacity

development providers; and (4) drafted a manifesto of principles for alternative ways of approaching EIDM capacity development in Africa.

Work stream three: Making connections and building collaborations

In the final work stream at EVIDENCE 2020, participants will be supported in brokering new connections and fostering collaborations with others engaged in or supporting EIDM in Africa. EVIDENCE 2020 will provide a platform for participants to work together in: (1) exploring different approaches to fostering connections and collaborations, such as collecting stories on evidence collaborations; (2) updating our knowledge of who is working on what where in the EIDM space in Africa; (3) exploring communities of practice for EIDM in Africa; and (4) creating networking opportunities to stay connected. At the end of EVIDENCE 2020, this work stream will have produced a comprehensive visualisation of EIDM organisations in Africa to act as a mechanism for enhancing connections and collaborations. Participants will have also progressed a draft paper on the different practices of collaborations to support EIDM in Africa.



How will EVIDENCE 2020 work?

Unlike academic conferences, EVIDENCE evolves according to the needs of the AEN members. In that vein, EVIDENCE 2020 will be built on a three-step engagement strategy:

- 1) May – August 2020 (virtual engagement): Working groups will be created via an internal selection process¹ in order to springboard the three work streams.
- 2) September 2020 (physical engagement): An interactive, dynamic working gathering where participants will
 - a. Collectively advance and finalise various outputs conceived through working groups that precede EVIDENCE 2020.
 - b. Share their experiences and stories openly with each other, bringing their unique perspectives into working towards a common purpose.
 - c. Network and explore opportunities for collaboration with others.
 - d. Share – and enhance – their own capacities.
- 3) October 2020 (EVIDENCE Online Festival): An online event that will share selected content from the physical EVIDENCE 2020 event, as well as facilitate different discussions and analyses of that content through a virtual platform.

How can I participate in the physical gathering of EVIDENCE 2020?

The physical event of EVIDENCE 2020 will be a working meeting in Uganda from 21-25 September 2020; 150 participants can be accommodated. If you would like to participate in this working gathering, the process is:

- 1) Submit a motivation – deadline: 16 April 2020

Each participant must submit a letter of motivation for their participation at the physical event of EVIDENCE 2020. The details of what each application must consist of can be found online. Motivations will be assessed based on 1) how the applicant demonstrates to have been active in the Network's activities for the duration of their membership, 2) the expertise they have related to the work streams of EVIDENCE 2020, and 3) the extent to which they will actively engage with the working process at the meeting.

- 2) Receive response from Secretariat – deadline: 18 May 2020

Applicants who can be accommodated will receive a letter of invitation² from the AEN Secretariat. Applicants that cannot be accommodated will receive information on how else they can participate in the EVIDENCE Online Festival, happening during October 2020.

- 3) Register to attend – deadline: 19 June

After receiving an invitation letter, successful applicants will be able to register immediately and pay for their attendance at the physical event of EVIDENCE 2020 or apply for bursaries available for those who have been offered a place. Participants need to secure their place by paying the registration fee before 19 June.

¹ Each programme officer from the AEN Secretariat will select six members from the AEN's governing structures as well as people who have worked closely with the Secretariat with expertise in the three work streams. More detail about this process can be found in the Terms of Reference.

² It is important to note that an invitation letter does not commit the AEN Secretariat to any financial support of the applicant; it remains the responsibility of the applicant to pay their travel and registration costs. Applicants must ensure that they have the means to attend the meeting when they choose to apply.