

A large graphic on the left side of the page consisting of several overlapping triangles in shades of orange, yellow, and red, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern.

Engage • Understand • Impact

# Evidence2022

19-21 September 2022

#Evidence2022 #AENis10

## What is EVIDENCE?

EVIDENCE is a biennial event hosted by the Africa Evidence Network. The series began as an [in-person colloquium in 2014](#) with the intention of bringing together members of the AEN to explore how to enhance the overlaps in their work to support evidence-informed decision-making in Africa. In 2016, the event series was rebranded as EVIDENCE. Since the inception colloquium, the Network has hosted [EVIDENCE 2016](#), [EVIDENCE 2018](#) that included EVIDENCE ONLINE 2018, and [EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE](#). This year, EVIDENCE 2022 takes place for three days from **19 until 21 September 2022**.

The key purpose of any EVIDENCE event is to facilitate engagement, broker understanding, and support impact in evidence-informed decision-making in Africa. The theme and format of each EVIDENCE event is always unique, shaped by what members want to take forward, as well as impacted by external factors (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic). Irrespective of its distinct blend of virtual and in-person activities, every single EVIDENCE event has delivered on its core purpose: engage, understand, impact.

Because they are responsive to real needs within the evidence ecosystem and we never follow a set format, these events always attract diverse participants from all sectors. Members of civil society, government, academia, and all in between convene to push forward the agenda of reducing poverty and inequality in Africa through the support of evidence-informed decision-making.

## **EVIDENCE 2022: Coming together to enhance mutual learning and innovation in evidence-informed decision-making**

In 2022, the AEN is proud to continue this tradition of innovation in facilitating collaboration with EVIDENCE 2022. The aim of this next instalment of the EVIDENCE event series is to:

- Celebrate ten years since the establishment of the Africa Evidence Network
- Provide an opportunity for collaboration to enhance mutual learning and the development of new ideas about supporting evidence-informed decision-making

With this two-part objective, the theme for EVIDENCE 2022 is **coming together for mutual learning and innovation in evidence-informed decision-making**.

Currently, the event is planned as a combination of in-person and virtual experiences that facilitate real-time and offline collaboration with participants from around the world. A large element will also be to celebrate – both in-person and online – a decade of the existence of the AEN, as well as recent awardees of the Africa Evidence Leadership Award.

## PROPOSED STRUCTURE

Day	Date	Format	Activity & details
1	19 September 2022	Virtual	<p><b>Looking back over ten years</b></p> <p>Achievements in supporting the African evidence ecosystem over the last decade. Potential content ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ten-year video on the AEN that showcases what we've done in the last ten years</li> <li>- Videos from partners about their highlights</li> <li>- Short documentary that features the experiences of founding members and others</li> </ul>
2	20 September 2022	Virtual	<p><b>Looking forward to the next ten years</b></p> <p>Where is the evidence ecosystem going? Potential content ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showcasing of members' theme-relevant events (whether pre-recorded or live) as per Africa Evidence Week format</li> <li>- Showcase of the first AEN community of practice</li> <li>- Showcase of the database on organisations doing EIDM capacity development in Africa</li> </ul>
3	21 September 2022	In-person & virtual	<p><b>AEN evening of recognition &amp; awards</b></p> <p>Potential content ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A gala-style event where in-person recipients of recognition and AELAs are invited to a formal awards ceremony where they receive their mementos. After receiving their mementos, the recipients move into different interview spaces where live questions from the online audience are facilitated by a programme officer and posed to the recipients. At the end of the interview, recipients depart for celebratory cocktails and canapés while online audience listens to a live music performance to mark the end of EVIDENCE 2022.</li> <li>- Combined with a wander on Wonder with conversation starters.</li> </ul>

## How you can get involved

EVIDENCE 2022 will be a physical and virtual space for networking, collaborating, and celebrating with members from around the world committed to the same goal of using evidence to reduce poverty and inequality in Africa. The virtual experience of EVIDENCE 2022 will remain open to all at no cost. To mitigate potential risks to the event posed by COVID-19, the number of attendees at the in-person elements of this event will be limited.

You can register to participate in EVIDENCE 2022 in two ways as:

<b><i>An engaged observer</i></b>
This category of participant dips in and out of live and recorded sessions at EVIDENCE 2022, contributing predominantly to asynchronous work. This option would suit those whose time zones are significantly different to SAST or those with unavoidably full diaries.
<b><i>An active participant</i></b>
People who want to be part of the live-action excitement present in every EVIDENCE event should select this option. Doing so will allow them to make their contributions to work synchronously and share their comments and questions during live events. This option would suit participants who can dedicated blocks of time to participating in EVIDENCE 2022 and whose time zones align with SAST.

## Whatever kind of participant you'd like to register as; you'll need to:

- Pitch your live or pre-recorded event (full details about how to do this forthcoming)
- Share your story about how the last decade of the AEN has shaped your career/work
- Volunteer to share your experience live or asynchronously in mutual learning exchanges
- Make conversation with fellow AEN members during online networking sessions
- Celebrate with us by enjoying a live music performance

**Full registration details will be forthcoming, but all expressions of interest to participate in EVIDENCE 2022 can be directed to**

**[ace@uj.ac.za](mailto:ace@uj.ac.za)**