

**REPORT OF THE AFRICA EVIDENCE NETWORK SECOND COLLOQUIUM:  
EVIDENCE 2016**

**20 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2016**



**Africa Evidence Network**

**2016**



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## Acronyms

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 3ie:      | International Initiative for Impact Evaluation                                    |
| AEN:      | Africa Evidence Network   |
| BCURE:    | Building capacity to use research evidence  |
| CLEAR-AA: | Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa               |
| CSIR ICC: | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research International Convention Centre    |
| DBE:      | Department of Basic Education, South Africa                                       |
| DEA:      | Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa                                 |
| DFID:     | Department for International Development, United Kingdom                          |
| DHS:      | Department of Human Settlements, South Africa                                     |
| DPME:     | Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa                    |
| DSD:      | Department of Social Development, South Africa                                    |
| DST:      | Department of Science and Technology, South Africa                                |
| DWS:      | Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa                                  |
| EIDM:     | Evidence-Informed Decision-Making   |
| ICT:      | Information and Communication Technology  |
| M&E:      | Monitoring and Evaluation   |
| NGO:      | Non-Governmental Organisation   |
| SASPRI:   | Southern African Social Policy Research Institute                                 |
| ToC:      | Theory of Change  |
| UJ-BCURE: | University of Johannesburg's programme Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence |

## Background

Evidence 2016 is the second biennial conference and networking event organised and hosted by the Africa Evidence Network (AEN). Funded as part of the University of Johannesburg-led programme to Build Capacity to Use Research Evidence (UJ-BCURE), the AEN hosted Evidence 2016 in Pretoria, South Africa from 20 to 22 September 2016. Presented here is the conference report that provides a brief background to the AEN and its biennial events, describes those who attended Evidence 2016, gives a detailed overview of the three days of the conference, and reflects on practical lessons learnt from hosting this event that could be used by the AEN – or indeed any other similar network hoping to host a similar event – in planning future events of this nature. The following section gives a brief background on the AEN and its colloquia.

### The growth of the AEN

The AEN was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2012 when 20 Africans attended the mini-colloquium jointly hosted by 3ie and the Campbell Collaboration. The group discussed their shared interest in evidence production, as well as the use of evidence in decision-making. The network was born out of these discussions and operated without external funding for a year. When the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) funded UJ-BCURE for a three year period between 2014 and 2016, the programme included support to the AEN as part of its grant application. From the initial 20 founding members, the AEN grew to 744 members from across the world by the beginning of September 2016, with an additional 105 people signing on as members by the end of that month. By the end of Evidence 2016, the AEN membership consisted of 849 members from across the globe, with the majority of members from Africa.

### Needs identified from the AEN 2014 Colloquium

The first AEN Colloquium was held from 25 to 28 November 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The aim of the Colloquium was to bring together the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) community from across the continent to achieve the objectives set for the Colloquium:

- To share lessons learnt and advance discussions on supporting EIDM across the continent;
- To increase engagement across the AEN membership and build relationships between relevant organisations and professionals in EIDM; and
- To institutionalise the AEN as a key player in the EIDM environment in Africa.

The 2014 AEN Colloquium highlighted the importance of building bridges between the communities of researchers and users of evidence through collaboration, dialogues, partnerships, networks, platforms, and communications (Langer & Rebelo Da Silva, 2014). The Evaluation report of the 2014 Colloquium (Maluwa, 2015) made three recommendations that the AEN secretariat considered when designing Evidence 2016. First, a more balanced representation of the African community of EIDM practice was sought. Second, the AEN was requested to investigate other venue options to ensure access to Wi-Fi and suitable tables/desks. Finally, delegates of the AEN Colloquium 2014 requested that the poster presentations were improved on to ensure that more people accessed these. In order to ensure these aspects were improved on, the AEN secretariat contracted Conference Consultancy SA to assist with strategic and operational arrangements of organising Evidence 2016<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Conference Consultancy South Africa assisted with two main components of Evidence 2016: strategic and operational activities. Their strategic services included: developing of a conference budget and programme, selecting a venue, coordinating a cocktail and dinner event, maintaining communication regarding Evidence 2016, marketing the event, and developing a business plan for future AEN events. Their operational services included: managing the operational plan of Evidence 2016; coordinating abstract submission; overseeing speaker, bursary holder, and Steering Committee members' attendance arrangements; managing online registration and payment; developing and updating an Evidence 2016 website; developing and updating the mobile app; printing all documentation and related materials; coordinating the monitoring and evaluation of Evidence 2016; and carrying out all procurement services.

## Introducing Evidence 2016

Conference Consultancy SA guided the AEN secretariat in terms of creating an event that would leave a lasting impression on participants; this is how Evidence 2016 came into being. The overall theme for Evidence 2016 was *Engage, Understand, and Impact*. Each of the three days of the event focussed on a single theme: *Engage* focussed on the engagement between stakeholders or stakeholders' engagement with evidence; *Understand* emphasised the importance of evidence for decision-making, as well as the necessity of understanding what evidence exists and how we use it; and the last day's theme of *Impact* centred on knowing what impact EIDM has on particular outcomes. Along this overall theme, the objectives for Evidence 2016 were to:

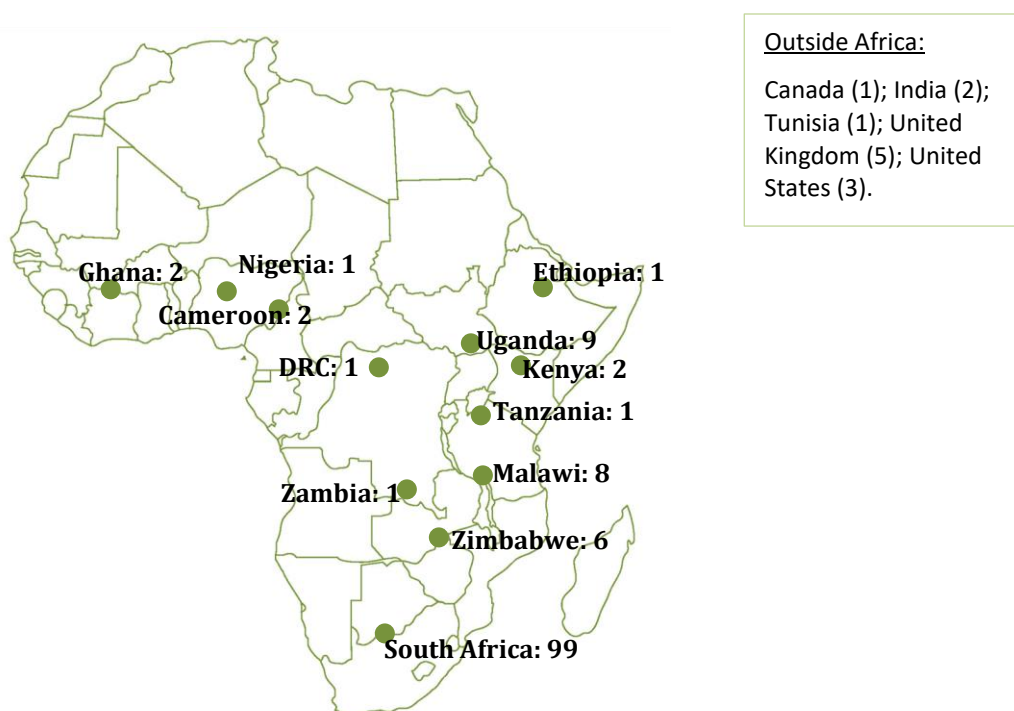
- Share lessons learnt and advance discussions in supporting EIDM in Africa;
- Provide an opportunity for the different communities to interact and share innovative ideas on their work in EIDM, and
- Increase engagement across AEN membership and build relationships with relevant institutions and professionals in EIDM.

The following section describes the participants of Evidence 2016, commenting specifically on the bursary holders and other networks represented.

## Evidence 2016 participants

Following on from the background of Evidence 2016 and its objectives, this section of the Evidence 2016 report describes who attended the event. It highlights those the countries and sectors of those who received bursaries to attend the event and lists the other EIDM – or related – networks that were represented at Evidence 2016. A total of 180 people registered for Evidence 2016, and 145 delegates attended<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 85 participants were female (59%) and 60 participants identified as male (41%). Delegates were from 17 countries across the globe (Figure 1). There was a similar distribution of

Figure 1: Country distribution and numbers of Evidence 2016 participants



<sup>2</sup> Thirty eight of these delegates had also attended the AEN 2014 Colloquium.

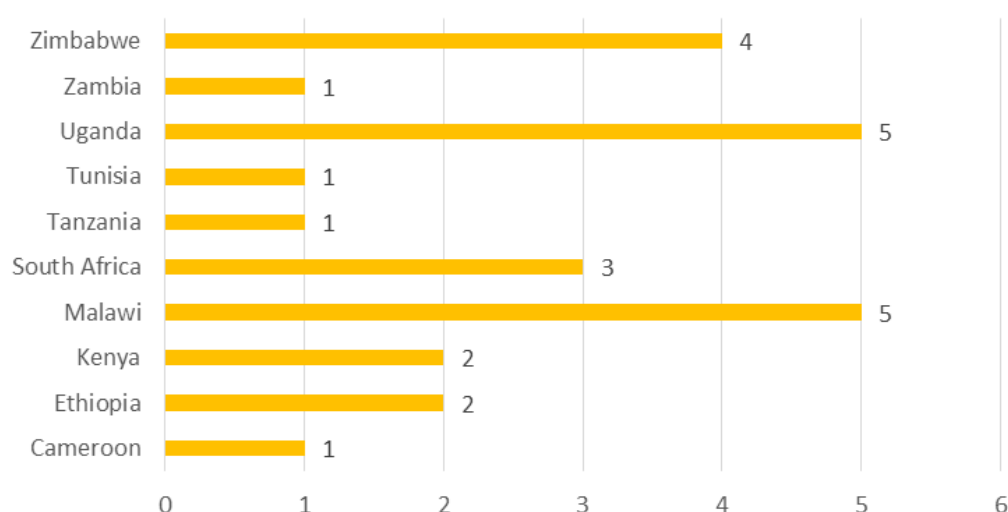
participants who worked primarily within the government (39%), academic (20%), or practice sectors (41%). Government institutions were represented by 56 delegates from 17 different departments. Twenty nine researchers affiliated with 14 universities represented the academic sector, while 60 delegates were from other networks and NGOs.

While most participants sought their own funding to attend Evidence 2016, there were two pools of bursaries which members could apply for. In addition to bursaries offered by 3ie, the AEN offered full bursaries<sup>3</sup> to 25 delegates from 10 countries within Africa (see Figure 2) provided the following criteria were fulfilled in their applications:

- Citizens of an African state.
- Employees of government and research institutions, NGOs, think tanks, knowledge brokers etc.
- Applicants required an in-depth knowledge of evidence-informed decision-making (research use; knowledge translation; evidence-based practice) in their respective professions.
- Applicants submitted a brief outline for how they would map out the evidence-informed decision-making landscape within their own countries. Successful applicants were asked to submit a poster for the conference presenting this landscape. This refers to a map of evidence producers and evidence users as well as intermediary organisations and the linkages between these. Guidance on the structure and formatting of the poster<sup>4</sup> was made available.

The majority of the successful AEN bursary recipients work in the NGO sector (48%), while 28% (7) of the bursars work at universities and 16% of bursars work in government (4). There were also a significant number of networks represented at Evidence 2016; for the full list please see Appendix 2. The attendance to Evidence 2016 by other networks is encouraging since future collaboration with such organisations will support the sustainability of the AEN and the events it offers.

*Figure 2: Country distribution of bursary recipients*



## Evidence 2016 programme overview

The programme for Evidence 2016 (an overview can be found in Appendix 3) consisted of an exciting range of plenary, small group, and oral poster presentations from academic and public sector participants. Evidence 2016 had 13 plenary presentations, 23 abstract-driven presentations, 25 poster presentations of EIDM landscape maps, and two training workshops. This comprehensive programme showcased 67 speakers from across the world and delivered 80 presentations from 15 countries. In addition, there was a cocktail reception networking event on day one where delegates could network informally at Freedom Park. The Annual General Meeting for the AEN took place on day two of Evidence

<sup>3</sup> The bursaries covered delegates' travel, accommodation, and registration costs.

<sup>4</sup> Bursary awards were conditional on the receipt of these posters.

2016, and this was followed up with a braai for selected AEN members to pledge their participation in future AEN activities.

Day one of Evidence 2016 started with off with registrations, followed by opening plenary session by Professor Nelson Sewankambo from Makerere University in Uganda. Dr Shanil Haricharan set the scene for the event, paving way for the South African Minister of Science and Technology – the Honourable Minister Naledi Pandor – to deliver the opening keynote address. Presentations on day one focussed on engaging stakeholders in the use of evidence in decision-making.

Day two of the event tackled the theme of understanding evidence. Presentations focussed on understanding what evidence exists and shared experiences of using it to make decisions. Understanding the evidence was positioned as happening through evaluation processes and the use of systematic reviews. Thirty-five landscape maps and oral posters were presented in line with the theme of evidence use. There were also two training workshops. The first workshop was on how to do evaluations of government programmes, while the second training workshop was on systematic reviews and their role in EIDM. The South African cross-governmental panel discussed South Africa's progress in using evidence and took place in the afternoon of day two, and was followed by the AEN's Annual General Meeting.

The final day of Evidence 2016 was shorter than the first two but nonetheless jam-packed with stimulating sessions. The theme for the day was on the impact of incorporating evidence use in low-income countries and strengthening relationship pillars for increasing evidence use; presentations focussed on various mechanisms for achieving this. Dr Haricharan gave a summary of themes that had emerged from Evidence 2016, after which Professor Ruth Stewart – the chairperson of the AEN and co-chairperson of Evidence 2016 – gave a vote of thanks and officially closed the event.

The following section looks at each day of Evidence 2016 in more detail, before moving on to a discussion of the practical lessons learnt to be taken forward into future AEN events.

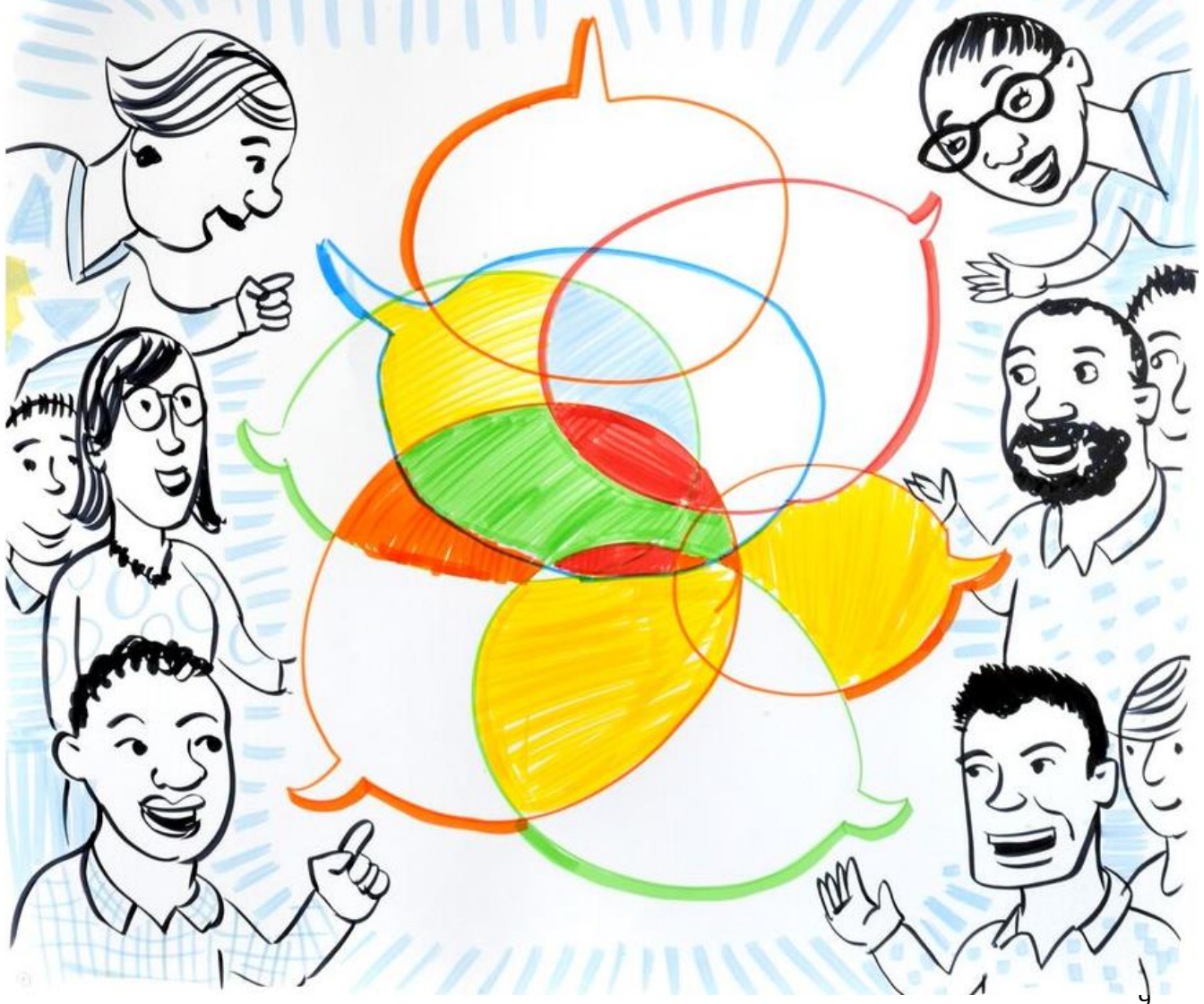


Day 1: Engage



Welcome to:  
**Evidence 2016, DAY 1**

# ENGAGE!!



## Plenary

The first plenary session of day one of Evidence 2016 was opened and chaired by Professor Ruth Stewart. She highlighted the importance of establishing networks while attending Evidence 2016. The official welcome address was conducted by Professor Sewankambo from Makerere University in Uganda and one of the other co-chairpersons of Evidence 2016<sup>5</sup>. Dr Haricharan from the South African National Treasury spoke after the welcome address by Professor Sewankambo and highlighted the objectives for Evidence 2016.



*The Hon. Minister Naledi Pandor speaking at Evidence 2016*

The keynote address for plenary one on day one was delivered by the Honourable Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of the Department of Science and Technology. The Minister reminded the delegates that “Africa is data rich, but analysis poor”, putting into context her excitement about the work that the Network is doing and what would be presented at the three-day event. Focussing on the theme of day one, she stated that the public should engage with evidence and that evidence should not be seen as only accessible to those in academic, commercial, or privileged contexts. The Minister highlighted that having openness in the scientific community and embracing the rich indigenous knowledge systems in Africa would only serve to benefit policy as well as democracy. She acknowledged that while policy must be informed by evidence, we as a society must understand that it cannot make policy. During her address, she underscored the importance of networks, providing a personal anecdote of how her grandfather had helped establish Makerere University, the university that Professor Sewankambo was from.

After Minister Pandor concluded her address to thunderous applause, the Honourable Olfa Soukri Cherif of the Assembly of Peoples’ Representatives in Tunisia addressed the gathering of AEN members. Honourable Soukri Cherif focussed her address on the challenges and realities of engaging regional and global parliamentarians in evaluation processes. She explained the establishment of the Global Parliamentarians Forum and their role in ensuring a nationally owned evaluation system, going on to explain the various processes and how engagement needs to become the norm. She stated that parliamentarians engaging in evaluation processes could only happen with the support of the evaluation community. She highlighted evaluation as a method to ensure change in policy and how this should be equity sensitive and gender responsive.

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<sup>5</sup> Dr Haricharan was the third co-chairperson of Evidence 2016.

The final speaker of the first plenary session on day one of Evidence 2016 was Professor John Lavis from McMaster University in Canada. His talk focussed on engaging stakeholders in developing evidence-informed approaches to tackling pressing health challenges and emphasised the importance of stakeholder dialogues. He communicated the centrality of relationships to such dialogues and that these relationships can assist in ensuring that citizens' voices are heard when designing meaningful stakeholder engagement processes. His description of how long these processes should take – “quick and clean enough” – fast became one of the favourite quotes of the three-day event.

A theme that emerged from all the plenary one speakers on day one of Evidence 2016 was that high quality evidence is imperative and should be used as a tool to improve policy-making. To achieve this, we need improved engagement between the users and developers of evidence.

### Parallel sessions

The afternoon session of day one was divided into two parallel sessions. Session one was chaired by Dr Carina van Rooyen and focussed on engagement between stakeholders. The first speaker for this session was Professor Taryn Young, director at the Centre for Evidence-Based Health Care at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She highlighted that researchers in South Africa are not always successful in their efforts to engage with decision-makers on evidence. She stated that decision-makers must understand the value of quality research and should be in a position to demand this from researchers. She presented the case of a formal one-on-one partnership between health researchers and provincial decision-makers in South Africa where both learned through mutual dialogue with one another. Lessons learnt during these dialogues included the necessity of being flexible, recognising that the process of engaging in a dialogue with decision-makers is time-consuming, understanding that evidence is only one piece of a complex decision-making puzzle, and lastly that mutual respect and trust are essential for an equal relationship to flourish.

After Professor Young's talk, Mr Gilchrist Ndongwe – the co-director at ZEIPNet in Zimbabwe – discussed the importance of stakeholder engagement in producing and using evidence. He discussed various engagement platforms and how their inclusiveness is essential for EIDM success. He explained how research had found that informal networks and trust within these are crucial for EIDM. He warned however about the difficulty of bringing the right people 'into the room'; that is, facilitating relationships between the most suitably-matched personalities. Mr Ndongwe noted how still-weak sustainability strategies lead to limited inclusiveness.

The deputy director and Malawi country-lead at UJ-BCURE, Dr Yvonne Erasmus, presented the capacity-building work done with South Africa and Malawi national governments over the last three years by UJ-BCURE. She highlighted the different phases of implementation within each country – from inception, workshop implementation, mentorship facilitation, and cross-governmental work. She explained some of the lessons learnt during the implementation phases: the value of landscape maps; the importance of interventions' timing; the necessity for a project to be demand-driven and to be implemented with flexibility; and the centrality of relationship-building and trust for successful implementation and sustainability of a programme's work.

Lastly, Ms Josephine Watera, the principle monitoring and evaluation officer of the Parliament of Uganda, shared her experiences of navigating the relationship between the Ugandan parliament and civil society organisations (CSOs) through the Civil Society Budget Advocacy group. She highlighted some of the challenges often experienced when engaging with parliament: high levels of bureaucracy, unrealistic demands, a lack of consensus among CSO, and wide expectation gaps between parties.

Themes that emerged from all four papers centred on the importance of building relationships and trust as the foundation of engagement between stakeholders; speakers' presentations emphasised the importance of:

- Timing in programmes;
- Spending time building lasting and meaningful relationships;
- Being flexible and responding to changes (of people, contexts);

- Clarifying and being clear on expectations of all parties; and
- Considering/combining both individual and team partnerships (of equal relationships).

Session two of day one of Evidence 2016 was chaired by Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve and focussed on engagement with evidence. The first speaker was Mr Kieron Crawley, the senior technical advisor at the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR-AA) based at the University of Witwatersrand's School of Governance. He discussed the different factors that shape engagement with evidence for legislators. He highlighted how in some countries, such as Uganda, legislators are likely to have higher chances of re-election when they are known to engage with evidence when making decisions.

A knowledge translation scientist at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) in Kenya, Dr Abiba Longwe-Ngwira, was next in the speaker line-up. She discussed training as an intervention for building capacity for evidence use and shared experiences of this from Kenya and Malawi. Although interim results, the training in the provided case studies were viewed as helpful by the trainees, especially in increasing skills and knowledge of participants.

Dr Christine Taljaard, a postdoctoral research fellow at North-West University's Centre of Excellence for Nutrition in South Africa provided insights from the Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Health and Nutrition (EVIDENT) experience of how relationships between decision-makers and academia are actually valued by both sides. She also noted that there is still work to do in improving these relationships, particularly in light of meeting government needs.

The final speaker of the second parallel session on day one of Evidence 2016 was Mr Thomas Scalway. Mr Scalway is a lead consultant at Lushomo Communications in South Africa. He explained how evidence can be shared through visual communication in simple, attractive, and compelling ways. He highlighted examples of this having had an impact. He emphasised the use of strong, understandable imagery by researchers in educating and engaging the public in setting agendas. This use of imagery in communicating research is especially crucial when decision-makers in governments are resistant to addressing pressing issues that affect society.

Themes that emerged from all four papers centred on the importance of capacity-building for legislators as an entry point into discussions about using evidence; speakers' presentations emphasised the importance of:

- Follow-up after training;
- Skills needed for data visualisation; and
- The need for a multi-disciplinary approach when accessing and using evidence.



Day 2: Understand

Day 2:

# UNDERSTAND!



## Plenary

The plenary session of day two of Evidence 2016 was opened and chaired by Professor Sewankambo. The first presentation was a video by Sir Iain Chalmers from the James Lind Initiative in the UK exploring whether school children in Uganda were able to engage with evidence.

Ms Beryl Leach from 3ie in India followed then to discuss the interplay of differences affecting the uptake and use of research evidence by decision-makers. She emphasised the need to understand evidence and how to use it, and is of the opinion that we have not used it enough to improve access to evidence. It is essential to engage with beneficiaries and their values in the process of supporting the use of research evidence. She highlighted that only presenting decision-makers with evidence is never going to be enough to bring about a policy change. She also emphasised that we need to acknowledge that building a relationship with the relevant decision-makers is an important step in driving policy change. Ms Leach also noted however that such relationships are complex, dynamic, and that there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to developing these relationships. She furthermore suggested that language plays an important role when presenting evidence, and is something research producers should be more sensitive to.

Following Ms Leach's presentation, Ms Velia Manyonga from the Parliament of Malawi discussed parliamentarians' use of evidence in family planning financing. She emphasised the experience from Malawi and showed how ensuring that parliamentarians understood the available evidence empowered them to successfully vote for increasing government funding towards family planning; in 2013, the budgetary allocation for family planning interventions in Malawi increased significantly.

Mr Ronald Munatsi from the ZEIPNet followed Ms Manyonga to demonstrate how Zimbabwe has used a holistic approach to raise interest in and the use of evidence amongst civil servants. Their approach involves training individual decision-makers, building the capacity of institutions through mentorships and organising learning exchanges, and paying close attention to the wider environment.

A common theme throughout day two was the use of language and the way researchers inform others of their findings. When presenting evidence, research producers need to take into consideration who the target audience will be, how best to capture their attention, and what language to use for them to fully appreciate the message that is trying to be conveyed. Ultimately this may determine whether a policy change will be influenced by evidence or not. Research producers were encouraged to understand who the key players are as these are sometimes not only decision-makers: civil society, the media, and the affected public are some examples of main target audiences who would definitely benefit if evidence were presented to them in a more comprehensible manner.

The rest of day two was divided into two parallel sessions, training workshops, as well as oral poster presentations. Below, overviews of these are presented in three sections (parallel session one and two, the oral poster presentations, and the training workshops).

## Parallel sessions

Parallel session one was chaired by Mr Walusungu Kayira, a civil servant from Malawi, and focussed on the importance of evidence in decision-making. The first speaker was Ms Mapula Tshangela, a senior policy advisor at the South African Department of Environmental Affairs. Her presentation highlighted the key elements of systematic approaches to EDIM and discussed the science-policy interface. Ms Emily Massey from Genesis Analytics in South Africa followed and proceeded to highlight the practical aspects of adopting a unified monitoring and evaluation system in Mpumalanga. Dr Teferi Hailemichael Hassen, an assistant professor at Wollo University in Ethiopia, highlighted the significance of evidence in informing the formulation of policies in ethnic-diverse states. The final speaker of parallel session one on day two of Evidence 2016 was Dr Madri Jansen van Rensburg. Dr Jansen van Rensburg is a chairperson in Resilience Analysis Consulting in South Africa. She shared three cases studies of conducting gender responsiveness assessments of national monitoring and evaluation systems in South Africa.

Parallel session two was chaired by Mr Laurenz Langer, an evidence synthesis specialist from the Africa Centre for Evidence in Johannesburg. This second parallel session on day two of Evidence 2016 focussed on understanding the evidence that exists and how it is used. The first speaker in this session was Ms Birte Snilstveit a senior evaluation specialist at 3ie in the UK. Ms Snilstveit discussed the challenges and opportunities for evidence mapping in decision-making and gave examples of lessons learnt from an international context. Following her presentation, Dr Sean Muller – a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics and Econometrics at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa – asked if and when evidence from one context can be useful for decision-making in another context. He focussed specifically on whether the results of randomised control trials are applicable to different settings as these usually take place in controlled environments. Next, Dr Ekwaro Obuku from Uganda presented on whether students’ research can be incorporated in EIDM, sharing his assessment of the productivity and use of postgraduate students’ research in Uganda. Dr Obuku is a research fellow at the Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation at Makerere University. The session was brought to an end by Ms Siphesihle Dumisa. Ms Dumisa is an assistant director of research at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in South Africa. She discussed the processes for engaging public and private stakeholders in the development of evidence mapping to inform policy.

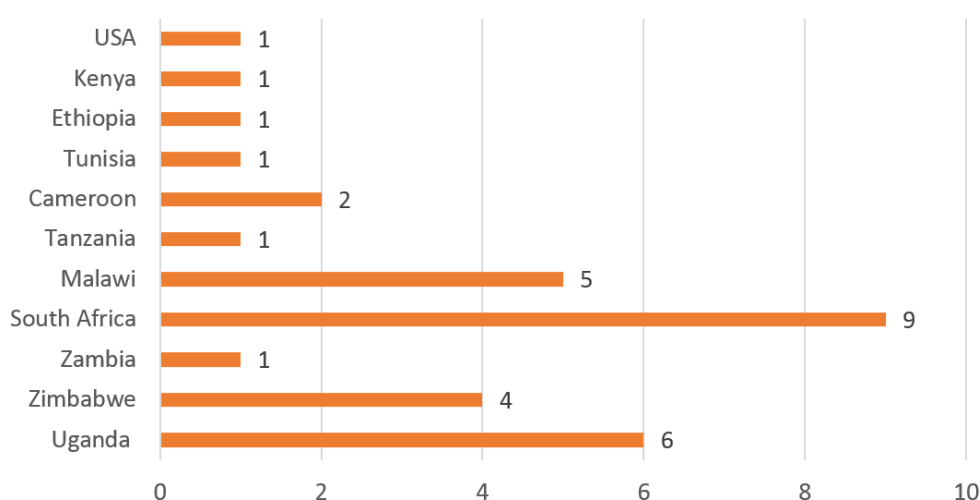
### Oral poster presentation pods

The oral poster presentation sessions ran concurrently to the parallel sessions on day two of Evidence 2016, and were divided into two sessions: oral poster presentation session one took place before lunch, while oral poster presentation session two happened after lunch in the same venue (see Figure 3 below for a country distribution of presenters). Oral poster presentation session one was dedicated to the presentation of the bursary recipients’ landscape maps of the EIDM landscapes in their respective countries<sup>6</sup>.

Oral poster presentation session two focussed on presentations of the remainder of the landscape maps, as well as a variety of other abstract submissions. A more detailed discussion of the practical elements of the poster pods and how they were received by delegates of the conference is discussed in the section on practical lessons learnt from Evidence 2016.

“I really appreciated [the] requirement that I had to create a landscape map to [apply for a bursary to] come to the conference. I will now use this map to engage with others in my country”.  
*Evidence 2016 bursary recipient and delegate from an NGO in Uganda*

Figure 3: Country distribution of oral poster presenters at Evidence 2016



<sup>6</sup> These landscape maps are freely available on the AEN website.

## Workshops

The first of the two workshops offered on day two of Evidence 2016 covered evaluation of government programmes and was facilitated by Ms Meg Wiggins from the Institute of Education at the University College London in the UK; the session chair Ms Sunet Jordaan. The purpose of this training was to identify ways of designing and conducting evaluations of government programmes that engage stakeholders involved in active research and allow these to share their knowledge, challenges, and experiences pertaining to the use of evidence in decision-making. The training workshop also suggested cost efficient ways of conducting evaluations within a limited timeframe, using scarce resources. Evaluations as indicators of whether or not a policy has effectively been implemented was also discussed. It was noted that evidence is only one part of the decision-making process and that in order to adopt good policies, there is a need to evaluate whether government programmes are of good quality, answer the right questions, and adequately address citizens' needs. The workshop was attended by thirty-five individuals representing various sectors across seven countries: government departments, research centres, private consultancies, and universities were all represented. Appendix 4 shows a table detailing the breakdown of attendance at this training workshop.

The second training workshop focussed on systematic reviews and their role in informed decision making, and was presented by Ms Janice Tripney also from the Institute of Education at the University College of London in the UK; this workshop was chaired by Dr Laila Smith. The workshop emphasised the importance of researchers and decision-makers working together towards successful policy review and covered the stages of a systematic review, the variety of review types, key issues for consideration when undertaking a review, and various tools used in accessing and appraising literature for systematic reviews. In the workshop, the importance involving evidence users and stakeholders was emphasised as doing this allows different perspectives regarding the project to be voiced and enables the review to better meet the needs of the various stakeholders. Twenty-five Evidence 2016 delegates from fifteen institutions across six countries attended this workshop (see table in Appendix 5).

## South African cross-government panel

The afternoon of the second day of Evidence 2016 was dedicated to a South African cross-government panel involving the following panellists: Ms Colette Clark, (Deputy Director General: Research and Policy Analysis and the Department of Public Service and Administration); Mr Themba Fosi (Deputy Director General at the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs); Dr Ian Goldman (Head of Evaluation and Research at the Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation); Mr Dondo Mogajane (Deputy Director General of Public Finance at the National Treasury); Ms Mastoera Sadan (Programme Manager of the Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation). The panel was chaired by Dr Haricharan from National Treasury and co-chairperson of Evidence 2016. The panellists shared their respective departments' key achievements, lessons learnt, and challenges related to EIDM, and engaged in a discussion on common EIDM issues, trends, and patterns within the centre of and across government. After presenting the above, Evidence 2016 delegates were afforded the opportunity to engage with the panellists, while the session chair used three broad questions to guide the ensuing discussions:

- What is the value of evidence in the work of the members of the panel?
- Provide a description of the historical context in which evidence-informed policies had to be developed.
- How can senior officials in government create a new model of public administration that supports the use of evidence?

Important themes arising from the discussion between the panellists and audience members included the following:

- The importance of understanding context in the public service.
- The evolution of learning on the issue of evidence is not a linear process and the introduction of policies with poor empirical foundations leads to a situation of one step forward, two steps back.



- There appears to be an inherent tension between the demands on politicians and public decision-makers (high level public officials); these interests have to be carefully balanced.
- Institutional collaboration has improved, which is a sign of institutions maturing in the public sector.
- The context of working in the public sector can best be described as ‘ambiguous.’



*South African cross-government panel on day two of Evidence 2016*

### AEN annual general meeting (AGM)

Fifty one AEN members attended the Network's AGM as part of the last session of day two at Evidence 2016. The AEN coordinator – Ms Precious Motha – provided an update on the growth of the Network since the Colloquium in 2014, and shared updates of the additional roadshows and events that took place in 2015 and 2016 to market the AEN. She also provided a brief overview of the AEN survey results, which posed three fundamental questions that would be addressed in the forthcoming sustainability report:

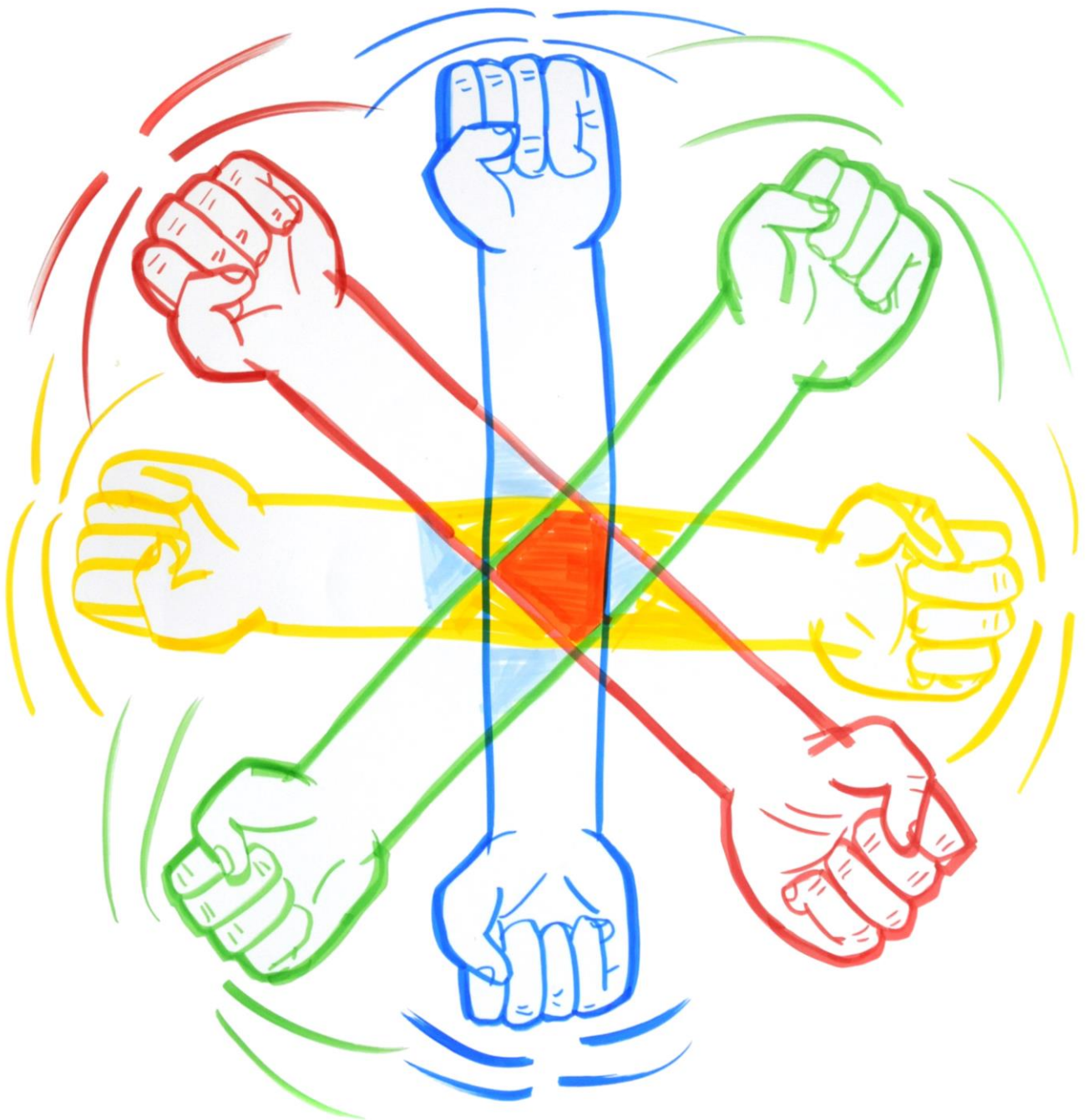
- Can the AEN sustain its activities by relying on the participation of the membership?
- What can the membership do to increase the interaction and connections between members?
- What low-cost activities can the AEN engage in to promote its existence and services to continue growing its membership?

An interactive discussion was then led by the AEN chairperson Professor Stewart to try and address these key questions. Professor Stewart highlighted that the AEN is conducting stakeholder mapping, but at the same time is open to members' ideas on ways in which to broaden the scope of the AEN and ensure that the Network does not overlook important people and initiatives. She then explained the financial stability and sustainability of the AEN, and shared with members future events planned for 2017 and 2018. The discussion also included how the AEN secretariat should provide a voice for the African evidence community on a global stage, which highlighted the need for various global evidence structures to be more inclusive and representative of the global south. To this end, Professor Stewart announced the establishment of the Africa Centre for Evidence at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa that would continue to act as the AEN secretariat.

Day 3: Impact

*Day 3*

# IMPACT!



## Plenary

The first plenary session of day three at Evidence 2016 was opened by chair Dr Yvonne Erasmus. The first speaker was Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve from Makerere University in Uganda. She discussed the practical realities of EIDM in low- and middle-income countries and mentioned that EIDM work on the continent should be sustainable and institutionalised. Dr Mijumbi-Deve also underscored the importance of working in partnership with government departments to ensure that evidence is used when making decisions. Professor Stewart from the UJ-BCURE programme in South Africa followed this track of relationships for successful EIDM when she discussed the importance of relationship-building and networking with the EIDM environment. She highlighted that programmes working in Africa are often doing capacity-sharing instead of capacity-building. The shared themes of networks and relationships came through strongly in both the presentations and the follow-up discussions with the audience.

## Parallel sessions

Parallel session one was chaired by Dr Carol Bernice Nonkwela and focussed on the impact of using evidence. The first speaker, Mr Laurenz Langer, was an evidence synthesis specialist at the Africa Centre for Evidence and part of the UJ-BCURE team. He presented the science of using science review that he and team members from the IOE had worked on. Mr Langer showed how systematic review results can be used as research evidence in decision-making, and also commented on how the study revealed that a layered and balanced approach that goes beyond primary data is required for successful EIDM. Dr Collins Mitambo – a knowledge translation manager at the Ministry of Health in Malawi – then presented a case study on the impact of evidence in decision-making in Malawi. He mentioned that while using evidence is effective, one of the key challenges that remains is engagement with decision-makers. Following Dr Mitambo was Dr Jasson Kalugendo, a lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Dr Kalugendo discussed the impact of linking policy processes with evidence, and focussed on the communication of evidence-based findings to decision-makers. He mentioned that one of the challenges that remain is ‘proper communication’ to effectively engage decision-makers. The closing speaker of day two was Mr Ahmed Vawda, the outcome facilitator for Outcome 8 at the Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in South Africa. His presentation focussed on the use of several evaluations to generate evidence-based information on policy, programme, implementation and impact with a focus on adequate housing in South Africa. These evaluations had revealed that while there have been general improvements in decision-making, accountability, policy and programme structures, there are still areas that need attention, such as the incongruence with respect to resourcing and the need for an integrated holistic approach.

Parallel session two was chaired by Ms Beryl Leach and was about the impact of evidence networks on EIDM. She introduced the discussion session and handed over to Ms Motha whose discussion focussed on building relationships to support the use of evidence in Africa and presented the AEN as an example of this. Following Ms Motha, Ms Adeline Sibanda – the interim president of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) in Zimbabwe – discussed the evaluation capacity development (ECD) in Africa. She specifically highlighted the challenges and opportunities experienced by AfrEA.

## Closing Plenary

The closing plenary of day three of Evidence 2016 was chaired by Professor Stewart. The first presentation was a video by Dr Alexander Ademokun from the UK Department for International Development. Dr Ademokun’s talk shared some lessons learnt on EIDM by DFID and commented on how programming must become practice. The next speaker was Mr Ibrahim Inusah from the Ghana Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (GINKS); he shared the impact of VakaYiko’s EIDM intervention in Ghana. Dr Haricharan then followed to give a successful rapporteur report in the final plenary, highlighting the need for evidence particularly in the microcosm of Africa. He underscored the necessity to understand the poverty inequality and power relationships in Africa in order to provide the right evidence. Understanding contextual and political realities, building relationships, and practicing EIDM with emotional intelligence will help shape public discourse and influence public service for more effective EIDM.

## Practical lessons learnt for event coordination

‘Kindly convey my sincere thanks to Professor Ruth Stewart and to the rest of the team for the opportunity to have been part of this crucial, timeous dialogue. It becomes all the more important considering the speed at which change is happening domestically, continentally & globally across all areas of our very existence and the constant challenging of beliefs and belief systems’.

*Evidence 2016 delegate from South African government*

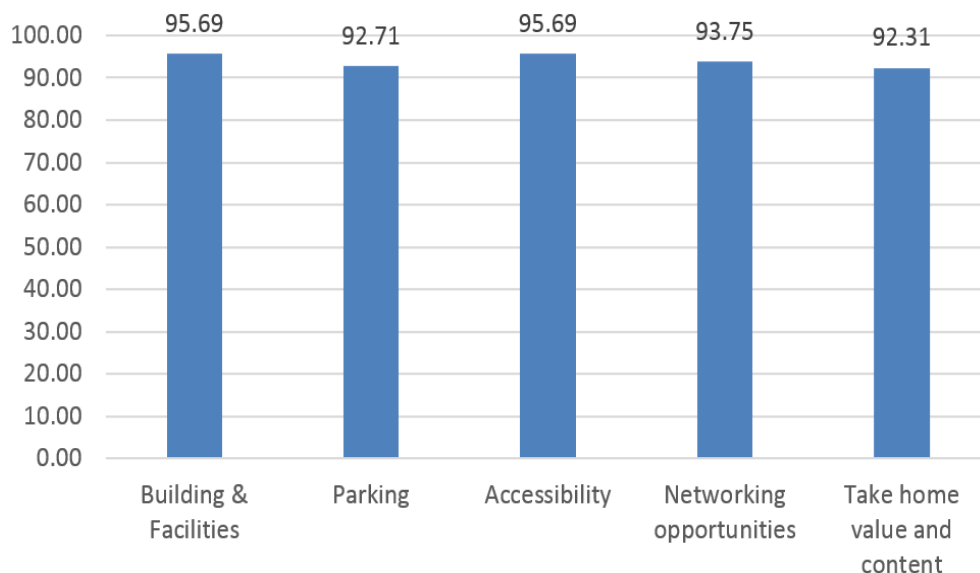
Moving on from an overview of the content presented at Evidence 2016, this section of the report deals with the practical lessons learnt in coordinating Evidence 2016. The purpose of including this section in the report is to share the lessons learnt from trying to successfully coordinate an event on the scale of Evidence 2016 in

the hope that the AEN will continue to provide an engaging and stimulating networking event in years to come. Additionally, it is the hope of the AEN that similar networks may be able to benefit from our experience when planning Africa-wide events. This section is divided into five parts: the evaluation of Evidence 2016, a discussion of some of the innovative products on offer at Evidence 2016, an overview of the suitability of the venue for hosting the event, the manner in which Evidence 2016 promoted itself, and the various networking events offered during Evidence 2016. When considered together with the lessons learnt presented at the end of this section, these five elements are able to guide future AEN secretariats in hosting successful Evidence events.

### Evaluation of Evidence 2016

Evidence 2016 delegates were asked to evaluate the event on day three<sup>7</sup>. Many delegates indicated that the venue and conference content was well above average, and that the conference organisation was exceptional (see Figure 4 below). Evidence 2016 had the highest conference evaluation scores that Conference Consultancy SA had seen in 20 years of conference evaluations. There was a reluctance from delegates to rate the speakers and chairs; it is a worthwhile consideration to reduce the number of questions on the evaluation form to avoid this in future.

*Figure 4: Average percentage delegates awarded different aspects of Evidence 2016*



<sup>7</sup>Delegates' responses were converted to percentages.



Other feedback from delegates at Evidence 2016 included:

1. Delegates wanted the event to be longer; specifically the networking opportunities were appreciated.
2. The lecture-style seating of the venue was not suitable for all the sessions, specifically the workshops.
3. The shuttle between the hotel where most delegates stayed and the event venue functioned extremely well.
4. Most delegates stated that the venue was very organised and the food was excellent.
5. Delegates felt that there were not enough participants to have parallel three sessions on day two of Evidence 2016.
6. The oral poster presentation pods were very well received – many delegates applauded the AEN for an innovative approach to presenting posters. The need for a more skilled facilitator who could manage up to 16 speakers in 90 minutes and draw out the themes of sessions was identified.
7. Delegates requested that the Q&A sessions at the end of parallel sessions be longer to allow for more shared learning to take place.
8. The cross-government panel was an extremely politically ambitious undertaking, and delegates were really interested in and impressed by the session. It might be worthwhile adding five minutes to such a panel in future to explain the purpose and set the context of the panel better.
9. The political support received from Minister Pandor assisted with the functioning of the panel.
10. The workshops were very popular and a great drawcard, specifically for government delegates.
11. Delegates requested considering repeating the training sessions on the last day of the event to allow all delegates the opportunity to attend.
12. The room set-up for training sessions will work better if it is set up in groups.

It is the hope of the AEN that this feedback will be fed into planning future events, such as Evidence 2018 and that other, similar networks may also find it useful for planning their events.

### Innovative approaches to event hosting

Delegates were complimentary of the AEN for pioneering at an African EIDM event such as Evidence 2016 many innovative approaches that made the event more engaging. Many of these were suggestions from the conference organisers hired to coordinate Evidence 2016. These innovative approaches include: a mobile app and electronic programme, conference illustration, coffee with a cause, and the oral poster presentation pods.

#### Mobile app

The mobile app that was developed specifically for the conference was downloaded by 94 conference delegates. The app performed a number of functions, some which included allowing delegates to message one another directly, allowing delegates to view all speaker biographies, and allowing delegates direct access to Twitter.

#### Conference Illustration

Perhaps one of the most popular and exciting aspects of Evidence 2016 was the work of professional illustrator Nicolene Louw from Fine Line Illustrations for Business, who captured many of the sessions' discussions and key messages in illustrations (some of which can be seen throughout this report and the remainder of which are available on the AEN website). Delegates were excited to see complex presentations translated into visually-exciting and easy to understand illustrations. The AEN holds the copyright to these illustrations, but individuals and networks can use them under a Creative Commons license: they are freely available from the AEN provided the organisation or individual using them does not profit from them. Any use of these illustrations should be cited as follows: *Africa Evidence Network (2016) Conference illustrations: Evidence 2016, Africa Centre for Evidence, University of Johannesburg.*

### Coffee with a cause

As part of its networking collaboration, Evidence 2016 featured a 'Coffee with a Cause' station: Evidence 2016 delegates were invited to make a suggested donation of R10 for very cup of coffee consumed at Evidence 2016, the proceeds of which went to support Evidence Aid<sup>8</sup>. Evidence Aid is a humanitarian organisation that uses Rapid Evidence Assessments to assess and provide the best possible support to instances of humanitarian disaster.



*Nicolene Louw from Fine Line Illustrations for Business captures the second session of day one at Evidence 2016.*

### Oral poster presentation pods

The oral poster presentation pods operated as mini talks given by delegates over a specific frequency. There were three pods in a room, and up to six presenters attached to each pod. Audience members wore headsets and could tune into the specific talk they wished to listen to. These pods were applauded for reinvigorating the posters, a usually less-exciting element of an academic conference. This session functioned well and the delegates enjoyed the experience of varied presentations within a short space of time. Presenters had 10 minutes to present their papers. There were a total of 32 oral poster presentation pod sessions, representing 11 countries.

### Venue

Evidence 2016 took place at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research International Convention Centre (CSIR ICC) in Tshwane, South Africa. The conference organisers

booked three of the conference rooms available at the CSIR ICC allowing for parallel sessions to be run concurrently. The CSIR ICC can accommodate large groups and is ideally situated to ensure easy access to the venue. The four-star venue has an experienced team of chefs who can meet all dietary requirements. The venue was also fully equipped with all amenities necessary for hosting a large event

**"This is the best organised conference I've been to in Africa"**  
*Evidence 2016 delegate from an NGO in India*

<sup>8</sup> A total amount of R990 was collected.

such as Evidence 2016. In addition to the hired conference rooms, there were break-away meeting rooms, floating computers, free Wi-Fi for delegates, and disabled access to all spaces at the CSIR ICC.

## Media promotion

Part of the activities leading up to Evidence 2016 focussed on promoting the event as widely as possible. To achieve this, a media strategy was put in place that included publishing press releases, and blog posts about Evidence 2016. The ACE team were also tasked with posting on behalf of the AEN during the event so that the Network was consistently engaging online with other AEN members. Below, more detail and links on the various online media coverage of Evidence 2016 is provided.

## Media coverage of Evidence 2016

The AEN, UJ-BCURE, and Conference Consultancy South Africa marketed Evidence 2016 to wider networks wherever possible. UJ-BCURE made use of the UJ editor for digital and print publications, Ms Unathi Twala, to issue a press release on behalf of the University informing the South African press about Evidence 2016. The press release described the objectives of the event, provided the programme, and gave background information about the AEN. In addition to this press release, the Hewlett Foundation published a [blog](#) two weeks before the start the event in which Evidence 2016 was highlighted as one of the important EIDM events coming up in September and October 2016. Another event at which Evidence 2016 was promoted was the launch of the evidence map by

‘Exceptional. They are very organised, accessible and friendly. They came up with the creative addition to the normal conference format, such as an artist drawing each session and the oral poster pods’

*Evidence 2016 delegate*

Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation that was co-produced during a mentorship with the UJ-BCURE team. DPME reported on the launch as well as Evidence 2016 in their [internal monthly newsletter](#)

for September called DPME Update. During the conference Mr Ameer Hohlfeld published four blogs about the conference on the AEN website. The blog posts – featured on the AEN website – covered an [introduction](#) to, as well as days [one](#), [two](#), and [three](#) of, Evidence 2016. After Evidence 2016 one of the bursary recipients, Ms Jerusha Govender, wrote a [blog](#) covering her perspective of the event, and the AEN chairperson and coordinator teamed up to write [blog](#) for the AEN website as a highlight for those members unable to attend. One of the most exciting publicity coverages received after Evidence 2016 was a invited [online article](#) written by Professor Stewart and published by the Guardian UK. An update on Evidence 2016 for AEN members unable to attend the event was also published in the [October AEN newsletter](#).

## Twitter activity during the conference

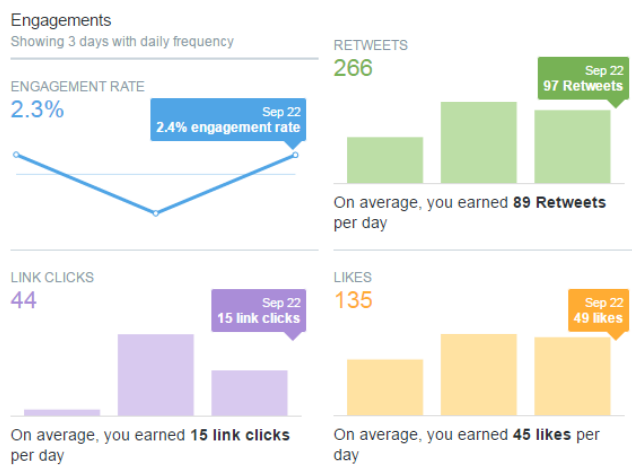
Evidence 2016 provided live Twitter feeds on monitors at the event. The AEN Twitter account (@Africa\_evidence) was active throughout every session of the event, with team members of ACE and UJ-BCURE taking responsibility in various sessions for tweeting about their sessions. The Evidence 2016 delegates were encouraged to tweet and include the hashtag #evidence2016 in their communication.

Figure 5 below shows the level of engagement, retweets, and likes the AEN received over the three day period of Evidence 2016, and on the first day of the event the hashtag #evidence2016 was a trending topic in South Africa.



*Evidence 2016 delegates participating in the Twitter #evidence2016*

Figure 5: Evidence 2016 Twitter Engagement graph



## Networking opportunities at Evidence 2016

In addition to the event programme, Evidence 2016 offered delegates a number of networking events. The intention of these networking events is to provide members of the AEN with the chance to meet one another in person and deepen their professional connection. Details of three events targeted at different groups of the membership is provided below.

### DPME Evidence Map launch

The DPME, in collaboration with the AEN, launched their evidence map for human settlements on 19 September at the

Lombardy Boutique Hotel in Tshwane. This map was co-produced as a part of a mentorship between DPME and UJ-BCURE. The main purpose of the launch was to explain what evidence mapping is and how it could be utilised by other departments. Presenters (those who were involved in creating the evidence map) explained the purpose for it and elaborated on why evidence maps are important. Evidence maps were shown to encourage decision-makers to consult the available evidence when making decisions so that their choices are based on evidence. Seventy five people from eight countries (South Africa, Canada, India, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, the UK and Tunisia) attended the launch.

### Freedom Park Cocktail reception

A cocktail reception was hosted by the City of Tshwane on day one of Evidence 2016. The event took place at Freedom Park, a memorial paying tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to attain freedom for all people of South Africa during the Apartheid regime. The venue also celebrates the diversity of South Africa's peoples while foregrounding our universal humanity.

### Stakeholder dinner

The last networking event at Evidence 2016 was a stakeholder dinner at the CSIR ICC on the evening of the second day that 35 people attended. This dinner was by invitation only and provided an opportunity for key stakeholders within the AEN to discuss the future of the Network in a relaxed informal setting.

## Lessons learnt

The AEN secretariat has learned a number of key lessons pertaining to the coordination of a large event such as Evidence 2016 that would be useful to be shared widely with others in the AEN. These fall along the following lines: marketing, management of the hosting team,

### Marketing of events

- Although an attempt at marketing Evidence 2016 was made, it was not sufficient to generate as much interest in the event as was hoped for. The marketing strategy was very broad and a more sophisticated marketing plan that is implemented earlier is needed for future events. Funds permitting, it would be worthwhile investing in a professional marketing and communication team to assist with general marketing of the AEN as well as Evidence 2018.
- Marketing for Evidence 2018 should start much earlier. A press release should be issued from UJ latest when registration for Evidence 2018 opens.
- The social media strategy worked well and should be replicated for future events.
- The roadshows held earlier in 2016 assisted with international marketing of Evidence 2016 and should be considered in the future as well.



- The branding of Evidence 2016 was well-accepted and should be used again for Evidence 2018.
- We need to understand the evidence landscape and include the major role-players of these in the marketing of future events. There is a need to map the EIDM network landscape in Africa and involve all these major stakeholders in future.
- ACE should draw on the connections of the Steering Committee members to assist with marketing Evidence 2018 as well as other AEN related events. Evidence 2018 is planned for 25 – 28 September 2018. To build up to this the AEN is planning a number of Evidence Plus events in 2017 and 2018. These events will focus on building the AEN. ACE need to define the structure of these Evidence Plus events to ensure that it builds on the marketing and branding of Evidence 2018.

#### Hosting team management

- The UJ-BCURE team developed a WhatsApp group, which helped to inform the team of specific needs and support needed during the event. This should be replicated for future events to assist in running a smooth event. If using this strategy, special consideration should be made for those not on WhatsApp.
- Where applicable, the hosting team should be accommodated in hotels other than that of the event delegates and bursary recipients.
- Networking activities should be divided up between members of the host team to avoid burdening any particular members with all social activities.
- The business plan developed by ACE together with Conference Consultancy SA will help ACE and other future hosting teams in planning Evidence 2018; ACE will cover the cost of maintaining the Evidence website until other fund generating activities are implemented.

#### Programme development considerations

- The management structure with co-chairpersons and a scientific committee worked well.
- It may be worth considering appointing a chair, sub-chair, and one chairperson per track within the event programme.
- There must be better representation from across the rest of Africa as well within the presentations given part of Evidence events.
- The themes for future events can be a nuanced versions of the theme of Evidence 2016, with additional thematic layers added.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Methods for reflecting on the evidence 2016

The reporting and evaluation of the Evidence 2016 conference followed a mixed-methods approach. UJ-BCURE used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The aim of the report and evaluation was to determine the influence of the conference on the AEN membership and how members of the AEN, and conference delegates experienced the Evidence 2016 conference.

For the purpose of this report and evaluation, all full conference delegates (145) were part of the reporting sample. UJ-BCURE used the demographic information of all delegates in the report. The evaluation component draws on the contributions from the 27 delegates who completed the post-conference evaluation forms. The completion of these form was voluntary. The demographic information of the arrived delegates was collected from their registration documentation as supplied by Conference SA. The post-conference evaluation form consisted of open-ended and closed-ended questions. Other sources of data include conference documents, conference rapporteur forms, the AEN twitter account and website and emails received from delegates.

After collecting all the accessible data that is relevant for this report and evaluation the data was analysed in terms of demographics as well as the conference experience. Where relevant, data was transformed into graphs and charts. Some data analysis was done by Conference Consulting South Africa (post-conference evaluation forms) and the rest of the data analysis was done by the UJ-BCURE team members.

The major limitation to this report is that a minority of delegates (18.6%) completed the post-conference evaluation form. Not all delegates completed all the answers in the questionnaire, i.e. some questions were not relevant to all delegates, some sessions were not attended and some questions were left open without explanation.

## Appendix 2: Networks represented at Evidence 2016

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>ABCD Zim Net</b>   | Zimbabwe       |
| <b>Action Group on Governance and Environmental Management (AGGEM)</b>                          | Cameroon       |
| <b>Africa Centre for Systematic Review and Knowledge Translation, Makerere University</b>       | Uganda         |
| <b>Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN)</b>                                 | Kenya          |
| <b>African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)</b>  | Zimbabwe       |
| <b>African Evaluation Association (AFREA)</b>   | Cameroon       |
| <b>African Institute for Development Policy</b>   | Malawi         |
| <b>Africassee Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE)</b>                   | Uganda         |
| <b>Cameroon Centre for Evidence Based Healthcare (CCEBHC)</b>                                   | Cameroon       |
| <b>Centre for Learning on Evaluations and Research (CLEAR-AA)</b>                               | South Africa   |
| <b>Centre for Learning on Evaluation Results</b>  | South Africa   |
| <b>Evaluation Society of Kenya (AFREA)</b>  | Kenya          |
| <b>Ghana Information Network For Knowledge Sharing</b>  | Ghana          |
| <b>International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)</b>                                     | India          |
| <b>International Network for the Scientific Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)</b> | United Kingdom |
| <b>Medical Research Council/SA Cochrane Centre</b>  | South Africa   |
| <b>South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA)</b>                              | South Africa   |
| <b>Stellenbosch/Centre for Evidence Based Health Care</b>                                       | South Africa   |
| <b>Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network (ZeipNet)</b>                                      | Zimbabwe       |

## Appendix 3: Evidence 2016 programme overview



### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW as at 01 September 2016

| DATE  | VENUE                  | TIME          | DETAILS   |
|---|------------------------|---------------|---|
| ENGAGE<br>TUESDAY, 20 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER       | CSIR Conference Centre | 12:00 – 13:30 | Registration Opens  |
|   |                        | 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch   |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 13:30 – 15:00 | Opening Plenary Session – <i>Engage</i>   |
|   |                        | 15:00 – 15:30 | Networking and refreshments   |
|   | CSIR Conference Centre | 15:30 – 17:00 | <div> <div><u>Diamond Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 1<br/>Engagement between Stakeholders</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Ruby Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 2<br/>Engagement with Evidence</div> </div>   |
|   |                        |               |   |
|   | Freedom Park           | 17:30 – 20:00 | Welcome Cocktail Reception, hosted by the City of Tshwane   |
|   | All official hotels    | 20:00 – 21:00 | Transport of delegates to CSIR/official hotels  |
| DATE  | VENUE                  | TIME          | DETAILS   |
| UNDERSTAND<br>WEDNESDAY, 21 <sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER | CSIR Conference Centre | 08:00 – 09:00 | Registration Open   Networking and Refreshments   |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 09:00 – 10:30 | Plenary Session 1 - <i>Understand</i>   |
|   |                        | 10:30 – 11:00 | Networking and refreshments   |
|   | CSIR Conference Centre | 11:00 – 12:30 | <div> <div><u>Diamond Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 3<br/>The importance of evidence for decision-making</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Ruby Auditorium</u></div> <div>Training Workshop 1<br/>Evaluation of government programmes</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Emerald Auditorium</u></div> <div>Landscape Maps &amp; Oral Posters</div> </div>                       |
|   |                        |               |   |
|   | Amber Room             | 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch   |
|   | CSIR Conference Centre | 13:30 – 15:00 | <div> <div><u>Diamond Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 4<br/>Understanding the evidence that exists and how we use it</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Ruby Auditorium</u></div> <div>Training Workshop 2<br/>Systematic reviews and evidence-informed policy</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Emerald Auditorium</u></div> <div>Landscape Maps &amp; Oral Posters</div> </div> |
|   |                        |               |   |
|   |                        | 15:00 – 15:30 | Networking and refreshments   |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 15:30 – 17:00 | Cross Government Panel Session  |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 17:30 – 18:30 | Africa Evidence Network, AGM  |
|   | All official hotels    | 17:00 – 19:30 | Transport of delegates to official hotels   |
| DATE  | VENUE                  | TIME          | DETAILS   |
| IMPACT<br>THURSDAY, 22 <sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER      | CSIR Conference Centre | 08:00 – 09:00 | Registration Open   Networking and refreshments   |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 09:00 – 10:30 | Plenary Session 2 - <i>Impact</i>   |
|   |                        | 10:30 – 11:00 | Networking and refreshments   |
|   | CSIR Conference Centre | 11:00 – 12:30 | <div> <div><u>Diamond Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 5<br/>Impact of Using Evidence</div> </div> <div> <div><u>Ruby Auditorium</u></div> <div>Breakout Session 6<br/>Impact of Evidence Networks</div> </div>   |
|   |                        |               |   |
|   |                        | 12:30 – 13:00 | Networking and refreshments   |
|   | Diamond Auditorium     | 13:00 – 15:30 | Closing Plenary – Wrap-up & Way Forward   |
|   | CSIR Conference Centre | 15:30 – 15:30 | Lunch - Grab and go or stay and network   |
|   |                        | 15:30         | Close of Conference   |

#### Appendix 4: Training workshop one attendance on day two of Evidence 2016

| Organisation  | Country        | Number of Attendees |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>3ie</b>  | Benin          | 1                   |
| <b>Assembly of People's Representative</b>                    | Tunisia        | 1                   |
| <b>Cameroon Centre for Evidence</b>                           | Cameroon       | 1                   |
| <b>Centre for Scientific Industrial Research(CSIR)</b>        | South Africa   | 1                   |
| <b>Department of Basic Education (DBE)</b>                    | South Africa   | 2                   |
| <b>Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)</b>                   | South Africa   | 2                   |
| <b>Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)</b>         | South Africa   | 5                   |
| <b>Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)</b> | South Africa   | 1                   |
| <b>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</b>             | South Africa   | 4                   |
| <b>Department of Social Development (DSD)</b>                 | South Africa   | 2                   |
| <b>Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)</b>               | South Africa   | 2                   |
| <b>Genesis Analytics</b>                                      | South Africa   | 1                   |
| <b>Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)</b>                 | South Africa   | 2                   |
| <b>Independent Consultant</b>                                 | South Africa   | 1                   |
| <b>Ministry of Health (MoH)</b>                               | Malawi         | 1                   |
| <b>North West University (NWU)</b>                            | South Africa   | 1                   |
| <b>University College London</b>                              | United Kingdom | 1                   |
| <b>University of Johannesburg</b>                             | South Africa   | 5                   |
| <b>Zimbabwe Open University Office of the Vice Chancellor</b> | Zimbabwe       | 1                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | 35             |                     |

## Appendix 5: Training workshop two attendance on day two of Evidence 2016

| Organisation   | Country        | Number of Attendees |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Cameroon Centre for Evidence                           | Cameroon       | 1                   |
| Department of Basic Education (DBE)                    | South Africa   | 2                   |
| Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)                   | South Africa   | 2                   |
| Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)         | South Africa   | 1                   |
| Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) | South Africa   | 3                   |
| Department of Science and Technology (DST)             | South Africa   | 4                   |
| Department of Social Development (DSD)                 | South Africa   | 2                   |
| Institute of Education, University College London      | United Kingdom | 1                   |
| Genesis Analytics                                      | South Africa   | 1                   |
| Ministry of Health (MoH)                               | Malawi         | 1                   |
| North West University (NWU)                            | South Africa   | 1                   |
| Nutrition Association of Zambia                        | Zambia         | 1                   |
| Office of the Prime Minister                           | Uganda         | 1                   |
| Palladium  | South Africa   | 1                   |
| University of Johannesburg                             | South Africa   | 3                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                | <b>25</b>           |