




Engage • Understand • Impact

# Evidence2023



## A REPORT BY THE AFRICA EVIDENCE NETWORK 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2023, ENTEBBE, UGANDA





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## Message from Siziwe Ngcwabe Director and co-chair Africa Evidence network

I am very proud to be part of the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) that hosted together Evidence 2023 successfully in Entebbe, Uganda and online on the 13-15 September 2023. On behalf of the Pan-African Collective for Evidence (PACE) and the AEN team, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for sharing your time, lessons learned, and expertise with the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) community. This event attracted over 715 delegates from 56 countries who joined us online and in-person over the course of the event. It was the first time ever that the AEN hosted the event outside of South Africa and the scale at which we were able to actively engage with and reach out to a wider range of stakeholders across Africa and beyond was unprecedented.

The main objective of Evidence 2023 was to bring together the Pan-African EIDM community for learning, sharing, and relationship-building. The event aimed to illustrate how the AEN implements its vision and mission in practice and celebrating the AEN's work in the past 11 years and to showcase EIDM work and practice innovations across the continent. To that effect, the event sessions were designed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of EIDM agenda from different lenses.

Thank you for providing the AEN with an opportunity to bring the African EIDM community together to connect, collaborate, enhance mutual learning, and develop new innovative ideas about supporting EIDM as well as inspiring us to take the EIDM agenda forward. In addition to your presentation and panel discussion contributions, we also highly appreciated your comments, feedback and critical insights during the event which will certainly serve as a basis for future discussions and outcomes. Furthermore, the content, recordings, presentations and innovations showcased in the EIDM incubator are available on our [website](#).

We are excited to taking forward the Evidence 2023 key themes and actions arising from our time together online and in-person, hopefully in close collaboration with most of you! The conversations and discussions started will continue using the AEN social media platforms. Please look out for more information for Africa Evidence Week 2024 and Evidence 2025. We are looking forward to convening with you soon.





## Message from Evidence 2023 Co-chair Kirchuffs Atengble

Once again, the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) has delivered another round of its Evidence series – Evidence 2023 – providing a colourful blend of content, design, arts, and networking opportunities. The event this year has proven to be a flagship initiative of the African ecosystem, bringing together an increasing number of practitioners cutting across the various categories of ecosystem actors.

We wish to express sincere appreciation to all who contributed to this success:

- the government and people of Uganda, who provided the necessary congenial environment in Entebbe, our host city.
- our host organisation, the Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES).
- the volunteer network members who played different roles that culminated in the success that was experienced.

- our conference organisers, Conference South Africa, together with their local partners, Event Warehouse.
- and all others who contributed to the highly anticipated conference, such as our perennial funder the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, new funders like the MasterCard Foundation and the BHP Foundation, as well as our standing global and regional partners from 3ie, the Evidence Commission, The Latin American and Caribbean Evidence Hub, PACKS Africa, eBASE Africa, and Twende Mbele.

I describe the event as highly anticipated because of its ever-increasing popularity within the global ‘practo-sphere’. In its last edition, the event attracted 346 registrations for both online and in-person participation, from across 31 countries. It surpassed these numbers by recording 715 registrations, from potential participants that ranged across 56 unique countries. Now, that’s about 106.6 percent increase in popularity (interest in participation) in just over 12 months.

Evidence 2023 marked an increasing awareness of the need to ground EIDM practice within the continent. From its colourful opening ceremony to the keynote address, a message of local ownership and decolonisation of the practice was established. These were re-echoed through various parallel and plenary sessions that emphasised embracing African ways of thinking and doing, engaging with communities and citizens, fostering local networks, and building up local entities, whilst avoiding the replication of unequal and unequitable power structures. The value of learning and working through (within and cross-boundary) collaborations; integrating new voices, new teams, new

leaders; and broadening our approaches to communication were equally not overlooked.

It is my expectation that, this growing interest in decolonising the practice will be sustained, as it has great potential for realising our high-end value of 'seeing an end to poverty and inequality in Africa'. As such, we need to continue innovating as a network, seeking opportunities to deliver value-added services. Our introduction of the EIDM Innovations working group speaks to that aspiration, as also is the consideration of other administrative structures such as Communities of Practice (CoPs).

Let us further democratise the network by further empowering the different groups, creating opportunity for more members, especially our vibrant young practitioners, to contribute to this ever-growing field of development practice. The Africa Evidence Youth League (AEYL), which was launched during the event, is a viable vehicle in this regard. I equally commend the move to allow for the bidding of hosting rights by interested country ecosystems for Evidence 2025, as this has high potential of encouraging ecosystem development.

# Section 1 | Hosting EVIDENCE 2023

This section details the extensive hard work of the working groups to plan and prepare for Evidence 2023. It closes with a snapshot of some of the lessons that we learned in hosting this event, including feedback from members about what to try in future.

## 1.1. What did we want to achieve with Evidence 2023?

Evidence 2023 was brought to you by the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) which believes that only together will evidence-informed decision-making become a reality in Africa. Over the last decade the AEN has grown into a broad community of over 5,000 diverse people who share a vision to see an end to poverty and inequality in Africa. The Network's mission is to facilitate connections and collaborations that contribute to this vision by together increasing evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM).

Throughout the six Evidence events held biennially since 2014, events have varied in scale and objectives. Some of our goals have remained the same for Evidence 2023. The first, to bring together the Pan-African community for learning, sharing, and relationship-building to end poverty in Africa. The second is that these events provide an opportunity for connection and collaboration to enhance mutual learning and the development of new ideas about supporting EIDM. Additionally, the AEN wanted to build content for EIDM practice and provide opportunities to share EIDM practice experiences of different experts in the community.

Evidence 2023 took place for three days from 13 until 15 September 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda and online. The event was delivered as a combination of in-person and virtual experiences that facilitate real-time and offline collaboration with participants from around the world. The event also celebrates awardees of the Africa Evidence Leadership Award for 2023.

While the event retained its overarching theme of 'Engage, Understand, Impact', the content of the event drew on the workstreams the AEN secretariat uses to organise its work to achieve its strategic goals. These workstreams were 'EIDM innovations in Africa', 'Enhancing evidence capacities', and 'Making connections and building collaborations'. Each workstream was led by a programme officer who was in turn supported by line managers and an Evidence 2023 co-chair drawn from the AEN. Each programme officer led a working group made up of members from the AEN advisory group, reference group, AEN members and other key partners. The programme officers, and the working group members designed and executed pre-activities within each workstream. Each group was also responsible for designing the session/s at the event which culminated in collective working on key outputs during Evidence 2023. A call for content submission from the EIDM community gave the AEN an opportunity to discuss other related EIDM making topics outside the workstream thematic areas. The [Evidence 2023 concept note](#) provided more details about the event.



## 1.2. How did the working groups function?

Evidence 2023 connected conversations that are rooted in three work streams. These work streams were launched during EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE where participants actively contributed to the development of concepts, manifestos, or visualizations – among other things – within these different work streams. The workstreams were deliberately designed in this way so that work taking place at EVIDENCE 2020 ONLINE advanced the Network as a whole toward its larger objectives. The workstreams that Evidence 2023 advanced are as follows:

- Enhancing evidence capacities
- Making connections and building collaborations
- Innovations in evidence-informed decision-making in Africa.

The fourth workstream was derived from content submitted by the community. This content assisted in shaping the workstream, accommodating content that discussed other EIDM topics. The thematic areas that were drawn from content submitted for Evidence 2023 were: Education, youth employment, monitoring and evaluation evidence, institutionalising evidence use, localisation agenda, EIDM culture, equity, Inclusion and trust, responsive evidence services (RES), EIDM evidence map, and community generated evidence.

### 1.2.1. Work stream one: Enhancing evidence capacities

The main goal of this work stream was to share capacities across the EIDM ecosystem in Africa. Evidence 2023 was used to **facilitate learning among participants and advance discussions, debates, and solutions for capacity** within the African EIDM ecosystem. Participants at Evidence 2023 had 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 2023, this work stream achieved the following objectives: (1) ***engaged a keynote on the decolonisation of EIDM capacity development in Africa***; (2) presented five ***case studies of alternative (innovative) approaches to capacity development***; (3) understood what the ***implications are of alternative (innovative) ways of advancing evidence capacities for various stakeholders***, such as funders and capacity development providers; hosted webinar that explore concepts of capacity development; and (4) ***revised the Manifesto on capacity development for EIDM in Africa***.



Charity Chisoro



Maxwell Banu



Wiseman Ndlela



Jacklyne Ashubwe-Jalemba



Diana Waria



Enock Musungwini



Patrick Okwen



Penka Bogne

In the lead-up to Evidence 2023, the enhancing evidence capacities workstream had 8 members dedicated from across the continent and held five meetings to prepare for their activities before and during Evidence 2023. The working group outputs are discussed below:

The working group hosted [4 webinars](#) with 194 participants, and 14 speakers, from 16 organisations across the continent and beyond took part. The workstream also collected [3 case studies](#) of alternative (innovative) approaches to capacity development. See the description of all the **case studies and webinars below**:

- Community of Practice – Bolgatanga East District Assembly, Ghana: <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/61>.
- Mentorship Programme for African World Heritage Professionals: <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/62>.
- Traditional storytelling audit feedback by eBASE Africa: <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/63>.

**Webinar one** titled *Capacity development for EIDM in Africa: exploring innovative approaches* was held on 26 April 2023. We worked with the following partner(s) to make the webinar a success and the session was moderated by Emily Hayter from [On Think Tanks Consulting](#) and the speaker/s were Prof Avea E Nsoh ([TEERE](#), Ghana), Penka Bogne ([Effective Basic Services, eBASE Africa](#), Cameroon) and Leyla Abdullahi ([African Institute for Development Policy, AFIDEP](#), Kenya and Malawi). Content was generated and was shared with the Africa Evidence Network members and the EIDM community. The aim was to continue conversations after the session using social media. See the content below:

**Webinar recording:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/video/568/>

**Webinar presentation:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/234/>

**Webinar blog:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/233/>

**LinkedIn post:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7059890853753819136/>

**Webinar two** titled *innovations in EIDM Capacity Development: implications for various stakeholders in Africa* and was held on 31 May 2023. We worked with the following partner(s) to make the webinar a success and the session was moderated by Kirchuffs Atengble ([Evidence 2023](#)) and the speaker/s were Chris Chibwana, ([Hewlett Foundation](#), United States of America), Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro, ([Economic Policy Research Centre](#), Uganda), Mohammed Awal, ([Centre for Democratic Development](#), Ghana) and Roberta Blankson, ([International Centre for Evaluation and Development](#), Kenya). The content was generated and shared with the Africa Evidence Network members and the EIDM community. The aim was to continue conversations after the session using social media. See the content below:

**Webinar recording:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/video/579/>

**Webinar presentation:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/240/>

**Webinar blog:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/240/>

**LinkedIn post:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7072889174982373376/>

**Webinar three** titled *Innovating Capacity Development for EIDM in Africa: Addressing Structural and Value Issues within ecosystems* and was held on 05 July 2023. We worked with the following partner(s) to make the webinar a success and the session was moderated by Kirchuffs Atengble, ([PACKS Africa](#)) and the speaker/s were Albert van der Linden, ([Cenfri](#), Rwanda), Elizabeth Ombech, ([Afya Research Africa](#), Nairobi), Faraja Kotta Nyalandu, ([Shule Direct](#), Tanzania) and Michala Assankpon, ([World Food Programme](#), Latin America, and the Caribbean). Content that was generated and shared with the Africa Evidence Network members and the EIDM community. The aim was to continue conversations after the session using social media. See the content below:

**Webinar recording:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/video/582/>

**Webinar presentation:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/242/>

**Webinar blog:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/248>

**LinkedIn post:** [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africa-evidence-network\\_evidence2023-innovative-webinar-activity-7089514646851788800-m324?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africa-evidence-network_evidence2023-innovative-webinar-activity-7089514646851788800-m324?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop).

**Webinar four** titled *Capacity development for EIDM in Africa: implications of targeting structural and value issues for ecosystem actors* was held on 30 August 2023. We worked with the following partner (s) to make the webinar a success and the session was moderated by Kirchuffs Atengble, ([PACKS](#)

[Africa](#) and speaker/s were Dr Edwin Byusa, [Cenfri](#), Rwanda, Rokhaya Cisse, [LARTES](#), Senegal and Daniel Dotse, [Lead for Ghana](#), Ghana. The content was generated and shared with the Africa Evidence Network members and the EIDM community. The aim was to continue conversations after the session using social media. See the content below:

**Webinar recording:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/video/587/>

**Webinar presentation:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/256/>

**Webinar blog:** <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/310/>

**LinkedIn post:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7117132832627449856/>

**D**uring **Evidence 2023** the workstream had session 10 titled increasing evidence capacities through collaborative engagement. The objective of this session was to explore innovations that are shaping capacity development interventions transforming the evidence landscape through a panel and roundtable discussion with thought-leaders, facilitated by the Enhancing Evidence Capacities working group. This is because capacity issues have been at the centre-stage of EIDM across the African ecosystem. Many stakeholders are participating in collaborative arrangements and deploying innovative mechanisms that enhance capacities needed for evidence production, its intermediation and use. The session was anchored around the [AEN's Manifesto](#) on capacity development for EIDM in Africa.

**A**fter **Evidence 2023** the workstream will launch capacities community of practice and host a webinar on what we know about engagement with citizens (community) evidence with the purpose of starting a community of practice on this topic in 2024. They will also collect material on frameworks and resources for the professionalisation of evidence practitioners to build on the existing material database.

## 1.2.2. Work stream two: Making connections and building collaborations



Nain Yuh



Serge Eric Yakeu



Godson Gatsha



Dennis Omvia



Ronald Munatsi



Pfungwa  
Nyamukachi




James Kariuki

The second work stream at Evidence 2023, participants were supported in **brokering new connections and fostering collaborations with others engaged in or supporting EIDM in Africa**. Evidence 2023 provided a platform for participants to work together in: (1) *exploring different approaches to fostering connections and collaborations*, such as collecting stories/case studies 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 2023, this work stream has committed to work on producing a comprehensive visualisation of EIDM organisations in Africa to act as a mechanism for enhancing connections and collaborations.

**In the lead up to Evidence 2023** the making connections and building collaborations workstream had 7 members dedicated from across the continent and held five meetings to prepare for their activities before and during Evidence 2023. The working group outputs are discussed below: The working group developed five case studies that explored African approaches to fostering connections and collaborations in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, and Niger. All the case studies can be found here:

- <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/58>
- <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/59>
- <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/60>
- <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/64>
- <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/311/>



**D**uring Evidence 2023 the workstream planned session 12 that further explored African approaches to fostering connections and collaborations: The objective of this session was to share current insights into the innovative approaches to fostering connections and collaborations in the Evidence-Informed Decision Making (EIDM) field from across the continent. The session showcased diverse ways for nurturing connections and collaborations within the realm of EIDM, from the African continent. The panellists shared diverse stories from Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Niger and ways that have been used to advance EIDM practice in these spheres. View below for more information about the case studies and blog: View the detailed information about the session here:

<https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/314/>. Blog: [The Veracity of Afro-centric Approaches in Fostering Connections and Collaborations in Enhancing EIDM in Africa.](#)

**Networking opportunities at Evidence 2023:** The workstream had several sessions to deliberately enable participants to foster connections and collaboration. For the in-person participants in Entebbe, Uganda there was **session 6: Networking for new emerging leaders:** This session was for participants who are new to Evidence events. This was an opportunity to make sure that young and emerging leaders meet other experienced leaders in the Evidence family. The past and present Africa Evidence Leadership Award winners, executive directors of leading organisations in Africa joined in to inspire the new leaders. We had two reception events sponsored by 3ie and Mastercard Foundation. Unwinding sessions at the end of each day were also an opportunity for participants to connect. The online participants had five networking opportunities that were created during Evidence 2023 to connect and collaborate. Over 120 participants connected with others using the meeting hub.

**A**fter Evidence 2023 the workstream will explore a community of practice to build on the African approaches to fostering connections and collaborations and produce a comprehensive visualisation of individuals and EIDM organisations in Africa to act as a mechanism for enhancing connections and collaborations. Collect material on networking, collaboration to contribute to the resource database.



### 1.2.3. Work stream three: Innovations in evidence-informed decision-making in Africa

The main objective of the EIDM Innovation workstream was to showcase and deepen the body of innovative EIDM practice on the continent. Evidence 2023 was used as hub to celebrate, deepen awareness, and support cross adaptation of African EIDM Innovations. Specifically, participants were invited to join a co-learning journey of:

- interacting with and co-exploring the latest evidence on the art and science of using evidence in Africa.
- understanding how to measure the use of evidence for decision-making.
- pioneering the mainstreaming of equity, gender, and transformation in EIDM practice
- share their own EIDM innovations for showcasing at the events.

The innovations working group was selected based on the innovative work members were doing within the EIDM sector. This includes evidence-based storytelling, the Art and Science of evidence use, institutionalising evidence use within government amongst many other innovations. Click [here](#) to learn more about the innovations working group.



In the lead up to Evidence 2023, the Innovation workstream had 6 members dedicated to contributing to the preparations for Evidence 2023 from across the continent and held various meetings were held to coordinate, plan and to provide guidance on the different sessions at Evidence 2023. A **group meeting** served as an introductory session for all members of the innovations working group. This introductory session was attended by all innovation workstream group members and the AEN staff. The workstream also held **one-on-one meetings** with the members of the working group to familiarise group members with the format of sessions and clarify their roles and participation in the sessions.


The innovations workstream had four panel discussion sessions and 21 EIDM incubator sessions. The EIDM incubator was set up as a separate section from the main formal presentations; it provided individuals and organisations with an opportunity to showcase their innovations. Each speaker was given 15 minutes to present to about 10 people who were rotating after every presentation. **Preparation meetings** for the EIDM incubator aimed to inform speakers about the hub's setup and guide them on structuring their presentations. Speakers were requested to send a brief summary of their innovation and a 2-minute video describing the innovation for the online component of the EIDM innovator. Meetings were scheduled with 21 organisations that showcased their work. View more details here: <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-innovations-in-africa>

**D**uring Evidence 2023 the innovation workstream 4 panel discussion sessions and the EIDM innovator as described below:

**Session 5: Institutionalising evidence use: Sharing lessons and future directions.** This panel brought together researchers, knowledge brokers and decision-makers dedicated to closing the gap between evidence and decision-making with the goal of identifying emerging lessons and directions for an evidence-informed approach to institutionalising evidence use.

The session was chaired by Marie Gaarder, Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). The panellists were Candice Morkel, Director, Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results - Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), Tanja Kuchenmuller, Unit Head, Evidence to Policy and Impact, Research for Health Department, Science Division, World Health Organization, Godfrey Mashamba, Deputy Director General for planning and M&E, Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa, Rose Oronje, Director of Public Policy and Knowledge Translation, and Head of Kenya Office, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Rhona Mijumbi, Head of the Policy Unit, Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme (MLW). View the video of the session here for more details: <https://bit.ly/48X2A1j>

**Session 13: Valuing evidence in EIDM differently: Equity, inclusion, and trust:** The aim of this session was to discuss the significance of equity, inclusion, and trust in EIDM. Panellists identified areas where equity, inclusion and trust should be taken into account during the EIDM process. Panellists also discussed developments in EIDM regarding equity, inclusion, and trust, including exploring existing inclusion and equity tools, and discussing other related innovations, current gaps and areas for improvement. This session illustrated what equity, inclusion and trust-informed decision-making looks like in practice. This session was chaired by Adeline Sibanda, Senior Resident Impact: Mastercard



Foundation along with the following panellists were Andile Madonsela, Managing Researcher, South Africa Centre for Evidence, Nain Mirabel Yuh, Project Coordinator - Disability, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon and Evelyn Jepkemei, Senior Education Officer, Education.org, Kenya. <https://shorturl.at/tvZ58>

**Session 15: What makes evidence services responsive to policy-needs: Perspectives from three African embedded evidence-on-demand services:** The panel showcased the potential of Responsive Evidence Services (RES) (including help desks) as an effective mechanism to support policy-makers' evidence-use. It featured three embedded pairs of providers and users of responsive evidence services: WACIE who are providing RES to a number of West African governments; ACRES who are providing RES to the Ugandan government; and SACE who are providing RES to the South African government.

This panel foregrounded the perspectives of policy-makers as the users of evidence. The session was chaired by Promise Nduku and panellists were Timothy Lubanga: Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda, Ismael Kawooya: Research Scientist and coordinator at The Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES), Uganda, Deo-Gracias Houndolo: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Benin, Ouollo Clément Sekongo, Commission UEMOA, Harsha Dayal: Director of Research & Knowledge Management, Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, South Africa and Laurenz Mahlanza-Langer: Executive Director, South Africa Centre for Evidence. View the video of the session here for more details: <https://bit.ly/46tqAYa>

**Session 17: The Art and Science of Evidence Use: Launching the Global EIDM Evidence Map:** This panel launched the Global evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) evidence map. Exploring the art and science of using evidence, the session zoomed in on the results of an evidence map of applied global interventions aimed at supporting decision-makers' use of evidence in various contexts. The panellists discussed a range of interventions, including training programs and knowledge translation tools, that actively intervene in the current decision-making status quo with the aim of making decision-making more receptive to evidence use. This session was chaired by Tanja Kuchenmüller, WHO; presented Promise Nduku, South Africa Centre for Evidence along with the panellists were Joseph Chukwudi Okeibunor: WHO, AFRO Regional Advisor, Laura dos Santos Boeria: Instituto Veredas, Executive Director, and Rose Oronje: AFIDEP, Director, Public Policy & Knowledge Translation, & Head of Kenya Office. <https://shorturl.at/wlPX9>.

**Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) Incubator** engaged participants with a rolling programme of 21 exciting ideas, innovations, experiences, and debates, including short talks and demonstrations. Organisations and participants across the continent were invited to showcase the following their innovate approaches to EIDM. <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-innovations-in-africa>.

The innovations are also listed on the table 1 below.

<a href="#"><u>Innovation 1: Youth-led EIDM capacity development</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 2: Utafiti Sera: Influencing Policy, practice and decision making through Evidence in Africa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 3: Rapid Response Services for EIDM</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 4: Building an evidence-driven culture with government partners in Africa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 5: Localised meanings of evidence</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 6: EIDM advocates: How do we begin to measure the impact of our work</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 7: Fostering #EvidenceInformedlives the AEN podcast</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 8: The future of EIDM: Africa Evidence Youth League</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 9: Accessibility and use of evidence at the decentralised level in the era of the digital revolution</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 10: Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs digital solutions at Municipal level: Case of the Barometer app</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 11: Real world evidence</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 12: Latin American and the Caribbean Evidence Hub</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 13: Twende Mbele</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 14: The INCE: An insider’s view of National Evaluation Systems</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 15: Guide for decision-making when facing complexity and uncertainty</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 16: Education.org: The international working group on inclusive evidence in education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 17: Policy-relevant evidence maps</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 18: Distilling and Availing Research Evidence for Parliament of Zimbabwe</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 19: Valuing evidence in EIDM differently</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Innovation 20: Evidence Tori Dey: Telling Science Stories</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Innovation 21: The Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges</u></a>	

#### 1.2.4. Work stream four: content submitted for Evidence 2023

A call for content aiming to gain contributions and presentations sharing experiences while fostering connections and collaborations was opened to the EIDM community. Submission guidelines were developed to guide the submissions across the continent and beyond <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/269/>. The type of content that was requested was abstracts, blogs, posters, video's, stories of change and concept papers aligned to the three event workstreams and EIDM in Africa more broadly.



Ruth Stewart



Eucharia Oluchi  
Nwaichi



Eric Ndeh  
Mbounien  
Ngang



Jennifer  
Opare-Kumi



Enock  
Musungwini



Megan  
Lloyd-Laney



Harsha Dayal



Violet Murunga

The **content committee** was established to review all the submissions received and identify thematic areas that shaped the programme. The content committee was facilitated by Kirchuffs Atengble and Siziwe Ngcwabe. We received over 78 submissions for Evidence 2023 – see the list on table 2 below. All the content was published on the AEN website and on the online platform <https://shorturl.at/kmuNV>. We had a resource and presenters gallery for the online audience. Over 125 online participants visited the galleries to engage with the content and presenters.

Name & Surname		Organisation	Title of the submission
1	Leyla Abdullahi	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">Introduction Of Evidence-Informed Decision Making (EIDM) Curriculum into Universities: A Strategy to Institutionalise the EIDM Culture in Africa.</a>
2	Leyla Abdullahi	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">What Does It Take to Introduce Evidence-Informed Decision-Making Training in Low- Middle- Income Countries Training Institutions? Lessons From Kenya and Malawi.</a>
3	Michala Assankpon	World Food Programme	<a href="#">Building and cross-fertilizing evidence from National Evaluation Capacities Index</a>
4	Kirchuffs Atengble	PACKS Africa	<a href="#">Capacity Development for EIDM: Community of Practice as an opportunity for subnational governance reform</a>
5	Julian Bagyendera	Provide and Equip Ltd	<a href="#">Turning young M&amp;E professionals' dreams and aspirations into realities</a>
6	Isatou Bah	Directorate Of Social Welfare; Ministry Of Gender, Children And Social Welfare.	<a href="#">Persons with Disabilities and their access to services: a situational analysis to strengthen evidence base of social welfare policies in The Gambia</a>
7	Bertrand BALDET	SeeD - Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development	SCORE Index in West Africa: a tool for evidence-based peacebuilding recommendations and development policies in post conflict areas
8	<b>Charity Chisoro</b>	<b>Africa Evidence Network</b>	<b>What do we learn about EIDM capacity development from an evidence map on communities of practice in Africa?</b>
9	Kathleen Flower	Environmental Incentives	<a href="#">Natural Capital and Resilient Biodiversity in East Africa: The role of strong evidence and collective action in climate change decisions</a>
10	Hervé Bonaventure Mètonmassé Gbenahou	Institut Africain De Suivi Et Evaluation D'impacts De Politique, Programmes Et Projets De Développement (le Baromètre)	<a href="#">Poverty dynamics and the figures of those left behind in Atacora and Donga: North West Benin</a>
11	Eleanor Hazell	Jet Education Services/SAMEA/university Of Johannesburg	<a href="#">SAMEA Virtual Evaluation guideline and lessons learned from virtual evaluation practice</a>
12	Deo-Gracias Houndolo	Institut Africain De Suivi Et Evaluation D'impact Des Politiques Programmes Et Projets De Développement	<a href="#">Accessibilité et utilisation des données probantes au niveau décentralisé à l'ère de la révolution numérique: défis, leviers et opportunités pour l'Afrique francophone</a>
13	Yanfei Li	The Cross-innovation Laboratory Of Evidence-based Social Sciences, Lanzhou University	<a href="#">Conditional and unconditional cash transfers for health outcomes and household expenditure in poor families in low-and middle-income countries: a systematic review protocol</a>
14	Meixuan Li	The Cross-innovation Laboratory of Evidence-based Social Sciences, Lanzhou University	<a href="#">Examining the best time of day for exercise</a>
15	Alvin Lontum	Ebase Africa	<a href="#">Counting a wicked problem: a household survey of SGBV in Ntanka Community</a>
16	Laurenz Mahlanza-Langer	South Africa Centre For Evidence Npc	A responsive evidence system for African policy needs: insights from two years of capacity-sharing for evidence-use
17	Nyanyiwe Mbeye	Kamuzu University Of Health Sciences	<a href="#">Setting up an academic unit in evidence informed decision making in Malawi</a>



18	Fiacre Mushimire	Cenfri	<a href="#">Using data to improve public policy in Rwanda</a>
19	Patrick Okwen	Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa	Predicting Transferability of Research Recommendations Across Contexts through Mathematical Modelling
20	Marthe Bogne Penka	Ebase Africa	Creating a National Knowledge Base for Evidence Decision Making: Do Policy Makers Have What It Takes?
21	Josephine Watera	Parliament Of Uganda	<a href="#">Building Capacities of VOPEs in East Africa through Peer-to-Peer Learning: Lessons from Uganda Evaluation Association</a>
22	Kehu Yang	The Cross-innovation Laboratory Of Evidence-based Social Sciences, Lanzhou University	<a href="#">Mental health of college students</a>
23	Hazel Zaranyika	Africa Evidence Network	Evidence map: Online mentoring as a tool to enhance Capacity to Support Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Africa: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/305/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/305/</a>
24	Mariama Keïta-Thiero	MK Inc., Communications Consulting	Gender Sensitive Mainstreaming in Parliaments Across Africa Using Evidence
25	Victor Werimo	Strathmore University	<a href="#">Business Unusual: Challenges of digitisation in Government</a>
26	Mphathesithe Mkhize	University of KwaZulu-Natal	<a href="#">Using Evidence Based Policy for Sustainable Development Goals in Local Municipalities, KwaZulu-Natal</a>
27	Pambe Miong Rigobert Hanny	eBASE Africa	Education infographics on attainment in middle Africa: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/251/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/251/</a>
28	Moitshepi Matsheng	Youth Impact	<a href="#">Building Resilient Education Systems: Evidence from Large-Scale Randomized Trials in Five Countries</a>
29	Gloria Anderson	Tanzania Enlightenment Development Innovations	How can African leaders ensure effective evidence production and its cycle usage for attainment of the Agenda 2063? <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/250/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/250/</a>
30	Syranno Baines	OTT Consulting	Strategies and Experiences of Resource Mobilization for Think Tanks: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/299/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/299/</a>
31	Oesi Sebusang Thothe	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">Closing the gap between evidence production and uptake/buy-in: Do we need to re-think where we locate communication in the pecking order?</a>
32	Duber Ignacio Osorio Bustamante	Latin American and Caribbean Evidence Hub-hub Lac	<a href="#">Evidence ecosystems in Brazil, Chile and Colombia: findings, challenges and learnings from Latin American and Caribbean country reports</a>
33	Tangang Andrew Tangang	Effective Basic Services (ebase) Africa	<a href="#">Communicating research evidence through 'Policy events': Linking practitioners and policymakers through a 'Policy event on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in Schools'</a>
34	Sephora Aguessy	Le Barometre	<a href="#">Accessibilité et utilisation des données probantes au niveau décentralisé à l'ère de la révolution numérique:</a>

			<a href="#">défis, leviers et opportunités pour l'Afrique francophone</a>
35	Aweh Annih Akofu	Effective Basic Services (ebase)	<a href="#">Using Evidence Within Traditional African Storytelling (TAS) to Prevent and Mitigate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Cameroon.</a>
36	Jacklyne Ashubwe-jalemba	Med wise Solutions Consultancy	<a href="#">Trends, barriers and facilitators of evidence sharing among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Sub-Saharan Africa: a multi-Country, multi-sectoral study</a>
37	Kirchuffs Atengble	PACKS Africa	<a href="#">Reconceptualising Evidence for EIDM practice</a>
38	Kirchuffs Atengble	PACKS Africa	<a href="#">Shaking the 'unstable' paradigm of current development practice: a discussion paper</a>
39	Winy Cherotich	PAL Network	Unravelling the Enablers for Literacy and Numeracy for Children: Lessons from Kenya, Nepal and Tanzania: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/253/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/253/</a>
40	Bruce Chidi	Go-getters Brand (pty) Ltd	<a href="#">Attitudes of the educational sector towards evidence use in South Africa</a>
41	Emily Hayter	OTT Consulting	<a href="#">Learning lessons from nationally evidentiary processes to inform international deliberation</a>
42	Luvuyo Jalisa	Department Of Water And Sanitation	<a href="#">A systematic review highlighting the unintended consequences of decentralisation of water resources management in South Africa</a>
43	Jim Kaketch	Partnership For African Social Governance Research (PASGR)	<a href="#">Utafiti Sera: Influencing Policy, practice and decision making through Evidence in Africa</a>
44	Renatus Mbamilo	EDI Global	<a href="#">Leveraging and strengthening local systems to increase first-time mothers' use of postpartum family planning in Tanzania: A cluster randomized controlled trial (cRCT)</a>
45	Mirabel Yuh Nain	eBASE Africa	<a href="#">Enhancing Evidence-Use for People With Disabilities (PWDs) for Inclusive EIDM</a>
46	Chanice Fri Okwen	Effective Basic Services Africa	<a href="#">Performance Based Financing, an innovative approach to improving quality of education in crisis regions</a>
47	Pambe Miong Rigobert Hanny	eBASE Africa	<a href="#">Getting research into the classroom; improving teaching and learning through pedagogic audits and feedback in primary education in 4 countries of the lake Chad Basin</a>
48	Kaitlynn Saldanha	The Luminos Fund	<a href="#">Community-Generated Evidence in Africa: Best Practices and Lessons from the PAL Network and the Luminos Fund</a>
49	Zedekia Sidha	National Defence University - Kenya	<a href="#">Street level bureaucrats, military culture and Quality Education in Kenya: The case of National Defence University-Kenya</a>
50	Josephine Watera	Parliament Of Uganda	<a href="#">The Art and Science of evidence use in Parliaments: An Insider's Story</a>
51	Laura Cojocar	Ideas42	<a href="#">Behavioral Insights on the Use of Evidence for Local Policy-Making in South Africa</a>
52	Jean Kanengoni	University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	<a href="#">Measuring up: Public libraries discovering their impact in Zimbabwe</a>
53	Judith Hassan	Gumi And Company	<a href="#">Open is a start, but it is not enough</a>
54	<b>Howard White</b>	<b>Global Development Network</b>	<b>Building the evidence architecture for youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa</b>
55	Rosebella Apollo	Partnership For Africa Social And Governance Research	<a href="#">Beyond Evidence: Politically informed decision and policy making for resilient African Cities</a>

56	Boamogeleng Motlhobogwa	Youth Impact	<a href="#">Empowering girls: A randomized trial on mHealth 'safe spaces' during COVID-19</a>
57	Fiacre Mushimire	Cenfri	<a href="#">Using data to improve public policy in Rwanda: Blending data science and the art of navigating political priorities</a>
58	Ruth Stewart	Africa Evidence Network	<a href="#">How can we produce better evidence to inform better decisions for better outcomes?</a>
59	Candide Tamadaho	Institut Africain De Suivi Et Evaluation D'impact Des Politiques Programmes Et Projets De Developpement	<a href="#">Suivi et Evaluation des ODD au niveau des collectivités décentralisées (Communes) avec des solutions numériques: Cas de l'application Baromètre - ODD</a>
60	Respichius Mitti	EDI Global	Understanding Character Virtues and the Role of Parental Character Virtues in Promoting Children's Character Virtues in the High-risk, Low-income Rural Setting of Tanzania:
61	Maureen Ng'etich	APHRC	<a href="#">'It takes a village': Lessons on capacitating a policy-relevant data ecosystem</a>
62	Fortune B. Effiong	University of Calabar, Nigeria,	<a href="#">African community for systematic reviews and meta-reviews analysis (ACSRM) needs assessment</a>
63	Ramadhani Marijani	University of Dodoma	<a href="#">Baseline survey for strengthening access to justice and participation of women and girls in leadership and social economic rights in Malinyi and Ulunga District councils in Tanzania.</a>
64	Violet Marunga	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">Effectiveness and sustainability of politically responsive interventions for strengthening institutional capacity for evidence-informed decision making in the health sector in Kenya: a mixed methods evaluation.</a>
65	Violet Marunga	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">What influences the knowledge translation capacity and practice within Africa-led research consortia?</a>
66	Yosef Gebreyohannes Abraha	Ethiopian Public Health Institute	<a href="#">The Evidence Ecosystem of the Ethiopian Health Sector: Challenges and Prospects for the Institutionalization of Evidence-informed Decision-making.</a>
67	Hleziwe Hara	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">Mechanisms to address weak capacities on the institutional use of evidence to inform decisions within the Ministry of Health: Lessons from Kenya, Malawi and Uganda</a>
68	Tumaini Malenga	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	<a href="#">Gendered Gaps to Accessing TB Treatment: A Political Economy Analysis in Kenya.</a>
69	Chloe Tuck	University of Sheffield	<a href="#">The feasibility of applying individual patient data for evidence informed decision making on inequity in cancer treatment engagement in Northern Ghana</a>
70	Anselm GUEZO	University of Abomey-Calav	<a href="#">Reforming the Africa Universities: A Pan-African project in an era of international cooperation In education.</a>
71	Tito Nezehose	Youth Impact	Can data-informed management and structured pedagogy improve learning? Evidence from public schools in Rwanda: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/254/">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/254/</a>
72	Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam	Eval partners	Attributes of connections and collaboration among rural farmers in Niger <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/59">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/59</a>

72	Mirabel Yuh Nain	Effective Basic Services Africa	Soaring on The Wings of Collaboration; the Case of Effective Basic Services (eBASE) in Cameroon Africa: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/58">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/58</a>
73	Godson Gatsha	Botswana Open University	The story of open and distance learning in Botswana: leveraging evidence informed decision-making: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/60">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/60</a>
74	Jennifer Mutua	Evaluation Society of Kenya	<a href="#">A Call to Maximize Africa’s Evidence Potential in Redressing Existing Opportunities and Challenges</a>
75	Ronald Munatsi	ZEIPNET	<a href="#">The Veracity of Afro-centric Approaches in Fostering Connections and Collaborations in Enhancing EIDM in Africa</a>
76	Kirchuffs Atengble	PACKS Africa	<a href="#">What does legacy thinking within the African EIDM space look like? Views from a retired Young Executive Director</a>
77	Jonathan Izudi	APHRC	<b>Real-world Evidence: What we know and What We Can Do in Africa.</b>
78	Kariuki James Ngumo	Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)	The use of stories-of-significant change to elucidate health systems changes with potential to inform universal health coverage strengthening lessons learnt from six pilot counties in Kenya: <a href="https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/64">https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/eidm-in-africa/stories/story/64</a>

### 1.3. What did we learn from hosting Evidence 2023?

In this section, we discuss some of the key points that emerged from discussions when we were together both online and in person at Entebbe, Uganda.

# What did we learn ?



## Evidence decolonisation

Questioning, understanding, and adapting each step of our practice to address power, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

## Embracing African ways

It's important to embrace African ways of thinking and doing.



## Thinking local

The value of engaging with communities and citizens, fostering our local networks, and building up local entities, whilst avoiding the replication of unequal and unequitable power structures.

## Learning and working through collaboration

With one another, with others, across traditional boundaries.



## Expanding our network

Expanding who we listen to, engage with, and learn from – new voices, new teams.

## Broadening our approaches to communication

Use story telling, song, mime, art, languages and more.



## 1.4. How can we implement the localisation agenda within EIDM?

**At Evidence 2023, the community suggested actions to move towards localisation within the EIDM field.**





## Section 2 | EVIDENCE 2023 programme

The following section provides details from both the in-person and online components of Evidence 2023. These components were designed to complement each other to enhance participants' experience of Evidence 2023.

## 2.1. In-person component of Evidence 2023

The programme had 23 sessions excluding the EIDM innovator, organised in different formats to inspire conversations between the speakers and participants. The sessions covered various topics discussed on table 4 below. To see detailed programme: <https://bit.ly/47KZ3Tn>.

Type of session	Description
Panel discussions	A panel discussion involved groups of experienced people or experts gathered to discuss an EIDM topic in front of an audience. The Panels included a moderator who guided the discussion and elicits audience engagement and questions, with the goal of being informative and sharing lessons.
Round table discussions	Roundtables were 60-minute oral discussions that drew from the content submitted by each speaker, which typically include 30 minutes of presentation, followed by 30 minutes of discussion and feedback. Roundtable presenters brought targeted questions to pose to others, in order to learn from and with those attending. Roundtables were an ideal format for an in-depth discussion on a particular topic.
Presentation	Presentations provide opportunities for individuals and organisations to communicate and showcase their research work and EIDM innovations to a wide and interested audience, get feedback on their work, and learn.
Workshops	Workshops were great learning opportunities that provided attendees with in-depth lessons, group activities, and real-world case studies. There were different topics covered e.g., storytelling and localisation agenda.

DAY ONE 13 September 2023



*Welcome and opening* There was live evidence storytelling by Effective Basic Services Africa (E-Base).



*All participants were warmly welcomed to Evidence 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda by Kirchuffs Atengble, Co-Chair of Evidence 2023, Research Team Lead - PACKS Africa and Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, Founding Director, The Center For Rapid Evidence Synthesis ACRES and AEN Co-chair. With a record number of participants in attendance, we were delighted to see that these biennial events are becoming larger and more substantial every two years. We were equally excited about the record number of sessions, and wide variety of ideas that researchers, policy-makers, brokers, funder, implementers and practitioners brought to the event. This richness of ideas bodes well for the EIDM field. Most of all, participants were appreciated for enriching the Evidence events by their presence.*



***The opening address from Hon. Akello Beatrice Akori, the Minister of State, Office of the President, Economic Monitoring.*** The Africa Evidence Network was honored to have the high-profile political figure officiate at the Evidence 2023. She reaffirmed the importance of Pan-Africanism and Ubuntu where we learn together, share, and support each other to build a knowledge base for evidence-informed decision-making for Africa. To appreciate use of Evidence to policy processes, the honorable minister informed participants on how the government of Uganda established a framework for Oversight Monitoring and Evaluation for the Executive (APEX Platform) one of the first in Africa domiciled in the Office of the President of Uganda and Department of Monitoring and Evaluation under the Parliament of Uganda. The Minister speech can be accessed here: <https://shorturl.at/uvz23>



***Adeline Sibanda delivered a keynote address on Decoloniality of Evidence.*** *“Historical experiences such as colonialism have influenced to a great extent what we see, what we value and our ‘truths’”* Adeline Sibanda from Mastercard Foundation, in her opening keynote address on the Decoloniality of Evidence, challenged us to question, understand, and adapt each step of our practice to address power, equity, diversity, and inclusion. She also said, “Our mindsets are shaped by our colonial past” “We look down on all things African” and “Power dynamics in evidence ecosystems, and the need to advance indigenous knowledge systems”. For more details view the video from our opening ceremony <https://lnkd.in/dkXmqBc3>. The presentation for the here: <https://lnkd.in/dC4gFMMj>.



***These are the panelists that participated on celebrating the Africa Evidence Network***

**Session 3: Celebrating the Africa Evidence Network: Why relationships matter: *Ruth Stewart*** shared her love for climbing trees as a child. “ But I realised after a while that climbing to the highest branch of the tree was a bit lonely”. What better way to celebrate the work of the Africa Evidence Network than with an all-female panel of high-powered women who have helped to make Africa a leading light in the evidence field. Delegates are invited to contribute and engage with this star-filled panel and celebrate our shared achievements together. Chair: Siziwe Ngcwabe. The panelists were Marie Gaarder, Executive Director of 3ie, Ruth Stewart, Founding Chairperson, Africa Evidence Network, Rosetti Nayenga, CEO of Afrea and Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, Founding Director of the Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES) and AEN Co-chair. View the videos of the session and AEN celebration here for more details: <https://bit.ly/3LLN1zH> and <https://youtu.be/Q4OtCfFA6EQ?si=wnb7SI67x1zTgmSp>.





**Susan Nakitto** presented on the lessons emerging from the implementation of the Use of M and E

**Session 4: Use of monitoring and evaluative evidence in development planning and budgeting processes:** The session shared presentations of the state of M&E evidence-use in public sector planning and budgeting in Benin, South Africa Uganda, and recommended use interventions. Twende Mbele and partners shared these experiences and lessons. The session speakers, **Timothy Lubanga** shared the experience of having completed the mid-term review of Uganda's National Development Plan III, and the vitality of indicator-relevant evidence. **Susan Nakitto** presented on the lessons emerging from the implementation of the Use of M and E Evidence to Inform Budgeting and Planning project in Uganda. We know as a continent, we are great orators of plans, but our implementation falls short. We don't resource our plans adequately and that may lead to failure. Knowing how to adequately resource plans can only be informed by the right evidence" - **Ayabulela Dlakavu**. Improving the use of M and E and other forms of evidence in development planning and budgeting is a key priority work for Twende. The use of performance M and E data is crucial to ensuring that development planning and budgeting are informed by performance evidence - **Ayabulela Dlakavu**.





*Panelists sharing insights on Institutionalising evidence use: Sharing lessons and future directions*

**Session 5: Institutionalising evidence use: Sharing lessons and future directions:** *Candice Morkel* stated that “we’ve got to resist the temptation to come with a very hegemonic grip on what we think is going to work in that system. And as the previous session highlighted that the relationships are very important. You first have to establish the trust relationship because the government’s we’re working with are already doing a lot of the work around institutionalising. We shouldn’t imagine that we’re starting at ground zero and we are coming as saviours to show you how a good evidence system will work.”

Despite an increasingly mature evidence base, there is still a lack of systematic and widespread use of this evidence to inform decisions within governments and international institutions. Experience and research on knowledge translation activities have highlighted that simply improving the availability and accessibility of evidence is not sufficient for evidence to be used. It is increasingly recognised that to achieve widespread and sustainable use of evidence there is a need to institutionalise evidence use by addressing systemic barriers through structures and processes that facilitate and encourage a culture of evidence use.

But changing the structures and processes of large institutions, and the behaviour of the professionals that work within them is complex. To realise the potential of evidence-informed decision-making on a large scale we need to share lessons about what works and integrate the research tools we apply to public policy interventions into efforts to institutionalise the use of evidence. This panel brought together researchers, knowledge brokers and decision-makers dedicated to closing the gap between evidence and decision-making with the goal of identifying emerging lessons and directions for an evidence-informed approach to institutionalising evidence use.

The session was chaired by Marie Gaarder, Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). The panellists were Candice Morkel, Director, Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results - Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), Tanja Kuchenmuller, Unit Head, Evidence to Policy and Impact, Research for Health Department, Science Division, World Health Organization, Godfrey Mashamba, Deputy Director General for planning and M&E, Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa, Rose Oronje, Director of Public Policy and Knowledge Translation, and Head of Kenya Office, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Rhona Mijumbi, Head of the Policy Unit, Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme (MLW). View the video of the session here for more details: <https://bit.ly/48X2A1j>

*These are the former Africa Evidence Network award winners.*



Session 6: Networking for new emerging leaders: This session was for participants who are new to Evidence events. This was an opportunity to make sure that young and emerging leaders meet other experienced leaders in the Evidence family. The past and present Africa Evidence Leadership Award winners, executive directors of leading organisations in Africa joined in to inspire the new leaders. The session was facilitated by Charity Chisoro and Hazel Zaranyika. The panellists were Velia Manyonga, Director Research Officer, Parliament of Malawi, Fréjus Thoto, Executive Director of ACED, Benin, Diana Warira, Policy Manager managing J-PAL's Gender and Economic Agency initiative (GEA), Kenya, Gloria Anderson, Executive Director TEDI, Tanzania, Justina Adwoa Onumah, Senior Research Scientist and an Agricultural Development Economist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), Ghana, Deo-Gracias Houndolo, Regional Coordinator of the West African Capacity Building and Impact Evaluation Program (WACIE), Benin, Josephine Watera, Assistant Director, Department of Research Services, Parliament of Uganda, Arthur Chibwana, Senior Manager, IDinsight, Malawi. Julian Bagyendera, Executive Director Provide and Equip, Uganda: Turning young M&E professionals' dreams and aspirations into realities and Kirchuffs Atengble, Research Team Lead - PACKS Africa, Ghana: What does legacy thinking within the African EIDM space look like? Views from a retired Young Executive Director, both drew from the content submitted for evidence 2023 to share their experiences and lessons.



**Panelists discussing fostering an EIDM culture for policy processes**

**Session 7: Fostering an EIDM culture for policy processes:** *Josephine Watera shared that “the Ugandan parliament has different structures that facilitate the generation, translation and use of evidence processes. so besides the research department there’s also the parliamentary budget office that gives evidence that relates to the national budget and its expenditure. there is the office of the legal department that provides legal kind of evidence because we also go with evidence-based legislation processes. and then there is the leader of opposition offices and leader of government business by the way they sound they produce evidence that is biased to those offices”* The session was organised as a fireside by ACRES with three presenters, each spoke from the perspective of their cases, and a moderator Ibrahim Kasirye, Director Research at the Economic Research Policy Centre (Uganda), joined to stimulate a deeper conversation from the cases. The aim was to stimulate a discussion on creating pathways and support systems that foster a culture of EIDM in different sectors in Uganda.

The speakers were Josephine Watera: Assistant Director, Department of Research Services, Parliament of Uganda, explored different dimensions of strategies to strengthen governance structures and capacity and how these contribute to creating EIDM pathways or support systems in Parliament, Vincent Tumusiime: Director of Social Economic Monitoring Evaluation and Research at the Office of the President, Uganda, explored funding mechanisms (mobilizing, pooling, and allocating) to promote using evaluations in Government policies and programs and Henry Kyobe: Incident commander of the Uganda Ministry of Health Ebola and Covid-19 response and a senior research scientist at Makerere Lung Institute, Uganda, explore how collaborations were facilitated and how these improved pathways for evidence during epidemic responses. View the video of the session here for more details: <https://bit.ly/3FfJ5Dv>.



**Session 8: Real-world evidence: What we know and what we can do in Africa:** The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is contributing towards the Data Revolution in Africa by ensuring that the Center is positioned as a source of high-quality data, through establishment of a regional microdata repository to enhance data discoverability and to promote responsible open data sharing that informs evidence-informed decision making and policy in Africa.

APHRC research program agenda consists of four themes: i) Human Development which focuses on inclusive policies and practices for early childhood development, education and youth empowerment systems in Africa; ii) Health and Wellbeing whose focus is on effective intervention strategies and policies to promote equitable health and well-being of all people in Africa; iii) Population Dynamics and Urbanization whose focus is to generate evidence in urbanisation, fertility, and aging and their implications for developing sustainable and resilient cities; and iv) Data Science and Evaluations (DSE) whose primary function is to enable efficient and effective integration of data management, analysis, and evaluation platforms for purposes of evidence generation for decision-making across all of APHRC's programs. APHRC session showcased its research works across the African continent in a roundtable discussion under the theme **“Real-world Evidence: “What we know and What We Can Do in Africa.”**



*Presenters from APHRC sharing Real-world Evidence: “What we know and What We Can Do in Africa.”*

The session was chaired by **Ronald Munatsi**, Executive Director, Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network (ZeipNET) and the presenters were **Nicholas Etyang** Senior Policy Officer Policy Engagement and Communications Division, APHRC who shared that there is need for co-creation and co-implementation of research, stakeholder engagement, knowledge translation, capacity strengthening of policy actors, and evidence-rapid response systems to increase uptake of research findings for policy-making, Kenya, **Daniel Mtai Mwanga**, statistician, APHRC, Kenya shared lessons from the use of low-cost data science visualization, **Mulusew Jebena**, APHRC, Kenya “there has been increased use of impact evaluation methods in Africa over the years. Africa contributed 33% of the global impact evaluation papers that were reviewed and analyzed” and **Jonathan Izudi** APHRC, Kenya told the participants more broadly about the work done by APHRC.



*Panel discussion engaging funders on the localisation agenda*

**Session 9: The localisation agenda Part A: Engaging with funders and Session 11: The localisation agenda Part B: workshop to help us move forwards towards equitable and sustainable local-global partnerships:** *Speaking to an analysis of data on 3ie’s development portal, Birte Sniltsviet said “there the picture is looking a bit better and that might be because we’re also including grey literature so unpublished studies. But there is still huge amounts of literature being published about countries within the global south with no authors from those countries”.* There is widespread agreement that efforts to promote EIDM in L&MICs require a shift in power and resources to L&MICs. Concepts including ‘Localisation’ and ‘Decolonisation’ have gained prominence in the development discourse in recent years and are increasingly featured in policies of major agencies and funders. At the heart of these concepts are ideas/ objectives around local ownership or ‘localisation’. The rationale for this agenda is both one of equity and ethics, as well as effectiveness and relevance.

Despite the fact that these ideas have been key goals of many actors in the 'development' and 'evidence' communities for decades, questions remain. Why have we not made more progress in bridging the gap between the production and use of knowledge? Why does most of the funding still go to Northern organisations and researchers residing in the North? What are the key barriers to 'localisation'? What are promising strategies for addressing these barriers? How can local organisations and global evidence producers and funders collaborate to facilitate a shift? Might more equitable partnerships be part of the solution?

Evidence 2023 hosted two linked sessions: a panel discussion and a workshop aimed to bring together key funders and EIDM practitioners from the South to discuss and share perspectives of how to advance the 'localisation' agenda and ensure substantive southern ownership. Session 9 chaired by Harsha Dayal and Birte Sniltsviet and the panellists: Sajilu Kamwenda, Mastercard Foundation, Andrea

Ordóñez Llanos, Southern Voice, Chris Chibwana, Hewlett Foundation and Maurice Motisya, Zizi Afrique. Session 11 was a workshop to help us move forwards towards equitable and sustainable local-global partnerships. Participants were divided into small groups both in person and online to draw on personal experience for discuss and answering the following questions: What does localisation mean from your perspective? What can you (from your perspective/your organisation’s perspective) do to contribute to the localisation agenda? What you need from others to make localisation a reality?

The two-linked sessions objectives were: to unpack the challenges and possible solutions in the localisation agenda through debate with both funders and LMIC organisations, to invite panellists and the audience to share their aims and the realities of delivering on the localisation agenda through a range of approaches and to identify concrete ways forwards towards greater localisation. View the video of the session here for more details: <https://shorturl.at/gIz01>.

### Session 10: Increasing evidence capacities through collaborative engagement



#### ***Round table discussion by workstream one on increasing evidence capacities through collaborating engagement***

The objective of this session was that capacity issues have been at the centre-stage of evidence-informed decision making (EIDM) across the African ecosystem. Many stakeholders are participating in collaborative arrangements and deploying innovative mechanisms that enhance capacities needed for evidence production, its intermediation and use. Through a panel and roundtable discussion with thought-leaders, this session was facilitated by the enhancing evidence capacities working group, explored innovations that are shaping capacity development interventions transforming the evidence landscape. The session was anchored around the [AEN’s Manifesto](#) on capacity development for EIDM in Africa.



The session was in two parts 1) a panel discussion chaired by Roberta Blankson, International Centre for Evaluation and Development, Kenya and the panellists were Edwin Byusa, Cenfri Rwanda, Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda, Enock Musungwini, Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust, Zimbabwe and Penka Bogne, Researcher & Traditional Storyteller, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa Cameroon, 2) round table discussion drew from the panellists content submitted for Evidence 2023 to enhance discussion on the topic of the session, Oesi Sebusang Thothe, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Charity Chisoro Programme Officer, AEN South Africa, Hazel Zaranyika Programme Officer, AEN South Africa, Tangang Andrew Tangang, Senior Policy Analyst, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon, Violet Murunga, Research and Policy Analyst African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Leyla Abdullahi, Senior Research and Policy Analyst African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP).

There was also additional pre-reading content submitted by Trudy Leong titled: Extensive collaboration to mobilise rapid evidence-informed decision-making for the National treatment guidelines for COVID-19 in South Africa.



***Roundtable discussing by workstream two on African approaches to fostering connections and collaborations***

**Session 12: African approaches to fostering connections and collaborations:** The objective of this session was to share current insights into the innovative approaches to fostering connections and collaborations in the Evidence-Informed Decision Making (EIDM) field from across the continent. The session showcased diverse ways for nurturing connections and collaborations within the realm of EIDM, from the African continent.

The panellists shared diverse stories from Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Niger and ways that have been used to advance EIDM practice in these spheres. These stories provided knowledge and insights on ways to foster relationships in the EIDM field but also enhanced such understanding through the diverse experiences from each of these countries. The session was chaired by Kirchuffs Atengble, and the panellists were Godson Gatsha, Education Consultant and Open and Distance Learning Technical Advisor, Open Learning & Skills Institute (Pty) Ltd, Botswana, Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam, Co-Chair, Eval Indigenous-EvalPartners Network, Nain Mirabel Yuh, Project Coordinator - Disability, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon and Jim Kaketch, Programme Officer – Research and Policy Uptake, PASGR, Kenya. View the detailed information about the session here:

<https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/314/>.



**Nain Mirabel Yuh presented on valuing evidence in EIDM with the focus on disability**

**Session 13: Valuing evidence in EIDM differently: Equity, inclusion, and trust: Evelyn Jepkemei, Education.org, says” So here we are. through synthesising evidence and making sure that we have evidence available for policy makers, we want to make sure that we are simplifying the language that evidence producers use. We want to make sure that we are speaking the language of policy-makers, and we are not giving them bulky work. we are giving them guidance and by the way we are not prescribing to say this is what works, this is what you ought to do. For Kenya for example there is a whole difference in the context that Kenya is and in the context that Sierra Leone is.”**

The main objectives of this session were to discuss the significance of equity, inclusion, and trust in EIDM, identify areas where equity, inclusion and trust should be taken into account during the EIDM process, discuss developments in EIDM regarding equity, inclusion and trust:

- Explore existing inclusion and equity tools.
- Discuss other equity, inclusion and trust focused innovations.
- Discuss current gaps and areas of improvement; and illustrate what equity, inclusion and trust-informed decision-making looks like.

The session was facilitated by Adeline Sibanda from Mastercard Foundation and the speakers were Andile Madonsela Evelyn Jepkemei and Nain Mirabel Yuh. View the video here: <https://bit.ly/48RN2fs>.

**Session 14: Education and youth employment Part A: Building the evidence architecture for youth employment in Sub Saharan Africa:** The panellists for the session were Howard White, Global Development Network and Robert Apunyo, Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation, Makerere University shared insights on a new project that is constructing an innovative policy-facing ‘what works’ toolkit for youth employment in Africa. The project comprises (i) an update of our existing youth employment evidence and gap map by the team at Makerere (ii) a quantitative review with component network meta-analysis by South African researchers from University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch, and (iii) a qualitative review by researchers from Makerere University, which support the construction of what works toolkit. The toolkit is an interactive, easy to use tool, intended for decision-makers about the effectiveness of different approaches to increasing youth employment. All these products were presented to the participants of Evidence 2023.



**Panel discussing the topic on what makes evidence services responsive to policy-needs**

**Session 15: What makes evidence services responsive to policy-needs: Perspectives from three African embedded evidence-on-demand services:** *Deo-Gracias Houndolo says 'it's not just about demand & supply, it's about 'tracking consumption'.* The panel showcased the potential of Responsive Evidence Services (RES) (including help desks) as an effective mechanism to support policy-makers' evidence-use. It featured three embedded pairs of providers and users of responsive evidence services: WACIE who are providing RES to a number of West African governments; ACRES who are providing RES to the Ugandan government; and SACE who are providing RES to the South African government.

Each group was represented by a government official and provider of a RES, who jointly introduced their work to the audience. Following this, the chair Promise Nduku facilitated an open discussion and Q&A to identify synergies and gaps across the RES work in three different African countries. This panel foregrounded the perspectives of policy-makers as the users of evidence. The panellists were Timothy Lubanga: Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda, Ismael Kawooya: Research Scientist and coordinator at The Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES), Uganda, Deo-Gracias Houndolo: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Benin, Ouollo Clément Sekongo, Commission UEMOA, Harsha Dayal: Director of Research & Knowledge Management, Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, South Africa and Laurenz Mahlanza-Langer: Executive Director, South Africa Centre for Evidence. View the video of the session here for more details:

<https://bit.ly/46tqAYa>.

**Roundtable discussion on evidence for education**



**Session 16: Education and youth employment Part B: Evidence for education:**

This Evidence for Education Roundtable incorporated contributions from across the Africa Evidence Network. A structured discussion was facilitated by one of the Africa Evidence Leadership Award winners in 2022, Gloria Anderson, with delegates encouraged to join the conversation. The panelists drew from the content they submitted for Evidence 2023 to contribute to the discussions.

***Roundtable discussion on evidence for education***

The panellists were Leyla Abdullahi, Senior Research and Policy Analyst African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP): <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/279/>, Pambe Miong Rigobert Hanny, Deputy Lead of Programs Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon: <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/288/> <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/251/>, Micheal Ainomugisha and Moitshepi Matsheng: Building Resilient Education Systems: Evidence from Large-Scale Randomized Trials in Five Countries: <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/252/>, Chanice Fri Okwen Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon: <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/289/> and Benjamin Masebo and Winny Cherotich: Unravelling the enablers for literacy and numeracy for children; lessons from Kenya, Nepal and Tanzania. <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/253/>

There were additional reading materials available to participants to prepare for engagement for the session by Tito Nezebose: Can Data-Informed Management and Structured Pedagogy Improve Learning? Evidence from public schools in Rwanda: <https://africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/254/>, Anselm Guezo University of Abomey-calavi, Benin: <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/file/248/> and Bruce Chidi: Attitudes of the education sector towards evidence use in South Africa.

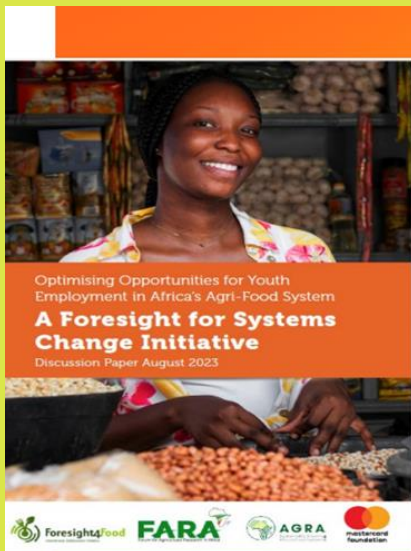


*Panel discussion on arts and science of evidence use*

**Session 17: The Art and Science of Evidence Use: Launching the Global EIDM Evidence Map:** *Laura Boera* says “the more I think of evidence-informed decision-making the more I compare it to chemistry, or I write it in my mind as a romance. And this is something I want to share with you today. So, we’ve been talking throughout this event about the importance of relationships. And in my experience, relationships always start with some kind of infatuation, some kind of chemistry...In EIDM for me often the relationship starts with this kind of seduction almost, where you get understood by someone and you see the spark in their eyes and you know somewhere inside that that relationship is going to work...But very much like a love story you need to add some elements to make it work and make it last.” The panel discussion saw the launch of the Global evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) evidence map. Exploring the art and science of using evidence zoomed in on the results of an evidence map of applied global interventions aimed at supporting decision-makers’ use of evidence in various contexts.

The session was chaired by Tanja Kuchenmüller, WHO and Promise Nduku, South Africa Centre for Evidence, Deputy Director presented the Evidence map. The session panellists Joseph Chukwudi Okeibunor: WHO, AFRO Regional Advisor, Laura dos Santos Boeria: Instituto Veredas, Executive Director, and Rose Oranje: AFIDEP, Director, Public Policy & Knowledge Translation, & Head of Kenya Office discussed a range of interventions, including training programs and knowledge translation tools, that actively intervene in the current decision-making status quo with the aim of making decision-making more receptive to evidence use. <https://shorturl.at/cerwz>.





**Session 18: Optimising opportunities for youth in Africa’s Agri food system: Africa Foresight:** The session was facilitated by Mastercard Foundation. In 2023, Foresight4Food, FARA and AGRA conducted a foresight analysis focusing on the future of youth in Africa’s food systems. Insights emerged from the foresight analysis were generated by 45 youth representatives from across Africa. The analysis provided a 20-year future-oriented perspective on the opportunities and risks for youth employment in the Agri-Food sector. The outcomes of the foresight analysis are captured in a discussion paper in October 2023. <https://shorturl.at/AEOR4>.



**Session 19: Africa Talks: Africa Evidence Leadership Award Winners 2023:** *Describing this year’s awards as very competitive, Evidence Producer category winner Justina Onumah says ‘I always say that though nobody goes into an election to lose but honestly, we didn’t know how we were going to win because there was no platform to campaign or anything. But I’m sure you saw our profiles and then you got interested in the work we do, so we want to say thank you so much for the confidence in us. This is a very great opportunity.’* The session was facilitated by

the inaugural Africa Evidence Leadership Award winner 2018 Velia Manyonga. Participants were invited to hear the Africa Evidence Leadership Award winners of 2023 sharing more insights about their work and how this contributes to EIDM in the continent as well as their thought on what does the future look like? View the live session and AELA winner videos here: <https://shorturl.at/rxDGL> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXWvurlwGYM&t=24s>.

**Session 20: Community-Generated Evidence in Africa: Best Practices and Lessons from the PAL Network and the Luminos Fund:** The session, the [PAL Network](#) and the [Luminos Fund](#) shared examples of community-led data-generation initiatives that are increasing awareness, accountability, and informed decision-making in the education sector. The PAL Network shared their methodology and evidence from CLAs and common assessments that provide globally benchmarked and comparable multi-country datasets on children’s early language, literacy, and numeracy skills with a focus on evidence from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali. The Luminos Fund shared their experience supporting foundational learning in Liberia, Ethiopia, Ghana, and The Gambia through quality accelerated learning programming that includes ongoing measurement of children's learning levels in communities. The session also highlighted the importance of community-generated evidence in the EIDM movement more broadly. The speakers who engaged and had robust discussions on this topic were James Kiawoin, Luminos Fund Liberia Country Manager, Benjamin Masebo, Program Officer Research, and Innovations at Uwezo Tanzania, Faridah Nassereka, Senior Program Officer Assessment, Action & Research at Uwezo Uganda and Brian Okir, Luminos Monitoring and Evaluation Manager.





**Africa Evidence leadership award 2023 winners**

### Session 21: Africa Evidence Leadership Award Ceremony

Africa Evidence Network (AEN) co-chair Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, presented our three Africa Leadership Award winners of the 2023 Justina Adwoa Onumah, Senior Research Scientist and an Agricultural Development Economist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), Ghana, Deo-Gracias Houndolo, Regional Coordinator of the West African Capacity Building and Impact Evaluation Program (WACIE) Benin and Josephine Watera, Assistant Director, Department of Research Services, Parliament of Uganda were presented their prestigious trophies on stage. View the video of the session [here](https://shorturl.at/ADSV8) for more details: [shorturl.at/ADSV8](https://shorturl.at/ADSV8).



**Session 22: What does the evidence future look like?** *Charity Chisoro started as a master's intern at Evidence 2016 and had to do some work for the AEN 'So how could I not fall in love with evidence?! so that's how it all started. but for me it was also a platform for me to be able to achieve my passions that*

*I've always had as I was growing, not as ambitious as **Andile Madonsela** (single-handedly ending world hunger) but to contribute to ending poverty and inequality in society. I've always been someone who wanted to make a positive change. So, I felt like this is an opportunity for me to do it through the Africa Evidence Network.'*

This session provided an overview of the event, and captured reflections and actions for the way forward. The future leaders who were panellists in this session were Charity Chisoro, Programme Officer, AEN, Hazel Zaranyika, Programme Officer, AEN, Andile Madonsela, Managing Researcher, SACE, Talitha Louisa Mpando, Executive Director, Packs Africa and Ismael Kawooya, Senior Research Scientist, ACRES. They discussed what the future of evidence in Africa looks like chaired by Fréjus Thoto, Executive Director ACED, Benin. The chair started the session by sharing key themes and actions arising from the event both in person and online and actions to be taken towards localisation. The Chair invited each member of the panel for their responses to these questions 1) what has struck you most about Evidence 2023? 2) what has been surprising? What is your personal 'key theme'? and they were also encouraged to comment on each other's responses? Lastly, where do we go from here? what does the future look like for evidence in Africa. <https://bit.ly/3rlSeRs>

## Session 23: Closing remarks: Walking the EIDM journey together



Siziwe Ngcwabe the co-chair of Africa Evidence Network said in her closing remarks that we have reached the end of Evidence 2023. It is a sad task, because we shall be closing the door on lively and stimulating debate, as well as bidding farewell to participants and partner organisations. However, it was also a privilege and an honour to be entrusted with such an undertaking, at a gathering of such eminent people from different parts of the world EIDM community, in the fields of government, industry, academia and the media.

The Africa Evidence network is one of the biggest projects of the South Africa Centre for Evidence. Our work is centred on building sustainable relationships and working together as a collective that has a Pan-African reach. As a result of this, it was our great pleasure to announce the change of our name from the South Africa Centre for Evidence (SACE) to the Pan-African Collective for Evidence (PACE). PACE will be collectively led by Laurenz Mahlanza-Langer, Promise Nduku, Andile Madonsela, and Siziwe Ngcwabe. PACE is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the use of evidence to reduce poverty and inequality in Africa. <https://pace-evidence.org/>



**Rhona Mijumbi-Deve** co-chair Africa Evidence Network closed by saying on behalf of you all, I should like to thank Her Excellency the Minister, all the participants both in Uganda and online, partner organisations, conference organisations and all the other speakers and panel members. Their presence has been invaluable and, without any doubt, has helped make the event a great success. We greatly appreciate the support we have received from the members of the media, in covering our activities. It is very important that the views expressed here are disseminated to a wider readership and audience, and clearly this task has been in very capable hands.



**Kirchuffs Atengble** the co-chair for Evidence 2023, his task was to unveil where to next. We look forward to seeing you again on the 16-20 September 2024 during **Africa Evidence Week**, when we shall reconvene to discuss another topical theme affecting the EIDM community. Africa Evidence Week (AfeW) is the Africa Evidence Network's (AEN) take on a regional evidence week focusing on Africa that was established in 2019. AfeW aims to encourage members to participate in this incredible showcase and promotion of Africa's vibrant EIDM ecosystem. The objective is to showcase and promote the state of EIDM on the continent, specifically highlighting the involvement of Africa's decision-makers.



Secondly **Evidence 2025** will be taking place on the 17-19 September 2025 and the location will be announced soon. The Evidence series was launched in 2014 as a biennial event hosted by the Africa Evidence Network (AEN). Since the inception, the Network has had six successful events that facilitated engagement, broker understanding, and support impact of EIDM in Africa. Wide consultation will be undertaken to establish and officially announce the next location in Africa.

## 2.2. Online component of Evidence 2023

Fourteen out of 23 sessions were livestreamed to the online audience including 3 additional sessions that were presented to the online audience only. The online resource gallery was visited by more than 75 participants and the meeting hub and connection was visited by over 120 participants.



**SAMEA Virtual Evaluation guidelines and lessons learned from virtual evaluation.** The session introduced participants to the SAMEA virtual evaluation guideline - a free digital resource - and share experiences and lessons learned from virtual evaluation practice in South Africa and Kenya.

The SAMEA/DPME guideline provides practical and actionable advice to evaluators on

conducting either virtual or hybrid evaluations. It covers the following areas: What is virtual evaluation? Why should we consider virtual evaluation? What are the challenges of conducting virtual evaluation? Key considerations for virtual planning, data collection and reporting. Ethical considerations for virtual evaluation. It provides tailored advice to the South African context drawing on the available literature.

The guideline was introduced, followed by a panel discussion on experiences and lessons learned undertaking evaluation virtually in South Africa and Kenya. Participants were invited to share their own experiences and pose questions to the panel. Watch the pre-recording <https://bit.ly/3M5fINP> and blog, <https://bit.ly/3Qi4Rgg>.

**On Think Tank (OTT) panel discussion session** to share insights from their four case studies and discuss localised meanings of evidence

within these contexts and inviting feedback from the AEN community to jointly shape implications/recommendations to result in a joint reflective piece or blog drawing together insights across the four country case studies, sharing the research team's key learning points and recommendations after Evidence 2023. View the blogs for more details here: <https://shorturl.at/CPV15> and <https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/299/>.







**Latin American and Caribbean Methodological Framework for Evidence Ecosystems Profiles Workshop.** The Latin American and Caribbean Evidence Hub (Hub LAC) was created in 2022 to promote transnational and interdisciplinary collaboration for the institutionalisation of evidence-informed

decision-making in the Latin American and Caribbean region. From the outset we knew that such an ambitious endeavour needed focus to be sustainable. It was also clear that there were, on the one hand, a welter of social challenges to tackle, barriers to overcome, but also successful experiences to celebrate. But that only begged the question: with some many challenges, barriers, and experiences to cover, on which should we concentrate our efforts? Seeking to answer this question, we turned for aid to the concept of evidence ecosystems and applied to the analysis of 3 LAC countries: Brazil, Chile, and Colombia.

The LAC Hub aims to improve the quality of life in LAC through disruptive approaches that reinvent the way we do things towards more precise and effective public policies. View the session video and blog for more details here: <https://shorturl.at/qvFHS> and <https://shorturl.at/jEK68>.

## SECTION 3 | Partner-hosted events at Evidence 2023

What makes Evidence 2023 as an event so incredible is how it reflects the coming together of the African evidence-informed decision-making community. As such, a massive part of the event's success is due to the collaboration with partners in providing additional experiences for Evidence participants. This section reports on the various events that partners hosted at Evidence 2023.



### 3.1. Side events

Side events are a great opportunity for partner organisations to highlight diverse EIDM issues at Evidence 2023. Side events are a vital component of the event programme, as they provide opportunities for information dissemination, capacity building and policy discussions. We hosted four side events on the 12 September 2023, see the details below:

**The fun launch of the Africa Evidence Youth League (AEYL)** was held on the 12 September 2023 at Entebbe, Uganda. The objectives of the launch were to officially launch the Africa Evidence youth League, facilitate connections between AEYL candidates, develop a shared vision and mission, establish a common understanding on the way forward, and collectively develop the AEYL manifesto. This league is structured as a facilitated community of practice for a period of 12 months with an integral EIDM mentoring component.

The 45 emerging education evidence leaders were drawn from 15 countries in the continent. They were be exposed to learning and networking opportunities through the Evidence 2023 event that took place over 3 days (13-15 September 2023). This forum among other, provided a space to develop the league's own detailed manifesto for structuring and expanding the initiative for the current year and for the years ahead. In addition to this, the league will, at a minimum, meet virtually monthly to share ideas and build connections to promote evidence-informed decision-making in the continent's education system. Highlights from the AEYL launch event can be found [here](#). Here are some quotes from the youth league members who attended the launch:

*...For me, it was a learning space, a safe space to critically reflect on our work, a space to meet like-minded people, and a lot of fun too.*

*I look forward to what the league has in store and to opportunities to contribute in any way I can.*

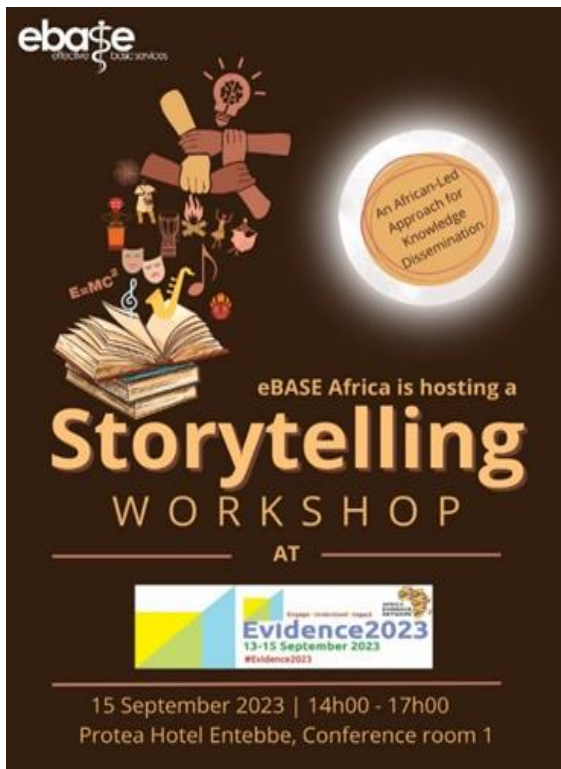
*'Such a privilege getting to meet and interact with such brilliant minds. Grateful for the opportunity and all the organisers/coordinators. Looking forward to what the future holds!'*

**World Food Programme (WFP) open exchange and workshop:** CLEAR-AA, WFP and DEval joined hands to strengthen evaluation capacities in Africa. The collaborators co-convened a side event on the sidelines of Evidence 2023. The event was an enriching space of interaction, exchange and learning around the issues regarding Evaluation Capacity Development in Africa, as well as strengthening National Evaluation Systems. The collaborators ended the side event highly motivated to continue the dialogue, and to put our words into action.

As a way of facilitating and gaining deeper insight into National Evaluation Systems in Africa (and the Global South in general), and contributing to further exchange on the subject, CLEAR-AA, WFP and DEval commissioned an undertaking towards 'A comparative analysis of diagnostic tools for National Evaluation Systems in Africa'. The ToRs for this undertaking have been developed and the target is Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE) in enacting firm commitment to building a youth-led movement for strengthening Evaluation Capacities in Africa.



**AEN Advisory and Reference Groups meeting.** Members of both AEN governance structures were having a meeting to discuss the work of the AEN going forward. We had over ten members of groups joining Evidence 2023 in-person i.e., Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, Kirchuffs Atengble, Siziwe Ngcwabe, Charity Chisoro, Hazel Zaranyika, Ronald Munatsi, Enock Musungwini, Julian Bagyendera, Godson Gatsha, Dennis Omvia and Velia Manyonga.



**Storytelling Workshop titled an African Led Approach for Knowledge Dissemination facilitated by eBASE Africa:** The aim of the workshop was 1) to empower participants with the skills needed to communicate complex science to a targeted audience, 2) to provide knowledge on how to use storytelling to communicate evidence recommendations from complex science, guidelines to policy makers, practitioners, and citizens to enable them make evidence informed choices. At the end of the workshop, participants should be able to use evidence recommendations to develop stories that inform decisions by policy makers, practitioner, and the public at large.

The workshop targeted evidence brokers, practitioners, knowledge translation consultants, guidelines developers, consumer representatives, development agencies and government agencies,

and other guidelines enthusiasts who are interested in increasing the equitable access and uptake of research evidence in decision making. It taught the target group how to engage consumers in a science-arts collaboration to communicate research recommendations and engage consumers using storytelling. The storytelling approach has used evidence recommendations from JBI audits and feedback criteria, GIN library, Cochrane Library, Campbell Library, MAGIC Evidence Ecosystem, EBM Africa Network, WHO, eCOVID RecMap and Duodecim. It was also a subject of a Webinar with WHO.

## 3.2. Reception events



The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) was established fifteen years ago with the specific goal of promoting the production and use of evidence from thorough impact evaluations for policy decisions that

enhance social and economic development initiatives in low- and middle-income countries. 3ie hosted a reception on September 13 2023, to welcome all attendees to Evidence 2023 and commemorate 3ie's 15-year anniversary. The executive director Marie Gardee early in the year wrote a blog reflecting on 3ie contributions and the work ahead, <https://www.3ieimpact.org/blogs/15-years-3ie-reflecting-our-contributions-and-work-ahead>



On 14 September 2023, a welcome reception sponsored by the Mastercard Foundation was held for all the participants attending Evidence 2023. We welcomed a number of Mastercard Foundation colleagues, young and emerging leaders, and

grantees. The AEYL presented a message to the Mastercard Foundation and Evidence 2023 participants. It was a great opportunity to engage with the wider evidence community from across Africa and further afield and perhaps meet some potential future grantees, too. The reception was also an opportunity for the Mastercard Foundation to celebrate some of their own milestones with the Evidence 2023 delegates.

### 3.3. Exhibitors



The Exhibition space gave EIDM organisations a face-to-face opportunity to showcase their work to the entire EIDM community and to

create networking and knowledge sharing opportunities.

2023 participants. The importance of exhibiting is to generate new ideas, networking with industry leaders and potential connections and collaborators. Exhibitors for Evidence 2023 were invited by the AEN from partner EIDM organisations operating in Africa and beyond due to limited space available in the venue. The exhibitors at Evidence 2023 were the Africa Evidence Network (AEN), Effective Basic Services Africa (eBASE), International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Mastercard Foundation, PACKS Africa and The Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES).



### 3.4. Partners for Evidence 2023

ACRES Center for Rapid Response Evidence Synthesis was built with an aim of supporting policy and decision making with high quality, relevant and timely evidence rendering services

#### The Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis



eBASE (Effective Basic Services) Africa is working to make basic services more effective by ensuring best available research evidence is applied in service delivery.

#### Effective Basic Services



Hewlett and our partners are supporting Invest in Our Future and BuildUS to ensure the implementation of landmark legislation reaches the broadest swath of Americans for a healthier future where people have good jobs and greater faith in our democracy.

#### Hewlett Foundation



PACKS Africa is an indigenous Ghanaian think tank operating in Accra (Ghana) and providing support services in the evidence-to-policy sector.

#### Packs Africa



The BHP Foundation is a charitable organisation funded by BHP that works to address some of the world's most critical sustainable development challenges.

#### BHP Foundation



The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organizations to enable young people in Africa and in Indigenous communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work.

#### Mastercard Foundation



We provide tailored evidence services and products that inform improvements in programs and policies

#### International Initiative for Impact Evaluation



We're a collective of talented software & database developers with close to three decades in the industry. We came together because we love creating beautiful software that is client specific and easy to use.

#### Digital Solution Foundry





## SECTION 4 | Participant report

The Africa Evidence Network prides itself in drawing the most eclectic and diverse range of stakeholders together to represent the diversity and excellence of Africa's EIDM ecosystem. This section details some of the features of this community who participated in Evidence 2023.

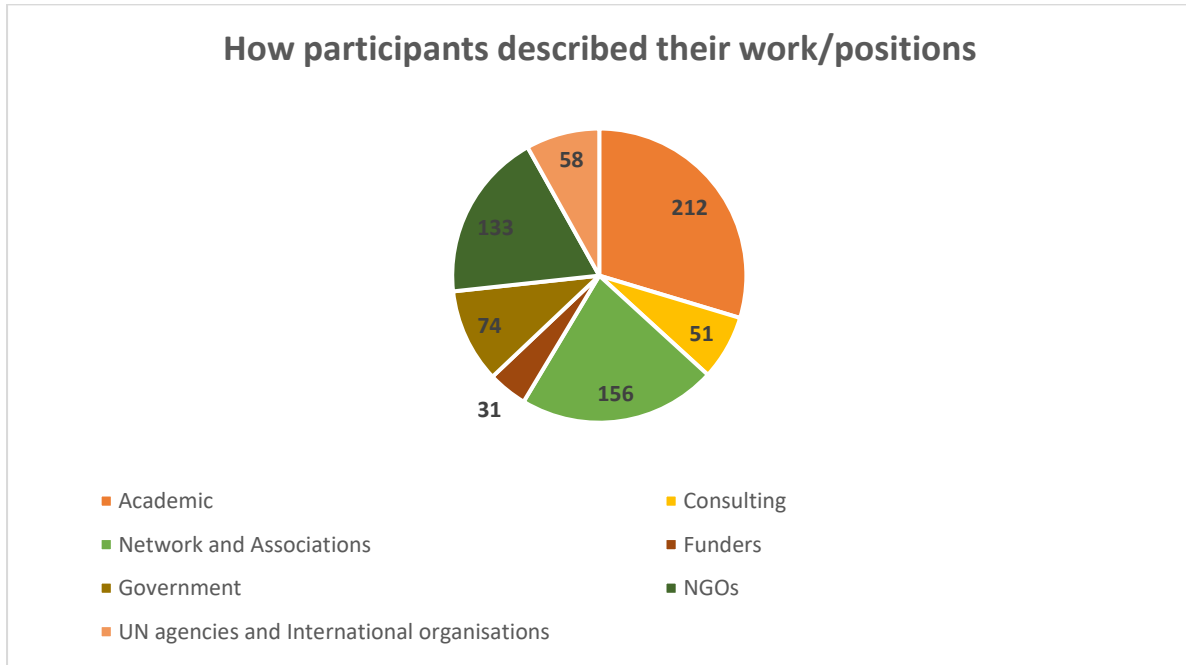
## 4.1. Who participated in Evidence 2023?

Of 715 participants who registered to attend in Evidence 2023, 490 were registered for the online event and 225 for the in-person event. All the participants were from 56 countries across the globe see table 3 and figure 1 below. The three countries with the highest number of attendees were, Uganda (171), South Africa (154), and Kenya (73) respectively. The participants represented over 500 organisations.

Country	Number of participants	Country	Number of participants	Country	Number of participants
Benin	11	Italy	3	Switzerland	2
Botswana	5	Kenya	73	Tanzania	18
Brazil	6	Lesotho	2	Togo	2
Burkina Faso	2	Liberia	2	Uganda	171
Cameroon	35	Malawi	21	United Kingdom	26
Canada	2	Namibia	3	United States	12
Chad	2	Niger	2	Zambia	2
Congo	3	Nigeria	35	Zimbabwe	21
Côte d'Ivoire	5	Norway	1	Durham	1
Ethiopia	10	Panama	2	Gambia	1
France	3	Rwanda	6	Australia	1
Germany	6	Senegal	10	Belgium	1
Ghana	25	Somalia	2	Spain	1
India	10	South Africa	154	Burundi	1
Afghanistan	1	Swaziland	2	Timor-Leste	1
Angola	1	Portugal	1	Canada	2
Mozambique	1	Argentina	1	Mali	1
Myanmar	1	Denmark	1	Netherlands	1
		Ecuador	1		



A large proportion (212) of attendees at Evidence 2023 described themselves as being employed in an academic institution followed by those working in non-governmental organisations (133). Other affiliations included funders, government agencies, think tanks, and multilateral organisations such as the UN, WHO, WFP. Figure 2 shows how participants at Evidence 2023 described their work roles or positions.



There were 72 speakers who participated at Evidence 2023, a total of (n=15) 23 % were policy-makers, (n=33) 46%, were brokers (n=13) 18% were researcher, and (n=11) 15% were funders and implementers. The event had 47 keynote presentations, a total of (n=13) 28% were policy-makers, (n=25) 53%, were brokers (n=4) 9% were researcher and (n=5) 11% were funders and implementers. We had 25 parallel session presentations, a total of (n=2) 8 % were policy-makers, (n=8) 32%, were brokers (n=8) 32% were researcher and (n=7) 28% were funders and implementers.



## A closing message from the Africa Evidence Network Co-chair: Rhona Mijumbi-Deve.

Greetings!

It has been a few weeks now since we came together at the memorable EVIDENCE 2023. It was a pleasure hosting each one of you who joined in person, online, and in spirit. This was a very exciting time, the dawn of an era you could say. Indeed, at this mark, shortly over a decade of the AEN, there was a lot to celebrate, to learn, and to reflect on.

We celebrated old and new friendships - it was heartwarming to see so many warm smiles of old friends and of new introductions in equal measure. There was a lot to celebrate.....including age – a huge happy birthday to 3ie once again! We learned and learned and learned some more. The Network is a gold mine of excellence and innovation and

there was no shortage of lessons amongst the members. The growth of this Network was clearly amazing. Not only had we had grown in numbers but the constituencies we represent had grown too. So many years ago, our users would not have been in attendance yet now, they were well-represented, and they found this the perfect space to share their experiences. Those in the room represented how much learning we have done over the years about who and what is important to make our work truly impactful, representing our commitment of doing whatever it takes to realise our vision of an Africa without poverty.

You will agree with me that this was epic....or may be woke? as our huge and newly unveiled constituency would say. Speaking of which, join me in celebrating our newly launched Youth League. This will set the tone for where we are going next. The AEN is determined to give our 'young-ish' people the platform, the space, and the grace that they not only requested, but also rightly need and deserve as they take their place at the reigns. With this launch, I believe it was a dawn of a new era and the start of our next phase.

And as we start this phase, the best part of this for me is in two pieces – an opportunity and a challenge, a welcome one - that I have continued to reflect on since. As I shared with you all at the start and end of the meet, we have an opportunity in the power of networks and partnerships. This has brought us to this point and will drive us into the future. Networks need us to invest time and more, to develop and nurture them. However, they are a worthwhile investment. Porter Gale has rightly said in the past, that “Your network is your net worth” and this is so true for us collectively, and also as individuals in this network. The second point of reflection, a challenge, is not for me alone but for all of us – where to from here? We had several unfinished conversations that should inform our journey

ahead - many stimulating and challenging conversations and questions for which we did not have answers.....the need to reflect on decolonization and what that looks like, and what it means in our spaces and realities; we will have to work on matters around institutionalization – again, what does this mean, what are we doing and what can we do about it; how do we walk the talk when we say we want to create the space for our young people to lead the next era? These and so many of our unfinished conversations that we need to reflect on and explore will, and should, shape our next steps. I believe we have what it takes to explore these issues. The network is committed to ensuring an ecosystem that works together, creating a platform for each member to launch and fly while finding the support they need. I encourage you to take advantage of this. I also encourage you to be involved, because your individual involvement is one of the many cords that bind this network together. And it goes without saying that although one may be overpowered, .....a cord of three strands cannot be broken.



# AFRICA EVIDENCE NETWORK



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