



Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition

Moving evidence from research to evidence based policy making and practices
in support of the African Union agenda 2063 and United Nations SDGs

2020



13th – 16th July 2020 | Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Concept Note

The African Union (AU) Member States in 2013 crafted an African driven vision, Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want, to define how the African continent should look in the next 50 years based on the pillars of wealth generation, regional integration, and attainment of a peaceful society, all driven by Africans. In 2015, the United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that balances the dimensions of economic, social, and environmental development, underpinned by good governance. These two agendas include specific sets of objectives, with Agenda 2063 having 20 goals with 174 targets, and 2030 Agenda 17 goals with 169 corresponding targets.¹ The adoption of these instruments by African governments committed them to act together towards achieving their goals. The need for more and better evidence from research and evaluation of development programs has never been more crucial as Africa directs its efforts towards accomplishing its commitment in this regard.

Demonstrating the achievement of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda objectives requires evidence that has undergone quality assurance and scrutiny. Sound evidence is essential to inform policy-making, development actions, and citizenry perception of the impact of the agendas. There is, therefore, the need for research and program evaluation in Africa to generate credible evidence demonstrating the progress being made in the areas targeted by the agendas. The quest to achieve Agenda 2063 goals and SDGs places an urgent demand on researchers and development program evaluators to demonstrate that the evidence being generated is not only effective but also has wide application to the situations and contexts being faced by policy-makers and development professionals on the continent.

The 2020 Evidence to Action Conference will bring together actors within all stages of the value chain of evidence-based policy-making and policy practice to come up with the best possible ways to generate and utilize trustworthy and rigorous evidence relevant to Africa's context in support of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The conference will give attention to the assumptions and factors to be taken into consideration when evidence-based policy-making is being promoted in Africa, especially in a continent where environmental, social, economic, political, physical and climatic zones differences exist among countries.

General Goal

The conference aims to nurture the use of evidence-based policy decision-making and action in Africa, especially in the drive towards the realization of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda goals. The generation and use of evidence-based and relevant policies to support development will lead to individual dignity and wellbeing, flourishing societies, and a planet Earth that is a thriving home for all.

¹ SDG Center for Africa's SDG, 2018



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Conference Objectives

- To facilitate dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders on the research and evaluation agenda
- To identify what is required to support the production of policy-relevant research and program evaluation outputs by African researchers
- To stimulate discussion on the impact of aid in priority setting in order to influence policy-making and governance
- To identify effective ways research and program evaluation findings can be translated and utilized for evidence-based policy-making, funding and action
- To highlight and share learning on what has worked and what has not worked in, integrating and using cutting-edge research and evaluation findings for policy-making and sustainable program development
- To critically analyze and examine approaches on how policies and programs can be continuously infused with evidence to ensure they stay up to date and meet the needs of their targeted communities.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased dialogue and communication amongst researchers, policy-makers, and development practitioners to drive the research and evaluation agenda and priorities
- Identification of sources of and approaches for harnessing both domestic and international financial resources to support local research and evaluation capacity
- Increased awareness of the need for demand-driven research and evaluation in the context of Africa
- Increased availability and accessibility of evaluation and research findings for policy-making and program development
- Improved monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of evidence-based policy reforms and development programs
- Improved adoption of evaluation and research findings for policy and program development

Our Approach

The Conference will be an exciting forum for renowned research and evaluation professionals and development practitioners from national, regional and international organizations and of diverse disciplines to promote the use of evidence for policy-making and practice in Africa. It will promote and ensure dialogue and exchange of experiences and chart a way forward for making evidence-based policy relevant and impactful in Africa. The aim is primarily to provide a platform for African researchers and evaluation professionals, development partners, and users of evidence to interact, share experiences and plan for future work together.



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Conference Theme

The Evidence to Action 2020 Conference theme is premised on the understating that evidence-based research and evaluation findings exist that have huge potential for positively impacting Africa's policy decision-making and action to drive the realization of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda goals. The conference theme has sub-themes that highlight the key issues of focus:

Sub-themes

- Agriculture and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa
- Climate change, Environment, and Natural Resources Management
- Innovative finance, insurance, credit and savings for smallholders
- Gender and Youth
- Evidence synthesis and impact evaluation for policy-making
- Knowledge brokering and knowledge translation

Participants

The conference participants will be drawn from a diverse range of stakeholders working across Africa in research and evaluation. They include:

- Relevant government ministries
- Universities
- Civil society
- Policy-makers and practitioners
- National and international research organizations
- Development agencies and partners
- Private sector organizations
- Media

Conference Organizing Committee

The conference is convened by the International Centre for Evaluation and Development; Africa Centre for Systematic Review and Knowledge of Makerere University, Uganda; and Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Market, Risk and Resilience of the University of California at Davis, in conjunction with the Office of the Prime Minister's Monitoring and Evaluation Commission of Uganda; Campbell Collaboration; Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative; Innovation for Poverty Action; and United States International University-Africa, Kenya.



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