THE AFRICA LEEPS PARTNERSHIP: LEARNING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE EVIDENCE AND EQUITY IN POLICYMAKING TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2024

Introduction

The Africa LEEPS Partnership aims to improve development outcomes in Africa by building and nurturing a strong evidence ecosystem to enhance evidence uptake and use in decision-making. In the last six months (April – September 2024), the partnership transitioned from conducting diagnostic evidence ecosystem assessment and mapping activities to understand key actors, gaps, opportunities, and political realities, to forming strategic alliances and supporting evidence and capacity needs.

This report offers a small window into the progress made by the partnership in its first year despite often unpredictable policy processes and the time-intensive nature of policy engagement. As knowledge brokers working to bridge the divide between evidence and policy, Africa LEEPS partner organizations are drawing on existing relationships and deep contextual and cultural understanding to make progress in embedding evidence use in decision-making. They are taking government, private sector, and civil society partners on a journey to build awareness, develop technical skills, build organizational systems and processes, shift norms, and create incentives to promote consistent use of evidence in decision-making. This progress is featured in the stories of change included in the appendix of this report.

At the end of our first year, we have built a strong community and created space for trusted dialogue and lesson sharing in the partnership. As we move ahead to our second year, we look forward to leaning into the collaborative advantage of working together as a community of experts to strengthen evidence ecosystems in Africa.

Progress

Africa LEEPS aims to bring a gender equity lens to evidence production, translation, and use, with partnership activities clustered around four interrelated areas that are critical to building a culture of evidence use:

- Capacity strengthening for decision-makers, knowledge brokers, and researchers

- Capacity strengthening at the organization and institutional levels

- Improving access to quality and timely policy-relevant evidence that is contextually appropriate

- Learning and knowledge exchange at the partnership, regional, national, and subnational levels

Thematic priorities vary across the three initiatives in the partnership:

- The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action, led by the African Center for Equitable Development (ACED)[1] supports activities to strengthen statistical institutions and advance evidence use in areas including climate change, human services (addressing issues related to women, family, and children), agriculture, water and sanitation, and governance.

- The East African Regional Evidence Synthesis Initiative (EARESI), led by the Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES)[2] works to strengthen evidence use in the reproductive health and clean energy sectors.

- The Alliance for Evidence and Equity in Policy-making in Africa (AEEPA), led by the African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP)[3] works to strengthen evidence use in the reproductive health and clean energy sectors.

---

1 Other initiative partner: Initiative prospective Agricole et rurale (IPAR)
2 Other initiative partners: the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme, and the Center for Reforms, Innovation, Health Policies and Implementation Research
3 Other initiative partners: the African Institute for Health Systems and Health Policies, the African Research and Impact Network (ARIN), and the School of Gender and Women's Studies, Makerere University

This section presents selected examples drawn from across the three initiatives to highlight the activities they supported over the last six months (April 2024 – September 2024) to help government and civil society partners make progress in using evidence in policy and practice.

Key partnership milestones

April 2024	• First Africa LEEPS progress report shares progress and lessons from the first six months of the partnership
May 2024	• Africa LEEPS webinar held during USAID's Agency Evidence and Learning Month, 2024: Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development • Launch of Africa LEEPS logo and brand • Communications and Knowledge Management Working Group held a two-part presentation and discussion to align on key knowledge translation concepts, approaches, and models
June 2024	• Quarterly partnership meeting and LabStorm • Launch of first bi-annual Africa LEEPS Partnership Survey • Launch of Africa LEEPS LinkedIn page
July 2024	• Partnership MEL working group develops first draft repository of indicators for measuring the impact of evidence-use related activities

August 2024	• Africa LEEPS webinar during Africa Evidence Week 2024: "Accelerating SDGs through Advancing Gender Equity and Inclusion in Evidence-informed Policymaking Processes in Africa: Experiences and Reflections"
	• The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action webinar during Africa Evidence Week 2024: "Tools and Approaches for Profiling the Evidence Ecosystem and Development Policies in West Africa"
	• Africa LEEPS partners receive Africa Evidence Leadership Awards:
	  • Firmaye Bogale, Emerging leader under 35
	  • Ismael Kawooya, Evidence Mediator
	  • Violet Murunga, Evidence Producers
	• Africa LEEPS blog shares four highlights about the partnership

September 2024	• Quarterly partnership meeting and LabStorm • Five stories of change highlight progress in the partnership • Africa LEEPS website build begins

Strengthening individual capacities to improve evidence use

Building knowledge translation capabilities

AEEPA led regional and national Evidence-Informed Policymaking (EIP) and Equity training workshops that informed participants about gender equity and inclusion in EIP and enhanced skills for conducting rapid systematic reviews of evidence to address policy questions. The EIP and Equity training workshops included a virtual two-week EIP and Equity training through the African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) in April 2024; a five-day EIP and Equity training workshop in Kenya in July 2024 for 20 Ministry of Health officials from the Department of Reproductive Health, including gender focal points; and a series of day-long training workshops for senior technical staff in four institutions in Nigeria – the National Assembly (National Parliament), the Federal Ministry of Power, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Federal Ministry of Environment. The training pre-and post-test results showed short-term improvement in participant knowledge of key concepts and perceived evidence synthesis skills.

The AEEPA training workshops provided participants with practical training and guidance in drafting evidence and policy briefs aimed at addressing pressing policy questions or priorities. For example, the Nigeria training included a policy priority-setting activity that guided staff in identifying and prioritizing up to four policy priorities. The identified priorities within the health sector included routine immunization coverage, drug and vaccine commodities, Primary Health Care (PHC), quality of care, and maternal and under-five mortality, and within the energy sector, clean energy technology, metering, and regulatory frameworks. Following the in-person training, AEEPA held two virtual training sessions in August 2024 on organizing policy dialogues and writing policy briefs. In the final training session in August 2024, senior technical staff came together to develop policy briefs for their prioritized policy topics, working alongside stakeholders who had attended the first workshop to outline objectives, the magnitude of the problem, and policy recommendations.

EARESI developed and launched a new curriculum for training the next generation of knowledge translation practitioners and leaders in Africa. The curriculum – informed by rigorous review and lived experiences of practitioners – seeks to support individuals at different stages of their careers in EIP and build their confidence to transition to the next stages. The first cohort of early-career participants, drawn from EARESI partner institutions and policymakers in their respective countries, began their training in April. The curriculum is designed to build skills and attitudes in the technical, cultural, and collaborative aspects of policymaking. Additionally, the program pairs researchers with policymakers to address evidence gaps on real challenges in ongoing policymaking processes.

In Tanzania, policymakers in the President's Office, Ministry of Health, and researchers at the University of Dodoma and St. Francis College joined a sensitization workshop led by EARESI that highlighted the value and importance of using evidence in decision-making, the skills required, and how rapid response service to support decision-making works. The workshop allowed students and early career researchers to learn more about EIP.

In partnership with the Fondation Ratheil pour l'Intelligence Artificielle (FRIARE), the Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action facilitated a capacity-building workshop on data quality and governance that was attended by more than a hundred stakeholders from the evidence ecosystem in Bénin, including researchers, policymakers, and practitioners (private sector, civil society, media). The workshop was well received with several participants widely sharing appreciation for what they learned. In October 2024, the Centre d'Excellence trained parliamentarians in Benin on the use of evidence and data in parliamentary functions, through a collaboration with 3ie (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, GEI (Global Evaluation Initiative), CESAG (Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion), and Le Barometre.

Integrating gender equity in policy processes

The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action has developed practical guides and training materials on the collection, analysis, and integration of gender data into policy processes for policymaker trainings that are scheduled to take place in the first half of 2025. Further, the Centre d'Excellence has initiated discussions with the Directorate of Equity, Equality, and Gender in Senegal to support collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data to inform the revision of the agrosylvopastoral law in Senegal. AEEPA has updated and refined previously developed EIP training programs and tools to include a foundational module on mainstreaming gender in the policymaking process as well as integrated gender analysis in the modules on accessing, appraising, synthesizing, and communicating evidence (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: From Disconnected Research to Practice Impact: The Transformative Training Journey to Enhance Equitable and Evidence-Informed Policymaking*). AEEPA's training workshops used the revised tools.

Engaging communities to understand and communicate complex concepts in science

In Malawi, Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome (MLW) a member of the EARESI initiative, led citizen panels with local chiefs, members of the public, media, and teachers in the Southern (Blantyre), Central (Mzuzu and Nkhata Bay) and Northern (Rumphi and Doa) regions. Citizen panels are an approach to community engagement that provides a forum for non-experts to understand the available evidence and contribute lived experiences to contextualize the evidence. The panels in Malawi were designed to help community members understand, co-create, synthesize, and communicate complex science through collaborative and learn-by-doing participatory activities.

Strengthening organizational and institutional capacities

In accordance with Togo's statistical law, which mandates the issuance of a statistical visa (a data quality assurance mechanism) for all statistical operations, key personnel from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) conducted an exchange visit to Benin in August 2024. The purpose of the visit was to gain practical insights into Benin's statistical visa process and foster knowledge sharing between INSEED and the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStaD) of Benin. Leveraging INStaD's extensive experience in developing tools and processes, and implementing statistical visas, the exchange visit aimed to strengthen INSEED's capacity to ensure data quality and compliance with statistical regulations.

Within EARESI, the Center for Reforms, Innovation, Health Policies and Implementation Research (CeRIHI) is drawing on the deep expertise and coaching and mentoring support of partners in the initiative to launch a new rapid response service (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: CeRIHI's Journey to Strengthen Capacities and Advance the Use of Evidence-Informed Policymaking*). Through a diagnostic assessment process, CeRIHI identified capacity gaps, including a lack of clear procedures for synthesizing evidence and documenting policies and research, which need to be addressed to achieve quality and consistency in evidence translation. In response, CeRIHI has developed standardized procedures for synthesizing evidence, making its approach to using evidence to address policy and practice questions much more systematic and strengthening the capacity of staff and the understanding and awareness of policymakers in the rapid response service.

Additionally, within the EARESI initiative, MLW co-created research evidence priorities with the Ministries of Health and Energy in clean energy and climate change. The Ministries led the priority-setting process with support from MLW, which has begun responding to the research questions that require evidence synthesis. A dissemination webinar led by the policymakers is planned for December 2024.

Through AEEPA, small research grants of US$3,000 were awarded to 10 successful applicants drawn from ARIN, among them three women, to conduct research aimed at understanding capacity for evidence-informed and equity-centered policymaking processes in their home institutions which include the Kenya Parliament, the Energy Commission of Nigeria, and the Masinde Muliro University of Sciences & Technology in Kenya. Their research seeks to understand the current capacity for EIP and will offer recommendations for strengthening institutional systems and processes to advance equity and evidence policy and practice. Research findings will be discussed at the leadership level to build buy-in for action to strengthen processes and systems for promoting evidence use. Selected researchers attended a gender equity sensitization workshop before beginning their research and subsequently met with team members of the AEEPA initiative monthly for guidance on developing research methodology and integrating gender equity considerations in final recommendations.

Improving access to contextual and policy-relevant evidence

The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action uses a helpdesk mechanism to provide timely and contextually relevant evidence to inform policy and research questions. The Centre d'Excellence's Helpdesk has produced two evidence briefs in response to requests received from country partners, the first on measures to inform a ban on importing chickens for the National Chamber of Agriculture of Bénin, and the second on the visa statistique (data quality instrument) for the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Togo.

EARESI is collaborating with Earth Rights Initiative (ERI), a civil society organization engaged in advocacy to preserve natural conservation areas to develop an evidence map titled, "Development Impacts of Natural Resource Degradation in Low- And Middle-Income Countries", for ERI's advocacy efforts. The evidence map will guide ERI's discussions with government partners, including efforts to inform legal decisions about natural resource degradation. EARESI formed an advisory group to co-create a framework for the evidence map and plan for its development, comprising 10 members from government departments (10%), civil society/research organizations (80%), and funders (10%), 50% of whom are women. EARESI also responded to a rapid response question, "How can HPV screening rates be increased among women attending HIV clinics in Mukono District" from the Mukono Assistant District Health Officer in Uganda and produced an evidence brief summarizing researched and implemented solutions for increasing uptake of HPV screening services (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: Driving Change and Supporting Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Screening Through a Rapid Response Service*).

Additionally, EARESI engaged policymakers in Ethiopia at the national and subnational levels in the reproductive health and gender sectors, including the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ethiopian Women's Federation, Oromia Health Bureau, and the Addis Ababa Health Bureau. Through this engagement, the initiative is supporting two rapid evidence syntheses (forthcoming publications), responding to policy questions identified through a priority-setting process. Policymakers reported that they found the rapid evidence synthesis informative in ensuing discussions exploring the role of social media in improving the uptake of reproductive health services and how best to support female entrepreneurs (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: Efforts of the Ethiopian Knowledge Team to Expand the Reach of Rapid Reviews to Non-Health Sectors*).

AEEPA was incorporated as a member of the planning committee for the World Contraception Day celebration in Kenya. AEEPA collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop a fact sheet showing contraception trends, challenges and barriers, and the importance of improving access to contraceptives that was disseminated to high-level decision-makers in the MoH and Narok County government and the media. AEEPA obtained media coverage for the event, including a media breakfast meeting organized by the MoH DRMH.

Learning and knowledge exchange to accelerate evidence use

Facilitating learning and exchange at national and regional levels

The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action set up communities of practice (CoPs) in seven target countries (Bénin, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Sénégal, Togo) for stakeholders who participated in the initial round of country consultations to understand evidence ecosystems, with an aim to expand participation to other interested stakeholders in the future. The country-level CoPs came together as a regional CoP that was launched at the annual Evidence Policy Action forum in November 2024. The Centre d'Excellence is developing a guiding agenda for the CoPs and a learning agenda to facilitate learning among members. The guiding agenda outlines the structure and activities of the CoPs, including their background, goals, membership criteria, and focus areas. It also covers the CoPs' planned activities, as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework. The learning agenda focuses on identifying learning goals, engaging in activities, and mobilizing knowledge through tools and resources to support ongoing development. The Centre d'Excellence is also facilitating learning and exchange between the planning departments of Senegal and Mali and the national statistical offices in Benin and Togo (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: Faciliter le co-apprentissage pour améliorer les politiques et pratiques en matière de gouvernance des données en Afrique de l'Ouest*).

Learning together at the initiative level to advance shared goals

Within the EARESI (*See Story of Change in Appendix 1: Capacity Building for Change: MLW's Journey to Support Evidence Informed Policy Making for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malawi*) and AEEPA initiatives, learning and exchange across partner organizations is facilitating deeper and more advanced understanding of gender equity, evidence synthesis, and policy engagement processes – helping each organization improve capacities for EIP. As one example, members of the EARESI initiative are jointly developing the evidence map mentioned earlier in this report: "Development Impacts of Natural Resource Degradation", learning about evidence mapping together, and strengthening capacity in this approach to evidence synthesis for use in future policy engagement activities.

AEEPA, EARESI, and the Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action came together to discuss and share experiences in integrating gender in policy and practice during a webinar organized by AEEPA for Africa Evidence Network Week in August 2024, titled "Accelerating SDGs through Advancing Gender Equity and Inclusion in Evidence-informed Policymaking Processes in Africa: Experiences and Reflections". The three initiatives also convened to share experiences as a locally led learning partnership at a webinar during USAID's Learning and Evidence Month in May 2024, titled "Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development".

Learning across initiatives and organizations at the partnership level

Three cross-cutting working groups

R4D facilitates three cross-cutting working groups that draw membership from the three initiatives: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), Communications and Knowledge Management, and Gender. The MEL working group has been focused on refining and aligning the partnership's learning agenda, results framework, and theory of change. The MEL working group also supports the development of stories of change and is creating a repository of indicators for EIP that will provide better measures for tracking the impact of policy engagement activities. The Communications and Knowledge Management working group is exploring engagement and communication strategies to promote the use of evidence and has engaged an external consultant to conduct a rapid scoping review of effective engagement and communication approaches.

The Gender working group serves as a space for learning and exchange on issues related to integrating gender in policy and practice. The working group is exploring the co-creation of training materials and tools to provide practice guidance to decision-makers and knowledge brokers in gender-responsive policymaking and implementation.

Quarterly meetings to jointly problem solve challenges using a LabStorm approach

R4D facilitated two partnership meetings using the LabStorm approach to jointly problem-solve specific challenges that partner organizations can address by changing their practice (where solutions are not dependent on getting other people to change). LabStorms allow partner organizations to draw on the collective experiences and expertise across Africa LEEPS for practical tips and guidance to address obstacles faced in real-time activities.

LabStorm question examples:

- "What strategies can we implement to ensure key stakeholders are actively engaged in the evidence-informed policymaking process moving forward?"

- "How can we ensure women are actively engaged and represented in trainings and webinars and how can we use these opportunities to empower and build female champions in the evidence-informed policymaking space?"

- "In view of the diversity of needs, which actors should be given priority for capacity-building to achieve greater impact?"

- "How can we best navigate the uncertainty and unpredictability that accompanies political processes?"

How is the partnership doing? Findings from June 2024 bi-annual survey

Africa LEEPS partner organizations completed a brief survey in June 2024 about the state of the partnership. Below are the results.

- 73% of respondents reported satisfaction with structures in place to facilitate learning and engagement

- 91% of respondents feel engaged and are learning from other members during Africa LEEPS partnership learning and engagement activities

- 82% of respondents have shared knowledge or resources acquired through the partnership with colleagues

Africa LEEPS by the numbers (April – September 2024)[1]

Activity	Approximate number (total across three initiatives)
Researchers engaged	107 (71 Males and 36 Female)
Policymakers engaged	267 (160 Males and 107 Females)
Civil society + others engaged	139 (84 Males and 55 Females)
Publications	22
Media coverage	23
Dialogue	7
Webinar	2

---

1 See Appendix 1 for more information about publications and events, including links where available.

What we are learning

1. Demand for support in strengthening evidence production, translation, and use capacities is high.
There is growing interest in countries supported through the Africa LEEPS partnership for capacity-strengthening support to improve the use of evidence in policy and practice-level decision-making. Sensitization workshops that build awareness and understanding about the value of using evidence are successfully increasing demand for follow-on training and other support to address gaps in research, policy engagement, or organizational capacity. While it is rewarding to see this demand, Africa LEEPS partner organizations do not have the time, staffing, or resources to respond to all the requests they receive, signaling a clear need for more funding and partnerships to further strengthen evidence ecosystems in Africa. Local partners with existing relationships are needed to advance evidence use. As leading experts in knowledge translation, Africa LEEPS partner organizations bring existing relationships with stakeholders working to address a range of policy issues in areas, including clean energy and reproductive health, climate change, human services (addressing issues related to women, family, and children), agriculture, water and sanitation, and governance. These relationships have made it possible for them to quickly identify and engage with a range of actors in the evidence ecosystem and realize remarkable progress in the first year of the partnership.

2. Building relationships and understanding with policymakers requires flexibility, iteration, and high levels of engagement.
AEEPA progressed its relationship-building efforts with the Kenya MoH Division of Reproductive and Maternal Health (DRMH) by building trust and demonstrating shared interests and a commitment to helping the DRMH strengthen the impact of its work. Through their support for and engagement in the DRMH's annual meeting, AEEPA was able to identify an existing effort to institutionalize evidence use that they could support and build on – the reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) score card – a color-coded management tool that helps countries monitor the performance of priority indicators from their national strategic plans. Bureaucratic processes like those requiring a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be in place for engagement with ministry partners can challenge and slow relationship building, as experienced by EARESI. Finding the right opportunity to engage and having the flexibility to take advantage of opportunities as they arise has been critical to the progress made by Africa LEEPS partner organizations.

3. Capacity strengthening training programs are not one size fits all.
The Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action draws on their understanding of political context and processes to offer tailored demand-driven training that is based on real-time needs. The Centre d'Excellence initially assumed they could use the same evidence-informed policymaking training curriculum for all evidence ecosystem actors, but they have quickly learned the importance of tailoring their training to the specific priority or policy question on a policymaker's agenda. Additionally, AEEPA has noticed a difference in post-training learning assessments of MoH staff and researchers, with researchers scoring higher overall. They are now exploring how best to tailor future training for ministerial stakeholders. The mentorship programs led by EARESI and AEEPA offer one way to provide tailored support on an ongoing basis over an extended period, helping to foster a deeper commitment to advancing equity and evidence in policy processes.

Upcoming priorities

As Africa LEEPS enters its second year, the partnership's three initiatives will advance capacity-strengthening activities and support government and civil society partners in building systems and processes to embed evidence use in decision-making. They will facilitate and strengthen learning and exchange at the country and regional levels and come together as a partnership to co-create tools and resources to accelerate evidence use in Africa. Priorities for the coming months include:

- Deepening training and mentorship support on evidence-informed, gender-responsive policymaking and implementation for evidence producers, translators, and users

- Supporting government organizations and agencies in building roadmaps, processes, and systems to institutionalize evidence use

- Building communities of practice on evidence-informed, gender-responsive policymaking and implementation at the national, subnational, and regional levels

- Co-creating timely and contextually relevant evidence products for evidence users

- Conducting policy engagement activities to facilitate uptake and use of research/evidence products

Africa LEEPS will also continue to prioritize knowledge exchange, peer learning, and documenting of lessons and good practices for wide sharing with evidence communities across Africa and other regions. Key priorities remain:

- Adaptively providing virtual spaces for partner organizations to connect, share experiences, and learn together

- Synthesizing and documenting stories of change and emerging good practices to highlight progress and lessons learned

- Co-creating shared tools, frameworks, and other resources to accelerate evidence use, drawing on experiences and lessons learned in the partnership

- Launching the Africa LEEPS website

- Hosting dialogues, webinars, and other events to share experiences and lessons

Appendix 1

Webinars

1. [Accelerating SDGs through advancing gender equity and inclusion in Evidence Informed Policy processes: Experiences and reflections for Africa Evidence Network Week](#), Violet Murunga, Firmaye Bogale, Diatou Ndiaye, Dr Rose Oronje, Harsha Dayal

2. [USAID Learning and Evidence Month titled Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development](#), Joanes Atel, Violet Murunga, Diatou Ndiaye, Ismael Kawooya, Chris Chibwana

Briefs

1. [Understanding the problem of maternal and perinatal deaths in Uganda](#), Sherry Rita Ahirirwe, Edward Kayongo, Prisca Auma, Patrick Mugabi, Perez Kirya, Caroline Nakalema, Peter Kasadha, Pastan Lusiba and Ismael Kawooya

2. [What can research evidence tell us about: Interventions to Improve HPV Screening Rates in Mukono District](#), Kayongo Edward, Shery Rita Ahirirwe, Perez Kirya, Peter Kasadah, Caroline Nakalema, Ismael Kawooya, and Pastan Lusiba

3. [What can research evidence tell us about: Considerations for Safe Disposal of Garbage in LMICs](#), Kayongo Edward, Sherry Rita Ahirirwe, Perez Kirya, Peter Kasadha, Caroline Nakalema, Ismael Kawooya, Pastan Lusiba and Rhona Mijumbi-Deve

4. The role of social media in accessing and utilizing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services among adolescents and youths in Lower and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), Sabit Ababor et.al, soon to be published on the EPHI website

5. Challenges and opportunities female entrepreneurs face in Ethiopia, Tesfaye Dagne et.al, soon to be published on the EPHI website

Blogs

1. [Going Far Together: 4 Highlights about The Africa LEEPS Partnership](#), Fanny Bondje-Jackson, Abeba Taddese, Firmaye Bogale

2. [The EPA Center of Excellence: A Catalytic and Innovative Intervention for Evidence-Informed Policymaking (EIP) in Francophone Africa](#), Ariel Hardy HOUESSOU

3. [Building small grants programs connected to policies and the needs of practitioners: the experience of the African Center for Equitable Development](#), Elysee Houedjofonon

4. [Capacity Development Program on Integrating Gender and Youth Data in Food Security and Nutrition Interventions in Africa: Use of EIDM approach](#), Martin Boton

5. [La recherche au service des politiques de sécurité alimentaire : comment rendre les connaissances accessibles ?](#), Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Fréjus Thoto

6. [La plateforme AgriData, des données agricoles accessibles et utilisables par tous](#), Cheikh Faye

Research Reports

1. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Burkina Faso, Gountiéni D. Lankoande, Kisito Gandji, Aminata Zong-naba, Kiswendsida A. Yambre, Diatou Ndiaye, Ariel Houessou, Amadou Gueye, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Laure Tall, Fréjus Thoto & Cheick Oumar Ba, soon to be published on ACED's website

2. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Bénin, Mathias Pofagi, Ariel Hardy Houessou, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Fréjus Thoto, Diatou Ndiaye, Amadou Gueye, Laure Tall & Cheick Oumar Ba, soon to be published on ACED's website

3. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Cote d'Ivoire, Zamblé Théodore GOIN BI, Kounatcho Narcisse Kone, Ariel Hardy Houessou, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Fréjus Thoto, Diatou Ndiaye, Amadou Gueye, Laure Tall & Cheick Oumar Ba, soon to be published on ACED's website

4. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Niger, Abdoulahi Garba, Abdoul Kader Namata Issa, Ariel Hardy Houessou, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Fréjus Thoto, Diatou Ndiaye, Amadou Gueye, Laure Tall & Cheick Oumar Ba, soon to be published on ACED's website

5. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Senegal, Mame Cheikh Anta Sall, Diatou Ndiaye, Amadou Gueye, Laure Tall, Cheick Oumar Ba, Ariel Hardy Houessou, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon & Fréjus Thoto, soon to be published on ACED's website

6. Ecosystem of evidence and development policies: A profile of Togo, Sénamé Dodzi Kossi, Kafui Hanou Ameko, Ariel Hardy Houessou, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Fréjus Thoto, Diatou Ndiaye, Amadou Gueye, Laure Tall & Cheick Oumar Ba, soon to be published on ACED's website

7. Renforcer les écosystèmes de données probantes, Un cadre pour le développement des capacités des acteurs, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon, Ariel Hardy HOUESSOU, Diatou N'Diaye, Fréjus Thoto, Amadou Gueye, soon to be published on ACED's website

Stories of Change

1. From disconnected research to practice impact: the transformative training journey to enhance equitable and evidence-informed policymaking, Sandra Y. Oketch, Henry Neondo, and Violet Murunga

2. Driving change and supporting human papillomavirus (HPV screening through a rapid response service), Abubakar T. Ssettumba, Edward Kayongo, Ismael Kawooya & Dr Rhona Mijumbi–Deve

3. Efforts of the Ethiopian knowledge translation team to expand the reach of rapid reviews to non-health sectors, Firmaye Bogale, Mamuye Hadis, Sabit Ababor, Tesfaye Dagne and Tsegaye Getachew

4. Capacity building for change: MLW's journey to support evidence-informed policy making for sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Malawi, Melody Sakala, Olive Mbekwani Kalata, Sifiso Nkwanju, Rodrick Sambakunsi, Marlen Chawani, Annette Chinkombero, and Rhona Mijumbi

5. CeRIHI's Journey to Strengthen Capacities and Advance the Use of Evidence-Informed Policymaking, Dr. Erenia Sambua and Mick Masanyaji

6. Faciliter le co-apprentissage pour améliorer les politiques et pratiques en matière de gouvernance des données en Afrique de l'Ouest, Rodrigue Castro Gbedomon & Fréjus Thoto

7. Enhancing evidence-informed policymaking in Africa, Lavender Ochieng

8. Integrating gender and evidence-based practices in healthcare decision-making, Sandra Y. Oketch, Henry Neondo, and Violet Murunga

9. Transforming advocacy for clean energy through the use of robust evidence syntheses and emphasizing equity in policymaking, Sandra Y. Oketch, Henry Neondo, and Violet Murunga

10. Bridging the Gap Between Research and Policy Through Promoting Evidence Use, Equity and Inclusion, Sandra Y. Oketch, Henry Neondo, and Violet Murunga