

TOWARDS A PAN-AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION



**Innovative
Approaches to
Evidence Uptake &
Use in Africa**

Date: May 2-3, 2019
Venue: Nairobi, Kenya



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One of the things about Utafiti Sera is that it is designed with a clear logic for moving evidence to policy. In the case of [urban governance house Nairobi], the first logic was building a space for the collective expression of actors who feel that they are in opposition with each other.

Second, we are thinking through a statutory or administrative framework that will advance certain inclusive governance outcomes. Third, we are intervening in a moment where there are certain practical questions at hand.

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Acronyms

ACET	African Centre for Economic Transformation
AFIDEP	African Institute for Policy Development
APHRC	African Population & Health Research Centre
ARV	Antiretroviral
COG	Council of Governors
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EIDM	Evidence Informed Decision Making
EIPM	Evidence Informed Policy Making
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IMCHA	Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa
MPs	Members of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
PASGR	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNAS	Uganda National Academy of Sciences

Introduction

On May 2 and 3, 2019, the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR) with support from partners convened 120 policy actors from across Africa onto discuss and take stock of Innovative Approaches to Research Evidence Uptake & Use in Africa.

The conference, which took place at the Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, examined the past, present and future of Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM) and how this promotes strong and sustainable ecosystem of evidence-driven decisions and interventions for policy action in Africa. Participants were drawn from government, academia, civil society and other policy sectors, with representation from all the continent's regions of Africa. This report is a synthesis of the proceedings of the convening.

Convening Concept and Agenda

I. Background

The policy terrain and content in Africa is rapidly towards a more competitive, inclusive and modern continent. An important aspect of this change is the recognition that evidence is critical in identifying the most effective interventions for optimum development outcomes and thus, transformation. Yet, the use of scientific research evidence in policy and programme processes remains relatively limited in

the African context. Limited capacity to use research generated data is brought out as a key impediment for evidence uptake and use. This is despite increasing interest in evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) initiatives for and by public officials. Moreover, there continues to be a dearth of evidence about which strategies strengthen capacity for the use of evidence in policy and programmes¹ and which aspects of capacity best influence the use of research² - particularly in varying policy cultures and contexts in Africa.

There is growing consensus within a widening network of policy actors and researchers about the value of identifying evidence gaps that are inhibiting the development and implementation of effective and responsive policies. Additionally, increased collaboration is seen as beneficial to both researchers and users of their research. Recognizing the importance of a well-grounded approach to EIDM, the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and its partners have since 2015 implemented a model for bridging the gap in evidence and policy processes known as Utafiti Sera.³ Utafiti Sera is informed by the growing body of evidence that suggest that EIDM stakeholder relations based on linear types of relation between research and policy needs are ineffective in dealing with 'policy messiness'.⁴ Instead, Utafiti Sera approaches EIDM through promoting the institutionalisation of negotiated and strong governance relationships among policy actors.⁵

The Utafiti Sera model intentionally creates safe spaces where researchers, policy makers and citizens obtain a better understanding of policy processes, are more aware and involved in the conceptualisation and conduct of research, and thus constitute a joint construction of the evidence.⁶ As a result, several regional forums (referred to as Houses) have been established with some evidence on the efficacy of this policy communities approach. To build on the momentum from the

¹Moore, G., Redman, S., Haines, M., & Todd, A. (2011). What works to increase the use of research in population health policy and programmes: a review. *Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice*, 7(3), 277-305.

²Brennan, S. E., et al. (2017). Development and validation of SEER (Seeking, Engaging with and Evaluating Research): a measure of policymakers' capacity to engage with and use research. *Health research policy and systems*, 15(1), 1.

³Utafiti Sera is PASGR's unique approach to EIDM that facilitates the building of a community of stakeholders working together to ensure that appropriate and negotiated civic actions and policy uptake occur around a particular public problem for which there is research evidence. Its approach is informed by two main theories: political economy and political settlements and benefits from PASGR's emerging work in these areas. Further details about the programme can be obtained here: <http://www.pasgr.org/what-we-do/research/utafiti-sera/>.

⁴Lomas J. Connecting research and policy. *ISUMA*. 2000;1(1):140-4;

⁵La Brooy and Kelaher 2007 The research-policy-deliberation nexus: a case study approach. *Health Research Policy and Systems* (2017) 15:75

⁶Murray L. Deliberative research for deliberative policy making: creating and recreating evidence in transport policy. *Soc Policy Society*. 2011;10 (4):459-70.

Utafiti Sera EIDM work in the region, PASGR and partners, with support from the Robert Bosch Stiftung and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation are convening an Africa-wide forum drawing representatives from across the globe to identify concrete ways to advance an African-defined and African-led EIDM agenda.

We recognise that there has been significant growth in the number and spaces for actors in the emerging EIDM terrain in the continent, and that this growth has resulted in uptake in the quality and quantity of innovative approaches to evidence and policy. The result is a promising culture of evidence use and promotion in policy making across the continent. The proposed convening will build on these efforts and body of evidence. It will be an opportunity to chronicle the concrete and practical innovative ways in which researchers have worked with policy actors, decision makers and other stakeholders to advance evidence for policy making and policy action in Africa. It will be a space for interaction between evidence generators and evidence users; to promote uptake for improved decision making and an opportunity to explore actual practices, concrete experiences, various challenges and the dynamics of EIDM work in Africa.

Through this convening, participants will explore and share how the African policymaking and policy advocacy terrain is evolving to identify, what, in actual practice and the concrete experience of participants, makes a difference in enhancing EIDM. The convening will explore among other issues: what kinds of institutional engagements and arrangements work; what kind of policy actor-researcher relationships and engagements most facilitate research-uptake; what strong and coherent advocacy strategies provide for effective EIDM; and what kind of time frames best support rapport and relationship building?

II. Objectives

The objectives were to enable the participants to:

1. Document EIDM approaches that have worked and those that have not worked in promoting evidence use in policy spaces in Africa;
2. Explore how various approaches can be contextualized/ adopted to respond to different political economies and the

extent to which political cultures and contexts shapes evidence uptake into policy;

3. Examine how existing and potential networks of evidence generators and users can be optimized to improve EIDM in Africa (multi and cross sectoral, inter/intra sectoral).

III. Themes of focus

1. The role of research evidence in Pan-Africa's transformation agenda.
2. Networks, communities of practice and interests as spaces and places EIDM, and as pathways for institutionalizing EIDM work for sustainability.
3. The influence and impact of political economies and policy cultures on evidence uptake.

IV. Participants

The meeting brings together about 100 practitioners, policy makers, academics, researchers, activists, funders and implementation scientists committed to the generation and implementation of EIDM and practice in Africa.

V. Outcomes and Outputs

In line with the intended objectives, the convening presented an unprecedented opportunity for representatives of various African governments, researchers and policy actors to exchange ideas about how to better infuse research and evidence into the policy making process in the continent.

Although some participants called for the involvement of additional stakeholders such as the Judiciary and legislators, the sheer number and diversity of participants representing various stakeholders in the policy process from across the continent is preliminary evidence that the convening was successful. Further evidence is captured in the feedback received from the participants through a survey that was administered at the end of the convening.

84% of the participants confirmed that they had gained a deeper understanding of the issues and topics covered at the event,

with one indicating that “Evidence uptake and use were fairly new to me but I learnt a lot and I believe I am ‘ready to go’. Now I know how I can move my research forward for uptake.”

Most participants agreed that as a result of the convening, they were more aware of the various innovative approaches to evidence-informed policy-making and that the discussions held at the event were more likely to help build the ecosystem of EIPM in Africa.

Additionally, there was a general consensus from the participants that they had learned something that will inform their future work and which they intend to share with their affiliated networks.

Three in four participants agreed that they felt more equipped to make better policy decisions and/or produce policy relevant research as a result of the convening with a similar number confirming that they had been exposed to perspectives and

insights not encountered before they attended the convening.

As indicated, the forum was also intended as a platform to initiate national and cross-border networks between institutions and individuals working to boost evidence uptake in policy process and to lay the groundwork for the establishment of communities of practice among these stakeholders. Indeed, 93% of the participants agreed that they would maintain contact with the various stakeholders they met at the convening, with one participant reporting that it was “Great meeting a lot of new people – showing the community of practice is growing.”

PASGR is committed to nurturing the emerging networks and communities of practice so that the immediate results of the convening can translate into long term benefits in the form of improved policy making in the continent.

Opening Session Day 1

The meeting began with welcome remarks from **Prof. Tade Aina**, the PASGR Executive Director who thanked all participants for accepting the invitation and taking their time to attend the conference. He acknowledged Robert Bosch Stiftung, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Ford Foundation for their support to the conference. He also appreciated the input from the organisations that partnered with PASGR in organising the convening – Strathmore University, the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Pamoja Trust, the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE) and the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC).

Prof. Aina shared the journey that PASGR had undertaken with its work on evidence informed policy engagement, noting that the conference was an effort to collectively capture the experiences, lessons, opportunities and challenges in this field. It was also an opportunity to share the lessons from PASGR's work, to learn from other organisations involved in the field, and to map out the contours of future interventions in the field.

He noted that the convening was an indication of PASGR's commitment to building a vibrant African social science community addressing the continent's public policy issues. As such, he argued participants to use the convening not just for robust debate, but also to build active networks that would contribute to continuous learning and Pan-African transformations driven by evidence.

Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Chair, PASGR Board of Directors noted that over the past decades, African governments attempted various reforms towards growth but in many cases, these were uninformed by strong evidence. Citing examples from Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa where universities have some of the best data on social change, Ernest noted that this situation was beginning to change because of significant growth in the

research being undertaken with the data finding application in policy making processes.

He reaffirmed PASGR's commitment to facilitate policy actors' access to evidence; in line with PASGR's mission of providing evidence that informs policy processes. He expressed his hope that the two days would highlight the transformation taking place in Africa's policy making informed by growing body of evidence produced by African researchers.

The forum was supported in part by the **Robert Bosch Stiftung** that was represented by Anna Kirstgen and Michaela Bogenrieder from the Science and Research Department. Speaking on behalf of the foundation, Michaela noted that the science and research department of the Robert Bosch Foundation is always searching for new ways to build bridges between science and society in order to find joint solutions for living together in the future. As a result, the foundation was pleased to support the convening as it presented an excellent opportunity for exchange and learning on evidence informed policy making.

Peter Da Costa, representing **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** spoke about the Foundation's strong belief and commitment that evidence-informed policy processes produce better outcomes and that EIDM needs to be fortified. He noted that it's for these reasons that the Foundation supports organisations (some of whom were participating in the convening) working to enhance EIDM. The foundation noted a strong desire by African governments to use evidence in policymaking. He added that homegrown evidence generated by local experts is most likely to impact positively on better policy and development outcomes.

He commended PASGR's EIDM work through the Utafiti Sera approach for its innovativeness (focus on specific development programmes and policy challenges, inclusiveness, and solution-orientation). He noted that the Utafiti Sera approach was unique in the sense that, unlike the norm in the field that gives monopoly to technocrats in policy processes, Utafiti Sera is grounded on a well-defined theoretical approach that enables it to bridge the gap between various policy actors including activists to get involved in politics and policy making processes.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Governors (COG), **Mrs. Jackie Mogeni**, representing the chief guest - **H.E.**



“Engaging power is no longer just about tussle, muscle and bustle - engaging power can be done through rational conversation backed by evidence”

Prof. Tade Aina, PASGR

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“Home grown evidence generated by local experts is more likely to impact positively for better policy and development outcomes”

Peter Da Costa, Hewlett Foundation

Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, Governor, Kakamega County and Chair, Council of Governors, Kenya - read the official opening remarks.

In his remarks, the COG Chair noted that the deliberations on evidence-based policymaking were both timely and relevant at this juncture in the development history of Africa and specifically Kenya. He used the occasion to share his experiences and perspectives on critical areas that EIDM work should address, emphasizing that organisations aiming to influence policy processes are best placed to work with governments, being the official representatives of citizens. He identified youth unemployment, improving governance through equitable and inclusive processes and, growing burden of disease as some of the key areas governments in the continent are grappling with and for which strong evidence is needed to address them comprehensively.

For instance, on youth unemployment, he noted that youth being the face of rising global population, their employment is a priority for Africa. This urgently requires scalable, innovative and sustainable solutions including ideas on how to tackle problems of inadequacy, unsustainability and gender disparities in employment in Africa.

On governance and inclusive growth, he welcomed recent changes in Africa that have seen increased decentralisation efforts aimed at ensuring more people feel the impact of Africa’s growth at the grassroots. For Kenya in particular, he noted that devolution had taken root and is transforming lives. To sustain progress, he urged researchers, policymakers and programme implementers to work together to generate and use evidence to assess progress, identify improvements and what policies and programmes can be scaled based on impact and/or effectiveness.

On the burden of disease and changing health needs in the continent, he cited the 2018 *Lancet Global Burden of Diseases*

Report that shows that most deaths occurring in many African countries are from preventable causes such as communicable, newborn, nutritional and maternal causes; noting that most of these can be addressed with strong scientific evidence.

Hon. Oparanya then presented the positive results witnessed in his county - Kakamega following interventions targeting child and maternal health that were initially guided by evidence. He reported that when he took over as governor, the County had double the national average of maternal mortality (880 per 100,000 live births) because of a broken health services infrastructure and poverty, which forced most mothers to seek the services of traditional birth attendants rather than from hospitals. Because mothers were getting services outside the formal health sector, their children also missed crucial immunizations. Based on this evidence, the County Government put in place a robust maternal and neonatal healthcare programme that has substantially reduced maternal mortality.

Hon Oparanya concluded by expressing his joy that the important issue of the use scientific research in Africa’s policy development is receiving the much-needed attention. He reminded the participants that even as researchers conduct research aimed at addressing the needs of the people, they ought to recognise that governments too want to solve the problems and require practical, concrete and applicable evidence. This he said, called for researchers to identify the most innovative ways to overcome demand and supply side barriers to evidence use and to work closely with governments in particular as the recognised choices of the people to meet the needs of the electorate.

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“Although decentralization is not new in Africa, deeper forms of it such as devolution is only now taking shape and thus will require researchers, policymakers and programme implementers to work closely together to generate and use evidence to assess progress, identify what can be done better, and what policies and programmes are worth scaling up based on impact and/or effectiveness. For African governments to increase impact of policies and programmes, and maximize use of limited resources to realize sustainable development goals, they need robust evidence.”

H.E. Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya



Session I

Keynote Address

This session began with a keynote address by **Dr. Kevit Desai**, the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Vocational & Technical Training, Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya on *'The Role Of Research And Evidence In Tackling Africa's Youth Unemployment Through Technical And Vocational Training'*. The purpose of this Session was to address EIDM needs and the role of EIDM as Africa seeks transformative progress to deliver inclusive and sustainable development for Africans in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Union's Agenda 2063. The session sought to interrogate the role of research evidence in this quest while laying ground for a deeper focus on the innovative research evidence uptake approaches that work in subsequent sessions.

In his speech, Dr Desai noted that the Government of Kenya has focused increasingly on putting in place systems to address the challenges of unemployment which include promoting self-employment for Kenyan youth. The large numbers of youth transitioning from high school (900,000 annually) are the focus of this attention.

Against this backdrop, the role of the state department for technical and vocation training is to enhance youth capacity for employment, especially self-employment through professional trainings that provide the skills needed to meet demand of labor market and influence national economy. The programmes are unique in that they offer trainings to those with special needs, aim to enhance value chain outcomes, provide a student-rich hands-on experience, promote regional and continental links that are crucial to value chain enhancement, and are sustainable.

The trainings also provide immense value proposition for local communities and society, making those 'national aggregators of development'. The department's approach revolves around setting and achieving standards. This starts with a needs assessment to identify standards for intervention and includes impact assessment tools to measure impact developed in close coordination with industries. Evidence is key in the entire cycle of this process. Dr Desai noted that inculcating standards was a key area and expressed willingness to work with the participants to contribute to enhancing outcomes of the department's activities. The department, he noted, works to promote capacity to support regional integration and that capacity building is a key pillar in regional integration and mobility of the workforce. He challenged policy actors to work with governments to develop skills linked to productivity and innovation in order to support Africa's transformation agenda.

Dr. Desai reported that the department is conscious of the stigma surrounding technical education in the Kenyan society, which tends to value careers in the professions such as engineering, law, and medicine. Despite this, he reported that enrolment numbers in TVET institutions were on the rise (by over 130% in 2018) because more youth are seeing the value in technical education.

He also indicated that the department is connected to and works closely with universities and other institutions of higher learning in its work. This is because the department acknowledges the significance of research, compelling analytics and data for decision-making. It also acknowledges that researchers and industry must work closely for this to be achieved.



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Session II

Key Presentation & Panel Discussion – Innovative Approaches to Evidence Uptake in Africa: What works?

This session took the format of presentations followed by a discussion with expert representatives from government agencies and other policy actors and researchers in response to the following guiding questions:

- i. What kinds of institutional engagements and arrangements work?
- ii. What kind of policy actor-researcher relationships and engagements most facilitate research-uptake?

Speakers Notes

The first presentation was from **Dr. Rhona Mijumbi**, a Research Scientist at the Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation at Uganda's Makerere University.

Dr. Mijumbi began by clarifying that innovative approaches to evidence uptake involve mechanisms to define, identify and mobilize critical bodies of knowledge. Such approaches recognise that the mobilisation of knowledge is both a technical as well as a social and political process, which requires knowledge producers to invest in the co-production of research, engage with potential research users from the start, improving the art of communicating with non-academic audiences, and increase the availability and accessibility of research data.

These approaches involve getting donors, research organisations, governments and development agencies to work together to manage the tension between effectiveness of interventions, results-based agenda and an increasingly complex and interconnected world. They are timely, responsive to the needs of policy, and decision-making. They also respond to the changing trends in evidence generation, translation and use i.e. internal (processes) and external (environment).

Secondly, Innovative approaches are clear about what counts as evidence for purposes of evidence-informed decision-making.

On the one hand is the narrow definition that accepts simply that peer-reviewed research is the evidence that is required. This approach is generally perceived as inadequate, and there is a need to answer the question about whose evidence it is or whose knowledge counts. As such, researchers have begun to think about development research with view to dealing with questions such as 'is development research 'development' in itself or is it 'for development'?

Researchers need to appreciate the hurdles to research uptake, and to decide if research impacts are broadly related to learning, or improving evidence use behavior and forging new connections and relationships, or more narrowly related to instrumental impacts on policy and practice. It can be all of these, but it is difficult to attribute instrumental impact to specific research studies as opposed to wider movements and critical bodies of knowledge. She also cautioned researchers against the risk of treating research uptake as a largely technical issue, as opposed to a socio-political process. For starters, even when one has solid knowledge sharing platforms, innovative approaches to communicating research and networks and partnerships for the sharing of learning, knowledge exchange and research impact, it does not guarantee evidence uptake, which is a political decision.

Thus, the ultimate goal of innovative approaches to evidence generation and uptake is to generate knowledge that is shared, exchanged, mobilized, translated, disseminated, managed, taken up, communicated or transferred. In doing this, it helps to consider whose knowledge counts and why. Formal power structures, underlying relationships, social norms and culture all affect how knowledge is generated, understood and used. Additionally, information asymmetries, some of which are politically motivated result in hugely uneven access to research data and development learning.

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“There is a gap. Sometimes policymakers make policies that are not backed by research and that is where we make mistakes. We have had so many policies and visions that have not been implemented because they were just enacted and not based on research. For example, we set to achieve the urbanization rate in 2020; today we are at 17.3%, which means that we will not achieve this goal because we are only 1.5 years from 2020. What caused that? Because we did not conduct research. In order to achieve this goal for 2020, we need to do research now. In many aspects of urbanization research is crucial, and that is what everybody was recommending. We have the national house for policy [making] but we have gaps in research.”

Vincent Rugamba, Urban Planning and Development Unit, Kigali, & Urban Governance and City Transformation in Kigali House member.

Consideration should be paid to the social dimensions of knowledge exchange and learning. Knowledge sharing requires effective synthesis and dissemination. In addition to effective communication, researchers should not ignore the central importance of the policy and political band, which brings together researchers with development agencies, policy actors and NGO field staff.

Barriers to knowledge uptake are often overcome by creating new networks that include in their membership, key individuals and individual professional relationships.

Researchers must also be conscious about the results and impact of their work if they are to boost evidence uptake in decision-making.

The growing understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of the world places more and more pressure on scientists to demonstrate their tangible impact.

The unintended consequences of these results frameworks, and impact agendas can at times be to squeeze out reflective learning in implementing organisations. Researchers must therefore be careful that the emphasis on planning for impact and results does not end up at odds with dynamic environments that go beyond measurement.

Dr Mijumbi further emphasized the need for researchers to adopt responsive and timely approaches that consider the ever-changing trends internally and in their environment. This includes incorporating technology in their thought processes and application of work, and being conscious of the emerging trends, such as sudden occurrences with regard to the environment or politics. The methods adopted need to be responsive to such changes.

The Second presentation in this session focused on PASGR's evidence-to-policy flagship project Utafiti Sera. **Dr. Wangui**

Kimari and Dr. Martin Atela presented the work that has been done under Utafiti Sera since its inception, including the origins, milestones and key lessons learnt. They noted that Utafiti Sera emerged from PASGR's bid to bridge the gap between research and policy by bringing together policy actors and researchers in a conducive and safe space for dialogue, engagement, consensus and policy and programme actions. The idea was born during the first 2014 Biennial Conference on Social Protection where policy actors challenged conference participants to come out of their silos and create and nurture relationships that could ensure development policies and programmes benefited from huge investments in research in Africa.

One of the key milestones that Utafiti Sera has achieved since inception is the promotion of productive contact and engagements between different stakeholders in the policy process. This, according to the two presenters, had resulted in creative disruption by facilitating increased interaction between research and policy actors, which allows for gaps in the research-policy chain to be discerned. Additionally, it has resulted in the production of research that is compatible with the various policy cultures and practices in the countries where the programme has been implemented.

Before Utafiti Sera, the research that was going on was largely unstructured and the programme helped introduce structured research and a way that eventually allowed for the research output to find its way onto the policy table.

Ultimately, Utafiti Sera led to unprecedented conversations between different institutions that were previously at odds with one another.

These presentations were followed by a brief discussion and a plenary session during which the following observations were made:



- Whereas it is true that the amount of data is limited in certain fields in Africa, the amount of data collected on the continent is increasing and there is need for discussion on how to **synthesize and communicate the evidence** in formats that can inform policy discussions and development.
- Policy paths are not linear, and any interventions must acknowledge the multiple stakeholders whose voices need to bear on the discussion. To achieve this, Utafiti Sera works deliberately to create an atmosphere in which all **stakeholders feel represented**.
- Building trust among all stakeholders and a relationship that ensures research output is acknowledged and can be used by target audience is critical. Even then, the big issue is how to get to the average user rather than top politicians who are outliers in the debate. There should be more focus on lower-level individuals who may have more time to engage in the research and policy discussion.
- The key to getting the different stakeholders who were previously at odds with one another into the same room is making sure everyone's claims are **understood in the terms relevant to them**.
- A political economy analysis of the knowledge value-chain, including identifying the **key players/stakeholders** to a policy issue is a critical starting point, which is often ignored. Once this is done, it is equally crucial to create a feeling of equality among all partners to build the trust and confidence for open and constructive engagement.
- One aspect that has worked for Utafiti Sera is to **engage organisations with interests and experience on a particular policy challenge/issue as hosts for policy communities**. These institutions will already have the much needed clout with the relevant government bodies.
- Innovation** on how evidence is **communicated to non-scientists is an important yet often ignored part of the EIDM jigsaw**. Evidence should be communicated to non-scientists in easily understood language, devoid of professional jargon. In particular, scientists must tone down the arrogance of science and the imagination that when science speaks, everyone should listen.

- Evidence can be communicated and used in **multiple ways**, and these may not necessarily lead to change in policy. Even where the evidence only leads to active discourse, it already has been used.

- There is need to distinguish between providing evidence/research on technical questions and situations where the research has relevance for agenda setting. In this regard, it is useful to distinguish between research for agenda setting and research on technical issues about the agendas that politicians already have.

- Be aware of the evolving policy cultures you are keen to influence. It should be noted that certain political environments are more conducive or receptive to evidence-based decision-making than others.

- Evidence is useful only to the extent that it supports decision-making. To achieve this, it would be more effective to pass the evidence to a trusted vector organisation(s) that is already working with the government organ you are trying to reach as opposed to parliament directly. It is better for researchers to get somebody who already has the attention and trust of the policy-maker/decision-maker instead of trying to cultivate new relationships.

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“Utafiti Sera has given us a language to be able to sit on the table, to sit with people who ordinarily we would envisage to be in opposition. This was completely unimagined.”

Utafiti Sera House Member, Nairobi



Session IIIA

Breakout Sessions – Effectiveness of Innovative Approaches to EIDM in Africa: Champions, System Strengthening and Blended Approaches.

Breakout sessions on the **effectiveness of various innovative approaches to EIDM in Africa.**

Break-Out Session 1

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Participants in this session heard from **Dr. Samuel Kabue**, an Evidence Champion with Utafiti Sera's Social Protection House, who shared lessons on the role of evidence champions in promoting evidence uptake and use in the development of social protection programmes in Kenya. These programmes include cash transfers for the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children, and for persons living with disability.

The mandate of Utafiti Sera's Social Protection House is the promotion of **social accountability** in social protection programmes in Kenya. In line with this mandate, the House works to promote certain principles in the implementation of these programmes, such as dignity, non-discrimination, gender equity, inclusivity and adequacy of benefits. They also seek to promote transparency as well as accountability, redress mechanisms and respect for privacy.

Dr Kabue noted that the House had focused on providing evidence to support its legal and policy advocacy, aimed at strengthening social protection delivery by giving capacity to social protection beneficiaries to effectively engage with the programmes. This is achieved through social mobilisation and awareness, training, monitoring, data collection, data analysis and dissemination of data to the government and other stakeholders.

He also shared some of the activities that the Social Protection House had undertaken in the last year, including a National Stakeholder Forum to understand social protection and

meetings with the National Assembly Committee working on the Social Protection Bill. The House also worked with sub-national governments, especially lake region counties on uptake of social protection issues. A key output of the house was a synthesis report on social assistance law in Kenya and Africa and a policy brief that was being used to engage parliament, ministries and other stakeholders.

Within this broad mandate, the role of an evidence champion is to serve an influential intermediary between different stakeholders, including the parliamentarians so as to build cohesion among the policy actors. To be effective in this role, the champion has to be conversant with the legal scope, and the key policy questions at hand. Such a champion can be drawn from outside the House policy actors or within provided that the individual can cultivate and maintain good relations with all the stakeholders.

From the experience of the Social Protection House, the challenges of bringing the stakeholders together were lessened by the fact that the house brought in a number of organisations which were already providing social protection advocacy and community mobilisation while advocating for the human rights approach to social protection. Another advantage was the fact that the 2010 Constitution of Kenya provides an engagement framework by recognising socio-economic rights and this provided the basis for the transition from seeing social protection as charity to a right.

Break-Out Session 2

This session focused on the **Changes and challenges in institutionalising a culture of evidence informed decision making in African Parliaments** and the role that parliamentary information support can play in addressing these challenges.

Ms. Agnes Titriku, the Program Manager at the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs in Ghana shared some lessons the center has curated from its work with African parliaments.

Evidence is significant in the multifaceted work that parliaments perform across the continent, including lawmaking, policymaking, approval & oversight of government expenditure and representation. Demands for policy to be ‘informed by evidence’ are often driven by a growing focus on the need for robust decision making, accountability to funders, and pressures to ensure taxpayers’ money is spent on policies that ‘work’.

Without a range of different sources and types of timely and accurate evidence, parliaments cannot meaningfully hold the Executive to account nor effectively represent the citizenry. This is of particular note in emerging or fragile democracies, where governance institutions are evolving against a backdrop of rapid socioeconomic and political changes. The ability of parliamentarians to perform their roles all along the policy and legislative cycle is shaped by their access to authoritative and reliable information.

There are several factors that influence the generation and use of evidence in parliaments across Africa. These exist on the demand (Parliament) and supply (researchers) side⁷.

On the demand side, the kind of parliament in a country will determine how much the parliament demands evidence in its decision-making. Rubber stamp legislatures are the least concerned with evidence while transformative legislatures are most likely to demand evidence. The demand rises as one moves from rubberstamp legislatures, to emerging, informed, and transformative legislatures.

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Evidence-informed policy is that which has considered a broad range of evidence; it considers other factors such as political realities and public debates. It is not exclusively based on research.”

Challenges on the demand side include external and internal politics, the availability of research and evidence, the lack of time and opportunity to use research, low capacity to understand and use research evidence, and limited avenues for interaction between policymakers and researchers.

Common challenges on the supply side are inadequate resources and capacity for research, high turnover of research staff, and weak organizational systems and support structures.

In order to address these challenges and enhance evidence uptake in parliaments across Africa, there is need for intervention at individual and organisational level, as well as at the level of the networks that exist among researchers on the continent.



Source: Draman et al., 2017

⁷Draman, R., Titriku, A., Lampo, I., Hayter, E., & Holden, K. (2017). Evidence in African Parliaments. INASP

These include building the skills, knowledge and attitudes of the staff and MPs as well as the processes and systems within Africa's parliaments. Meaningful networks and dialogue across the research and policy system will also go a long way in improving the uptake of evidence in policy making in Africa.

CSOs and the media can support these processes by building momentum on EIPM, particularly where evidence is published and available.

Break-Out Session 3

Mr. John Mugabi, the Director of Research Services at the Parliament of Uganda delivered an insightful presentation on blended approaches to evidence uptake drawn from experience of the Parliament of Uganda which has five departments, including the Research Services Department.

The purpose of the department is to support the work of Parliament by providing research services, analysis and providing technical advice to committees, members, and staff of Parliament.

It does this by sourcing and presenting to the members different types of evidence, i.e. data (qualitative and quantitative), research evidence, practice (informed knowledge) and citizens' knowledge.

The department has faced certain challenges in its quest to increase evidence use in the parliament of Uganda. Key among these are high turnover of MPs which affects uptake of evidence, low visibility of the department and its products, caucusing in parliament, poor reading culture, quality and packaging of evidence, and short notice requests. Other challenges are limited awareness by MPs and committees, lack of a research policy for parliament and limited use and application of ICT.

The Department of Research Services has attempted to address these challenges by using innovative interventions such as equipping and skilling researchers, holding "Research Week" running an MP/researcher pairing scheme and organising knowledge cafés. The department has also organised a number of seminars/workshops for the MPs and product branding to increase awareness. Researchers have also been attached to committees for closer collaboration with the members.

She ended her presentation with a few cautionary words for researchers, urging them to be mindful of the "political trap" by ensuring evidence is not biased and tainted. Researchers must know and understand the interplay of "Politics, Power and External Environment" within their context. She also advised researchers to identify and work through charismatic leaders and local champions within parliament.



Mainstreaming research services as a basis for provision of evidence in Parliament is a gradual process which requires continuous engagement of leadership in any Parliament.

Mr. John Mugabi, Uganda Parliament

The Research Week is the innovative flagship project of the department. In an effort to showcase research products, build capacity and increase visibility, the Department of Research Services, in partnership with the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) and International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), held an inaugural Parliament Research Week in Uganda in August 2016.

The research week was marked by a series of events and activities held both at Parliament and selected venues within Kampala. These included trainings covering policy briefing, science communication and data visualization as well as the development of manuals on research and policy analysis. They also held "Knowledge Cafés" in the form of discussion panels, with topics including debt and a research symposium where selected audience composed of policymakers and research institutions discussed issues relating to use of evidence in decision-making.

They also ran an MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme through which there were 10 pairs of scientists and Members of Parliament who were paired to learn from each other under various topics. The programme also consisted of a Learning Exchange Component where research staff were attached to UNAS Committees to learn how business is conducted, while young scientists from UNAS reviewed some research products from the department.

The programme has taught the research department several useful lessons. Notably, mainstreaming research services as a basis for provision of evidence in Parliament is a gradual process, which requires continuous engagement of leadership in any Parliament. They have noted, however, that dominant party caucuses tend to undermine the contribution of evidence to vibrant debates in Parliament. Lastly, having multidisciplinary qualifications, experience and skills is a key requirement to offer effective research services in Parliament.

Thomas Asher, the Director of Convening and Scholarly Relations at Columbia World Projects also shared some reflections on how multi-sectoral evidence engagements can contribute to EIPM and what social scientists can bring to the table. Asher walked the participants through real life scenarios that highlighted the significance of the social aspect of any policy interventions.

He noted that whereas researchers often strive for rigorous research, the emerging products are often complex and

unintelligible to most people. As such, researchers should learn to communicate their research in a more relatable manner.

The most significant interventions needed for improved EIPM in Africa vary across different stakeholders. For those drawn from government, the most important factors are: information that is well packaged, capacity building, engagement and platforms for exchange and for researchers to share findings, multi-sectoral partnerships, and policy integration/consolidation.

For researchers, joint-agenda setting, constant communication all through the process of research design, execution and evaluation, adequate preparation, engagement of all stakeholders and trust-building, and local research that is solution driven are the most significant factors.

Beyond government and researchers, other stakeholders value a parliament that seeks guidance from think-tanks and other relevant institutions, clarity of source, structured exchange and dialogue, and capacity building for data collection.



Session IIIB

Knowledge Synthesis - Champions, Systems Strengthening & Blended Approaches

The purpose of this session was to synthesise lessons from the break-out sessions to identify ideas on developing an African-led EIDM epistemic community to support informed decision making on the continent's development issues and policy.

The key issues drawn from the group sessions were:

- i. **Tailored and innovative communication.** Such communication must be tailored for different segments of the audience.
- ii. **Capacity building** – this captures training, mentoring, etc.
- iii. Building **strong relationships** among the different stakeholders especially researchers and decision-makers, and between the different kinds of decision-makers.
- iv. Establishing **structures and institutions** to support EIDM, and embedding these approaches into the institutions.
- v. **Training** parliamentarians to understand evidence.
- vi. The use of **champions** within parliament, and being strategic in selecting the champions.
- vii. Using **regional and continental parliamentary caucuses** that transcend party interests and ideologies.
- viii. **Citizen engagement** so they can hold parliament accountable.
- ix. **Evidence fairs** – where parliamentarians and researchers can have open activities where they can access evidence without formalities and red tape.
- x. Leveraging on **research available outside parliament.**
- xi. Using **technology** to access information.
- xii. Training parliamentary researchers on how to **communicate** with parliamentarians better.
- xiii. Cultivating **close relations** within parliamentary committees.



Session IV

Taking Stock – What do the identified approaches mean for developing EIDM work that can support envisaged transformation in Africa? (Through Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals)

This session reviewed the key practices, opportunities and challenges that emerged throughout the discussions of the first day to identify issues for detailed examination on the second day of the convening. It was also an opportunity to identify some of the most promising innovative approaches that best support evidence use in Africa.

Some of the emerging lessons from the first day include:

- a. **Evidence fairs** that bring together researchers and policymakers, whether in a virtual or physical space.
- b. **Honest and meaningful dialogue** is the missing link – it is important to facilitate an environment for meaningful and honest dialogue between all stakeholders.
- c. It is useful to keep an **eye on the objective** – what is it we want to achieve with a policy? Some policies are defective, others inherently good but being poorly implemented, and others that are working but not the way they were designed. If we distinguish between these three circumstances, we can come up with the most feasible strategy.
- d. **Engagement** with policymakers **throughout the research process** - they often are engaged at the tail end of the process.
- e. **Champions** are key - it is rare that transformation starts without champions.
- f. **Institution-wide action** – transformation is not sustainable if it is not institutionalized.
- g. Scientists often shy away from politics. They fear that getting involved in the policy process may make them appear

subjective. Furthermore, they are reluctant to have their data subjected to political interpretation. There is need to work with scientists to build their **confidence to take part in the policy process**.

- h. The importance of information coming from the village level - need to focus on **community-generated data**, from the people at the grassroots.
- i. In most cases, policymakers want to associate themselves with evidence generated by the national/government statistics bodies. They perceive CSO data as biased, or pushing the agenda of donors. It is important to work with national statistics bodies and/or increase confidence in data from other sources.
- j. Decision-makers such as MPs tend to prefer evidence that reflects the **realities in their own constituency** as they identify more with such evidence given that it speaks to the familiar. They are able to use the evidence to advance and reinforce their political agenda.
- k. Data should be well packaged, stimulating and attractive for the audience/policymaker.
- l. **Capacity building** to support evidence uptake and use, focusing on politicians.



Champions are key. It is rare that transformation starts without champions



Session V

Keynote Presentations & Panel Discussion – Political Economy & Policy Cultures: Influence and Impact on Evidence Uptake

The purpose of this session was to explore the political economy and policy cultures and how they influence and impact EIDM in Africa

The political economy landscape and policy cultures differ across the continent. Similarly, the growth of decentralised governance within various African countries is increasingly shaping the policy outcomes away from the center. During this session, the participants held deliberations on how the influence and impact of political economy and contextualised policy cultures is shaping EIDM in the continent.

Speaker Notes

The session began with presentations from **Dr. Eliya Zulu**, the Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and **Dr Steve Akoth**, the Executive Director of Pamoja Trust, Kenya.

Dr Zulu's presentation covered the key actors and stakeholders, the engagement, and skills needed to facilitate evidence uptake, and the relationships and evidence flow between these actors in Africa. These include Evidence Producers (universities, research councils and think tanks), Evidence Brokers, Evidence Users (policymakers, development partners, NGOs, CSOs, Funders), and the networks that exist between them.

He pointed out that Africa has the strongest community working to build EIDM and there is potential to build the momentum. These include organizations such as Africa Evidence Network (AEN), African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE), the African Evaluation Association

(AfrEA), the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), and the International network for Government Science Advice (INGSA).

Even though these networks work in different fields, he noted that the fundamental principles of EIDM are similar across development issues and sectors, and so are the challenges.

Some of the underlying principles came out of the Bellagio Recommendations⁸ and include conceptualising the field, strengthening messaging and stimulating public engagement, institutionalising evidence use through support and accountability, and inspiring global commitments through systematic use of evidence. He challenged the participants to examine whether these are doable or even necessary within the African context, and to reflect on what they can contribute.

He also shared some suggestions on how to institutionalise evidence use, noting that institutionalisation cannot be done through sporadic short-term projects as it involves culture change. He also noted that governments are critical and should show commitment to EIDM by providing funding and including EIDM in government training institutions. Universities and research institutions are also vital since they serve as think tanks and training grounds for staff and students while providing opportunities for regular interaction with policymakers. Networks bringing together all these stakeholders are another vital component of institutionalisation of evidence use.

Dr. Steve Akoth's presentation offered illuminating insights from the Nairobi Urban Governance Utafiti Sera House on using evidence in developing stakeholder engagement framework to give social life to urban infrastructure.

The Nairobi Urban Governance House has worked to bring together stakeholders and evidence on two major infrastructure projects in Kenya's Nairobi County (rehabilitation and capacity enhancement of road A104 from James Gichuru Road Junction to Rironi) and Mombasa County (the Mombasa-Mariakani road project) Counties, helping to bring synergy between implementers and other stakeholders for the benefit of the affected communities.

Dr Akoth noted that the objectives of the projects left out important issues that directly affected people living around the project areas and for which the House decided to use evidence to tackle. These were:

1. Limited attention to structural variables, focusing instead on economic objectives like contributing to the improved performance of the economic sectors, the delivery of social services in Kenya and its neighboring regional partner's states and, contributing to regional integration.
2. Little or no attention was paid to the broad range of negative impacts on informal communities that were left vulnerable, including a host of other negative impacts of the investments on men, women and children.
3. Project outcome criteria disregarded ethical outcomes such as human dignity, public participation, good governance, sustainable development, inclusivity and a broad range of human centered results in the .
4. The history of skewed land distribution, inherent corruption and inequalities were not considered as action areas. Instead, infrastructure is largely engaged as an engineering rather than social, governance and public interest concern.

To address these gaps, the house pushed for a framework that would guarantee relocations instead of evictions and contractual caveat that obligates the roads authorities to engage all stakeholders. The House brought together stakeholders from the micro, macro and meso levels, including community organisations, civil society organisations, state actors, academia and development partners.

During house deliberations, stakeholders observed that in the Kenyan context which boasts of a comprehensive Bill of Rights that places premium on protection of civic autonomy and

human dignity, the 'best fit' for modern infrastructure and urban renewal is incomplete. As a result, the House adopted a new evidence-based tool for project assessment – the EVICTIONS and DISPLACEMENTS: INCIDENTS, IMPACTS and REDRESS ASSESSMENT (IIRA) tool, with which it examines whether a project will cause deprivation or advancement of human rights, wellbeing, human habitat and wealth.

Guided by the belief that roads and infrastructure is too important to be left to the politicians, engineers and financiers, and that citizens matter, they have also developed a stakeholder framework that makes provision for stakeholder engagement at different levels, clearly identifying the stakeholders at each level and the expected outcomes of such engagement. These include policy, social standards guidelines and financing at the national level; coordinated approach, buy-in and collaboration at the resident engineer's level; and ownership, participation and support to project activities within the affected communities.

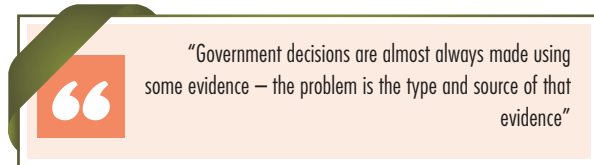
Altogether, the work of the House has resulted in increased accountability by forestalling the tendency for leaders to use personal and informal relations to govern. It has thus become a forum for power rebalance by giving social justice actors leverage to bring their 'visions to the market place.' It is also enhancing the balance between the contributions that come through interventions by the state or through the market with the citizens' quest for social transformation.

Plenary Discussions

- a. There are inherent challenges to bringing together stakeholders around any given policy issue and Utafiti Sera Urban Governance House offers important lessons on how evidence can take a centre stage in driving stakeholder engagement and solutions to everyday policy problems.
- b. There are clear distinctions between evidence informing policy and evidence determining policy. Whereas evidence can determine policy, researchers should not be obsessed with ensuring the policy has changed the way they wished. Instead, they should be satisfied when the evidence has reached the decision table, regardless of what decisions are made thereafter.
- c. Infrastructure projects provide a unique opportunity for researchers to engage the government in tackling wicked policy problems. Governments tend to throw big money into

infrastructure projects for political reasons and it is important to look at the evidence on how these projects will affect people. Whereas some may concentrate only on whether the project has been undertaken, researchers should investigate the impact on people's lives.

- d. Rather than emphasising interactions between individual researchers and policymakers, focus on **institutional interactions** may yield better results.



- e. **Government bureaucrats** and technocrats are powerful but many researchers tend to overlook them. In some instances, they wield more power than politicians do. As such, it helps to bring them in to ensure they see value of evidence in their decision process. Despite the changes in the political appointees who come and go every so often, there is a constant team of technocrats who should be targeted.
- f. Where there is **pressure from civil society** and other external actors, the government's decisions get implemented better.

Citizen engagement is key – people need to be better organized into autonomous self-driven spaces.

- g. The **political environment** is a challenge and is often not conducive for evidence. Still, evidence can play a critical role – leaders now feel that they have to show what they have done and citizens will question their performance. Evidence can also be used to show them the change they can create in the community.
- h. The producers of evidence should adopt methods that **address gaps in evidence** rather than blaming the policymakers and politicians for not using evidence. Otherwise they fail to meet the demand of policymakers. If anything, government decisions are almost always made using evidence – the problem is the type and source of the evidence.
- i. **Documentation** is key. In Kenya, for instance, there is now a Community Land Act which was crafted out of practices emerging from the Urban Governance House. Additionally, the government has now made it mandatory that any projects that involve relocations have a Relocation Action Plan crafted alongside the World Bank model, and companies involved now have to ensure this is done.

Session VIA

Breakout Sessions - Communities of Practice & Networks as Pathways for Institutionalising EIDM work for Sustainability – What are we learning?

The focus of this session was on how the budding communities of practice and networks on EIDM in Africa can be nurtured, and what roles they can play in the efforts towards institutionalising a culture of evidence use in decision-making on the continent. The participants pondered over these questions in three breakout sessions which started with presentations followed by discussions by all participants.

Break-Out Session 4

Dr. Hannington Odame, the Executive Director of the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), Kenya presented on charting the path for a youth apprenticeship framework using lessons from Utafiti Sera house on Youth Employment Creation in Agriculture in Kenya.

His presentation covered an array of issues key being:

- The informal sector is the largest employer in Kenya with 83.4% of the total employment ⁹. This indicates that youth employment creation is in agriculture, with specific focus to horticulture and agro-processing.
- Youth sector in Kenya is dynamic – as employment opportunities declined in the formal sector, there were more jobs available in the informal sector.
- There is need to engage different stakeholders collectively to ensure evidence on agriculture and agro-processing is available to policymakers.
- Policy process is not linear, it is complex and opportunistic: key Stakeholders such as policy actors to implement informal apprenticeships are still missing and gaps have been identified. Gaps exist in accreditation and certification

of informal sector skills, responsive financing mechanisms and absence of county level agriculture incubation hubs among others. There is need to make it attractive through governance, monitoring and learning.

Key messages from the session discussions

- Continuous engagement with stakeholders is instrumental to employment creation in the informal sector.
- Youth employment should be focused at the sub- national / decentralised level as opposed to the national level and key stakeholders should find strategies on how these milestones can be translated to inform policy at the national level.
- Synthesize new and existing relevant research evidence on youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing to make them available to policymakers and practitioners. Existing policies should be reviewed to be inclusive with respect to on-job and off-job learning
- Skill development, governance, monitoring and learning should guide on youth employment creation by engaging key policymakers and practitioners through direct contact, policy advocacy and use of productive employment and inclusive growth champions during policy dialogues.

Break-Out Session 5

Dr Rose Oronje, Director, Science Communications and Evidence Uptake, African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP), presented on **Strengthening evidence systems to tackle health challenges: lessons from AFIDEP's work with parliaments and Ministries of Health in Africa.**

The following observations were made during the discussions:

- For increased evidence uptake, there is need to convert the supply of evidence to demand.
- It is also important to effectively define what is evidence - no assumptions should be made that all stakeholders know what evidence means.

- Evidence is not useful unless its converted from complex data into useful information.
- Researchers must also be cognisant of the need for political correctness.
- Interventions should be linked to real life/real needs.
- EIP tools should be entrenched in public policy agencies systems (institutionalization).
- For evidence uptake, capacity building and advocacy is also critical in the transformation agenda.

⁹Link to Kenya Economic Survey 2018 - <https://www.knbs.or.ke/download/economic-survey-2018/>

Break-Out Session 6

Ms. Lynette Kamau, a Senior Policy and Communications Officer at the African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC), shared perspectives on context mapping as a strategy towards unpacking the political economy, drawing from lessons from the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) initiative that is implemented by the centre.

IMCHA is a seven-year multi-country initiative in partnership with IDRC to ensure that fewer women die while giving life and more children get a healthy start to generate productive human capital for their country's development.

Before rolling out the IMCHA initiative, APHRC undertook a context mapping exercise to provide insights that would support a more nuanced and comprehensive strategy for wider engagement in the decision-making, programming, budgeting and policy processes for improvement in maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

The exercise helped create an understanding of the context within which the policies are developed and implemented, the actors involved in policy development, the levels of administration as well as exogenous actors such as development partners and donors. It also brought to the fore the processes that are crucial to the development and

implementation of policies as well as the content of the policy.

Context mapping is necessary since it enables one to analyse policies and strategies to understand national priorities and identify knowledge gaps, and to understand the policy making processes and identify entry points to appropriately position evidence. It also helps one identify the stakeholders involved in policy development, implementation and overall decision making, and to evaluate the extent to which research and evidence is used to influence policy and decision-making.

From its work, APHRC has observed that in most countries, the life cycle of a policy or strategy is five years and that the policy development process is dynamic. APHRC has also noted that the policy process should involve multiple stakeholders as it is not only a government business. Additionally, the organization has noted that dissemination of policy is central to policy implementation, and that some countries have clear processes while others do not.

They have also learned that evidence matters, and that evidence needs to be credible, should provide solutions to community needs as well as give clear guidance with concrete steps and show the value.



Session VIB

Communities of Practice and Networks as Pathways for Institutionalizing EIDM Work for Sustainability – What are we learning?

The objective of this session was to synthesise lessons from the three break-out sessions to identify ideas on the roles of communities of practice and networks as pathways for institutionalising EIDM work for sustainability, and how these help navigate political economy and policy cultures that govern evidence use in the continent.

The following key lessons emerged from the breakout sessions:

- a. **Stakeholder and context mapping** at the initial stages is vital as it help identify and bring on board all the organizations that are concerned with a policy issue and to build relationships with stakeholders. This is also important in understanding the **power relations** and the **obstacles** facing evidence generation and uptake.
- b. **Stakeholder engagement** should be done at different levels, both the national and sub-national level and they should be supported to develop a good **understanding of the concept/issue** they are working on.
- c. An understanding of the **policy process is important**, especially the points of demand and supply of evidence. **Intermediaries (the systems, structures, procedures and the political economic environment)** are critical in this, but what is more important is to ensure an **enabling environment**. Interventions should **focus on systems and processes** so they are embedded within the institution and this may require **long term interventions** and commitment.
- d. It is important to **strengthen leadership** of the stakeholders once they come together. Many good interventions may fall along the way if there is no leadership. One way of doing this is by nurturing the **young generation** of researchers (e.g. the MRPP programme by PASGR).
- e. The communities of practice need tools and process that help them **institutionalize** evidence uptake in a country.
- f. Assess to what happened in the **past** with networks and communities of practice so that mistakes are not repeated.
- g. **Communication** is vital as it helps to hold the community of practice together. This can also help **open up the space to other views/stakeholders**, e.g. communicators, psychologists, and artists, to enrich and bring new views to improve the way we try to influence policy.



Session VII

Panel Discussion – Big Data as Evidence for Policy Development

This was a panel discussion with **Dr. Bitange Ndemo**, Senior Lecturer, School of Business, University of Nairobi and **Mr. John Githongo**, Chief Executive Director, Inuka Kenya Trust, on big data as evidence in the context of African political and policy cultures. Drawing from their experiences from decades working on anti-corruption (Githongo) and data (Dr. Ndemo), the two panelists shared insights on how big data can be used as evidence in policy making in Africa.

Mr. Githongo shared some of the experiences and lessons he has gathered from decades of work as an anti-corruption crusader in Kenya - he has been involved in anti-corruption work for more than 25 years, and was part of Transparency International as it started in Kenya in the 1990s.

He noted that main strategy for fighting corruption back in the day was to build the legal and institutional framework for dealing with the vice but the global anti-corruption movement has now realised that the technocratic approach to fighting corruption does not work.

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“A great deal of illicit money is flowing through the financial systems of many African countries. A lot of it is hidden offshore and no one knows who owns the money. A simple act of publishing information on the beneficial ownership of these companies will serve the dual purpose of enhancing revenue collection for the government while addressing corruption.”

John Githongo, Inuka Kenya Trust



As such, there is now a big shift to building systems that can reveal the beneficial ownership of companies that benefit from corrupt activities. Some countries have started this process - in 2016, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa set out to establish a beneficial ownership register.

Dr Bitange Ndemo shared experiences of using big data as evidence to support decision making with reference to the World Poverty Clock (a World Bank supported project), which maps poverty levels globally in real time.

The data can be disaggregated to the sub-national level hence be used to track crucial development data that can influence budgeting and resource optimization. It shows, for instance, that in the bordering counties of Homabay and Bomet, the life expectancies are starkly different – 49 years versus 66 years respectively. A simple intervention such as ensuring that all HIV positive patients receive ARVs would significantly enhance the life expectancy in Homabay county.

Dr Ndemo emphasised that policymakers must pay attention to data. For instance, Members of Parliament can use the data to determine where to invest constituency funds and to measure whether people's livelihoods are improving as a result. In order to increase the uptake of data, it is crucial that there is demand for the data – towards this end; the missing link has been the evangelists to translate the data so that decision makers can then make demands based on the data.

In Kenya, for instance, researchers have mapped poverty and where the poor spend their money. The Ministry of planning has this data but what is lacking is people to analyze and digest the data to influence policy and/or programmes. There is opportunity for policy influencers to use data beyond descriptions; using it to make a case for certain policy choices over others.

The predictive element of big data remains underutilized. Big data can also help by predicting certain events so that timely interventions can be put in place. In Kenya, it is quite easy to know when corruption happens – those who fund elections want to recoup their investments, so a lot of corruption happens soon after an election. It also happens in May and June every year in government ministries due to the rush to exhaust budgetary allocations before the financial year closes. Big data is also useful in analyzing historical trends, whose extrapolation may allow for prediction of future trends in key development areas such as health and poverty.

Plenary Discussions

- ➊ Address impediments to open access to government data: most impediments are in units where vested interests are benefitting such as procurement, public works, health, education and national security or where government statistics bodies are required to retail their reports to generate revenue.
- ➋ Decisions or policy are often not made based on public debate, and it is vital that policy champions get space in the “bedroom” where decisions are made.
- ➌ There are different sets of data in many countries, including from government sources (e.g. national statistics bodies), data by civil society sources, and UN data. There is often intense discussions over harmonising the data and it is important that champions use data that is as close to the reality as possible. This can be achieved through the use of multiple sources.
- ➍ Researchers and policy actors should focus on obtaining useful data that can help shape policy. In Kenya, for instance, no one has asked for wealth declaration forms to be published, yet these forms can be used to shine the light on corrupt officers.



Session VIII

Evidence Informed Decision Making for Africa's Transformation: What is the future?

This session highlighted the need for, and strategies for involving the youth in promoting the use of EIDM as a tool for potential transformation in Africa. It was informed by the fact that there is a growing epistemic community on evidence-informed decision making globally and in Africa, yet, gaps remain particularly on theoretical underpinnings of EIDM as well as in the knowledge on the most effective and sustainable mechanisms to support EIDM in Africa.

PASGR's Utafiti Sera work has responded to this by developing a well-tested theoretical handle as well as involving the youth in its activities with the view of ensuring intergenerational progression and sustainability of evidence use in decision-making. This final session sought to draw together the conference's earlier discussions to develop ideas on how to grow EIDM field in Africa. The plenary considered three key issues:

1. How to enhance stakeholder synergies and partnerships in driving forward EIDM work in Africa;
2. How to ensure inter-generational discussions to facilitate the progression and sustainability of evidence use in decision making in Africa; and
3. The role of young upcoming African scholars and policy actors in the EIDM conversation.

Plenary Notes

Dr. Peter Da Costa a Technical Advisor from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation led the panel discussions. **Dr. Bernard Onyango**, a Senior Knowledge Translation Scientist at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); **Ms Nancy Raouf Gergis**, a Researcher with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), and Ford Foundation's Regional Director for East Africa, **Mr. Maurice Makoloo** were part of the plenary.

The session underscored the need to involve the youth in African countries in the conversation on EIDM, the significance of safe

civil space, freedom of speech and association to enable the youth perform the function of citizen activists.

Discussants underscored the variety of EIDM players and sectors and thus the need to build coalitions that facilitate co-equal ownership of the knowledge emerging in the process as an important step in sustaining EIDM agenda in Africa. For effective participation of the youth in EIDM, the panelists noted the need for capacity building programmes for the youth, especially in analytics so as to synthesize evidence into formats that their audiences can consume and apply. Such capacity building programmes should include information and knowledge to empower the youth to move beyond performative representation and meaningfully engage in policy processes and not just discussions.

Plenary discussions called for the creation of concrete mechanisms for substantive involvement of the youth given they are the majority in the continent. The following observations were made in the plenary session that followed the discussion:

- Need to provide opportunity for scholarships, mentorships and internships so as to get young people who are actively and meaningfully engaged in research and evidence use.
- Examine the political economy of the demand side of evidence use including who sets the **research agenda**, how the research agenda is set and where there are systemic gaps, particular groups or issues that do not get considered.
- Given that **technology** is playing a significant role in data generation and collection and that the youth are actively involved with technology, it is crucial to examine the question – and irony – as to why their voice is not being heard.
- Youth involvement should be **deep, continuous and meaningful**, rather than a mere token to show funders that an organisation is working with youth.
- It has been observed that many young graduates who are exposed to policy research upon employment have an AHA!

moment as if they had no prior knowledge of policy research. Evidence use in policy should be covered at the university level to get more youth active and engaged with research and advocacy at the earliest level.

- The **media** has tremendous power and is always shaping the discourse in a country. There is a need to work with the mainstream/traditional media to ensure they are using credible evidence in reporting. Additionally, there is need for partnership with non-conventional media such as young bloggers who influence the youth to ensure they access evidence/data.
- The Ford Foundation is working on building a pipeline of leaders for the continent. Gaps are emerging in leadership in many sectors because there was no deliberate thought as to leadership transition. As such, there are civil society-led leadership coaching programmes. However, these cannot issue certificates because they are not accredited. One of the foundation's partners in South Africa is working with the university of Witwatersrand to see if the university can accredit the program so there is a linkage between academy and civil society.

“

If you have an idea, plant it. If you don't plant it, it will never grow. Just like some seeds take long to grow, some ideas will be slow in picking up but this should not discourage you”

Maurice Makoloo, FORD Foundation

- The youth should be encouraged to implement whatever ideas they have even if they cannot find immediate support. With time, people mull over the idea and they support it later.

Closing Session

In closing, Prof. Aina, Executive Director, invited partners working on EIDM in Africa to forge close alliances noting that there is ‘enough for all of us to make impactful change’ with regard to use of evidence to support Africa’s transformation. He committed PASGR to continue working with the partners to carry the work forward, and to continue to develop the community of practice. He pointed out that there already exists a critical mass in Kenya on EIDM and that this would be explored for purposes of connecting with other networks in Africa at large.

He also took the opportunity to assure the youth in attendance and in Africa in general that PASGR is committed to working meaningfully with the youth in all of its programmes. This is because the organization believes strongly in the next generation of policy researchers and leaders and that the continent cannot make any progress without the young people at the center of the movement.

He appreciated the youth who took part in the conference, assuring them that they had been invited not as a token but that PASGR and its partners see them as equals for their diverse efforts in the various organisations they lead or work in. He challenged the young people to organise a Youth Convening on Evidence Informed Decision Making, assuring them that PASGR would happy to work with them to make possible the space for them to speak freely.

Helen Ambasa delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of the PASGR board in which she acknowledged the participants, organisers and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to make the convening a great success.

Appendix I – Convening Programme

Day I: Thursday May 2, 2019 - Innovative Approaches to EIDM in Africa

Arrival, registration and Opening Performance [0830 – 0915]

Light refreshments

Welcome and Introductions [0915 – 0955]

Welcoming remarks and brief background on the context and the primary goals and objectives for the convening.

Lead Facilitator: Uduak Amimo

Speakers:

- Tade Aina - Executive Director, Partnership for Social & Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya
- Ernest Aryeetey - PASGR Board Chair, Ghana
- Michaela Bogenrieder - Project Manager, Science and Research, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany
- **Dr. Peter Da Costa** - Consultant, Global Development and Population, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA

Official Opening [0955 – 1015] by H.E. Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, Governor, Kakamega County and Chair, Council of Governors, Kenya

Session I: Keynote Address: Tackling Africa's youth unemployment through technical and vocational training: the role of research and evidence [1015 – 1045]

Speaker: Kevit Desai, Principal Secretary, State Department for Vocational & Technical Training, Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya.

Session addresses EIDM needs and role in as Africa seeks transformative progress to deliver inclusive and sustainable development for Africans within the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and African Union's Agenda 2063. This theme will seek to interrogate the role of research evidence in this quest while laying ground for a deeper focus on the innovative research evidence uptake approaches that work in the following session.

Health Break [1045 – 1115]

Session II: Innovative Approaches to Evidence Uptake in Africa: What works? [1115 – 1245]

Objective: Identify proven approaches for enhancing evidence uptake in Africa.

Moderator: Uduak Amimo,

Format: Lead key presentation(s) to set out context; panel discussion and plenary Q&A

Speakers:

- Rhona Mijumbi - Makerere University's Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation, Uganda
- Wangui Kimari & Martin Atela, – Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR) Kenya – **Utafiti Sera: Chronicling the evolution of an EIDM approach**

Discussants:

- Evelyn Gitau – Director, Research Capacity Strengthening, African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya.
- Hon. Yusuf Hassan - Member of Parliament, Kamukunji Constituency, and parliamentary SDG caucus, Kenya

This session to include a discussion with expert representatives from government agencies and other policy actors and researcher in response to the following guiding questions key questions:

1. What kinds of institutional engagements and arrangements work?
2. What kind of policy actor-researcher relationships and engagements most facilitate research-uptake?

Lunch Break [1245 – 1345]

Session IIIA: Breakout Sessions on Effectiveness of Various Innovative Approaches to EIDM in Africa: Champions, System Strengthening and Blended Approaches [1345 – 1515]

Objective: Groups will identify the tested and proven approaches to enhancing evidence uptake and use in decision making. What unique features of the approaches make them stand out in the African context/evidence ecosystems?

Facilitator: Lauren Gelfand, Director of Policy Engagement and Communications, African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya.

Format: Three Break-Out Sessions

Break-Out Session 1

- **Session chair:** Eugenia Kayitesi, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Analysis & Research (IPAR) Rwanda.
- **Presentation I:** Samuel Kabue, Evidence Champion, Social Protection Utafiti Sera House: **Lessons from an evidence champion in promoting evidence uptake and use in the development of social protection programmes in Kenya.**
- **Discussant:** H.E. Amb. Judith Bahemuka

Break-Out Session 2

- **Session Chair:** Amanda Chukwudozie, AUC Youth - Head of Knowledge Management Programme, African Union Commission
- **Presentation:** Agnes Titriku, Programme Manager, African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs, Ghana: **Changes and challenges in institutionalising a culture of EIDM in African Parliaments: what role for parliamentary information support?**
- **Discussant:** Aremu Fatai, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Illorin, Nigeria

Break-Out Session 3

- **Session Chair:** Laurenz Langer, Evidence Synthesis Specialist, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE), University Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **Presentation:** John Mugabi, Director, Research Services, Parliament of Uganda: **Blended approaches to evidence uptake: the experience from the Parliament of Uganda.**
- **Discussant:** Thomas Asher, Director, Convening and Scholarly Relations, Columbia World Projects, USA

Health Break [1515 – 1530]

Session IIIB – Innovative Approaches to EIDM in Africa: Champions, Systems Strengthening and Blended Approaches [1530 – 1630]

Objective: Synthesize lessons from break-out sessions to identify ideas on developing an African-led **EIDM** epistemic community to support informed decision making on the continent’s development issues and policy.

Facilitator: Lauren Gelfand, Director of Policy Engagement and Communications, African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya.

Groups to focus summaries/presentation on:

- Three best/proven innovative approaches to enhancing EIDM
- How best these can be scaled/adopted in similar settings (opportunities for scale-up).

Session IV – What do the identified approaches mean for developing EIDM work that can support envisaged transformation in Africa (though agenda 2063 and sustainable development goals)? [1630 – 1700]

Objective: Take stock of innovative approaches identified on day 1 and how these could support envisaged development changes in Africa

Moderator: Uduak Amimo

Format: plenary discussions to collect broader perspectives building on group presentations

The session will provide an opportunity to take stock of the key practices, opportunities and challenges that emerged throughout Day 1 and to identify issues for detailed examination on Day 2 of the convening. The following key question will help to drive the discussions:

1. What are the three most promising innovative approaches that best support evidence use in Africa?

Wrap-up for the day [1715 – 1730]

Facilitator: Uduak Amimo

Group Networking Reception and Dinner [18:30 to 20:30]

PASGR will host a group joint dinner and drinks reception at the Cocktail terrace at the **Movenpick Hotel and Residences**. Guests are requested to be punctual.

Agenda Day 2

Day II: Friday May 3, 2019

Day registration and welcome [0845 – 0900]

Light refreshments served

Facilitator: Martin Atela

Session V – Political Economy and Policy Cultures: influence and impact on evidence uptake [0900 – 1030]

Objective: The political economy landscape and policy cultures differ across the continent. Similarly, the growth of devolved governance within various African countries is increasingly shaping the policy outcomes away from the centre. This theme will deliberate on how the influence and impact of political economy and contextualized policy cultures is shaping EIDM in the continent.

Moderator: Uduak Amimo,

Format: Lead key presentation(s) to set out context followed by panel discussion and plenary Q & A

Speakers:

- **Eliya Zulu** - Executive Director, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Kenya – **The landscape of EIDM community field building in Africa**
- **Steve Akoth** - Executive Director, Pamoja Trust, Kenya: **Using evidence in developing a stakeholder engagement framework to give social life to urban infrastructure: experience from Nairobi Utafiti Sera Urban Governance House**

Discussants:

- **Nandera E. Mhando** - Senior Lecturer (Sociology and Anthropology Department) and Head (Philosophy and Religious Studies Department), University of Dar es Salaam
- **Edward Brown** - Senior Researcher, African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) Ghana
- **Rose Makenzie** - Policy Officer, Netherlands Embassy

Health break [1030 – 1045]

Session VIA: Breakout Sessions on Communities of practice, networks as pathways for institutionalizing EIDM work for sustainability - what are we learning? [1045 – 1200].

Objective/descriptor: How can the budding communities of practice and networks on EIDM in Africa be nurtured? What roles can they play in the efforts towards institutionalizing a culture of evidence use in decision-making? These are the questions these sessions will seek to answer as actors on the continent strive to institutionalize EIDM for sustainable development and Africa's transformation.

Facilitator: Lillian Tamale & Martin Atela, Governance Specialist-Research Fellow at Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) Uganda

Format: Three Break-Out Sessions

Break-Out Session 4

- **Session chair:** Kathryn Toure, Regional Director – Sub-Saharan Africa, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.
- **Presentation I:** Hannigton Odame, Executive Director, Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), Kenya: **Charting the path for a youth apprenticeship policy: lessons from Utafiti Sera house on youth employment creation in agriculture in Kenya**
- **Discussant:** Dr Dawit Alemu, Manager, Bilateral Ethio-Netherlands Effort for food, Income and Trade Partnership, Ethiopia

Break-Out Session 5

- **Session Chair:** Mr Patrick Mugirwa, Programme Manager, Regional Office of Partners for Population and Development
- **Presentation:** Rose Oronje, Director, Science Communications and Evidence Uptake, African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP), Kenya: **Strengthening evidence systems to tackle health challenges: lessons from AFIDEP's work with parliaments and Ministries of Health in Africa.**
- **Discussant:** Robert Nantchouang, Director, Knowledge and Learning, African Capacity Building Foundation

Break-Out Session 6

- **Session Chair:** Edward Kataika, Director of Programmes, Secretariat of the Eastern, Central and Southern African Health Community, Tanzania
- **Presenter:** Lynette Kamau, Senior Policy and Communications Officer, African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya: **Unpacking the political economy: An introduction to context mapping**
- **Discussant:** Yasmin Khodary, Professor of Political Science, British University in Egypt, Egypt.

Session VIB – Communities of practice, networks as pathways for institutionalizing EIDM work for sustainability - what are we learning? [1200 – 1300]

Objective: Synthesize lessons from break-out sessions to identify ideas on the roles of communities of practice, networks as pathways for institutionalizing EIDM work for sustainability, and how these help navigate political economy and policy cultures that govern evidence use in the continent.

Facilitator: Lillian Tamale & Martin Atela.

Lunch Break [1300 – 1400]

Session VII: Big data as evidence for policy development [1400 – 1500]

Objective:

Moderator: Uduak Amimo,

Format: panel discussion with experts on big data as evidence in the context of African political and policy cultures. Plenary to follow discussions

Speakers:

- **Bitange Ndemo** - Senior Lecturer, School of Business, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- **John Githongo** - Chief Executive Director, Inuka Kenya Trust, Kenya

Session VIII: Evidence informed decision making for Africa's transformation: what is the future? [1500 – 1600].

Objective/descriptor: There is a growing epistemic community on evidence-informed decision making at the global level and increasingly, decision makers in Africa recognise the need for evidence in policy processes. Yet gaps remain particularly on theoretical underpinnings of EIDM as well as in the knowledge on the most effective and sustainable mechanisms to support EIDM. PASGR's Utafiti Sera work has responded to this by development a well-tested theoretical handle as well as involving the youth in its activities with the view of ensuring intergenerational progression and sustainability of evidence use in decision making. This final session will draw together discussions in the last two days to develop ideas on how to grow EIDM field in Africa. In particular, the plenary will consider two issues:

1. How to enhance stakeholder synergies and partnerships in driving forward EIDM work in Africa?
2. How can we ensure inter-generational discussions to facilitate the progression and sustainability of evidence use in decision making in Africa?
3. What is the role of young upcoming African scholars and policy actors in the EIDM conversation?

Moderator: Uduak Amimo,

Format: panel and plenary discussions

Speakers:

- **Maurice Makoolo** - Regional Director - Eastern Africa, Ford Foundation, Kenya
- **Dr. Peter Da Costa** - Consultant, Global Development and Population, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA
- **Bernard Onyango** - Senior Knowledge Translation Scientist, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Kenya
- **Nancy Raouf Gergis** - Researcher, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Egypt

Evaluation, Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks [1600 – 1630]

Appendix II – Participants List

	Title	Name	Sex	Organization	Country
1	Dr.	Adeola O. Olajide	F	University of Ibadan	Nigeria
2	Ms.	Amanda Chukwudozie	F	African Union Commission	Ethiopia
3	Ms.	Agnes Amakuma Titriku	F	African Center for Parliamentary Affairs	Ghana
4	Ms.	Anna Kirstgen	F	Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH	Germany
5	Ms.	Ann Florence Ater	F	Transparency International (Kisumu)	Kenya
6	Prof.	Aremu Fatai Ayinde	M	University of Ilorin - Political Science Department	Nigeria
7	Prof.	Baakile Motshegwa	F	University of Botswana	Botswana
8	Dr.	Beatrice Muganda	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
9	Dr.	Bernard Onyango	M	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	Kenya
10	Mr.	Blessings Chinsinga	M	Department of Political at University of Malawi	Malawi
11	Dr.	Bonaventure Haruna	M	University of Jos	Nigeria
12	Dr.	Catherine Dean	F	Strathmore University	Kenya
13	Ms.	Catherine Bartenge	F	East Africa Research Fund (EARF)	Kenya
14	Ms.	Clara Richards	F	INASP - United Kingdom	UK
15	Ms.	Clotilda Wanjala	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
16	Mr.	Danford Sango	M	Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania	Tanzania
17	Mr.	Davids Etyang	M	East African Trade Union Confederation	Tanzania
18	Ms.	Diana Wachira	F	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
19	Prof.	Dominica Chingarande- Mutanga	F	Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University	Zimbabwe
20	Ms.	Dorothy Baziwe	F	Uganda Human Settlements Network	Uganda
21	Br.	Dzinekou Yawovi Jonas	M	The Institute of Social Studies - Tangaza University College	Kenya
22	Mr.	Davinder Lamba	M	Mazingira Institute	Kenya
23	Dr.	Dawit Alemu	M	Bilateral Ethio-Netherlands Effort for food, Income and Trade Partnership	Ethiopia
24	Mr.	Edward Brown	M	African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)	Ghana
25	Mr.	Edward Kataika	M	Secretariat of the Eastern, Central and Southern African Health Community	Tanzania
26	Dr.	Elijah Muange	M	Economics of Development, Machakos University, Machakos.	Kenya

27	Dr.	Eliya Zulu	M	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	Kenya
28	Ms	Elizabeth Kahurani	F	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)	Kenya
29	Prof.	Engineer Bainomugisha	M	Makerere University	Uganda
30	Prof.	Ernest Aryeetey	M	PASGR Board of Directors	Ghana
31	Ms.	Eugenia Kayitesi	F	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR - Rwanda)	Rwanda
32	Ms.	Esther Simekha	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
33	Dr.	Evelyne Gitau	F	African Population and Health Research Centre	Kenya
34	Mr.	Femi Balogun	M	LEAP Africa	Nigeria
35	Dr.	Folarin Gbadebo-Smith	M	Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research	Nigeria
36	Dr.	Gavin George	M	University of Kwa Zulu Natal	South Africa
37	Ms.	Grace Chikumo Mtonga	F	Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat	Zambia
38	Prof.	Goran Hyden	M	PASGR Board of Directors	USA
39	Dr	Hannington Odame	M	CABE	Kenya
40	Ms.	Helen Ambasa	F	United States International University	Kenya
41	Ms.	Helen Mudora	F	Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)	Kenya
42	Mr.	Ibrahima Hathie	M	Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), Senegal	Senegal
43	Dr.	Jane Wathuta	F	Strathmore University	Kenya
44	Mr.	John Bagonza Mugabi	M	Parliament of Uganda	Uganda
45	Mr.	Joseph Schechla	M	Habitat International Coalition	Egypt
46	Ms	Julie Therese	F	East Africa Research Hub, DFID	Kenya
47	Dr.	Kevit Desai	M	State Department of Vocational and Technical Education (TVET) in the Ministry of Education	Kenya
48	Mr.	Kwame Owino	M	Institute for Economic Affairs	Kenya
49	Dr.	Laurenz Langer	M	Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE), University Johannesburg	South Africa
50	Ms.	Lauren Gelfand	F	APHRC	Kenya
51	Ms.	Leonard Tilingamawa	M	Parliament of Malawi	Malawi
52	Ms.	Lilian M Tamale	F	ACODE - Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment	Uganda
53	Dr.	Loveness Msofi	F	Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources	Malawi
54	Ms.	Lydia Tumuhairwe	F	Educate!	Uganda
55	Dr.	Margaret Amankwah-Poku	F	University of Ghana	Ghana
56	Mr.	Mark Johnston	M	Africa Cabinet Government Network	Palestine
57	Dr.	Maryam Omolara Qadri	F	University of Lagos	Nigeria

58	Ms.	Mary Mutinda	F	Strathmore University	Kenya
59	Mr.	Maurice Makoloo	M	Ford Foundation	Kenya
60	Ms.	Marjorie Moraa Okora	F	ACBF - the African Capacity Building Foundation	Kenya
61	Ms.	Marjory Githure	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)	Kenya
62	Dr.	Martin Atela	M	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)	Kenya
63	Ms.	Mercy Mukeni	F	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
64	Ms.	Michaela Bogenrieder	F	Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH	Germany
65	Ms.	Monica Were	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
66	Dr.	Nandera Ernest Mhando	F	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania
67	Ms.	Nancy Raouf Gergis	F	Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)	Egypt
68	Mr.	Obadia Miroro	M	African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)	Kenya
69	Mr.	Omar Seidu	M	Ghana Statistical Service	Ghana
70	Mr.	Patrick Mugirwa	M	Regional office of Partners for Population and Development	Uganda
71	Dr.	Pauline Ngimwa	F	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
72	Ms.	Radwa Saad	F	ALC Peace and Security Fellow	Egypt
73	Dr.	Rhona Mijumbi	F	Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation	Uganda
74	Dr.	Robert Nantchouang	M	ACBF - the African Capacity Building Foundation	Zimbabwe
75	Mr.	Ronald Munatsi,	M	Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network	Zimbabwe
76	Mr.	Roger Mugisha	M	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research-Rwanda,	Rwanda
77	Ms	Sally Miruri	F	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
78	Dr.	Samuel Kabue	M	Africa Platform for Social Protection	Kenya
79	Mr.	Samuel Ikuu Thong'ó	M	Mazingira Institute	Kenya
80	Ms.	Scarlet Chemarum	F	Kenya National Debate Council	Kenya
81	Mr.	Simon Wanda	M	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research	Kenya
82	Dr.	Steve Akoth	M	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
83	Mr.	Steven Keifala	M	Africa Cabinet Government Network	Sierra Leone
84	Ms.	Sylvia Sarah	F	Lake Region Economic Bloc.	Kenya
85	Prof.	Tade Aina	M	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)	Kenya
86	Mr.	Temitope Adegoroye	M	Sahel Consulting	Nigeria
87	Mr.	Thomas Asher	M	University of Colombia	USA
88	Ms.	Uduak Amimo	F	Royal Media Services	Kenya

89	Mr.	Victor Gbedo	M	Département Développement Communautaire et Assainissement du Milieu	Benin
90	Dr.	Wangui Kimari	F	African Centre for Cities (ACC) - University of Cape Town	Kenya
91	Ms.	Waithera Gaiho	F	Alternatives Africa	Kenya
92	Mr.	Willie Kachaka	M	Evidence for Change	Malawi
93	Mr.	Winnie Gloria	M	Institute for Public Finance	Kenya
94	Dr.	Yasmin Khodary	F	British University in Egypt	Egypt
95	Mr	Emmanuel Yegon	M	Blogger	Kenya
96	Mr	Peter da Costa	M	Hewlett Foundation	Kenya
97	Mr	Simon M Nginge	M	Kabue's Guide	Kenya
98	Mr	John Juma	M	IPFK - Institute of Public Finance Kenya	Kenya
99	Mr	Pascal Adongo	M	Pamoja Trust	Kenya
100	Ms	Barbara Awour	M	COG - Council of Governors	Kenya
101	Mr	Ronald Odanga	M	COG - Council of Governors	Kenya
102	Mr	Michael Otieno	M	COG - Council of Governors	Kenya
103	Mr	Elijah Kabari	M	PASGR	Kenya
104	Dr	Carol Mwikiira	F	AFIDEP - African Institute of Development Policy	Kenya
105	Dr	Caroline Kabaria	F	APHRC - African Population Health Research Centre	Kenya
106	Dr	Alfred Kitavi	M	Strathmore University	Kenya
107	Mr	Kennedy Ogutu	M	University of Nairobi	Kenya
108	Mrs	Jaqueline Mogeni	F	CEO - COG - Council of Governors	Kenya
109	Dr	Bitange Ndemo	M	University of Nairobi	Kenya
110	Dr	John Githongo	M	Inuka Trust Kenya	Kenya
111	Dr	Mercy Kamau	F	Tegemeo Institute	Kenya
112	Dr	Nicholas Ozor	M	African Technology Policy Studies	Kenya
113	Dr	Rose Oronje	F	AFIDEP - African Institute of Development Policy	Kenya
114	Mr	Shitemi Khamadi	M	Blogger	Kenya
115	Mr	Kanyari Wahinde	M	Nation Media Group	Kenya
116	Ms	Anita Tesot	F	Nation Media Group	Kenya
117	Mr	Masinde Jeff	M	Manny Photography	Kenya
118	Mr	Acadius Arungwi	M	Gap Media	Kenya
119	Ms	Daisy Okoti	F	Nation Media Group	Kenya
120	Mr	John Irungu	M	Gap Media	Kenya

Appendix III - Summary of Participants' Feedback

Drawing from the objectives of the Convening as well as the expected outcomes and outputs, participants were asked to rate the success of the event based on the evaluation questions below and subsequently provide feedback.

Evaluation Questions	Very True	True	Neutral	Untrue	Very Untrue
a) Gained a deeper understanding of the issues and topics covered in this event	51%	33%	12%	4%	
b) Increased awareness of various innovative approaches to EIPM after this event	25%	61%	14%		
c) The discussions held in this event are likely to help build the ecosystem of EIPM in Africa	35%	53%	12%		
d) The structure of this event was conducive for rich debate and call to actions	34%	50%	16%		
e) I will maintain contact with various stakeholders I meet at PASGR events	53%	40%	7%		
f) I have learnt something that will inform my future work or that I intend to share with my affiliated institution/ home country/ networks	47%	47%	6%		
g) The evidence and approaches presented in this event was original, impactful and relevant	32%	49%	19%		
h) Most of the key stakeholders related to the issue at hand were present in this event	16%	51%	25%	4%	4%
i) I feel more equipped to make better policy decisions and/or produce policy relevant research	23%	50%	23%	4%	
j) I have been exposed to perspectives and insights not encountered before during this event	33%	37%	24%	6%	

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Increased Understanding

Participants were asked if they had gained a deeper understanding of the issues and topics covered at the event. 84% of the participants said they had increased understanding – (51% - strongly agree, 33% agree), while some were neutral to this question. Only a small percentage – 4% disagreed that they had not gained a deeper understanding of issues covered at the event.

One particular participant commented – “Evidence uptake and use – EIPM, EIDM etc. were fairly new to me but I learnt a lot and I believe I am ‘ready to go’. Now I know how I can move my research forward for uptake”

Increased Awareness of Various Innovative Approaches to EIPM

Most participants agreed that as a result of the convening, they were more aware of the various innovative approaches to EIPM (86% agreed to this and only 14% were neutral to this question).

The Discussions held are likely to help build the ecosystem of EIPM in Africa

Generally, it was agreed that the discussions held at the event are more likely to help build the ecosystem of EIPM in Africa. 88% agreed to this, while 12% of the participants were neutral to this.

Structure of the Event

Majority of the participants agreed that the structure of the event facilitated rich and fruitful debates – 84% agreed to this while 16% were neutral about it. The box below shows feedback from the participants on the structure of the event.

- Maybe there should be more panel debates rather than presentation of individual papers.
- They could allow for more time for side sessions because they can provide more insights than in the larger group.
- Provide adequate time for framing topics and provide adequate context for meaningful discussions. The depth and breadth discussions were rather limited.
- Discussions were at times abstract. Key role players like journalists and civil society could have provided an alternative perspective on how they distill evidence + package it to inform general public & policy makers. There is a big push amongst policy makers to look at evidence which includes economic analysis. Also, not enough discussion around implementation science. Policies in many instances exist, implementation is at time sub-par such as more work in this area is required. This speaks to the 'supply' of evidence and how it needs to revolve to remain relevant. Donors and their role on setting the research agenda is another big issue that wasn't adequately unpacked during this meeting. However, there were only two days.
- I found a lot of confusion in the discussions. For example, things like activism are being confused for EIDM. Activism and advocacy are a part of EIDM. I am not sure they are EIDM. Leaders in the field need to give good guidance to newer or younger players if the field is to grow.
- The topics were so interesting but time for debate was not enough. Speakers were good and entertaining. However, the overall organization was perfect and congratulations to PASGR team.
- The forum structure enabled rich discussions but there is need to expand on the topics of discussions and address the intended objective of the break-out session.
- Facilitation was very good, but should allow comments as well as questions from the floor (with time limit).

Networking/Maintaining Contact

93% of the participants agreed that they would maintain contact with the various stakeholders they met at the PASGR convening event while only 7% were neutral on the networking. One participant reported that it was "Great meeting a lot of new people – showing the community of practice is growing. Need for more consultation of this nature".

Influence

There was a general consensus from the participants as 94% confirmed that they had learned something that will inform their future work or that they intend to share with their affiliated networks.

Stakeholder Representation at the Convening

There were mixed reactions to this question from the respondents. 67% agreed that the key stakeholders related to Evidence Uptake & Use were present at the event while 8% disagreed. 25% of the respondents were neutral concerning this question. The following comments best reflect the general feedback from the participants:

- Involve as many as possible of political powerbrokers such as political party leaders, MPs/senators, Judicial officers, elected leaders at lower levels e.g county assemblies (MCAs)
- Having government data producers (Government statisticians) around the table and hearing their voices could enrich such discussions.
- Should include decision makers
- Government and citizens should be involved. Experts to design innovative approaches and circulate to CSOs and academia
- I think youth organizations should have been invited so that they share their insights and how they engage or why they do not.

Relevance

Respondents were asked if they felt that they were more equipped to make better policy decisions and/or produce policy relevant research as a result of the convening. 73% agreed to this while 4% disagreed. The rest were neutral.

Perspectives and Insights

When asked whether they had been exposed to perspectives and insights not encountered before they attended the convening, 70% of the respondents agreed while 6% disagreed. The remaining 24% were neutral to this. The comments below further explain this.

“Evidence uptake and use EIPM, EIDM etc. were fairly new to me but I learnt a lot and I believe I am ‘ready to go’. Now I know how I can move my research forward for uptake.”

“New to research and to Kenya, so unable to provide reflection to all questions. This was very eye-opening and I particularly found the Q&A sessions with panelists insightful. Would be great to receive follow up on this and next steps.”

Final Comments/Feedback

Finally, respondents were asked if they had any other comments on their experience. The general comments were mostly positive with respondents saying that the Convening was successful and well organized. The following comments reflect opinions on the general structure of the Convening.

- 🔴 ‘Excellent’
- 🔴 ‘Thank you for all the hard work done in organizing the event. Thank you for the hospitality given to us.’
- 🔴 ‘Hotel was conducive for the work’
- 🔴 ‘Great meeting a lot of new people – showing the community of practice is growing. Need for more consultation of this nature.’
- 🔴 ‘Overall an interesting engagement.’
- 🔴 ‘Great content, great time management, great facilitation. Loved it.’

There were a few areas where some of the participants felt need some improvements. These are:

- 🔴 ‘Intensify engagement with more African Universities to support the Master of Research and Public Policy Program for Sustainability of Evidence.’
- 🔴 ‘I think workshop sessions (hands on) should be created in that by the end of the conference participants know how to implement. In many conferences, people talk and talk and participants leave all that is said in the conference hall. Practical sessions would be great – they give participants unique experiences.’
- 🔴 ‘Capacity building – for evidence generation and use. Through networking, we can get the skills and resources we need to move this agenda forward.’
- 🔴 ‘Use of a moderator who allows discussion without leading questions. Allow as well comments not just discussions. Presenters should be aware of time slotted for presentation before preparing presentation.’
- 🔴 ‘Please include translations into French especially because the countries participating are also Francophones.’

Word Cloud of all the Responses

The word cloud box below was created from all the written responses in the feedback form. This provides a good illustration of the key and frequent words that were used by the participants during the convening and largely depicts the descriptive narrative of the report.



Appendix IV – Speakers Bios



Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya H.E. Hon., EGH has 23 years' experience in local and international Finance Management, Audit and Business Consultancy. He is a Kenyan politician, serving as the incumbent governor of Kakamega County and Council of Governors chairperson. He was elected 4 March 2013 and became the first governor of Kakamega County following promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and subsequently in August 2017, for his second term as the governor. He is, therefore, the pioneer Governor of Kakamega County under the devolved system of governance in Kenya that established 47 counties. He was previously Minister of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030. He was appointed on 14 January 2019 as the Council of Governors of Kenya chairperson.



Dr. Kevit Desai is the Principal Secretary in the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education (TVET) in the Ministry of Education. He has an extensive experience in technical services, continuous professional development, research and innovation. Dr. Desai has participated in multiple interventions initiated both by the government and private sector with regards to drafting and advocating for legislation, policy and strategy which have since been passed into acts of parliament in Kenya, specifically aimed at strengthening the country's education, research and innovation capabilities.



Prof. Tade Akin Aina (Ph.D.) is Executive Director of PASGR. He studied sociology at the University of Lagos and the London School of Economics and obtained his PhD from the University of Sussex, UK. He was appointed full Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Lagos in 1993. He is a founding member of the Nigerian Environmental Study Team and the Lagos Group for the Study of Human Settlements. Formerly, Program Director of Higher Education and Libraries in Africa for the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 2008 to 2014. He has also served as a consultant for many agencies including the UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, United Nations University, and the World Bank. He is an author, co-author, Editor and Co-Editor of eleven books and monographs and recently co-edited, with Bhengkosi Moyo, the volume Giving to Help, Helping to Give: The Context and Politics of African Philanthropy (Amalion, 2013).

Towards a Pan-African Transformation



Prof. Ernest Aryeetey is the Chairman of PASGR Board, he is the immediate former Vice Chancellor at the University of Ghana, Legon. He was also Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana, Legon for the period February 2003 – January 2010. Prior to his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, he was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.



Michaela Bogenrieder is working as a Project Manager at the Robert Bosch Stiftung, one of the major German Foundations associated with a private company. She is responsible for projects within the topic “Transformative Urban and Rural Spaces” with particular interest in questions at the interface between science and urban practice.



Dr. Peter Da Costa, Consultant, Global Development and Population, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA

Peter is seasoned development professional with proven managerial and leadership abilities and extensive experience in Africa as well as on global issues and initiatives. Career highlights include working as a consultant to multilateral and bilateral development agencies, civil society organizations and philanthropic foundations; senior adviser and manager in the United Nations; regional director of a global communication agency; and development communicator and journalist. He has in-depth knowledge of development issues, institutions, policy and processes, strong academic background and excellent research, analytical and communication skills.



Dr. Rhona Mijumbi is a public health physician, and health policy analyst and evaluator based at Makerere University, College of Health Sciences. A graduate of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Makerere University, Uganda) and of International Public Health (University of Queensland, Australia), Dr. Mijumbi is also a doctoral candidate of health policy at Makerere University having completed her coursework at McMaster University, Canada. She is an experienced researcher and knowledge translation specialist, having led the establishment of the REACH Policy Initiative (Uganda) rapid response service for health systems evidence, the first of its kind in a low and middle income country. She is involved in a number of ongoing researches focused on health systems and policy in low income countries.



Dr. Wangui Kimari is a postdoctoral research fellow at the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town, and an Urban Studies International Fellowship Holder at Manchester University.



Dr. Martin Atela earned his PhD from University of Cambridge, UK in Public Health & Primary Care. His postdoctoral work has focused on health systems strengthening in Africa, graduate teaching and supervision, capacity building and knowledge translation in the areas of implementation science, health systems strengthening, community engagement and accountability and mixed-methods approaches to complex research. Martin is a recipient of several international awards such as the Gates Cambridge Fellowship, The European Commission Erasmus Fellowship, The Shell Centenary Leadership Award, The Cambridge Political Economy Trust Fellowship among others.

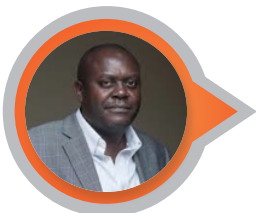


Dr. Samuel Kabue is the House Champion: Social Protection House and Chairperson: Social Protection Actors Forum Kenya. He is also Member United Nations Committee on the rights of Persons with Disabilities and Chairperson: Caucus on Disability Rights Advocacy.

Formally: Chairman of the United Disabled persons of Kenya, Director Programmes at the National Council of Churches of Kenya, and Executive Secretary: Ecumenical disability Advocates network which is the World Council of Churches programme on Disability.



Dr. Agnes Titriku is the Programs Manager for the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA). She plays a lead role in the design and implementation of various interventions (including EIPM related projects) for Parliaments within and without the African continent. She has previously worked with the Canadian Parliamentary Centre.



John Mugabi Bagonza is the Director of the Department of Research Services, Parliament of Uganda. He is working to improve the use of evidence in decision-making to ensure better use of evidence in the Ugandan Parliament. Parliamentary work is rooted in building strong systems to support increased supply and demand for evidence in the legislative, representative and oversight functions of the Parliament of Uganda.



Dr. Eliya Zulu is the Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), which seeks to promote evidence-informed public policy making in Africa. An accomplished research scientist he was President of the Union for African Population studies, a member of the FP2020 Performance Monitoring & Accountability Working Group, served on the UK Royal Society Study Group that produced the 2012 report “People and Planet” and has served on WHO Expert Panels and the African Union Commission Steering Committee on the Demographic Dividend.



Dr. Rose Oronje is a development policy and communications specialist with over 10 years’ experience in development research-to-policy communications and conducting policy analysis research. With a strong background in communication and policy analysis, Rose has extensive experience in conducting analyses of policies and policy environments, and translating and communicating research to policymakers and other general audiences (including the mass media). She also has extensive experience in designing and delivering capacity building programmes in knowledge translation, including research-to-policy communications, but also research utilization by policymakers, media practitioners, and civil society.

At AFIDEP, Rose provides strategic leadership in the design and delivery of evidence uptake research and interventions. Her publications have focused mainly on the areas of health policymaking, and research-to-policy in the health sector. Prior to joining AFIDEP, Rose headed the Policy Engagement and Communications unit at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) from 2004-2009.

Rose earned her Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. She also has a Master’s Degree in Communications from the University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor’s degree in Information Science from Moi University.



Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth is the Executive Director of Pamoja Trust. He is a Kenyan scholar, advisor and activist in the field of human rights and social anthropology with over 15 years working in diverse international, regional and national fora. He is a former ACLS scholar.

His current project is in collaboration with Thomas Asher, a Colombia University based Scholar. The project focuses on Mobility in Southern Urbanism.



Dr. Hannington Odame is the current Executive Director of Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE) and Regional Coordinator of the Eastern Africa Hub of Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA), Nairobi. He holds a PhD in Development from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He has over 30 years of experience in agricultural and rural development. Dr. Odame has consulted widely on agricultural policy research for local and international organizations. He has recently coordinated the Utafiti Sera (policy research) House on Youth Employment Creation in agriculture & agro-processing in Kenya. Odame’s current interests include analyses of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) and policy processes.



Dr. Bitange Ndemo is on the board of Safaricom Plc and Communications Commission of Kenya and Professor at the University of Nairobi. In the past he was Secretary & Director at Telkom Kenya Ltd., Financial Systems Analyst at Medtronic, Inc. and Senior Lecturer-Business School at the University of Nairobi. He received a doctorate from The University of Sheffield and a graduate degree and an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota.



Lynette Kamau works with African Population and Health Research Center where she coordinates the Eastern Africa Health Policy Research Organization consortium as part of the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) program. Through IMCHA, she supports researchers in six countries to communicate, share evidence and engage with decision makers, partners and other stakeholders' who work in the maternal, newborn and child health sector. She advocates for the use of evidence to inform policy and practice at regional, national and local levels. Lynette believes that investing in research and using evidence in decision making will facilitate the development of local solutions to address Africa's challenges and unearth new frontiers.



Mr. John Githongo is the CEO of Inuka, a non-governmental organisation involved in governance issues broadly defined- corruption in particular. He is also a Senior Advisor to the Office of the President of South Sudan on governance.



Maurice Makoloo is Fords foundation's representative in Eastern Africa, overseeing all grant making in the region from Ford's office in Nairobi. Before joining the foundation in 2012, Maurice served as director of the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance, a leading environmental research and advocacy institution based in Nairobi. He was appointed by the Council of the Law Society of Kenya to serve as the convener of the society's Environmental Law Committee, a position he has held since 2005. Recently, he concluded a six-year term as secretary of Kenya's Public Complaints Committee on the Environment—a post to which he was appointed by the minister for environment and mineral resources. Maurice holds a master of laws and bachelor of laws, both from the University of Nairobi.



Nancy Raouf Gergis works as a criminal justice researcher, she obtained her M.A fellowship in international relations & political science from Cyprus. Nancy is interested in transitional and restorative justice. She is involved in different research consultancies related to refugee rights and on protection and care of women human rights defenders.



Bernard Onyango is a sociologist and social demographer with extensive experience in the fields of population dynamics and development, and knowledge translation in sub-Saharan Africa. His general research interests lie at the intersection of demography, health, policy and development. Bernard is currently a Senior Knowledge Translation Scientist at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and leads the Population Change and Sustainable Development thematic area. Bernard obtained his Doctorate and Master's degrees from Brown University where he was a trainee at the Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) and was a recipient of the Hewlett Foundation's Graduate Training Fellowship. He is also an alumnus of the PRB Policy Communications Fellow program. He has extensive fieldwork experience having previously worked at the KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration Demographic Surveillance System in Kenya. He is a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the Population Association of America (PAA) and the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS).



Conference Organizing Team



Dr. Martin Atela
Chairperson, & Conference
Convener



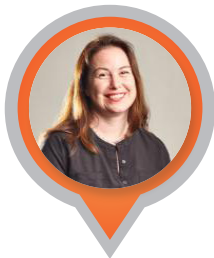
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Dr. Hannington Odame
Member



Lauren Gelfand
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Cavin Opiyo
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