



## ABOUT THE AFRICA LEEPS PARTNERSHIP

The Africa LEEPS Partnership (Learning together to advance Evidence and Equity in Policymaking to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals) aims to strengthen knowledge translation – the synthesis, dissemination, and exchange of evidence – in sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on promoting gender equity at all stages of the policymaking process. The partnership brings together leading evidence organizations from across Africa to learn from each other, exchange knowledge and experiences, and jointly problem solve as they strengthen evidence-informed policymaking to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### What does Africa LEEPS aim to do?

Different capacities and organizational supports are needed to ensure evidence use is prioritized in policymaking, including the ability to find, appraise, and synthesize evidence, information systems to improve access to contextualized and locally relevant evidence, expertise to communicate findings in clear and easy to understand formats, and an understanding of how to ensure gender and equity are centered in the design and implementation of policies. Africa LEEPS aims to enhance the capacity to produce, translate, and use evidence in policymaking in sub-Saharan Africa, with an ecosystem approach that considers and strengthens the interactions between researchers, knowledge translators, and policymakers. Activities include:

- Raising awareness among policymakers and decision-makers on the importance of using evidence for more effective and equitable policies
- Conducting workshops and mentorship programs to strengthen the capacity of evidence producers, translators, and users
- Disseminating tools and online training across the region to promote best practices

### Create an enabling environment for the consistent use of evidence.

Deliberate spaces and processes for researcher-policymaker engagement can facilitate policymaker access to credible and contextualized sources of evidence, invite different perspectives in policy design and implementation, improve the quality and timeliness of evidence production, promote trust, and provide opportunities for mutual capacity strengthening. The Africa LEEPS Partnership will foster collaboration between government actors, researchers, civil society, and other actors who play a key role in the evidence ecosystem. Activities include:

- Hosting national communities of practice and networks on evidence-informed policymaking (EIP) to connect actors in the evidence ecosystem
- Facilitating engagement through policy dialogues and other strategies, that bring researchers and policymakers together to debate evidence and plan for its use

## Institutionalize the use of evidence in policymaking.

Africa LEEPS is building a foundation for consistent and institutionalized use of evidence in policy and program decisions by strengthening individual policymaker and researcher capabilities, organizational capacities, and institutional processes, such as legislation or other incentives to promote policy-relevant evidence production and use. Activities include:

- Creating plans with country partners to formalize evidence use in policymaking
- Developing and disseminating EIP tools and frameworks for evidence producers and users
- Strengthening databases with local, contextualized evidence that is relevant to the policy context

## Strengthen the integration of gender in policies and programs.

Africa LEEPS will advance gender equity in policymaking, actively considering and integrating gender perspectives at every stage of policy development and implementation. Activities include:

- Documenting good practices on integrating gender in all aspects of policymaking and developing tools and resources on gender equity integration in EIP
- Training evidence producers on integrating gender considerations in data collection and analysis
- Sensitizing decision-makers on gender-responsive policymaking and strengthening capacity to develop gender-sensitive policies

## How does Africa LEEPS work?

Technical capacity strengthening and policy engagement activities are led by three initiatives: the Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action established by the [African Center for Equitable Development](#) (ACED)<sup>1</sup>, the East African Regional Evidence Synthesis Initiative established by the [Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis](#) (ACRES)<sup>2</sup> and Alliance for Evidence and Equity in Policy-making in Africa established by the [African Institute for Policy Development](#) (AFIDEP)<sup>3</sup>. Each initiative is developing and testing different approaches for promoting equitable use of evidence in policymaking with a focus on strengthening capacity and building vibrant country-level evidence networks. They support knowledge translation efforts across different SDG priorities including health, environment and climate change, human capital development, and governance, documenting how these efforts are influencing policy or program change, and building an evidence base for the most effective approaches. [Results for Development](#) (R4D) serves as the engagement and learning coordinator for Africa LEEPS.

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1 The ACED led Centre d'Excellence Evidence Policy Action includes [Initiative prospective Agricole et rurale \(IPAR\)](#)

2 The ACRES led EARES includes the [Ethiopian Public Health Institute](#), the [Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme](#), and the [Center for Reforms, Innovation, Health Policies and Implementation Research](#)

3 The AFIDEP led Alliance for Evidence and Equity in Policy-making in Africa includes the [African Institute for Health Systems and Health Policies](#), the [African Research and Impact Network \(ARIN\)](#), and the [School of Gender and Women's Studies, Makerere University](#)