

Africa Centre for Evidence

PROJECT REPORT:

Scoping study of impact evaluation
capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa

SEPTEMBER 2019



Africa
Centre for
Evidence



UNIVERSITY
OF
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ABOUT THE PROJECT

This scoping report was produced as part of a project carried out at the Africa Centre for Evidence and funded by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to explore the nature and extent of impact evaluation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

DISCLAIMER

All content is the sole responsibility of the authors. The content does not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of the funders, consultants, partners, the university, or others associated with this work.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

3ie	The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
ACE	Africa Centre for Evidence
ACIPH	Addis Continental Institute of Public Health
AEN	Africa Evidence Network
AERC	African Economic Research Consortium
AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AGRODEP	African Growth and Development Policy
AMERU	African Microeconomic Research Unit
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Center
AYEI	African Youth Initiatives
CamCoSo	Cameroon Consumer Service Organization
CAPRISA	Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa
CAPEC	Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du Cires
CARDES	Centre panafricain de recherche pour le développement économique et social
CEDLAS	Center of Distributive, Labor and Social Studies
CEED	Centre d'Expertise en Evaluation du Développement
CEGA	Center for Effective Global Action
CEREG	Centre de Recherches en Economie et Gestion
CESAG	Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion
CLEAR-AA	Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results – Anglophone Africa
CRES	Centre de Recherche Economique et Social
DFID	Department of International Development
EAC	English for All Center
EASST	East Africa Social Science Translation
EDRI	Ethiopian Development Research Institute
EEA	Ethiopian Evaluation Association
EEPRI	Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute
EGAP	Evidence in Governance and Policy

ENSEA	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée
EPRC	Economic Policy Research Centre
ERPN	Economic Policy Research Network
ESRF	Economic and Social Research Foundation
GIMPA	Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
HEARD	Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division, University of KwaZulu-Natal
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IER	Impact Evaluation Repository (3ie)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IHI	Ifakara Health Institute
IPA	Innovations for Poverty Action
IREEP	Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy
ISSER	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research
J-PAL	Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute of Public Research
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NIERA	Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa
NISER	Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OPM	Oxford Policy Management
PASGR	Partnership for African Social & Governance Research
PEP	Partnership for Economic Policy
RSSB	Rwanda Social Security Board
SALDRU	Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit
UMI	Uganda Management Institute

1. Summary

The Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE) was commissioned by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to conduct a scoping study on impact evaluation capacity¹ in Sub-Saharan Africa which was conducted between July 2018 and May 2019.

The goals of the project were to:

- Understand the extent and nature of existing impact evaluation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially East and West Africa, for both the production and use of impact evaluations. This would include individual, organisational, and structural needs, barriers and facilitators.
- Understand how impact evaluation capacity could be developed and what opportunities there are to do this, and by whom it should be developed.
- Find opportunities for grant making and/or for Hewlett's existing grantees who produce impact evaluations and improve capacity to partner.
- Inform the impact evaluation field, which includes providing key players in Sub-Saharan Africa with useful information on opportunities to partner.
- Determine the extent to which think tanks are having effective demand and interest in taking up this type of work².

For the purpose of this study, the Hewlett Foundation defines impact evaluations as:

A type evaluation design that assesses the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention. It is based on models of cause and effect and requires a credible counterfactual (sometimes referred to as a control group or comparison group) to control for factors other than the intervention that might account for the observed change. Impact evaluation methods include randomized controlled trials, using instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity, difference in difference, and propensity score matching studies. Both experimental and quasi-experimental designs are therefore of relevance.

This project speaks to the Foundation's Evidence-Informed Policymaking Strategy under the Global Development and Population Programme which focuses on the long-term goal of supporting the systematic use of good quality evidence by governments to improve social and economic policies over time.

We used a multi-stage and multi-component qualitative design to conduct the study, which included key informant discussions, an online survey and follow-up interviews, a desk review of training resources, and a systematic search to identify authors who have published impact evaluations. The methods are set out in detail in Annexure I.

Key findings from our study include:

- In our search of impact evaluations that have been published we were particularly interested in identifying African researchers with African affiliations. We found evidence of more widespread capacity to conduct impact evaluations than initially anticipated as well as a greater number of impact evaluations that had been published than we had initially thought.
- We identified 1520 unique African researchers³ with African affiliations across 34 different countries which have authored 490 impact evaluation publications between 1990 and 2015.
- Although only 210 (13%) of these 1520 were first authors, from the 490 publications in question, for 68 articles (14%) all the authors were African and had African affiliations, indicating nascent local capacity.
- Our author search indicated that South Africa has the most impact evaluation researchers who have published, followed by Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. This illustrates the concentration of capacity in Southern and Eastern Africa, although we did also find 337 authors across 14 countries in Western Africa, indicating growing capacity.

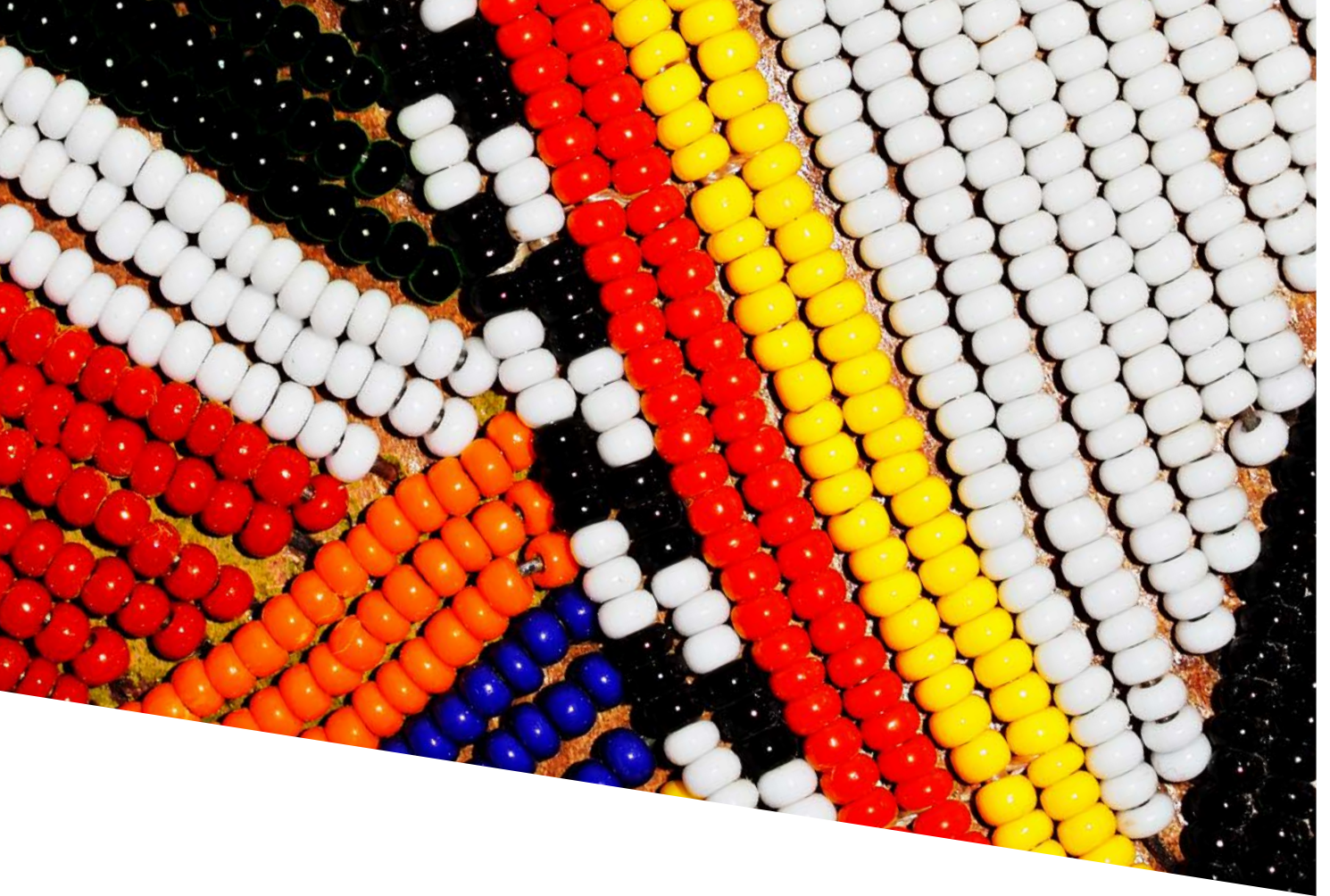
¹ Capacity to publish/produce, conduct, and train.

² The research team defines think tanks as independent, non-governmental organisations that conduct rigorous and impartial research; are not financially dependent on a single source of funds; are nonpartisan and politically neutral; are committed to publishing research findings in the public domain; and have the ability to set an independent research agenda.

³ The term researcher is used to denote an author on a paper. We did not investigate what role each author played in the writing of the paper to have achieved authorship.



- Our findings indicate a large amount of research capacity reside within Schools of Public Health and Health Science faculties at university institutions. Many of the university research programmes were also linked with international institutions, for example, London School of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and Johns Hopkins University.
- Makerere University in Uganda had the greatest number of researchers (n=66) at an institution, while four of the top 10 institutions with the greatest number of researchers were from South Africa: South African Medical Research Council, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Cape Town, Human Sciences Research Council.
- The health, nutrition, and population sectors dominated with 377 articles, making up 77% of the total studies identified. The 23% remaining articles are shared amongst 10 other sectors. Agriculture and rural development came second with 49 impact evaluations. The education sector is third highest on publication numbers, recording 37 studies.
- Of the 48 countries investigated, we found evidence that impact evaluation training has been offered in all but 16 of these countries, indicating more impact evaluation training opportunities than anticipated. However, respondents to the survey indicated that formal, accredited training in impact evaluations is mostly presented at universities outside Africa (mostly European universities).
- Consideration for the role that language plays (particularly English and French) was raised as an important consideration in reflections of existing capacity and the future development of capacity. Francophone universities and think tanks might be at a disadvantage in getting their work published in international publications when writing in their second language, while a similar challenge applies in identifying funders who are willing and able to accept applications in French.
- Our interviews indicated that there is merit in trying to connect the different institutions more actively. Impact evaluation practitioners sometimes seemed unaware of others at institutions in the same country, or even other impact evaluation researchers at their own institution who they could link up with.



2. Who has published impact evaluations?

What did we find?

Interviewees were of the view that practitioners of impact evaluations in Africa are not always incentivised to publish their results as academic papers. This view was expressed at different points in the research process, such as the initial key informant interviews and follow up interviews from the survey. Reasons for this include that practitioners are not necessarily based at universities and therefore are not required to publish academically for their career progression. However, the writing of academic papers is emerging as a funding requirement which is resulting in an increased number of publications.

Through our search of the 3ie Impact Evaluation Repository (IER) we found 1520 unique African researchers with African affiliations which have authored 490 impact evaluation publications between 1990 and 2015, although only 210 (13%) of these 1520 were first authors. From the 490 publications in question, for 68 articles (14%) all the authors were African and had African affiliations, indicating nascent local capacity.

Of the 490 publications identified, 449 (91%) were journal articles, while the remainder included project reports and published working papers.

The following descriptions are based on the subset of 490 articles and 1520 researchers identified.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The 1520 authors found were based in 34 different countries, as set out in Table 1.

Interestingly, when the countries with the largest number of impact evaluation authors are cross-referenced to the World Bank Country classification by income level, all but South Africa are low income or lower-middle income countries, suggesting that capacity to publish impact evaluations does not necessarily correlate with the income status of a country. In addition, it raises interesting questions about who funds impact evaluations, which is outside the scope of this study.

TABLE 1: Distribution of authors by country, including World Bank country classification by income level⁴

COUNTRY	WORLD BANK COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION BY INCOME LEVEL	NUMBER OF AUTHORS
South Africa	Upper-middle income	307
Kenya	Upper-middle income	210
Uganda	Low income	161
Tanzania	Low income	111
Zambia	Lower-middle income	104
Ghana	Lower-middle income	93
Zimbabwe	Lower-middle income	86
Burkina Faso	Low income	73
Nigeria	Lower-middle income	62
Ethiopia	Low income	50
Malawi	Low income	49
Mali	Low income	25
Senegal	Lower-middle income	22
DRC	Low income	20
Rwanda	Low income	19
Gambia	Low income	16
Côte d'Ivoire	Lower-middle income	13
Cameroon	Lower-middle income	12
Mozambique	Low income	12
Botswana	Upper-middle income	11
Namibia	Upper-middle income	11
Benin	Low income	11
Togo	Low income	8
Madagascar	Low income	7
Sudan	Lower-middle income	5
Guinea-Bissau	Low income	4
Sierra Leone	Low income	4
Niger	Low income	4
Burundi	Low income	3
Lesotho	Lower-middle income	2
Eswatini	Lower-middle income	2
Eritrea	Low income	1
Gabon	Upper-middle income	1
Liberia	Low income	1

⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/country>

Based on data from the 3ie IER, South Africa has the most impact evaluation researchers (n=307), followed by Kenya (n=210), Uganda (n=161), Tanzania (n=111) and Zambia (n=104). Moreover, a breakdown of African regions in Table 2 shows that 75% of the authors are based in Southern Africa (n=591) and East Africa (n=555).

As mentioned earlier in this section, only 210 (13%) of the 1520 African authors with African affiliations identified were first authors. When geographic distribution of capacity is compared to first authors on publications, we found that East Africa (n=89) had more first authors on publications than Southern Africa (n=73), although the latter region had more authors on publications overall.

And while South Africa had the most impact evaluation researchers overall (n=307), it also had the most first authors on publications (n=54). While Uganda had the third most authors overall (n=161), it had the second highest number of first authors (n=31) followed by Tanzania (n=17) and Ghana (n=16).

A number of researchers from West Africa were also first authors on publications (Ghana n=16; Nigeria n=14; Burkina Faso n=6; The Gambia n=4; Côte d'Ivoire n=1; Guinea-Bissau n=1; Mali n=1; Senegal n=1). However, these publications were all in English and it is possible that these numbers might increase for French-only publications.

TABLE 2: Distribution of authors by region

REGION ⁵	NUMBER OF AUTHORS	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
Southern Africa	591	10
East Africa	555	7
West Africa	337	14
Central Africa	37	3
Total	1520	34

ORGANISATIONS

Our search of African authors with African affiliations yielded various African organisations which appear to have the most impact evaluation capacity. Table 3 shows the list of organisations which came up the most in our database search, sorted by the number of author affiliations.

Our findings indicate a large amount of research capacity reside within Schools of Public Health and health science faculties at university institutions. Many of the university research programmes were also linked with international institutions, for example, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Johns Hopkins University.

In particular, Makerere University in Uganda had the greatest number of researchers (n=66) at an institution.

Specifically, the research units which conducted the impact evaluations were: The School of Public Health (n=17), School of Medicine (n=8) and Infectious Diseases Institute (n=5). Similarly, the University of Zimbabwe (n=53) also had various units with research capacity in the College of Health Sciences (n=13), Department of Community Medicine (n=16) and Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (n=4).

Additionally, the results show that four of the top 10 institutions with the most number of researchers were from South Africa. The following units in the University of Witwatersrand's produce impact evaluations: Faculty of Health Sciences (n=19), Department of Science and Technology (n=8) and the School of Public Health (n=7). Moreover, we found that the University of Cape Town's School of Public Health/Family Medicine and the School of Child and Adolescent Health each had seven impact evaluation researchers.

⁵ Counties included in the below regional groupings. *Southern Africa*: South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland. *East Africa*: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea. *West Africa*: Ghana, Gabon, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Gambia, Mali, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Sierra Leone, Niger, Liberia. *Central Africa*: DRC, Sudan, Cameroon.

TABLE 3: Breakdown of key impact evaluation organisations

INSTITUTIONS	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF AUTHORS ⁶
Makerere University	Uganda	66
South African Medical Research Council	South Africa	58
University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	53
University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	52
University of Cape Town	South Africa	46
Kenya Medical Research Institute	Kenya	44
Ifakara Health Institute	Tanzania	30
University of Nairobi	Kenya	29
Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme	Burkina Faso	22
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	South Africa	22
University of Bamako	Mali	20
National Institute for Medical Research	Tanzania	20
University of Malawi	Malawi	18
Centre Muraz	Burkina Faso	16
Muhimili University	Tanzania	16
Uganda Virus Research Institute	Uganda	15
University of Zambia	Zambia	15
University of Ghana	Ghana	13
Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)	South Africa	13
Centre for Infectious Disease Research	Zambia	13
Medical Research Council - LSHTM	Gambia	12
University Teaching Hospital	Zambia	12
Biomedical Research and Training Institute	Zimbabwe	11
Jimma University	Ethiopia	10
Moi University	Kenya	10
Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration	Uganda	10
Manhiça Health Research Center	Mozambique	9
School of Public Health, University of Kinshasa	DRC	8
Bandim Health Project, INDEPTH Network	Guinea-Bissau	8
Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar, Faculté de Médecine	Senegal	8
Unité de Formation et de Recherche Biosciences, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny	Côte d'Ivoire	7
Haramaya University	Ethiopia	6
Programme National de Lutte contre le VIH/Sida	Togo	5

⁶ In interpreting these findings, it is important to take note that the author affiliations listed in the articles may be outdated. It is possible that the authors are not presently at the organisations found in the search.

SECTOR

The health, nutrition and population sector dominated with 377 articles, making up 77% of the total studies identified. The 23% remaining articles are shared amongst 10 other sectors. Agriculture and rural development came second with 49 impact evaluations. The education sector is third highest on publication numbers, recording 37 studies.

Our search of the 3ie IER showed that there is substantial impact evaluation production capacity across the African continent – with a large concentration in the East Africa region (n=555). Interestingly, Southern Africa’s capacity is concentrated within five countries, whilst West Africa’s production capacity is spread across 14 countries. This finding represents a robust research capacity within South Africa (n=307), and the potential to grow researcher capability in West Africa where there is evidence of existing publication capacity.

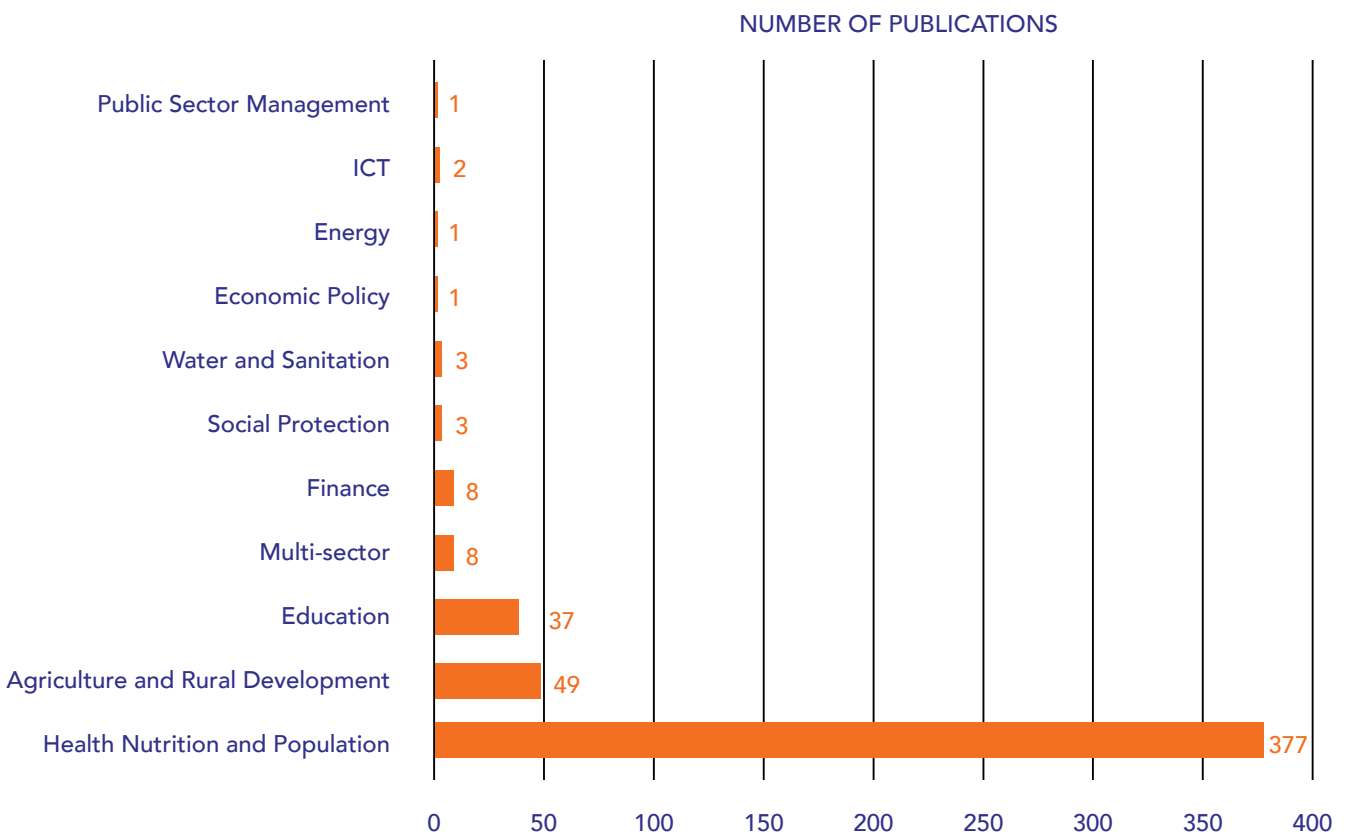
Though South Africa had the overall largest number of impact evaluation researchers in a country, Makerere University in Uganda had the largest number of researchers at a single organisation (n=66), denoting strong institutional capacity. Moreover, Zimbabwe had the sixth largest number

of researchers country-wide, but the University of Zimbabwe had the third largest number of researchers: this finding indicates another pocket of capacity. Generally, we found that research infrastructure resides in universities and particularly, in faculties of health and schools of public health.

Furthermore, over 75% of all impact evaluations found were in the health, nutrition and population sector. This finding demonstrates a disproportionate amount of inquiry in this field. As evident from Figure 1 many sectors are underdeveloped in generating impact evaluations, as a number of sectors had three or fewer publications.

We conducted a supplementary academic search from 2016 onwards (see methods below) to supplement the findings from the 3ie IER. This search confirmed an upward trend in African authors with African affiliation being authors on impact evaluation publications. The 3ie search yielded 490 publications with 1520 unique authors between 1990 and 2015, with a steady increase per year from 2011 onwards leading to n=69 in 2014 and n=72 in 2015. Our supplementary search confirmed that this steady increase continued after 2015.

FIGURE 1: Distribution of publications by sector





How did we reach our conclusions?

As part of this scoping study to map out impact evaluation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa we conducted an author search with the intention of identifying African authors affiliated to African institutions and who have been authors on impact evaluations. We conducted an author search in the 3ie impact evaluation database, supplemented by a systematic academic search. The 3ie impact evaluation database contained impact evaluations published between 1990 and 2015; the academic search was therefore designed to search from 2016 to 2018. The academic search strategy was reviewed by our funder and select members of the project advisory group and is available on request. The intention of both searches was to identify African authors who are affiliated to African institutions and who have been authors on impact evaluation publications on topics relevant to the continent. Although such an analysis does not speak directly to the depth and quality of the capacity of researchers in Africa to conduct impact evaluations, it does indicate hubs or pockets of activity as well as the geographic spread of capacity.

AUTHOR SEARCH IN THE 3IE IMPACT EVALUATION DATABASE

Search criteria

The 3ie IER has a filter for 'impact evaluations'. In addition, the filter for publications from sub-Saharan Africa (includes East and West Africa) was used. In light of the number of articles found, we excluded articles if there were no African authors with African affiliations.

Data extraction

We extracted the following data from each study into an Excel spreadsheet: author; contact details (email); institution; country; the title of the article; publication date; resource type and sector. Through insights from our key informant interviews, we decided to extract information regarding author placement post-hoc (i.e., was the researcher first author or non-first author). Many authors' institutions and contact details were not present in the article publication, requiring extensive desktop searching to identify institution affiliations.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACADEMIC SEARCH

Due to the 2015 cut-off date in the 3ie IER, a supplementary search in academic databases was conducted for impact evaluations published between 2016 and 2018, specifically in three databases in EBSCO Host: Africa-Wide Information, Academic Search Complete, and Econlit. Approximately 3000 search results were screened at title and abstract level. Similar information was extracted on author name, email address (where available), institutional affiliation, date of publication, title of article and source, and sector.

In order to provide a resource to those interested in the impact evaluation field, a full list of countries and institutional affiliations that the authors were from for the 3ie search is provided in Annexure II (see ACE website).

3. Beyond analysing publications: Who else might have capacity to conduct impact evaluations?

What did we find?

In addition to those who have published impact evaluations, we sought to explore through different stages of the research process who else might have capacity to conduct impact evaluations.

ORGANISATIONS WITH IMPACT EVALUATION CAPACITY

The previous section of the report outlined which organisations, based on a search of African authors with African affiliations, have published the most impact evaluations. This is summarised in the geographic map on the following page. All of these organisations have authored at least five or more publications.

In the survey we conducted, respondents were asked to name local African organisations that they think have capacity to conduct impact evaluations. A large number of organisations were identified, and although there was some overlap and triangulation with other stages in the project it has not been possible to verify all responses. Table 4 summarises responses by country; only organisations that were mentioned by at least two respondents have been included. Organisations marked by an * also appear in the map in Figure 2 as one of the organisations with the most impact evaluation capacity, based on publication records. The lack of overlap between the lists might indicate the existence of organisations that may have capacity to conduct impact evaluations, but for which there is limited or no evidence of publications.

In addition, a total of 77.3% of respondents to the survey reported having themselves been involved in conducting impact evaluations. Of these respondents, 11% have citizenship in an African country, work in that country or more, and have reportedly been involved in more than ten impact evaluations. These institutional affiliations are included in Table 5.

The survey results suggest that select government departments also have experience in conducting impact evaluations. Of the survey respondents, 24% were from government departments and respondents from different country governments related that they have experience in impact evaluations. Country governments include: Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Various international organisations work with African impact evaluation practitioners based in Africa. This includes organisations such as 3ie, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), IPE, J-PAL, RTI International, Oxford Policy Management (OPM), ITAD, FHI 360, Population Services International, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), USAID, DFID, Centre for Effective Action (Berkeley), One Acre Fund, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Bank group, various American and European Universities, Clinton Health Access Initiative, IDinsight, CGIAR Centres and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

How did we reach our conclusions?

The previous section of the report provided a discussion of who has published impact evaluations based on systematic searching for publications. Authorship on impact evaluations can, to some extent, serve as proxy for capacity to conduct impact evaluations, although it does not speak to the role that the person plays in the study and therefore the depth or level of capacity that the individual or institution has. However, when all authors on a paper are African, this could indicate nascent capacity, while repeated publications under a single institutional affiliation by multiple authors could signal more widespread capacity within an organisation.

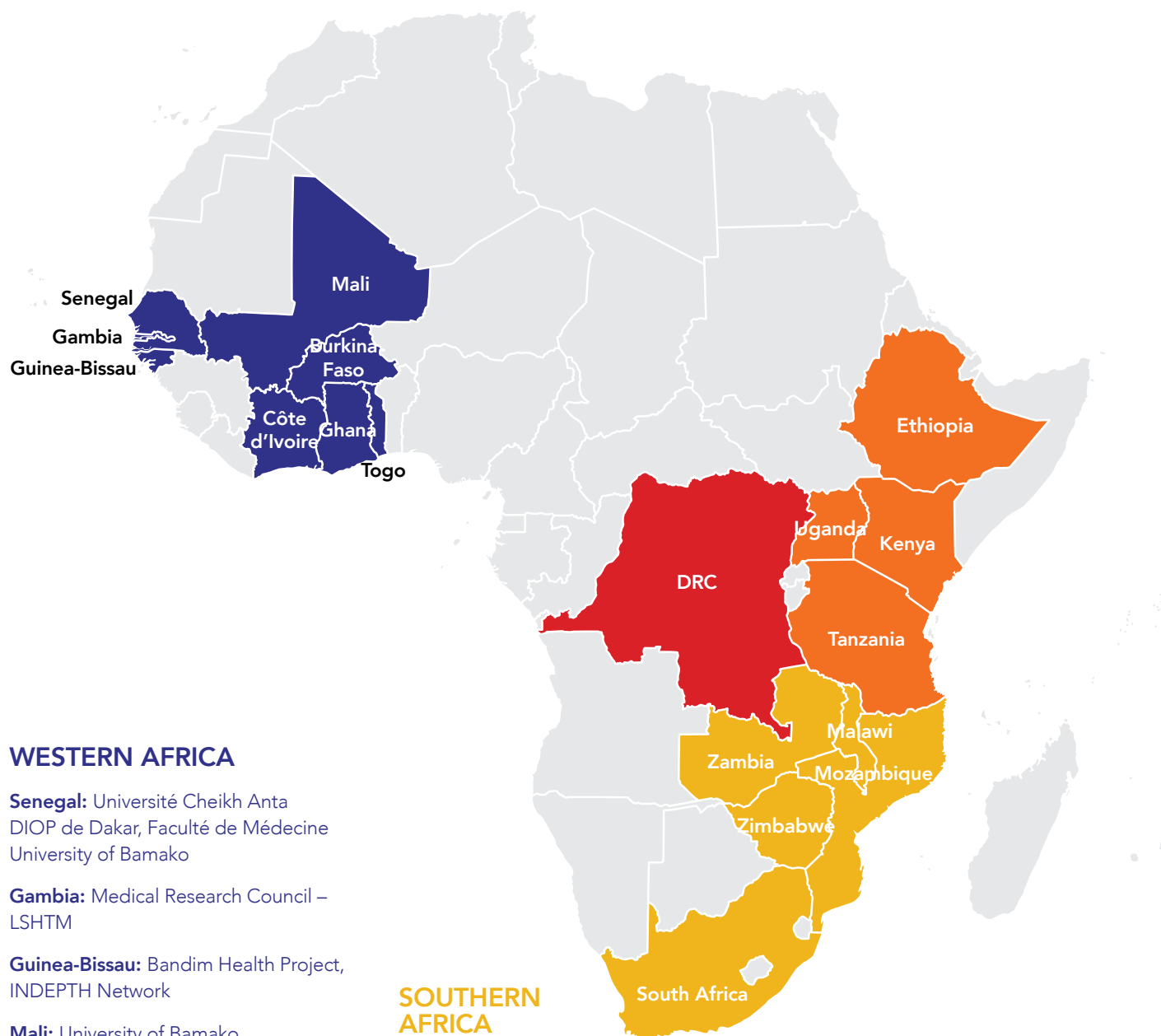
This section of the report on who else, in addition to those who have published, has capacity draws on additional data sources to unpack where impact evaluation capacity in Africa might sit.

It draws on:

1. The key informant discussions
2. Analysis of a question in the survey where all respondents were asked to list other organisations in Africa that they regard as having impact evaluation capacity
3. The institutional affiliation of respondents who completed the online survey and indicated that they have experience in conducting impact evaluations
4. In-depth interviews following the survey

Furthermore, during the various interview stages of the project, interviewees were also asked who they thought had capacity: this list strongly overlaps with organisations identified in other stages of the research process.

FIGURE 2: Organisations, based on a search for African authors with African affiliations, with the most impact evaluation capacity (based on publication records)



WESTERN AFRICA

Senegal: Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar, Faculté de Médecine
University of Bamako

Gambia: Medical Research Council – LSHTM

Guinea-Bissau: Bandim Health Project, INDEPTH Network

Mali: University of Bamako

Burkina Faso: Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme, Centre Muraz

Côte d'Ivoire: Unité de Formation et de Recherche Biosciences, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny

Ghana: University of Ghana

Togo: Programme National de Lutte contre

CENTRAL AFRICA

DRC: School of Public Health, University of Kinshasa

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Malawi: University of Malawi

Zambia: University of Zambia, Centre for Infectious Disease Research, University Teaching Hospital

Mozambique: Manhica Health Research Center

Zimbabwe: University of Zimbabwe, Biomedical Research and Training Institute

South Africa: South African Medical Research Council, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Cape Town, Human Sciences Research Council, CAPRISA

EASTERN AFRICA

Ethiopia: Jimma University, Haramaya University

Uganda: Various centres and departments at Makerere University, Uganda Virus Research Institute, Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration

Kenya: Kenya Medical Research Institute, University of Nairobi, Moi University

Tanzania: Ifakara Health Institute, National Institute for Medical Research, Muhimili University

TABLE 4: Organisations in Africa identified by survey respondents as having impact evaluation capacity

REGION	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
Eastern Africa	Ethiopia	Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)
	Kenya	Genesis Analytics, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA), Tegemeo Institute, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Royal Nexus Group
	Tanzania	Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)*, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
	Uganda	Various centres and departments at Makerere University*, Uganda Management Institute (UMI), Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)
Western Africa	Benin	African School of Economics (IREEP)
	Côte d'Ivoire	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA), Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du Cires (CAPEC), African Development Bank
	Ghana	Various departments and centres at the University of Ghana, including Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)*, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)
	Nigeria	Various departments at the University of Nigeria, Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER), AFRIDEV Initiative for Evidence-based development and empowerment
	Senegal	Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG), Centre de Recherche Economique et Social (CRES), African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP), CLEAR-FA
	Cameroon	Centre de Recherches en Economie et Gestion (CEREG), Université de Yaounde II
Southern Africa	Malawi	Various departments at the University of Malawi*
	South Africa	Genesis Analytics, Benita Williams and Associates, Khulisa, JET Education Services, Southern Hemisphere, Otherwise Research and Evaluation, Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), HEARD

Organisations marked by an * also appear in the map above as one of the organisations with the most impact evaluation capacity, based on publication records.

TABLE 5: Institutional affiliations of survey respondents who have conducted 10 or more impact evaluations

COUNTRY OF WORK	ORGANISATIONAL AFFILIATION
Benin	Centre d'Expertise en Evaluation du Développement (CEED)
Burundi	English for All Center (EAC)
DRC	Centre de connaissance en santé
Kenya	Root Capital, Innovations for Poverty Action
Malawi	University of Malawi - Chancellor College
Cameroon	Cameroon Consumer Service Organization (CamCoSO)
Nigeria	Cross River State Bureau of Statistics, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife
Senegal	CRES, Centre panafricain de recherche pour le développement économique et social (CARDES)
South Africa	World Vision International, University of Johannesburg, Praekelt.Org
Tanzania	Tanzania National Parks, State University of Zanzibar
Uganda	Office of the President-Cabinet Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister

4. Who provides training on impact evaluations?

What did we find?

Findings from the survey showed that:

- A total of 67.6% (n=238) of survey respondents indicated that they have received impact evaluation training in the last 10 years. The majority of this training was short, attendance courses⁷ (57.3%).
- Almost 40% of respondents to the survey indicated that they received impact evaluation training at universities outside Africa. The majority of respondents received training at European universities in the Netherlands, Germany, France, and others. Some respondents indicated that they had received impact evaluation training in the United States of America and Canada.
- Only 33% (n=109) of survey respondents reported that their organisations have provided impact evaluation training during the past ten years. The majority of this was in the form of short courses. Only 18.6% (n=62) of respondents were aware of additional support provided to practitioners of impact evaluations. These support mechanisms are limited to mentorship programmes (mostly provided by PEP, 3ie and CEGA), some financial support for conferences and workshops (such as that provided by 3ie), and network support (e.g., the Africa Evidence Network).

Findings from the desk review were very similar for different regions in Africa (East, West and Southern Africa):

- Most accredited courses (linked to a formal diploma or degree programme) focussed on M&E in general, and not impact evaluation or impact evaluation methodology specifically. Most courses were found to have at least one module on impact evaluation. In East and West Africa there is anecdotal evidence of masters programmes on impact evaluation that are being developed at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania and the University of Gaston Berger Saint Louis in Senegal. These statements were investigated further, but the university websites are not clear on whether this programme is available yet. The M&E courses are mostly based in departments of public administration, development studies, agriculture, and health.

- Workshops and non-accredited short courses are presented by academic institutions, international organisations, and various NGOs. Courses ranged from two to 10 days and are conducted at national or regional levels. A large number of short courses and workshops focus specifically on the value and use of impact evaluation as well as on training in impact evaluation methodology. Few of these training opportunities are externally funded, although the few funders of these short courses include the Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Most conferences that feature some type of impact evaluation training component either focus on M&E more broadly, or link impact analysis to evidence use.
- The desk review identified several training and capacity building opportunities in West Africa that are only available in French. This includes the CLEAR/CESAG courses such as Le séminaire en Evaluation d'Impact en Afrique francophone.

Overall, some form of impact evaluation training was present in two-thirds of African countries, indicating more training opportunities than anticipated. The majority of impact evaluation training is presented by departments, centres or institutions based at universities. This is the case for East, West and Southern Africa. Other main providers of impact evaluation training include AERC, the East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST), the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), ESRF, and CLEAR and CESAG.

When reflecting on impact evaluation training offered, interviewees were of the view that the level at which training is pitched is often a challenge. People are keen to learn but have varied degrees of knowledge, which makes it difficult to determine the level at which training opportunities should be offered. Training opportunities should therefore be well-targeted, differentiated, and efforts should be made to enable people to attend as training is often in a capital city which makes transport and accommodation prohibiting factors.

⁷ Used to describe courses that are not followed by an assessment, but where participants receive a certificate of attendance.

TABLE 6: International organisations outside Africa providing training in African countries

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY IN WHICH TRAINING HAS TAKEN PLACE	SHORT COURSE	ACCREDITED COURSE
<i>Centre for Effective Global Action (Berkeley), University of California*</i>	Tanzania		X
	Benin		X
	Cameroon		X
	Liberia		X
	South Africa		X
	Uganda		X
	Kenya		X
	Burkina Faso	X	
Department of International Development (DFID)	Ethiopia	X	
	Côte d'Ivoire	X	
	<i>Burkina Faso</i>	X	
Evidence in Governance and Policy (EGAP)	Benin	X	
	Ghana	X	
	Malawi	X	
<i>Food and Agriculture Organization</i>	Cameroon	X	
	Nigeria	X	
Institute for Poverty Action (IPA)	Malawi	X	
	Uganda	X	
	Burkina Faso	X	
	Zambia	X	
<i>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</i>	Nigeria	X	
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Ghana	X	
<i>International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT)</i>	Kenya	X	
IZA - Institute of Labor Economics	Ethiopia	X	
	Côte d'Ivoire	X	
	Zambia	X	
J-PAL Africa	Ghana	X	
	Malawi	X	
	South Africa	X	
	Uganda	X	
	Kenya	X	
	Rwanda	X	
	Zambia	X	

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY IN WHICH TRAINING HAS TAKEN PLACE	SHORT COURSE	ACCREDITED COURSE
International Institute for Impact Evaluation (3ie)	Offers bursaries for individuals to attend specialised training, and is involved with various partners in Africa to strengthen the supply and demand for evaluations.	X	
	Benin	X	
	Burkina Faso	X	
	Côte d'Ivoire	X	
	Senegal	X	
Measure Evaluation (in association with GEM-Net health)	Ethiopia	X	
	Ghana	X	
	South Africa	X	
	<i>Cameroon</i>	X	
	<i>Congo</i>	X	
Michigan State University	Zambia	X	
Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) in conjunction with the University of Laval	On-line	X	X
<i>Université des nation Unies à Merit</i>	Ethiopia	X	
	Burkina Faso	X	
	Niger	X	
	Senegal	X	
	Uganda	X	
UNESCO	Benin	X	
UNICEF	Nigeria	X	
USAID	Kenya	X	
World Bank	Kenya	X	
	Tanzania	X	
	Rwanda	X	
	Nigeria	X	
	Angola	X	
	Côte d'Ivoire	X	
	Senegal	X	
	Benin	X	
World Vision	Kenya	X	
	South Africa	X	

* Organisations/countries in italics were mentioned in the survey, but the researchers could not confirm if the organisation is providing impact evaluation training/in which country it has done so.



A total of 13% of survey respondents expressed the need for training opportunities, capacity building, and mentorship opportunities to increase their impact evaluation capacity.

A large number of international organisations provide impact evaluation training in African countries. Table 6 summarises the organisations, the countries in which they provide training, and the type of training offered. This table does not include external training institutions that host African scholars in their own countries.

Annexure III (see ACE website) provides a list by region of organisations that provide impact evaluation training in Africa with an indication of whether these are accredited programmes or short courses.

How did we reach our conclusions?

This section drew on three sources: the results of the desk review on impact evaluation training, the results from the online survey, and viewpoints from those interviewed during the course of the project.

The survey was developed through discussion and agreement between ACE and the Hewlett Foundation, inputs from key ACE staff, as well as inputs from some members of the project Advisory Committee. The survey was distributed to various mailing lists outlined in the study design section of this report.

The desk review methodology included an analysis of all existing accredited and non-accredited evaluation programmes and courses offered in West, East, Central and Southern Africa. This included search criteria limited to impact evaluations, but all evaluation-related training that has impact evaluations as a component. As a result, it includes general M&E courses with a specific module/component that focuses on impact evaluation, including training and other capacity-building opportunities available from January 2014. The search excluded general M&E capacity-building opportunities that do not include impact evaluation or impact evaluation methodology.

5. Overall lessons and key learnings

How we have integrated our findings to understand capacity across sub-regions

The following tables provide an overview combining across three columns all of the data that have been sourced. To the left, the first column indicates whether any institutions in a particular country were described as having impact evaluation capacity, while the second column indicates whether institutions in a particular country was listed as author affiliations in published impact evaluations. The third column indicates whether an institution in that country has been found to have provided impact evaluation training in the past. A narrative discussion of these findings per region follows below.

CAPACITY IN EASTERN AFRICA

Most evidence of capacity:

- The most capacity in the Eastern African region appears in four countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya. Institutions from these four countries featured prominently in the findings from the author search as discussed in the previous section. These four countries also have the most confirmed impact evaluation training opportunities in Eastern Africa.
- For **Ethiopia**, four institutions appear to have the most evidence of impact evaluation production capacity: Jimma University, Haramaya University, Mekelle University, and the Addis Continental Institute of Public Health (ACIPH). In addition, there are examples where all authors on publications from these institutions are local to these areas, potentially indicating nascent local capacity. The Ethiopian Evaluation Association (EEA), the Ethiopian Economics Association, the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EEPRI), and EDRI were also mentioned as organisations that have capacity to conduct impact evaluations, although they did not feature prominently in the author searches. These institutions are think tanks that have been funded under the IDRC TTI initiative. From our investigation into impact evaluation training we were able to find that participants from Ethiopia had attended an accredited course by the AERC, while local institutions that have provided short courses on impact evaluation included the ACIPH and the EEA.

- For **Kenya**, five institutions appear to have the most impact evaluation publications: Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), University of Nairobi, Moi University, APHRC, and Kenyatta University. Other institutions that were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations but that did not feature prominently in the author searches included the AERC and the Kenya Institute of Public Research (KIPPRA). Accredited training courses with an impact evaluation component have been presented by KEMRI, the AERC, and the University of Nairobi, illustrating some overlap with those who have published the most impact evaluations.
- In **Tanzania**, three institutions appear to have the most capacity in terms of having published impact evaluations: IHI, National Institute for Medical Research, and Muhimili University. IHI was also mentioned by survey respondents as being amongst the top institutions in Tanzania who have capacity to conduct impact evaluations. Other institutions included ESRF, the State University of Zanzibar, and ESRF/EASST. The ESRF has also provided a short course on impact evaluation, but accredited courses have been provided by the University of Dar es Salam, and the Open University of Tanzania.
- Makerere University in **Uganda** topped the overall publication search for institutions through which authors have published impact evaluations. Other institutions in Uganda through which impact evaluations have been published include the Uganda Virus Research Institute and the Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration. Various centres and departments at Makerere University were also top of mind when respondents commented on what organisations in Uganda have capacity to conduct impact evaluations. In addition, the UMI, the EPRC, the Office of the President-Cabinet Secretariat, and the Office of the Prime Minister were also highlighted. Accredited training by the UMI and AERC have also been found in Uganda, while short courses have been provided by EASST, PASGR, and the Uganda Technology and Management University. From our interviews we can report advanced plans by Makerere University of introducing a masters programme in M&E with an impact evaluation component; the first intake for this course is said to be 2019.

Limited evidence of capacity:

- We found evidence that PASGR has provided training in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania), but our research has not yielded any findings about institutions publishing or actively involved in conducting impact evaluations in **South Sudan**.

- **Eritrea** was not mentioned during interviews or in the survey as a country with impact evaluation capacity. However, that country’s National Malaria Control Program (as part of the Ministry of Health) has been involved in the publishing of an impact evaluation with universities from the United Kingdom, Spain, and the United States of America. In addition, we found evidence that individual(s) from that country have been trained by the Forum for Social Studies, a non-government, non-profit policy think tank/NGO based in Ethiopia.
- Institutions from **Somalia** did not come up in the author searches as having published impact evaluations nor as having institutions that provide impact evaluation training, but their Directorate of National Statistics has been involved in at least one impact evaluation.
- In **Burundi** three institutions were mentioned as having staff with capacity to conduct impact evaluations: EAC, African Youth Initiatives (AYEI), and Université du Burundi. Two additional institutions – HealthNet TPO Burundi and Direction de la Recherche, Institut National de Santé Publique – were institutions listed as author affiliations on published impact evaluations. No indications were found of local institutions providing training there.
- In **Rwanda**, three organisations were mentioned as having staff with capacity to conduct impact evaluations: Education Development Trust, Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB), and the University of Rwanda. However, many different Rwandan affiliations were found in the author searches on impact evaluations perhaps indicating more widespread involvement in impact evaluations than initially considered, particularly at various departments at the National University of Rwanda (e.g., School of Public Health, Economics and Management Department, Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology). We also found that individuals from this country have attended training by the African Population & Health Research Centre, EASST, and the Economic Policy Research Network (ERP).
No evidence of capacity:
- From our data we did not find any indication of impact evaluation capacity in the **Comoros**.

TABLE 7: Summary of impact evaluation capacity in Eastern Africa

	Country has institutions mentioned by at least two survey respondents or interviewee as having the capacity to conduct impact evaluations	Country has institutional affiliation that appears in impact evaluation publications	Country has institutions that have provided impact evaluation training
EASTERN AFRICA			
Burundi	X	X	
Comoros			
Ethiopia	X	X	X
Eritrea		X	
Kenya	X	X	X
Rwanda	X	X	X
Somalia	X		
South Sudan			X
Tanzania	X	X	X
Uganda	X	X	X

CAPACITY IN WESTERN AFRICA

Most evidence of capacity:

- Evidence on countries with most impact evaluation capacity in Western Africa related to five countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Senegal.
- Institutional affiliations for authors from **Benin** that have published impact evaluations include the Africa Rice Center, the Ministry of Health, and the Faculté des Sciences de la Santé (FSS) at the Université d'Aboméy Calavi. Organisations that were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations included the African School of Economics (IREEP) and CEED. We also found evidence of short courses on impact evaluation being presented to participants from Benin by the African School of Economics, Africa Rice Centre, EASST, and PASGR.
- In **Burkina Faso** both the Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme and the Centre Muraz featured prominently in the author search. We also found evidence that CLEAR and CESAG have presented a short course on impact evaluation that individuals from Burkina Faso participated in. CARDES was mentioned as an additional organisation that has capacity to conduct impact evaluations.
- In **Côte d'Ivoire** the Unité de Formation et de Recherche Biosciences, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny came up most prominently as institutional affiliation in that country for published impact evaluations. The following organisations were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations: Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA), Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du Cires (CAPEC), and African Development Bank. In addition, we found evidence that CLEAR and CESAG, and the Africa Rice Centre have provided short courses that individuals from Côte d'Ivoire had taken part in.
- Institutions in **Nigeria** that were mentioned as having impact evaluation capacity included various departments at the University of Nigeria, Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER), Cross River State Bureau of Statistics, and the Obafemi Awolowo University. We found evidence that the African Management Services Company and PASGR have both presented short courses on impact evaluation. Although no single institution stood out in terms of author affiliations, various universities were mentioned and 62 unique authors from Nigeria were listed as authors on impact evaluation publications.
- The Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar's Faculté de Médecine came up as the most prominent institutional affiliation in **Senegal** for published impact evaluations. The following organisations were highlighted as having the potential to conduct impact evaluations:

CESAG, CRES, AGRODEP, and CLEAR-FA. In terms of training, CLEAR and CESAG were found to have presented a short course on impact evaluations that individuals from Senegal participated in.

Limited evidence of capacity:

- We did not find examples of impact evaluation training in **Gabon**, nor was that country mentioned by others as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations. However, the Ngounie Medical Research Centre was listed as an author affiliation on an impact evaluation on the treatment of malaria in pregnancy.
- Similarly, **Guinea** was not mentioned as a country with impact evaluation capacity, but their Center of Excellence for Training, Research on Malaria & Priority Diseases was listed as an author affiliation on an Ebola study. We have also found evidence that the Africa Rice Centre provided a short course on impact evaluation for participants in that country.
- We could not find evidence of impact evaluation training having been provided in **Guinea-Bissau**, and the country was not mentioned by others as one with impact evaluation capacity. However, the Bandim Health Project (Projecto de Saúde), as part of the INDEPTH Network, was listed as an author affiliation on three different published impact evaluations.
- **Mali** was mentioned as a country with impact evaluation capacity, particularly the World Vegetable Center. The University of Bamako also featured as an institutional affiliation on impact evaluations. However, we did not find evidence that impact evaluation training had been provided in that country.
- Similarly, **Niger** was mentioned as a country with some impact evaluation capacity, especially the National Institute of Statistics, the Cellule d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et d'Évaluation de l'Action Gouvernementale (CAPEG), and the Office of Prime Minister. Institutions in that country were also listed as affiliations on published impact evaluations; for instance the Epicentre, the Regional Department of Ministry of Public Health, Helen Keller International, Représentation au Niger, World Food Programme, The Carter Center Niger, and the Programme FSS/Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, Programme National de Santé Oculaire, Niamey, Niger.
- In **Liberia**, both the Ministry of Gender and Development, and the Ministry of Health have been listed as an author affiliation on one published impact evaluation each. We also found evidence that PASGR has presented a short course on impact evaluation that participants from Liberia participated in. BRAC in Liberia was mentioned as an organisation with some capacity to conduct impact evaluations.

- In **Togo**, The Programme National de Lutte contre le VIH/Sida was mentioned as author affiliation for published impact evaluations. In addition, we found evidence that the Africa Rice Centre and PASGR have provided short courses on impact evaluation in which participants from Togo participated, while the University of Lome was mentioned as having some impact evaluation capacity.
- In **Gambia**, the Medical Research Council had a strong presence in having published impact evaluations. We also found evidence that the Africa Rice Centre had presented a short course on impact evaluations that participants from Gambia participated in. The University of the Gambia was also mentioned as an organisation with some impact evaluation capacity.
- Institutional affiliations from **Sierra Leone** did not feature prominently in the results of the author search. However, institutions for which results were found included CARITAS Freetown, Medical Research Council Laboratory, Partners in Health, and Njala University. We found evidence that PASGR had presented a short course on impact evaluation that individuals from Sierra Leone participated in.

No evidence of capacity:

- In Western Africa, our team found no indication of activities around impact evaluation in **Cabo Verde, Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe**.

TABLE 8: Summary of impact evaluation capacity in Western Africa

	Country has institutions mentioned by at least two survey respondents or interviewee as having the capacity to conduct impact evaluations	Country has institutional affiliation that appears in impact evaluation publications	Country has institutions that have provided impact evaluation training
WESTERN AFRICA			
Benin	X	X	X
Burkina Faso	X	X	X
Cabo Verde			
Côte d'Ivoire	X	X	X
Gabon		X	
Gambia	X	X	X
Ghana	X	X	X
Guinea		X	X
Guinea-Bissau		X	
Liberia	X	X	X
Mali	X	X	
Mauritania			
Equatorial Guinea			
Sao Tome and Principe			
Niger	X	X	
Nigeria	X	X	X
Senegal	X	X	X
Sierra Leone		X	X
Togo	X	X	X

CAPACITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Most evidence of capacity:

- The strongest impact evaluation capacity in Central Africa was found in **Cameroon**. We found evidence that individuals from Cameroon had participated in accredited impact evaluation training presented by AERC. In addition, PASGR had presented a short course that individuals from Cameroon participated in. Although Cameroon did not feature prominently in the author search, a number of local institutional affiliations were noted across five different impact evaluations: University of Yaoundé I, University of Dschang, Yaoundé Central Hospital, and University Center Hospital. Other institutions in Cameroon that were mentioned as having impact evaluation capacity included CEREG at Université de Yaounde II, and CamCoSO.

Limited evidence of capacity:

- We were not able to find any impact evaluation training that had taken place in the **Congo**, nor were institutions in that country mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations. However, three institutions in that country appeared as author affiliations on published impact evaluations: Ministry of Health and Population, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Central African regional office of the World Health Organization.
- The Centre de connaissance en santé in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** was mentioned as an organisation in the DRC with capacity to conduct impact evaluations. We had found evidence that individuals from the DRC attended a short course presented by PASGR.

Although institutional affiliations from these countries were not prominent in the author search, the following local affiliations were listed on published impact evaluations: the School of Public Health at the University of Kinshasa was listed most often, while other affiliations included the Centre National de Planification de Nutrition Humaine, Ecole de Santé publique de Kinshasa, Communauté Presbytérienne de Kinshasa, Zone de Santé de Bibanga, and the International Rescue Committee.

- In **Sudan** we found evidence that PASGR had presented a short course attended by individuals from this country. Although not strongly represented in the author search, institutions from Sudan were listed as author affiliations; for example, the University of Khartoum, Alimam Almahdi University, University of Science and Technology, Gezira University, and the Federal Ministry of Health. The Agricultural Research Corporation was also mentioned as an organisation that might have some capacity to conduct impact evaluations.

No evidence of capacity:

- We were not able to find any author affiliations on published impact evaluations linked to institutions in the **Central African Republic**, nor were any institutions in that country mentioned as having impact evaluation capacity. We were also unable to confirm if any training related to impact evaluations has taken place in the country.
- Similarly, we were not able to find any impact evaluation training that had taken place in **Chad**, nor were institutions in that country mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations.

TABLE 9: Summary of impact evaluation capacity in Central Africa

	Country has institutions mentioned by at least two survey respondents or interviewee as having the capacity to conduct impact evaluations	Country has institutional affiliation that appears in impact evaluation publications	Country has institutions that have provided impact evaluation training
CENTRAL AFRICA			
Central African Republic			
Chad		X	
Congo		X	
DRC	X	X	X
Sudan	X	X	X
Cameroon	X	X	X

CAPACITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Most evidence of capacity:

- In Southern Africa, South Africa showed the strongest capacity to conduct impact evaluations.
- Various organisations in **South Africa** were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations; named organisations were: Genesis Analytics, Benita Williams and Associates, Khulisa, JET Education Services, Southern Hemisphere, Otherwise Research and Evaluation, CLEAR-AA, HEARD, Praekelt.Org, University of Johannesburg, University of Stellenbosch (AERC network), the African Microeconomic Research Unit (AMERU) at the University of the Witwatersrand, HSRC (Research Use and Impact Assessment unit), University of Cape Town's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). In terms of author affiliations on published impact evaluations, various organisations stood out as having had a substantial number of authors; these included: the South African Medical Research Council, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Cape Town, Humans Sciences Research Council, and CAPRISA. In addition, we have found evidence of accredited training provided by the Wits School of Governance, University of Cape Town, and University of Stellenbosch, while short courses have been presented by the Gordon Institute of Business Science, CLEAR-AA, CESAR-Africa, IQ Business, Africa Management Services Company, and PASGR.
- In **Malawi**, various departments at the University of Malawi were highlighted as having impact evaluation capacity, confirmed when the University of Malawi featured fairly prominently in the author search. We found evidence that individuals from Malawi had participated in an accredited course presented by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) as well as a short course by the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR).

Limited evidence of capacity:

- We found evidence that individuals from **Botswana** had participated in an accredited course presented by AERC as well as a short course by the PASGR. Although Botswana was not prominent in the author search results, some local institutional affiliations were listed in published impact evaluations: Botswana-Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership, University of Botswana, Ministry of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Botswana, and the Education Development Center. There were no other institutions in Botswana that were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations.

- No organisations in **Lesotho** were listed as having impact evaluation capacity. We found evidence of individuals from Lesotho having participated in a short course presented by PASGR. Only two institutional affiliations from Lesotho were listed on published impact evaluations: the National Tuberculosis Control Programme based at the Lesotho Ministry of Health and SolidarMed Lesotho at Seboche Hospital.
- We found evidence that individuals from **Madagascar** had participated in a short course presented by PASGR. The Ministry of Halieutic Resources and Fisheries was mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations. Local author affiliations mentioned on published impact evaluations included: Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Mahajanga, Institut Pasteur de Madagascar, Expanded Programme on Immunization, the Ministry of Health, and Family Health International.
- We could find no published impact evaluations with institutional affiliations from **Mauritius**, nor were any institutions mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations. We did find evidence that individuals from Mauritius have participated in an accredited course by AERC.
- Although no organisations from **Mozambique** were mentioned as having impact evaluation capacity, and even though we found no evidence of training having been conducted there, we did find institutional affiliations from Mozambican organisations listed on published impact evaluations. These organisations include: the Catholic University of Mozambique, Manhiça Health Research Center, UNICEF Mozambique, University of Eduardo Mondlane, Absolute Return for Kids (ARK), Health Alliance International, Ministry of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ThinkWell.
- We found evidence that individuals from **Namibia** had participated in an accredited course presented by AERC, as well as a short course by PASGR. No other organisations in Namibia were mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations. The following local affiliations were listed by local authors on published impact evaluations: Development Bank of Namibia, Ministry of Basic Education, UNICEF Windhoek, Rossing Foundation, University of Namibia, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH).

- PSI **Swaziland** and the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office were mentioned as organisations with some impact evaluation capacity. We found evidence that individuals from Swaziland had participated in a short course presented by PASGR. We found only one organisation listed as an institutional affiliation on published impact evaluations – the Good Shepard Hospital.
 - Organisations from **Zambia** mentioned as having capacity to conduct impact evaluations include the EPRC, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and IDInsight. We found evidence of an accredited course having been presented by the Texila American University, and short courses by the University of Zambia and PASGR. Various organisations were listed as local affiliations in the author search, but three stood out: the University of Zambia, the Centre for Infectious Disease Research, and the University Teaching Hospital.
 - In **Zimbabwe**, the local office of World Vision International was mentioned as having impact evaluation capacity. The University of Zimbabwe came out strongly in the author search overall, even when compared with institutions in other countries. The Biomedical Research and Training Institute was also fairly prominent. We found evidence that individuals from Zimbabwe had participated in an accredited course presented by AERC, as well as a short course by PASGR.
- No evidence of capacity:**
- We could find no evidence of impact evaluation capacity, publications, or training in **Angola** and the **Seychelles**.

TABLE 10: Summary of impact evaluation capacity in Southern Africa

	Country has institutions mentioned by at least two survey respondents or interviewee as having the capacity to conduct impact evaluations	Country has institutional affiliation that appears in impact evaluation publications	Country has institutions that have provided impact evaluation training
SOUTHERN AFRICA			
Angola			
Botswana		X	X
Lesotho		X	X
Madagascar	X	X	X
Malawi	X	X	X
Mauritius			X
Mozambique		X	
Namibia		X	X
Seychelles			
South Africa	X	X	X
Swaziland	X	X	X
Zambia	X	X	X
Zimbabwe	X	X	X

High-level learning about gaps and barriers in developing impact evaluation capacity

Our discussions with various impact evaluation practitioners and experts over the course of the project yielded some insights into challenges around the development of impact evaluation capacity.

FUNDING

- It is more difficult to build capacity when young researchers are contracted to do data collection work for the prime holders of a grant. This does provide employment opportunities and some exposure, but has limited value for professional development as they might not be listed as co-authors on academic publications. This in turn makes it difficult for them to illustrate that they are active researchers using impact evaluation methods. It would therefore benefit the field to look at more equitable research collaboration which could more actively build the skills of young researchers.
- Impact evaluation researchers in the most promising institutions spend much of their time chasing contracts and opportunities from “development partners” and are therefore unable to sufficiently maintain their own research or evaluation agendas.
- One of the challenges that Francophone country researchers face in developing impact evaluation production capacity is a limitation around funders who are willing and able to review proposals in French. Impact evaluation practitioners in those countries do not always have the English language competency to write proposals that compete with Anglophone counterparts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- As is the case with broader research capacity development, impact evaluation capacity of junior researchers is more sustainably built if researchers are within an institution that conducts impact evaluations, and located within an institution as opposed to working freelance.
- A good strategy to build capacity is for department leaders or research directors to have conversations about how they approach developing impact evaluation capacity from an organisational point of view and how

people go through the promotion system. This might be more difficult in smaller and flatter organisations where young researchers come to gain experience but then move to larger organisations for higher salaries or further experience.

RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKING

- Relationships are crucial in building capacity, being willing to invest time and effort, ongoing peer support and mentoring.
- Being able to be part of and tap into a broader network is also important. Researchers are not very well networked and therefore often miss out on (learning) opportunities that they don't know about.


Concluding reflections

The scoping study has provided a detailed account, based on various data sources, of the regions and institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa where there is evidence of impact evaluation capacity. Capacity to conduct impact evaluations and produce/publish them appears to be more widespread than initially thought. The study found evidence of collaboration between local African institutions and international research organisations, but also nascent local capacity where the production of impact evaluations are by local teams.

Our interviews indicated that there is merit in trying to connect the different institutions more actively. Impact evaluation practitioners sometimes seemed unaware of others at institutions in the same country, or even other impact evaluation researchers at their own institution who they could link up with.

Bridging the language divide, particularly the access of French speaking impact evaluation practitioners to funding opportunities appear to be an important challenge to address in the further strengthening of capacity in West Africa.

Accessing training opportunities remains an important means through which to strengthen capacity. There is a surprising number of M&E modules included in post-graduate accredited training in Southern, Eastern and Western Africa. The inclusion of impact evaluation methodology in these courses indicates intent from within these regions to strengthen impact evaluation capacity. The cross-regional course presented by CLEAR-AA (Development evaluation training programme in Africa (DEPTA)) assist with cross-regional impact evaluation capacity development and potential standardisation. However, training on its own does not mean that capacity is sustained and trainees should receive continued support in their workplace to develop and maintain skills.

A large group of young women are seated in a classroom, engaged in discussion and smiling. The women are diverse in appearance and are dressed in casual attire. They are sitting at desks with papers and notebooks. The atmosphere is lively and collaborative.

Only together can evidence-
informed decision-making
become a reality.

Annexure I: Study design

This scoping study was conducted between July 2018 and May 2019. Research ethics approval was obtained through the University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Humanities Research Ethics Committee (clearance number REC-01-014-2019). The project was supported by an advisory group who gave input into the scope of the project, as well as specific elements of the study as requested⁸.

Two parallel studies took place which influenced the scope of this project. The first is a regional scoping study for the West Africa Capacity-building and Impact Evaluation (WACIE) Program. Where possible, the two studies consulted closely to avoid overlap. Secondly, our scoping study did not explicitly focus on the funding landscape for impact evaluations as the Hewlett Foundation was conducting a separate study investigating donor funding for impact evaluations. Nevertheless, we did collect relevant information about the funding landscape when this presented itself.

Our scoping study consisted of various distinct yet complementary research steps the findings of which are presented in this report.⁹

Different steps in the research process

SEMI-STRUCTURED KEY STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

We had 12 semi-structured discussions over email or Skype with 14 key stakeholders about the current state of impact evaluation in Africa to: (i) understand where current capacity to produce impact evaluations in Africa sits, what the gaps and barriers are in capacity, what the challenges are in filling those gaps; and (ii) identify individuals and organisations to include in other research activities that formed part of this project. A sampling frame was drawn up in preparation of this stage of the project.

SURVEY

We conducted an online survey to capture information about existing African impact evaluation research, training and capacity, and to identify institutions that have the potential to build their impact evaluation capacity. We drew on various networks in the distribution of the survey, such as the AEN, PEP Africa mailing list, IDRC Think Tank list, NIERA/CEGA EASST network, PEP PIERI Africa researchers, 3ie researchers who opted in to participate, NIERA/CEGA alumni, and the SAMEA Listserv. In addition, we also drew on other stages of the research process, such as the author search and training desk review discussed below, to identify additional individuals and organisations to distribute the survey to.

We received 353 responses to the survey, 63% of respondents were male, and 37% female.

A total of 93.5% of respondents are currently based in Africa, and 92.9% are citizens of an African country. A total of 77.3% of respondents have been involved in conducting impact evaluations, providing a substantial basis for us to draw from in learning about the methods that people use and their experiencing in sharing results.

FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS

We conducted 6 follow-up interviews with a sub-sample of survey participants and other organisations identified by the funder as priority from different stages of the research process. During this process we aimed to better understand: (i) what helped build existing impact evaluation capacity; and (ii) what opportunities exist to strengthen capacity.

Desk research on available impact evaluation training courses We conducted desk research to collect data on training courses, conferences and workshops relevant to the field of impact evaluation. This included on-line training, formal qualifications, short courses, workshops and conferences. The purpose was to identify what training courses and providers are available in addition to where those surveyed had received training. This could help to match the demand for capacity building with the supply of courses and material that is already available. The team also captured what additional support is given to trainees, such as mentorship and coaching where this information was available.

⁸ The advisory committee consisted of: Maria Laura Alzua (CEDLAS & PEP), Laura Poswell (J-PAL South Africa), Temina Madon (CEGA), Peter Taylor (IDRC), Beryl Leach (3ie), Nedson Pophiwa (CLEAR-AA), Constantine Manda (ESRF/EASST CEGA Fellow/Yale), Amos Njuguna (NIERA).

⁹ Detail on the methods for each section of the study are provided in the relevant sections.

IMPACT EVALUATION AUTHOR SEARCH

We aimed to identify authors who are African citizens and currently residing in Africa who have published impact evaluations through a search of academic and other online databases. This served as an additional channel through which to identify existing capacity that might not be picked up in other phases of the project by specifically investigating who has published. The protocol for this search was shared with specific members of the advisory committee.

Data analysis

In line with the objectives of the study, namely to 'scope the field', our analysis methods are largely descriptive in nature. For example, we use descriptive statistics to present our quantitative findings on the publication of impact evaluations, and applied thematic analysis to our qualitative interview data¹⁰. More detail on data analysis for each of the research areas is contained in the relevant sections of the report.

Dissemination

The report will be circulated through various networks (such as PEP and the AEN), and the project advisory group. The report will be published on the ACE website and promoted through social media. We will furthermore ensure that all individuals with whom interviews have been conducted with receive an emailed copy of the report.

¹⁰ Ritchie, J., Spencer, L., and O'Connor, W. (2003) 'Carrying out qualitative analysis', in Ritchie, J., and Lewis, J. (eds.) *Qualitative research practice: A guide for social science students and researchers*. London: SAGE.





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