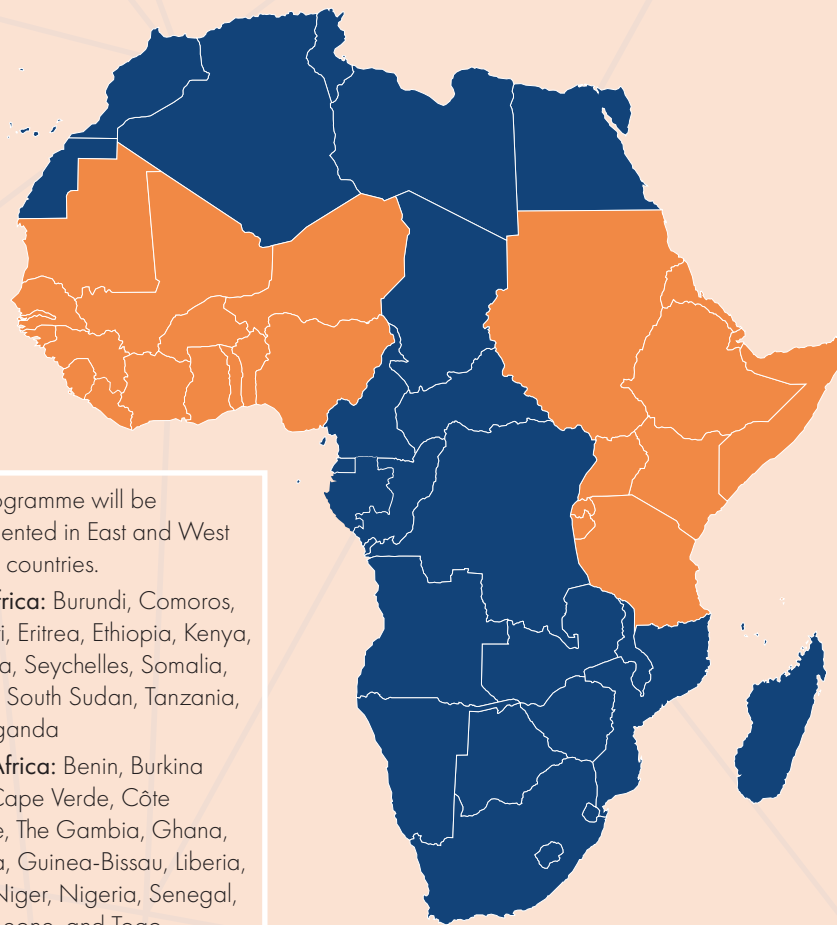


## Countries



The programme will be implemented in East and West African countries.

**East Africa:** Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda

**West Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo

More information on the project can be found on [www.afidep.org](http://www.afidep.org) or [www.aasciences.ac.ke](http://www.aasciences.ac.ke). You can also contact the project managers at Carol Mukiira at [carol.mukiira@afidep.org](mailto:carol.mukiira@afidep.org) [AFIDEP] or Lydia Manoti I. manoti@aasciences.ac.ke [AAS]

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## About the project

The *Evidence Leaders in Africa* is a two-year project aimed at expanding leadership for the use of evidence in policy formulation and implementation by African governments. The project is a collaboration of the African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and is implemented in East and West Africa. The project will inspire and empower AAS scholars to proactively engage governments to use science and innovation, as well as champion Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) in East and West Africa.

### The project seeks to:



1. Increase the number of academic leaders championing EIDM in Africa.



2. Increase the number of government agencies in East and West Africa taking specific actions to institutionalise EIDM.



3. Deepen evidence and expand space for EIDM learning in Africa.

## Implementation Approach

### Increase the number of academic leaders championing EIDM in Africa

#### *Stimulate leadership among AAS scholars for the institutionalisation of evidence use in government agencies*

This will involve sensitisation workshops for AAS scholars that discuss the context of evidence use in African countries, the possible interventions for institutionalising evidence use, and the role of AAS scholars in efforts to institutionalise evidence use in government and research institutions. This activity is connected to the “seed grants” activity in our second approach as it is envisaged that it will result in AAS scholars applying for seed grants to spearhead interventions in their countries that seek to institutionalise and promote a culture of evidence use.

#### *Develop EIDM capacity among AAS early and mid-career researchers*

We will use our existing training curriculum to train and mentor AAS early and mid-career researchers in knowledge translation, effective communication of research, policy engagement, and effective EIDM practices. The outcome will be enhanced understanding of the value and strategies for EIDM among AAS early-to-mid-career researchers, and their increased commitment to contribute to efforts to institutionalise a culture of EIDM.

#### *Introduce EIDM leadership award within AAS awards scheme*

We will introduce an EIDM leadership award alongside other AAS awards to promote interest in championing EIDM. The award will recognise AAS scholars innovating with interventions that promote and enable an EIDM culture in government institutions. The award will have a monetary value of US\$5,000 for the winner, US\$2,000 for the first runners-up, and US\$1,000 for the second runners-up. AAS fellows, grantees, affiliates, other mid- and early-career researchers will be eligible for the award.



### Increase the number of government agencies in East and West Africa taking actions that seek to institutionalise EIDM

#### *Provide seed grants to AAS fellows and affiliates to implement initiatives that institutionalise EIDM in government agencies in their countries*

The seed grant will provide AAS fellows and affiliates an opportunity to lead initiatives to promote and institutionalise EIDM practices that nurture a culture of evidence use. It will provide small grants of US\$20,000 to AAS fellows and affiliates in East and West Africa. We will also support the grantees of the seed grants to leverage funding from other sources to expand or intensify their initiatives. In addition, we will support other strong, but unsuccessful applicants to explore other funding sources for their initiatives.



### Deepen evidence and expand space for EIDM learning in Africa

#### *Host an EIDM lesson-sharing conference for AAS fellows and researchers*

We will host a conference to facilitate sharing of EIDM lessons within AAS networks. Although this will not be a scientific conference, it will comprise a call for abstracts on lessons and experiences on EIDM initiatives within AAS networks, selection of abstracts, award of travel grants to authors of selected abstracts, and travel grant awards to key EIDM actors from the two regions to ensure representation and deepen reach. Conference abstracts will be themed broadly along these areas: *knowledge translation (synthesis, packaging), dialogues, relationship building, development and use of guidelines for EIDM within government agencies, strengthening government funding for EIDM, establishing and using institutional platforms for facilitating interaction between policymakers and researchers, evidence-informed implementation, and experiences with repositories and research databases within countries.*

Understanding the value of EIDM at an early stage in one's career can leave lasting impact that transforms researchers from being holed up in the academic space to becoming effective EIDM champions within policy spaces.