



2025 Africa Evidence Summit Agenda

Monday, June 23, 2025

8:45 AM - 6:00 PM | Reception to Follow | Movenpick Hotel, Nairobi
Doors Open at 7:00 AM

7:00—8:40 AM

Registration

Movenpick Lobby

Kindly arrive at least 30-45 minutes early to register. Coffee and tea will be available.

8:45—8:55 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Hall of Africa

Amos Njuguna*, Chair, Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA)
Carson Christiano, Executive Director, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA)

9:00—10:15 AM

Keynote Panel: Responding to a New Landscape in Foreign Aid

This panel discusses how funding shifts have impacted programs, how funders are filling those gaps, how practitioners have adapted to meet the moment, and the role that evidence can play moving forward.

Hall of Africa

Session moderated by Amos Njuguna, Chair, Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA)*

Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics and Finance, Northwestern University and
Co-Director, Global Poverty Research Lab

Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director, African Population and Health Research
Center (APHRC)

Emilie Oftedal, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
(Norad)

10:20—10:55 AM

Coffee Break

Lobby

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Note: all times are in EAT

11:00 AM—12:15 PM	Evidence on Education <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>Role of EdTech on Numeracy and Literacy for Children with Functional Difficulties: Experimental Evidence from Kenya</i> Frank Odhiambo , Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Göttingen <i>Impact Evaluation of a School Leadership Development Programme in Western Cape, South Africa</i> Christine Kahura , Senior Associate, IDinsight <i>Polymakers' Demand for Rigorous Evidence on Soft Skills Training and Targeted Internship Placements for University Graduates: Experimental Findings from Uganda</i> Annet Adong* , Research Fellow; Center for Population and Applied Statistics, Makerere University, and Kizito Omala* , Lecturer, Makerere University	Evidence on Gender & Household Dynamics <i>Almasi Ballroom</i> <i>Better Together? The Impact of Cash Transfers and Couples' Financial Planning on Household Dynamics and Economic Outcomes</i> Simone Schaner , Associate Professor (Research) of Economics, University of Southern California <i>Cooperation in Polygamous Households. Experimental Evidence from Northern Benin</i> Doux Baraka Kusunza , Research Associate, Youth Impact <i>Reshaping Gender Norms in Tanzania's Food Systems to Reduce the Burden of Unpaid Care Work: A Clustered RCT</i> Ravina Pattani , Tanzania Country Manager, Laterite
12:15—1:45 PM	Lunch	
1:50 PM—3:05 PM	Data and Methodological Innovation <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>New Methods for Measuring People's Preferences</i> Tom Wein , Director of Dignity, IDinsight <i>Contextualized Poverty Targeting Through Multimodal Spatial Data and Machine Learning in Brazzaville, Congo</i> Woojin Jung , Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Global Health Institute at Rutgers University <i>From Research to Action: Lessons from the replication crisis for improving Africa's evidence ecosystem</i> Patrick Forscher , Director of the CREME Meta-Research Team, Busara	Evidence on Climate Change <i>Almasi Ballroom</i> <i>[CANCELED] Household Vulnerability and Resilience to Shocks: A Causal Machine Learning Approach</i> Tigist Mekonnen Melesse* , Founder and Director, Social Innovation and Impact Institute <i>Flooding and Livelihood Diversification in Nigeria: the View from the Ground and the View from the Sky</i> Abdulrasheed Isah* , Doctoral candidate, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich <i>Assessment of the Effectiveness of Climate Adaptation Interventions in East Africa</i> Mary Nantongo* , Lecturer at Makerere University Business School

*signifies a CEGA Fellow

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3:10–4:10 PM	Coffee Break and Poster Session <i>Lobby</i> Sponsored by CEGA and Busara	
4:15–5:55 PM	Evidence on Health <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>The Effect of Empathy and Future-Orientation on COVID-19 Vaccination: Evidence from a Randomized Placebo-Controlled Experiment in Tanzania</i> Noela Ringo , Research Fellow, Economic and Social Research Foundation <i>Causal Inference Methodologies to Assess the Effect of Missed Clinic Visits on Treatment Success Rate among People with Tuberculosis in Rural Uganda</i> Jonathan Izudi* , Postdoctoral Research Scientist, APHRC <i>Education Returns to a Public Health Insurance Program: Evidence from Rwanda</i> Aimable Nsabimana* , Research Fellow, the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) <i>The Impact of Community Based Health Insurance on Health Service Utilization: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia</i> Alebel Bayrau* and Shibiru Ayalew*	Unpacking Policy-Relevant Research: Lessons from Development Impact West Africa <i>Almasi Ballroom</i> Session moderated by Charles Amoatey , Professor and Director of Development Impact West Africa (DIWA) Isaac Doku* , Lecturer, University of Education, Winneba Oluwabunmi Adejumo* , Associate Professor, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Development Studies at Obafemi Awolowo University Maya Ranganath , Director of Policy and Inclusion, CEGA
6:00 PM	Reception: Join us for Chai, Chapati, and Cocktails <i>Lobby</i>	



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Tuesday, June 24, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:30 PM | Movenpick Hotel, Nairobi

Doors open at 7:30 AM

7:30—9:00 AM	Registration <i>Kindly arrive 30-45 minutes early to register and find your seat.</i>	
8:00—8:50 AM	Poster Session <i>Lobby</i> <i>Sponsored by CEGA and Busara</i>	Workshop on Amplifying your Web Presence <i>Almasi Ballroom</i> Priya Nair , Education, Training and Policy Manager, J-PAL Africa
9:00—9:05 AM	Introduction to Day 2 <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>Jennifer Nyakinya</i> , Program Manager, NIERA	
9:05—9:35 AM	Keynote Address: Bridging Evidence and Policy to Advance Development Goals <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>Macharia Kamau</i> , Ambassador and Special Envoy of the East Africa Community Facilitator on DRC	
9:40—10:50 AM	Beyond the Research: Crafting Policy for Refugee Socioeconomic Integration in Kenya <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>Session moderated by Mansi Kalra</i> , Research Manager, Forced Displacement at CEGA <i>Caroline Njuki</i> , Chief Technical Advisor on Employment and Skills Development, International Labor Organization, Kenya <i>Loise Gichuhi</i> , Professor, Education, the University of Nairobi <i>Rufus Karanja</i> , National Programme Officer (Migration and Protection), Embassy of Switzerland	
10:50—11:15 AM	Coffee Break <i>Lobby</i>	

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11:20–1:00 PM	Evidence on Agriculture <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>See It Grow: A Randomized Evaluation of Digital Innovations in Crop Insurance to Increase Insurance and Fertilizer Demand in Kenya</i> Berber Kramer , Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute <i>Irrigation Infrastructure and Satellite-Measured Land Use Impacts: Evidence from the Senegal River Valley</i> Marco Gonzalez-Navarro , Associate Professor, UC Berkeley <i>Agricultural Subsidy, Shocks, and Conflict</i> Solomon Zena Walelign* , Executive Director at Policy Innovation Research Center (PIRC) <i>Price Dynamics from Shallow Agricultural Markets in Africa</i> Craig McIntosh , Professor, Co-director, Policy Design and Evaluation Lab, UC San Diego	Evidence on Livelihoods and Labor <i>Almasi Ballroom</i> <i>Expected Discrimination and Worker Sorting: Experimental Evidence from Kenya</i> Winnie Njoroge , Doctoral candidate, Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education - Economics Institute (CERGE-EI) <i>Beliefs and the Demand for Employee Training: A Field Experiment with Small Firms in Uganda</i> Arman Rezaee , Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Davis <i>With My Mind on My Money: Productivity in the Immediacy of an Income Shock</i> Flavio Malagutti , Doctoral candidate, UC Santa Barbara <i>How do you build a large-scale livelihoods research program to inform policy? Insights from the Re:BUiLD program</i> Belinda Muya , Deputy Director - Re:BUiLD, The International Rescue Committee (IRC)
1:00–2:15 PM	Lunch	
2:20-2:40	Charting a Path for Inclusivity in Development Research <i>Hall of Africa</i> Maya Ranganath , Director of Policy and Inclusion, CEGA	
2:40–3:45 PM	Building a More Inclusive Evidence Ecosystem: Perspectives on CIDR's Findings <i>Hall of Africa</i> <i>Session moderated by Maya Ranganath</i> , Director of Policy and Inclusion, CEGA Jane Mariara , Executive Director, Partnership for Economic Policy Michel Ndayikeza , Assistant Professor, University of Burundi Jacqueline Owigo , Research and Innovation Advisor; Mawazo Fellow; East Africa Research and Innovation Hub	
3:45–4:10 PM	Coffee Break <i>Lobby</i>	

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4:15—5:30 PM

An AI Evaluation Framework for the Development Sector

This session presents a structured framework for evaluating AI tools in the development sector, aimed at bridging gaps between diverse stakeholders including engineers, data scientists, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. Drawing from our collective work and insights, we'll explore how to assess what matters, align measurement with real-world impact, and build consensus across teams. The talk will also share progress on a polished playbook developed collaboratively, and invite discussion on practical applications and future iterations.

Hall of Africa

Session led by the Agency Fund's
Robert On, Chief Technology Officer
James Walsh, Senior Behavioral Scientist

Emmanuel Olang', Machine Learning Engineer, Jacaranda Health

Evidence on the Impacts of Cash Transfers in Conflict-Affected Areas

Almasi Ballroom

Armed Conflict, Cash Transfers and Psychological Capital: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia
Halefom Nigus*, PEP Research Fellow, Policy Studies Institute

Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda
Miriam Laker, Senior Research Advisor, GiveDirectly

Impact Evaluation of a Cash Transfer and Psychosocial Training Program for Refugees in Kenya
Antonia Delius, Doctoral candidate, University of Oxford

5:35 PM

Closing Remarks

Hall of Africa

Jennifer Nyakinya and **Amy Shipow**
Co-Organizers of the Africa Evidence Summit, NIERA and CEGA



Scan the QR code to learn more about the organizers, sponsors, and CEGA's fellowship program, plus explore the poster abstracts, take a survey on DHS cuts, and more!