Introduction

The Education Evidence for Action (EE4A) brings together researchers, academics, policymakers and other producers and users of evidence to engage, elicit discourses in the education sector and utilize evidence for actionable and measurable planning and outcomes. The vision of the network is an education system in Kenya where research evidence informs educational decisions. EE4A has two main objectives: facilitating an evidence-ecosystem in education and linking education evidence to inform policy and action. To achieve the objectives above, EE4A coordinates evidence producers and strengthens their intervention in translating data into evidence and making the evidence accessible to policymaking for improved learning outcomes, and sustained collaboration.

In the last seven years, EE4A has successfully organized four biennial conferences: 2015 in Nakuru, 2017 in Nyeri, 2019 in Machakos, and 2021 in Naivasha. These conferences attracted high-level participation from civil society, academia, and the government. EE4A uses the period between the convenings to consolidate evidence to drive the evidence-policy-action engagements.

The government of Kenya committed to reforming the education sector from basic to higher education – to improve efficiency in the system and address the challenges and concerns raised by stakeholders. The Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms is anticipated to make critical recommendations to inform the Government's priorities in education. In addition, the government is in the final stages of developing the National Education Sector Strategic Plan (NESSP) (2023-2027), and the revisions to the Basic Education Act, among other key education policies. The ongoing reforms in the sector motivate the 5th biennial conference to re-examine existing evidence, connect evidence producers and users, and activate the role of universities in evidence generation and use.

The 5th Biennial Conference

This is a call for abstracts for the 5th Biennial conference that aims at bringing together policymakers, academics, and researchers to share and discuss the body of evidence on education and revitalize connections and relationships among members of the evidence community in Kenya. This aim is articulated through the conference theme: **Revitalizing the Evidence Community for Kenya's Education.** This theme puts to centrality the members of this community – government and all those who need evidence to make decisions. It brings on board the academia in and out of the University whose role is to avail evidence in accessible formats and those that lie in between, teachers, members of the civil society and parents. In pursuit of this aim, this conference seeks to achieve four objectives:

1. Deepening understanding of the political economy of evidence use.
2. Applying evidence to inform policy formulation, review, and implementation.
3. Applying evidence to explore and showcase solutions to the challenges of education in practice.
4. Strengthening collaboration with universities as core drivers of the evidence community in Kenya.

The EE4A secretariat and organizers, therefore, invite submissions that highlight policy-relevant evidence situated in ways likely to provide research evidence to the MoE and various actors including the county and community leaders in education with a focus on any of the following four sub-themes:

1. **Higher Education:** Positioning higher education for transforming education and training.
2. **Competency Based Curriculum (CBC):** Examining CBC implementation, assessment, and transitions in Kenya.
3. **Education Technology (EdTech)**: The potential of technology in education to ensure equitable, equal, and quality education for all.
4. **Partnerships:** Optimizing Partnerships for successful education reforms and delivery in Kenya

Guidelines for submission of abstracts

The abstract should be submitted in a Word document (Calibri body, font size 11) and not exceeding 300 words by 31st August 2023, 11.59 pm EAT to ee4a@ziziafrique.org. It should describe: (i) a brief background stating how it aligns with the sub-theme, (ii) objectives or main questions addressed by your presentation; (iii) methodology and/or approaches; (iv) key results or findings; (v) policy implications and/or message(s); and vii) three keywords or descriptors.

Abstracts should clearly articulate the evidence presented, and the policy issues it addresses, and consider equity issues such as gender, residence, social economic status, and special needs status as cross-cutting. Abstracts based on evidence synthesis on the sub-themes and or drawn from a reasonable scale of studies needed to inform policy are highly encouraged.

The abstract should indicate the title, the sub-theme, the author's full name(s), title(s), and email address(es). The email subject line **MUST** be one of the sub-themes to which the abstract falls.

Important deadlines

- The extended deadline for the submission of abstracts: 20th September 2023
- Notification of acceptance and call for submission of extended abstracts: 25th September 2023.
- Deadline for submission of extended abstracts and presentations: 30th October 2023.
- Deadline for submission of final research papers and presentations at the conference: 12th November 2023.
- Final Conference program by 3rd November 2023. The draft program will be available from 1st October 2023.
- Information about registration for the conference will be shared on 30th September 2023.

Conference Venue and Dates

Unlike the previous convenings, this biennial conference will be co-hosted by Tom Mboya University, in Homa Bay Town, Homa Bay County. It is hoped that through the cohosting, EE4A will activate and deepen collaboration with Universities and County Governments.

The conference will be held on the **29th and 30th of November 2023**, and it will be preceded by PreConferences and a Public Lecture on the 28th of November 2023.