

Education Research Impact Working Group

Tuesday 30th June 2026

What people were excited by:

1. The long-term orientation
2. Favoring the impact of research
3. Affirmative action to include Francophone Africa
4. The shift from a deficit to an opportunity orientation
5. Decolonizing research to prioritize local knowledge needs and African perspectives.

Opportunities and actions members want to take

1. Foster collaboration between researchers and policy makers
2. Establish a community of practice bringing together all stakeholders
3. Focus on institutional reforms to support research
4. Contextualize education research for relevant solutions
5. Incentivize African researchers working towards impact
6. Make African research visible. And make it count in policy and practice
7. The need to increase research funding
8. An African knowledge conference as sharing and learning platform

Key Assets and Resources we mapped:

Programs and Initiatives

1. Rich network of African universities and academia
2. National Research Funds and Foundations
3. Africa Diaspora researchers
4. Regional Agencies and Initiatives – ADEA, AAU, IUCEA, ARUA, CODESRIA, OSSREA, NEIRA, AERC
5. Regional and National funded, long-term programs – FLIGHT, Africa Evaluation Association, Africa Fellowship in Education Program (AFEP), West African Centres of Excellence

Conferences

1. East Africa Community Education Conference (biennial)
2. SAERA – southern African education research association – conference and journal
3. CONFEMEN Conference
4. ICERDA
5. FLEX
6. WAPEC
7. Africa Evidence Network

8. Quant education research conference, by RESEP
9. Education Evidence for Action (EE4A), Kenya

Databases and Journals

1. African Journals Online (AJOL)
2. African Research Connect
3. Ubuntu Net [repository set up], hardcore computing and networking infrastructure for research visibility
4. Le Monde de l'Education
5. Liens (FASTEF)
6. South African Journal of Education
7. South African Journal of Childhood Education

Funders

1. National Research Funds/Foundations
2. Bilateral agencies, FCDO and others
3. International Private Foundations/Global Philanthropy
4. Domestic Private Sector and Family Foundations
5. Africa Diaspora

Champions

1. Many scholars and eminent persons, some of them in this meeting
2. Senior officials in government
3. Few identified officers in funding agencies

Key things that emerged

1. Members welcome the idea of a long-term initiative to revitalize education research on the continent
2. Call to ensure that this is truly an African initiative, which tackles the language divides, inclusion of Lusophone, Francophone and Anglophone
3. Called for building on what we have already, to ensure that what we are establishing can be sustained
4. Welcomed the inclusion of government as funder and collaborator, focus on African Philanthropy and Africa Diaspora
5. Group thanked the Yidan Conference for bringing all of us together, expressed the view, that this conference might remain in Africa, as our own, to become the missing Africa Knowledge Conference.