

Advancing Local Leadership and Innovation Networks (ALL-IN)

International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED)

- An independent, Africa-based and African-led not-for-profit think-tank that applies innovative research, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in the development sector.
 - *With the headquarters in Nairobi Kenya and offices in Ghana and United States*
- **Vision:** A global south where evidence drives policies and actions for transformation of lives and livelihoods
- **Mission:** To enhance the generation, synthesis and uptake of evidence for better policy and action through research, innovation, monitoring and Evaluation.

Our Impact

ICED plays a leading role in food systems thinking, leadership, impact network and capacity building in Africa. This is demonstrated through our role in undertaking cutting-edge research and collaborations with global institutions and a wide range of regional and international alliances and partnerships.

24

African countries

21+

Current projects

20+

Partner organizations & institutions



ICED Strategic Priorities



Capacity
Strengthening

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Collaborative
Learning

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Evaluating Impact

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Monitoring
Programmes

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Research for Evidence

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Flipping The Traditional Model Of Research Collaboration – The ALL-IN Journey

Traditional model – Involves US-based researcher(s) proposing a project and bringing in host country researchers.

- Allowed local researchers *to collaborate but limited originality and ownership of thoughts*.
- To some reasonable extent, local researchers were *“merely used as data collectors”*

Flipping the model – How can local researchers own and lead their researchers while collaborating and receiving mentorship from experienced Global North (in this case the U.SA) researchers?

Incubating the Idea –

- At a 2016 technical meeting in Washington, D.C., - US based principal investigators were sharing their innovative research and drawing in peer feedback and support to strengthen their work.
 - David Ameyaw, CEO of ICED, was attending as a representative of the board of directors – argued about how this model for development research collaborations could be brought on-continent and put in the hands of local researchers.
 - Three years later, this vision became a reality with the establishment of Feed the Future ALL-IN.

ABOUT ALL-IN

Feed the Future ALL-IN was established by USAID

As a *partnership between the MRR Innovation Lab at the University of California, Davis* and the *International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED)* in Nairobi, Kenya, with the support of USAID Feed the Future.

The Advancing Local Leadership and Innovation Networks (ALL-IN) program builds on the successes and draws on the strength of US-African research collaborations but inverts the traditional model.

Feed the Future ALL-IN researchers at African institutions lead these collaborations, leveraging their local knowledge, skills and ideas to build actionable evidence for promoting resilience and empowering rural families and communities to share in inclusive agricultural growth.

ALL-IN is ensuring that local researchers and local research institutions take the lead in defining priorities and working with US-based university research partners to augment and support their skills, talents, and ideas.

THE INAUGURAL COHORT – ALL-IN PROJECT PORTFOLIO

The solicitation for the inaugural cohort of Feed the Future ALL-IN projects *demonstrated the clear need for this model.*

The solicitation received *about 165 proposals in total* from African researchers.

- 64 Proposals qualified for peer reviews
- 28 Proposals were there after recommended for funding

Due to limited funding all the 28 proposals could not be funded

Further review brought this down to *12 proposals recommended for funding.*

ALL-IN PROJECT PORTFOLIO

PROJECT PORTFOLIO FOR ALL-IN

A total of twelve (12) research projects have been *funded to the tune of \$3.55 Million across 6 African countries.*

Each project is led by a Principal Investigator based in one of *9 Universities* located in the following countries: *Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria.*

ALL-IN research projects are testing financial and market innovations that take the most promising agricultural tools for families in developing economies from the lab to the field.

ALL-IN PROJECTS BASED AT TEGEMEO INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT - KENYA

Two research projects were funded under at Tegemeo Institute:

1. **Impact of Agro-weather and market information on productivity and resilience in farming communities in Kenya - *Led by Dr. Mercy Kamau***

and

2. **Soil testing for soil acidity management on small holder farms in Kenya - *Lead by Dr. John Olwande.***

SOME LESSONS – DRIVING A DIFFERENT APPROACH

STRENGTHENING EXISTING CAPACITY

The transition to locally led research *requires the support of researchers and institutions that have the skills, talent and ideas for impactful research*, even if lacking in experience implementing and managing large-scale research projects.

Feed the Future ALL-IN funding provided the *opportunity for institutions* — both researchers and staff — *to learn by doing* in collaboration with mentors and peers at the initiative's management institutions.

The Feed the Future ALL-IN *collaborative team provided support and capacity strengthening as necessary and appropriate to researchers and their project managers* to enhance capacity to manage and lead similar large-scale research awards in the future.

PATHWAYS TO POLICY IMPACTS

- Many Feed the Future *ALL-IN projects are direct collaborations with policymakers* to promote direct integration of research results into local policies.
 - This approach *inspires ownership and maximizes potential for sustainable impacts* through more effective application, transfer and scale of research results.
- *The emerging impacts from Feed the Future ALL-IN – some of which we will hear about today - demonstrates what happens when local researchers are supported to lead in generating local solutions to challenges facing Africa.*

TRANSLATING EVIDENCE TO ACTION

Achieving locally owned development requires stakeholders within the development ecosystem, including the donor community, to avail every necessary support needed to strengthen the Africa research ecosystem.

This support, that may range from technical assistance to grants, is critical in furthering their work in shaping the development and implementation of evidence-based policies by governments.

The emerging impacts from Feed the Future ALL-IN – some of which we will hear about today – demonstrates what happens when local researchers are supported to lead in generating local solutions to challenges facing Africa.

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