

Factors affecting evidence use for policymakers

INGSA & EAS
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Emily Hayter, Senior Programme Specialist, INASP



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Session objectives

Introduce INASP and our work on evidence informed policy

Your experience: what factors affect evidence use?

How can we address these issues?

Evidence and knowledge are central to solving development challenges

INASP works to strengthen Southern research and knowledge systems



Research and
knowledge at the
heart of **development**

OUR MISSION

To **support** individuals and institutions to **produce, share** and **use** research and knowledge, to **transform lives**.



OUR CORE PILLARS

Capacity building | Convening
Influencing | Partnerships



Research underway in the animal research lab, University of Nigeria (entry to AuthorAid Capture Your Research Competition)

We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent... [with] Well educated and skilled citizens, underpinned by science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society”

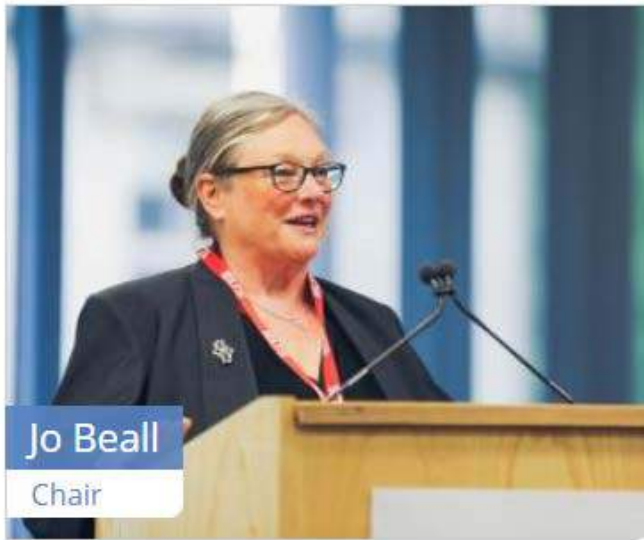
Agenda 2063

STISA 2024

Meeting knowledge, technology and innovation demands in key sectors, improving STI readiness in Africa, implementing specific STI policies & programmes to address societal needs

Our team





Former Executive Director,
Education and Society, British Council



Non-executive member,
Audit Committee of the
Department for International
Development (DfID)



Director of Communications,
International Institute for
Environment and
Development (IIED)



Head of Development,
mothers2mothers



Executive Director,
Partnership for African
Social and Governance
Research (PASGR)



Rector,
University of Central Asia



Acting Head,
Digital Societies programme,
Overseas Development
Institute (ODI)

Our trustees

What we do

We work to strengthen capacity across research and knowledge systems, with a focus on the following areas:



Equitable systems...

include
**diverse
voices**

enable a **diverse
range of
institutions** to
produce and use
knowledge

make **knowledge
available in
diverse ways**

articulate
**local research
agendas**



Rethinking
Research
Collaborative

The Rethinking Research Collaborative (RRC) is an informal international network of academics, civil society organisations and social movements, international NGOs, and research support providers who are committed to working together to explore the politics of evidence and participation in knowledge for international development. The RRC aims to encourage more inclusive, responsive and transformative collaboration to improve the production of useful research for social justice and global development.





Good partnerships require:

Clarity of purpose, open discussion of expectations, frankness about challenges

Preparedness to learn & willingness to change

Transparency and fairness with resources

Regular review and commitment to applying learning to improve

Equal respect and recognition of value of both partners





We value partnerships which are...

Genuinely collaborative in design *and* implementation

Reflective, committed to learning and open to frank discussion

Improve our understanding of other sectors, fields, contexts

Interested in building long term relationship

Adding or building mutual capacity

What is 'the demand side?'

Supply

Brokers

Demand

Systemic

Stimulating Demand for Research Evidence: What Role for Capacity-building?

Kirby Neuman, Catherine Fisher and Louise Shaxson

Abstract There has been a great deal of interest in recent years in supporting evidence-informed policymaking in developing countries. In particular, there have been efforts to build the capacity of researchers and research intermediaries to supply appropriately packaged research information (for example in the form of policy briefs) to policymakers. While supply of research information is important, it will only be used to inform policy if it is accessed, valued and understood by policymakers. In this article, we discuss our understanding of demand for research from policymakers: the capacities which underpin it, and how these might be supported.

1 Introduction

There has been much focus among development practitioners on the supply of relevant research to decision-makers. However, recently some key actors have begun to consider the need to stimulate the demand for this research. Some people refer to this as the distinction between 'knowledge producers' and 'knowledge consumers' (Dolan, 2012). We consider that demand in this context encompasses both the capacity to find, evaluate and use these different forms of evidence and the motivation to use them to make evidence-

By addressing these questions we hope to clarify what demand for research evidence is and where capacities might lie. We will also consider some thoughts and suggestions on the types of capacity-building interventions which could have a role in increasing the demand for research evidence.

2 What is evidence-informed policy?

We argue that evidence-informed policy is that which has considered a broad range of research evidence, evidence from citizens and other stakeholders, and evidence from practice and

Evidence use: some typical challenges

“As a technocrat, how can I convince policymakers that evidence is important?”

“How do we manoeuvre evidence within a bureaucracy?”

“We usually do not use research evidence when making decisions because research evidence is time consuming.”

“Politicians always have their way.”

“The research evidence might require some changes in the organisation and it is usually very difficult for any organisation to easily accept change.”

Polycymakers' views

*"You can do a beautiful research, **if it is not involving government from the beginning**, if it has not involved other stakeholders from the beginning, then its **uptake will be seriously limited**"*

*"It's not enough just to send the report and expect that we will all have the same understanding and all be on the same wavelength. We still need to talk about it, just so that ... **have a similar understanding of what the results are saying to us**"*

*"Probably they [researchers] think that...by publishing, **the knowledge is out there, and then we can get it.** But...not everyone has the ability to go [to] PubMed or Google and go through all the publications related to a certain thing"*

Evidence for policy

Supporting institutions to adapt processes and systems to enable the use of evidence

Building the skills of public servants to access, appraise and use evidence

Strengthening networks and relationships across the evidence to policy system



Our current work with governments



Data for Accountability (DAP)

DAP helps Parliament to improve quality of life in Ghana through evidence, using data to oversee progress towards SDGs.

Partners: African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (lead); Ghana Statistics Service, Parliament of Ghana. *Funder:* Hewlett Foundation

Date: 2019-2021 <https://www.inasp.info/data-accountability>

Strengthening Evidence for Development Impact (SEDI)

SEDI aims to strengthen the use of evidence in key sectors in Ghana, Uganda and Pakistan. *Funder:* DfID

Partners include: Oxford Policy Management (global lead); Economic Policy Research Centre (Uganda lead), African Centre for Economic Transformation (Ghana lead); Overseas Development Institute, 3ie

Date: 2019-2024

Strong & equitable research & knowledge systems (SERKS)

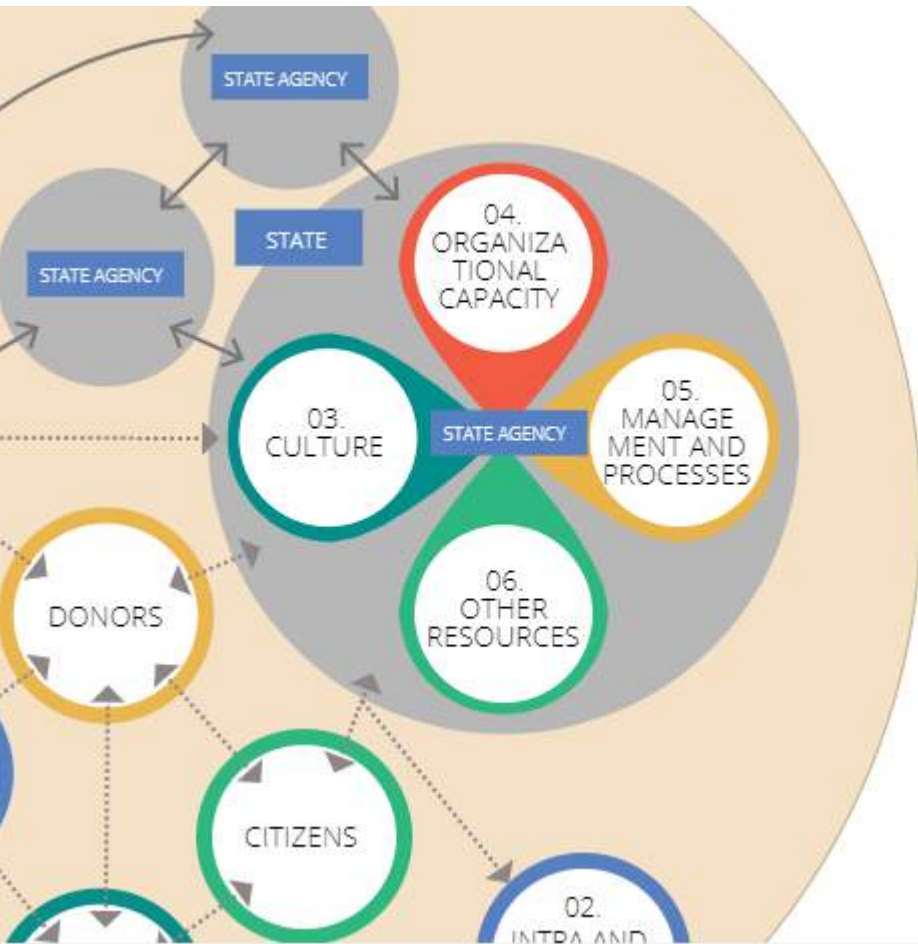
SERKS works to address the challenges of inequity within and between research and knowledge systems.

Partners include: Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, Uganda National Council for Science & Technology. *Funder:* SIDA

Dates: 2018-2022 <https://www.inasp.info/project/serks>



Context Matters Framework



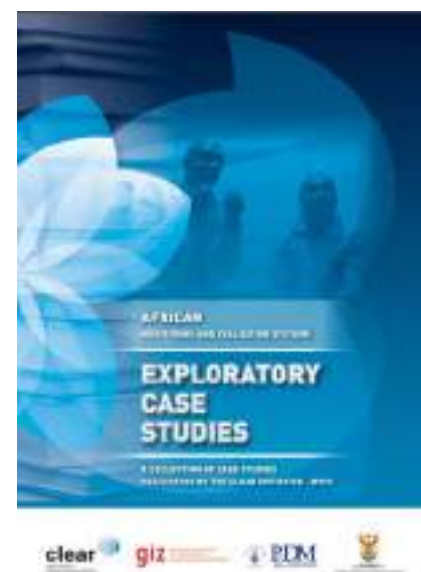
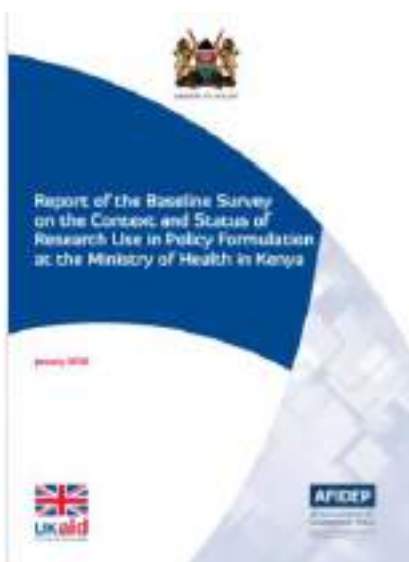
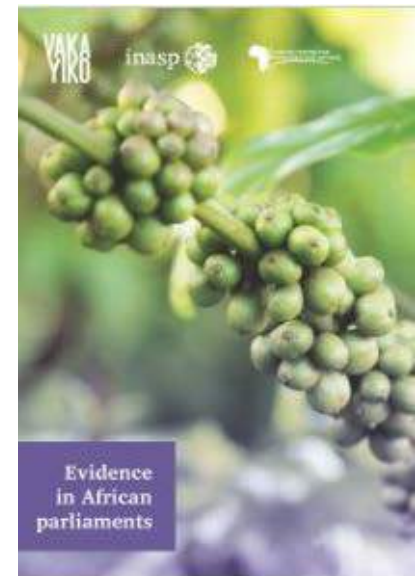
Participatory diagnostic tool to identify the best entry points for change

Drawing on literature review experience of 50+ policy makers and practitioners

Considers both **internal** and **external** factors as part of a systemic approach

Addresses both **technical** and **political/cultural** factors

Examples: the demand side in detail





**Watch
this
space...**

- Africa Evidence Network 'Evidence 2020' conference, Kampala Nov 2020
- Evidence in parliaments: lively informal African network
- 8 new African projects funded by Hewlett Foundation
- DfID's new SEDI programme in Ghana and Uganda
- Ongoing research from African Centre for Evidence at UJ
- Doing development differently: Thinking and Working Politically (TWP), Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA)
- UK and EU conversations on evidence use: EU-JRC, Alliance for Useful Evidence

Some friends and partners working on evidence informed policy in Africa:

- African Academy of Sciences
- Actions pour l'environnement et développement durable (ACED), Benin
- African Centre for Evidence, University of Johannesburg
- African Centre for Economic Transformation, Ghana
- African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs, Ghana
- African Centre for Development Policy, Kenya
- African Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation, Makerere University, Uganda
- African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya
- African Parliamentary Network on Development Evaluation
- Centre for Democratic Development, Ghana
- Centre for Evaluation, Learning and Results (CLEAR), South Africa
- Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda
- Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
- **INGSA Africa**
- Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), Kenya
- Jimma University, Ethiopia
- PACKS Africa, Ghana
- Uganda National Academy of Sciences
- Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network



Image: members of Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network pictured with colleagues from the Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Industry and Commerce



Stay in touch

Reach out to INASP

Sign up for our newsletter
or email

ehayter@inasp.info

Explore the Rethinking Research Collaborative

[https://rethinkingresearch
collaborative.com/](https://rethinkingresearchcollaborative.com/)

Join the Africa Evidence Network

[www.africaevidencenet
work.org](http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org)



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Image: participants at an INASP-led gender mainstreaming workshop in Accra, Ghana

Before you go...

Exit Cards

On one side: write down one thing you found useful about this session

On the other side: write something that wasn't clear for you or that should be improved

Thank you! Your feedback will help us learn



Image: INASP staff members at an internal learning and reflection session