

Strengthening the science/policy nexus

INGSA & EAS

Addis Ababa, October 29, 2019

Emily Hayter, Senior Programme Specialist, INASP



@INASPinfo



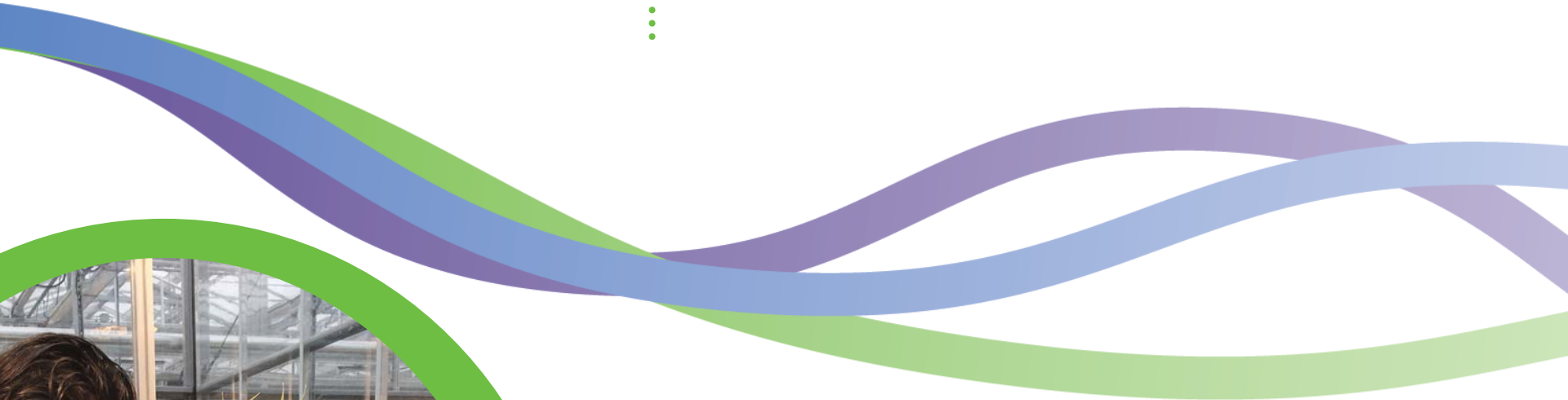
inasp



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

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

Join the discussion



Rethinking
Research
Collaborative

rethinkingresearchcollaborative.com



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Community Based
Research and Social Responsibility
in Higher Education



University
of Victoria



Knowledge First
PRIA



Our work in Ethiopia



Strong and equitable research and knowledge systems in the Global South (SERKS)

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

Partners in Ethiopia: Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

Funder: SIDA

Date: 2018-2022

<https://www.inasp.info/project/serks>



www.journalquality.info



www.authoraid.info

EAS and INASP National Dialogue Event: Enabling Equitable Research Systems Nov 2018

Declaration:

Enabling an equitable Ethiopian
research system

22-23 November 2018



Our vision for a strong, sustainable and self-sufficient Ethiopian research system is one which:

- Values, aligns and responds to Ethiopian needs, informs national policy, delivers impactful research in support of national priorities and operates within an independent space
- Recognizes and builds on the wealth and variety of knowledge within Ethiopia, while also looking to shape the future of research globally
- Is collaborative, participatory, and trans/multi-disciplinary in approach, recognizing that all types of research have a role to contribute to achieving national development needs
- Supports and sustains diversity and inclusion by creating a conducive environment that values and encourages all research voices – regardless of gender,

Read the full declaration:

<https://www.eas-et.org/node/440>

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



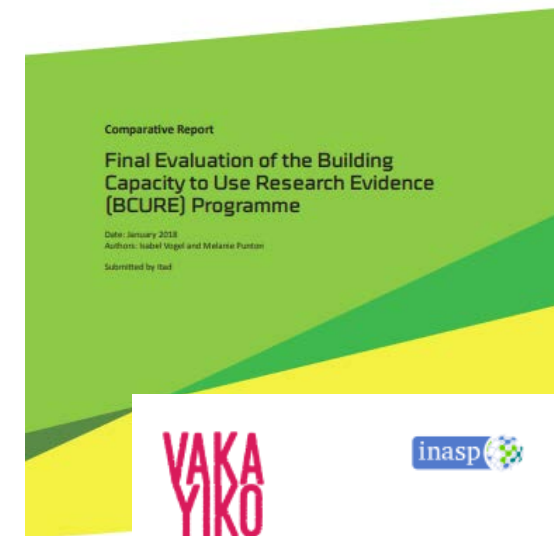
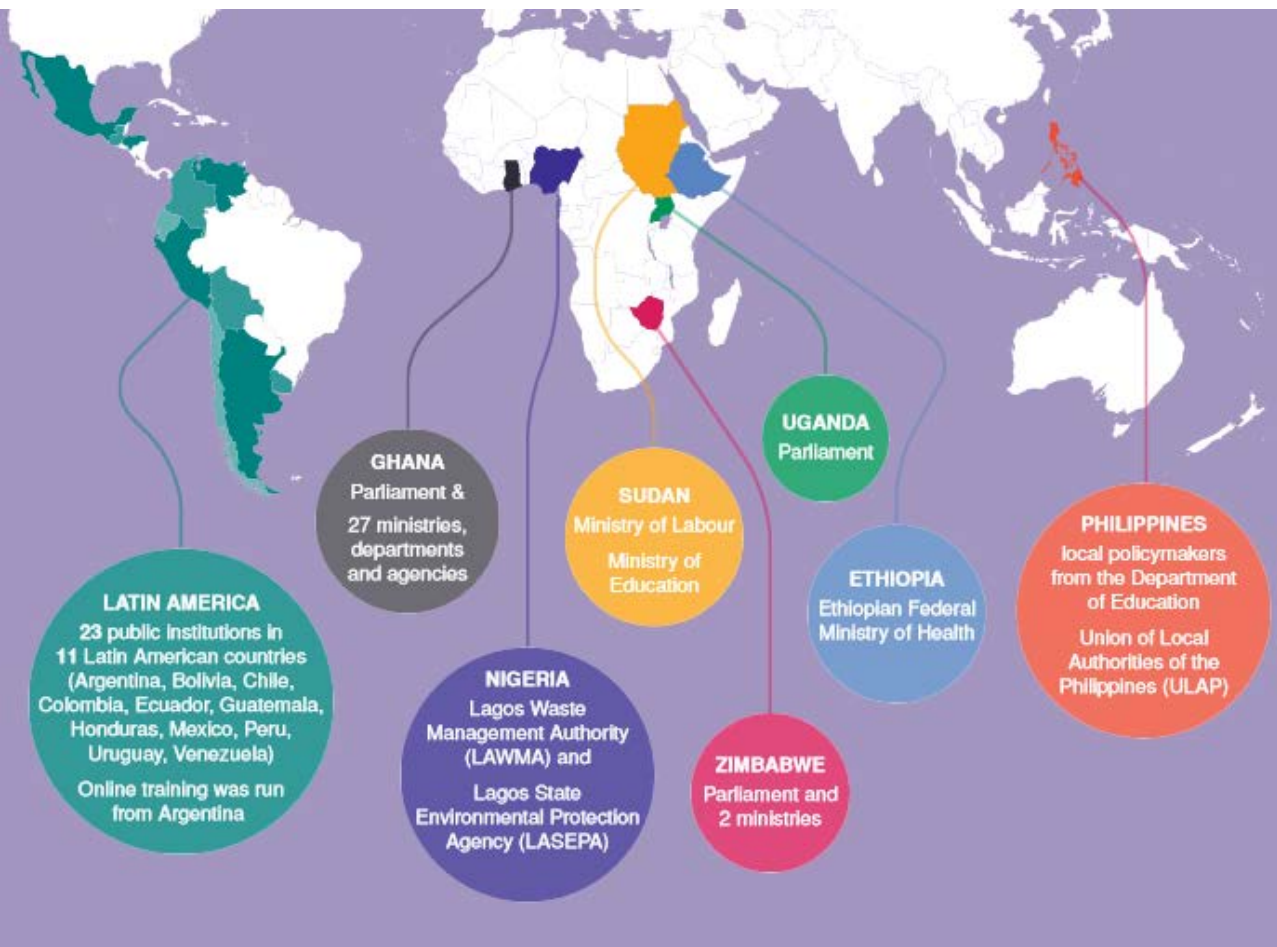
Strong & equitable research & knowledge systems (SERKS)

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>


Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) 2013-2017



Resu


**APPROACHES
TO DEVELOPING
CAPACITY FOR THE
USE OF EVIDENCE
IN POLICY MAKING**

Across the three impact pathways, success followed when BCURE managed to activate a combination of 'mechanisms' (change processes). These led to changes in skills, attitudes, behaviour and systems, which laid the foundations for more routine use of evidence in government.



Self-efficacy

Example: In Zimbabwe, training built officials' confidence to use evidence in the Ministry of Youth, helping them work more effectively in their new roles as officers in a recently-established research unit.



Critical Mass

Example: In Kenya, officials in the Ministry of Health cascaded their learning from BCURE through adapting the training curriculum, mobilising financial support from a separate funder, and training county level policy makers in evidence-informed policy making.



Reinforcement

Example: In Sierra Leone, BCURE supported new Cabinet-level processes and templates, making it mandatory for line ministries to consider evidence in policy submissions. A new unit with the mandate to follow up on implementation created further pressure to comply.



Showcasing

Example: In South Africa, BCURE helped produce an 'evidence map' that gathered together diverse sources relating to human settlements. Learning was shared through reports and workshops, leading to demand for further maps by various ministries.



Adoption

Example: In Bangladesh, BCURE piloted an evidence training course that was adopted nationally and will reach thousands of civil servants each year. BCURE also co-developed evidence-informed policy making guidelines, which have been adopted by Cabinet with the intention of rolling them out across all government ministries.



Facilitation

Example: In Pakistan, BCURE developed data visualisation tools to help front line service providers understand what was happening on the ground – for example a dashboard showing tax collection by area, which helped officials manage staffing and performance.

[Read the full evaluation, summary & brief:](https://itad.com/knowledge-and-resources/bcure/)
<https://itad.com/knowledge-and-resources/bcure/>

5 things we've learned



Image: interviewing smallholder farmers in Nepal (entry from AuthorAid Capture Your Research competition)

1

Moving towards a systemic approach

Supply

Brokers

Demand

Systemic

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

Kirsty Newman, Catherine Fisher and Louise Shaxson

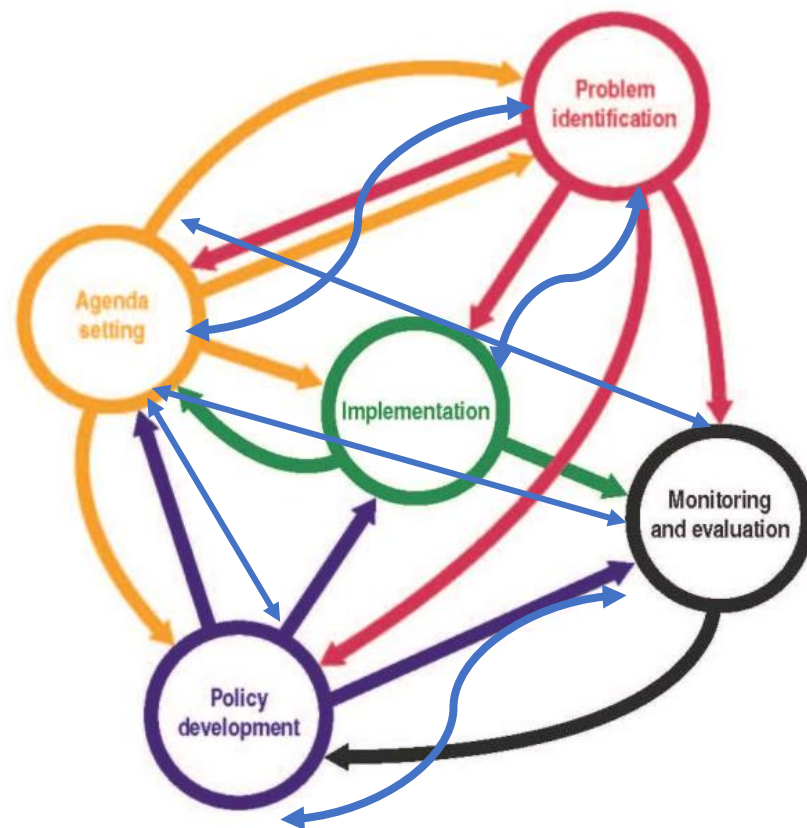
Abstract There has been a great deal of interest in recent years in supporting evidence-informed policymaking in developing countries. In particular, there have been efforts to build the capacity of researchers and research intermediaries to supply appropriately packaged research information (for example 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 underlie 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 'push' and 'pull' (Chase 2002). We consider that demand in this context encompasses both the ability to find, evaluate and use the different forms of evidence and the motivation to use them to make evidence-

By answering these questions we hope to clarify what demand for research evidence is and what capacities underlie it. We will also outline some thoughts and suggestions on the types of capacity-building interventions which could contribute to an increase in 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

2

Thinking and working politically



Policy Practice Brief 11

The Evolving Role of Political Economy
Analysis in Development Practice

Neil McCulloch, Andrew Barnett, Alex Duncan, William
Kingsmill, Jonathan Kydd, Olly Owen, Gareth Williams

3

Strengthening individuals' skills, knowledge and attitudes for EIPM is crucial ...but often not done effectively

Many of the officials involved in or responsible for drafting policy documents do not have the necessary skills or training and have no experience in evidence-based policy making.

Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 p18

“

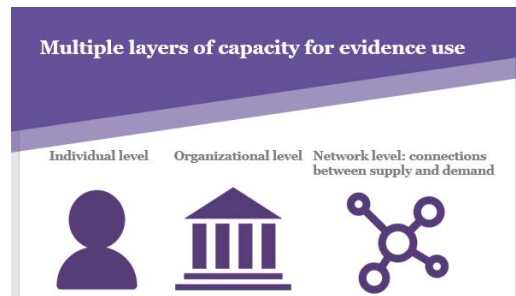
The evaluation highlights the importance of following good practice in adult learning theory. Behaviour change is more likely where activities are closely targeted to individuals who can apply their learning because it is directly relevant to their day-to-day work, where follow-up support helps embed learning, and where training is practical and participatory, uses local case studies or live policy examples, and is delivered by good quality facilitators who understand the specific sector as well as the broader national context.

”

BCURE Evaluation, ITAD 2018

4

Capacity development is multidimensional



*“There is a reliable body of evidence on individual EIDM capacity-building. To ensure application and sustainability of those skills, it appears justified to **invest more efforts into building organisational and institutional EIDM capacities**”*

al 2016

Science of Using Science, Langer et.

Lesson 3: Changing behaviour requires more than building skills through training

All six BCURE projects used training as a key intervention, but there were marked differences in the extent to which trainees were able to apply their learning. Where BCURE led to more routine changes in evidence access, appraisal and use, this was often because projects succeeded in catalysing multiple mechanisms together: building self-efficacy, providing tools that facilitated staff to do their jobs more easily, and tapping into or generating organisational incentives to reinforce behaviour change. In many cases, training did not lead to change in practice as a result of a broader environment unconducive to evidence-informed ways of working, and issues with training design and implementation.

BCURE Evaluation, ITAD 2018

5

Change happens both “top down” & “bottom up”



Images, clockwise from left: INASP partners Parliament of Uganda Research Department; Ghana Environmental Protection Agency, South Africa Dept of Environmental Affairs (former)



**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



www.inasp.info

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)



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