

AFIDEP

African Institute for Development Policy
Bridging Development Research, Policy & Practice

EIDM Rapid Landscape Review Map in Malawi's Health Sector

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EVIDENCE 2016 - ENGAGE. UNDERSTAND. IMPACT

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Overview of Main Role Players in the EIDM Landscape

- The Government ministries - main end users of various research evidence generated.
 - supposed to engage with available evidence when making decisions and formulating policies.
- The research producers:
 - College of medicine at university of Malawi features highly when it comes to research generation.
 - Research institutes and NGOs are also key when it comes to generating evidence for policy making.
- Knowledge translation organizations facilitate evidence use by policy makers.
 - Key players are AFIDEP, DIGNITAs and Knowledge translation Platform under Ministry of health.

Existing gaps in the EIDM landscape

- The main existing gap lies on strengthening interaction between evidence producers and Users.
- We need more institutions in the knowledge translation field in the map.
- Of most important are Evidence informed decision-making networks. Currently there is none operating in Malawi.
- Knowledge translation platform tries to fill this gap but faced with lots of resource constraints in terms of both human and financial resources

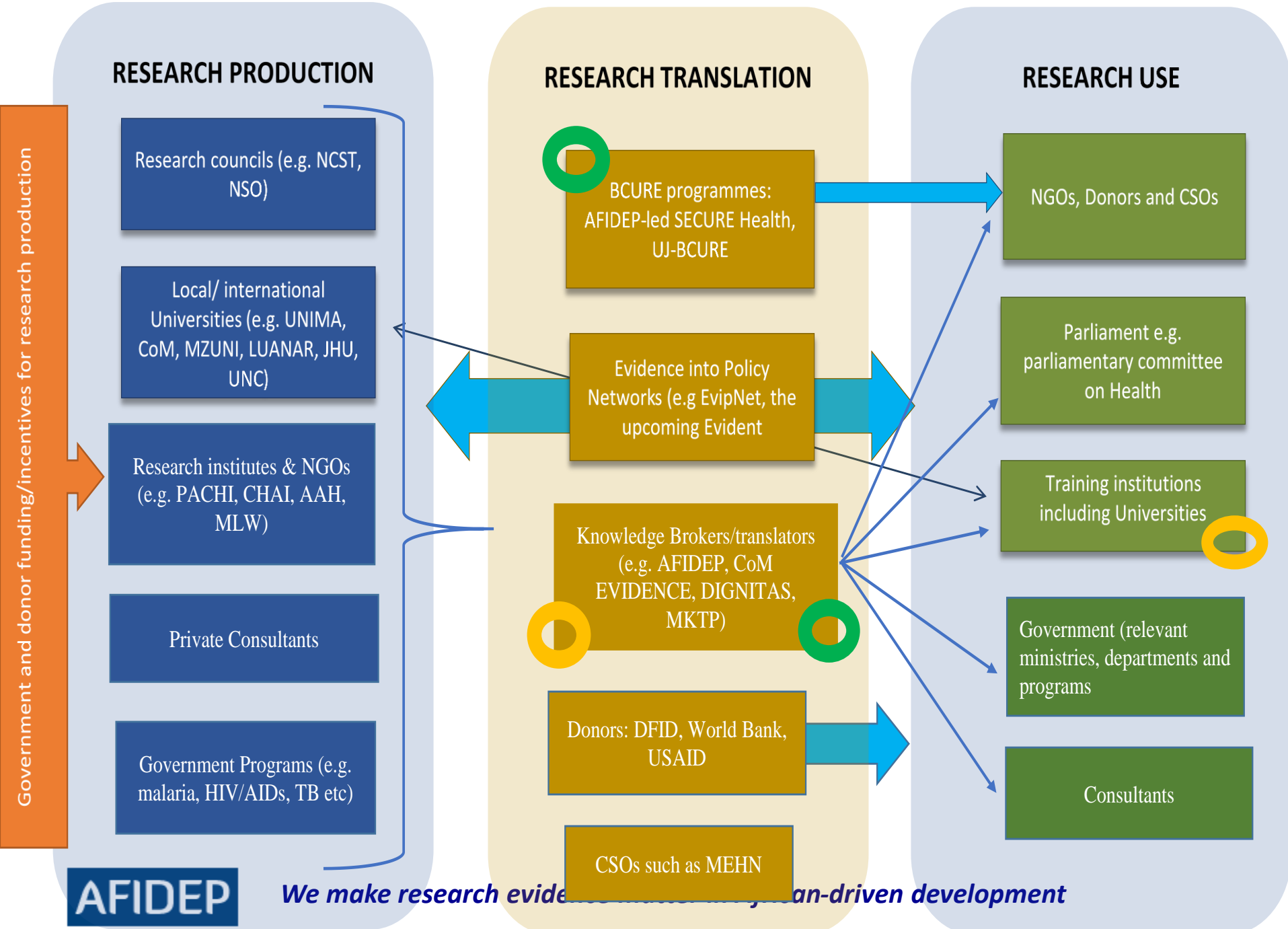
Bottlenecks impeding the flow of evidence through the system

- **Capacity:** institutional and Individual level.
- Institutional level: few incentives & lack of enabling environment to promote use of evidence
- Individual level: weak capacity for policy makers to access, appraise, synthesize and use the available evidence.
- **Communication:** poor packaging and dissemination of research findings by research producers
 - reduces the probability of evidence reaching the appropriate target group involved in decision making.

Characterisation of the relationship between research producers and users

- Partly co-producers of Knowledge.
 - We see both producers and users of evidence operating as distinct groups without any overlap.
 - At the same time they do interact once in a while through Technical working groups, Science-Policy cafes and research conferences.
 - However, there are still a lot of players who are not engaged in these activities.

Evidence Informed Decision-Making Rapid Landscape



Intervention/support that would benefit the system

- Build capacity on both supply and demand side of evidence decision making.
 - This ensures that producers focus on research which will unveil policy oriented research,
 - while the users will be forth coming to demand, comprehend and use available evidence.
- A second intervention should focus on increasing the interaction between the research generators and users.

How the map relates to three themes of EVIDENCE 2016

- Players in research production mostly play within the **engaging** and **understanding** themes by making sure that policy oriented research is produced and made available for usage.
- The players in the KT address issues of all themes.
 - Facilitating evidence use by making sure that there is interaction between the producers and users but also ensuring that effective communication takes place between these two groups in order to yield impact.
- Players in research use category ensures evidence is used to yield impact.
 - Formulating policies and making decisions that are evidence based and cost effective

Aspects of the map for possible upscaling

- Engaging policy makers through increased participation in conferences and science-policy cafes
- Capacity building on evidence use processes especially how to access, appraise and synthesize research evidence

- THANK YOU