



WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF EVIDENCE ON POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES?

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Background

- Is there any impact of evidence on policy-making processes?
- The analysis involved three studies:
 - *Citizen's Access to Information and its use for greater government accountability and responsiveness the Public Service Management of the President's Office in Tanzania in 2004.*
 - *Mapping and scoping capacity development initiatives and interventions in all Regional Economic Communities (RECs), commissioned in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) , NEPAD Agent the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECEA).*
 - *A Framework for Strengthening Policy Management, National Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Coordination of Core Reform, by the President's Office – Cabinet Secretariat, with the support of the United Nations Development Program in 2013.*
- *Using knowledge management conceptual framework, we asked how evidence was produced, meaningful, and became the roadmap?*

How Evidence was Produced?

- Employed “systems thinking” approach to integrate solid research findings available in past documents, expert opinion, and the tacit knowledge of stakeholders into a cohesive whole.
- These studies did not break down the analysis into individual problems but rather focused on the interactions of various elements of the issues.

Was it Meaningful?

Key Message to policy-makers

MAPPING CD: AU had created yet at the same time abandoned the RECs;

ATI: There is a deeply engrained tradition of secrecy within the public bureaucracy;

POLICY FRAMEWORK: several policies were not 'SMART' and REACTIVE.

Generates New Knowledge

MAPPING CD: Capacity is more than training but institution, enabling environment and human.

ATI: Communication is not only telling people but also listening to them adequately.

POLICY FRAMEWORK: Tanzania has a relative strong institutional framework,.

Educates on interconnectivity of problems

MAPPING CD: correlation between results delivery and adequate human and financial capacities, political will and knowledge, enabling environment

ATI: Relationship between rightful information and citizen responsiveness.

POLICY FRAMEWORK: Correlation of coherency in policies and capable institution to lead, demand, coach, coordinate and organize.

Did it become a Roadmap?

Roadmap	Analyzing Access to Information	Analyzing Policy Framework	Mapping Capacity Development
Key Constraints	Lack of political will was clearly a notable constraint to meaningful access and supply of information	Absence of comprehensive mechanisms for policy implementation, M&E	The lack of capacity to mobilize domestic resources obstructs the RECs' capacity to deliver effective results consistently.
Policy Options	Upward communication from village to the national level should be driven by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	Progressive shift to Evidence-Based Policy (EBP) making,	Sustainable and ownership-driven Resource mobilization and people-centered Africa's transformation
Utilization of Evidence	General Budget Support (GBS) involves government, CSOs, private sector, Development Partners, academia media, Members of Parliament. .	Tool kits for preparation and submission of policy documents. Establishment of M&E, Centers for Knowledge and communication.	Institutional transformation process within the RECs designed the 2015 – 2025 RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan

Challenges Remain

- **Engaging policy-makers to produce results remains a major challenge.** Evidence-makers demand space in the policy-making process, while policy makers are not yet fully a part of evidence-making.
- **Delaying both the production and utilization of evidence.** Evidence is dynamic and responds to a given time context. A delay in utilizing the evidence could make it delinquent and no longer relevant.
- **Absence or lack of proper communication.** Communication in research is seen as a soft element and expertise is not rigorously considered.

Lessons Learned

- Because key messages may not be immediately appreciated does not mean that policy-makers always totally ignore evidence that makes them uncomfortable. **President Kikwete emphasized that if the country hoped to achieve a middle-income economy by 2025, it would be essential to open up the development process so that planning would no longer be a secret process for executives.**
- If evidence is to be useful and make the impact it should on policies, policy-makers must become directly engaged in the evidence-making and utilization process.
- Evidence should not narrow a problem into a single issue but should help policy-makers see the complete picture and explain the interconnectivity of issues within a competitive environment.
- Evidence-based information on problems and actionable knowledge are equally important. It is incumbent that policy makers know the aggregates of the problem and most practical actions they can take to solve it.
- Communication should therefore be considered an integral part of any research agenda to ensure that:
 - Key research results will stand out;
 - Policy-makers and other related stakeholders will be engaged to participate actively in dialogue around issues and identify solutions for particular situation.