

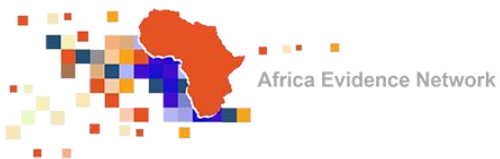


Evidence 2016

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Holistic approach to capacity building in strengthening use of evidence in policy making in Zimbabwe

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The VakaYiko Consortium

ginks

HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

inasp

ODI

Research
& Policy in
Development

ZeipNET
Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network



**Combination of approaches
across**

- 5 organisations
- 4 core countries
- 7 public institution partners

**Zimbabwe:
ZeipNET partnered 2
Ministries & Parliament**



Role of Research



“This is what science, research, technology and innovation should do: meet the people at the point of their greatest need”.

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya

Quoted in DfID: The Impact of Research on International Development, 2014



Capacity Building

Development and strengthening of human and institutional resources to support evidence use in policy making

Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

Agenda 2063

'actively promote science, technology, research and innovation, to build knowledge, human capital, capabilities and skills to drive innovations'

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

'Conduct & coordinate research and manage knowledge'

Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZimAsset)

Key success Factor Number 4 - Scientific research and development;

Approach to Capacity Development



UNDP has defined capacity as:

‘the ability to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives at three levels’:

- individual,
- Institutional,
- Societal



Evidence Informed Policy

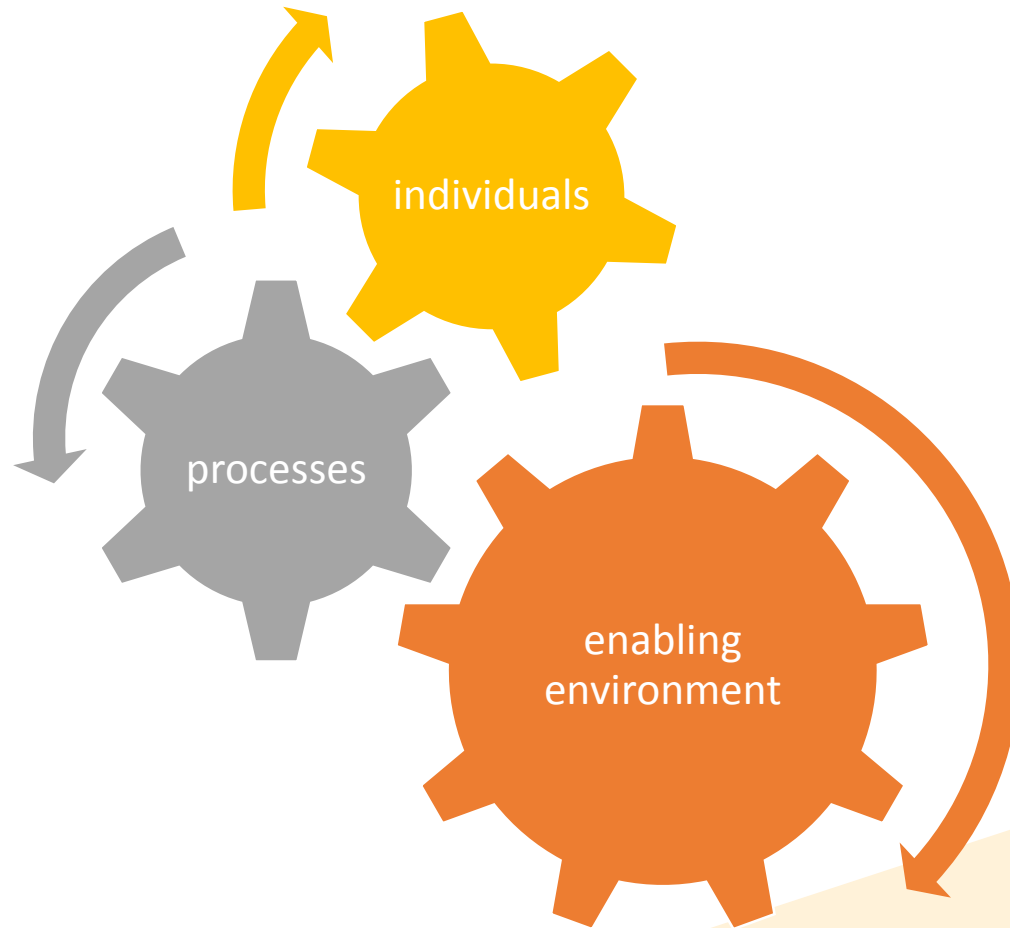


An 'Evidence Informed Policy' is that which has considered a broad range of evidence; it considers other factors such as political realities and public discourses.

(Newman, Fisher, & Shaxson, 2012)

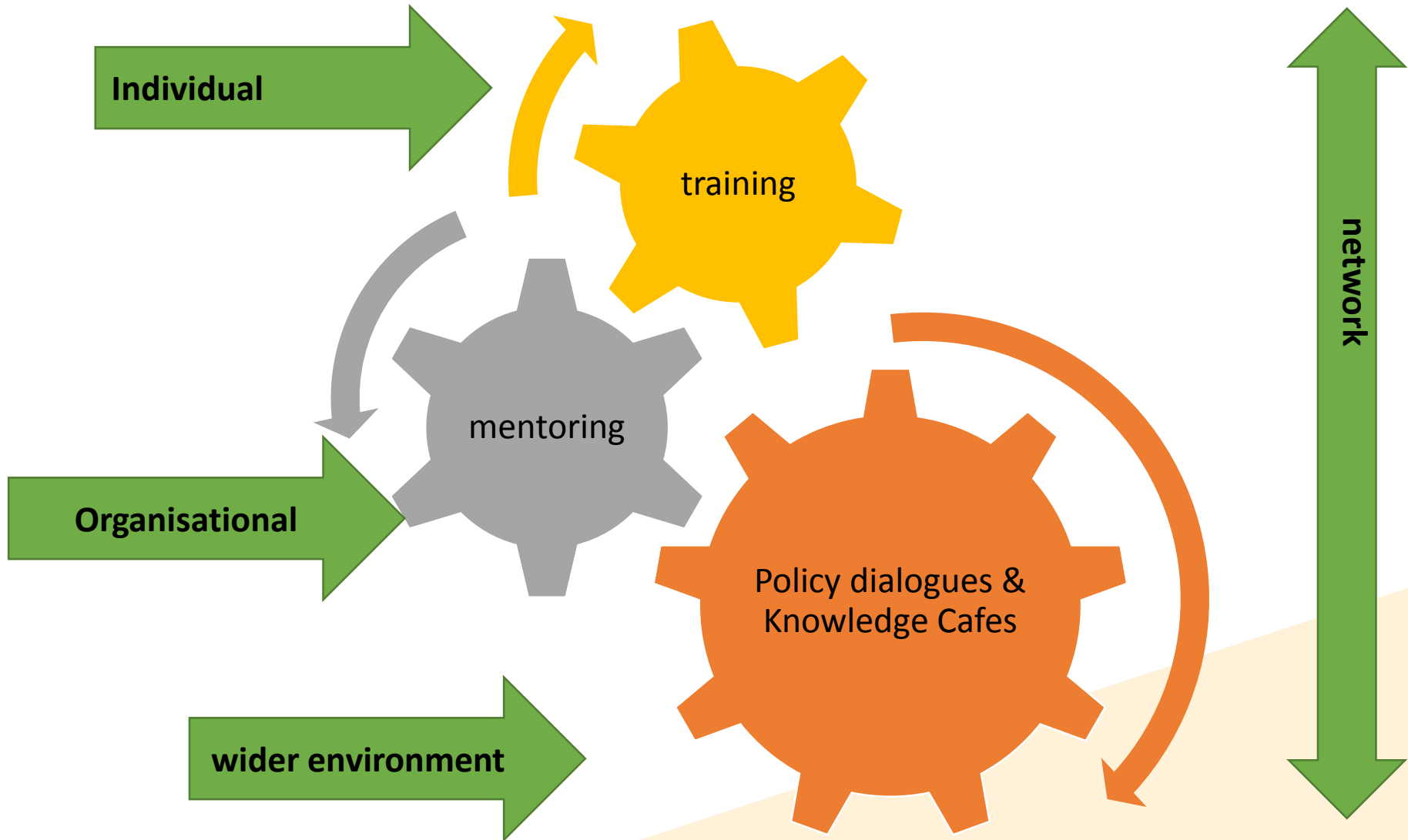


VakaYiko Consortium's Approach






Our approach in Zimbabwe





Flag

- The individual-, organizational- and system-level approaches is just one way of presenting the approaches to and complexity of capacity development for evidence-informed policy.
 - In reality, the levels overlap and intertwine
 - A lot of other approaches as well
- 



Individual Level

Training

50 staff (researchers, policy analysts, library staff) from Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Industry & Commerce, & Parliament completed our EIPM course

- Introduction to Evidence Informed Policy Making
- Strategically Searching for Evidence
- Assessing Evidence
- Communicating Evidence

Follow up survey : Skills regarding accessing, searching and using research evidence received up to 30% higher self-ratings than before the trainings.

- *ToolKit Available on: www.inasp.info/en/work/vakayiko/eipm-toolkit/*




Institutional/Organisational Level

Mentorship, & Learning Exchange

The Director of the Research Department along with one Officer from the 3 government institutions

(Focal persons or 'mentees')

- Building networks through roundtables and other stakeholder engagement platforms
 - Promotion of open access resources
 - Tools and templates to guide report writing
 - Learning exchange visits
- 



Wider environment

Stakeholder Engagement

5 Policy Dialogues

- Coordinating the Trade & Industrialisation policies (July 2014)
- Strengthening Youth Economic Opportunities (Dec 2014)
- Role of Standards in Industrialisation & Quality Assurance (Aug 2015)
- Zimbabwe Youth Council Act Review (Aug 2015)
- Validation of the evidence informing the ZimYES draft

3 Knowledge Cafes

- Gender Mainstreaming (March 2015)
- EIPM in Zimbabwe: Challenges + Opportunities (Nov 2015)
- Strengthening the Institutional Policy Landscape in Zim (Jan 2016)



Successes

- Establishment of a research and policy coordination unit (Ministry of Youth)

-Developing evidence strategy that can help the unit guide their work.

- Skills and knowledge to access, assess and communicate evidence, improved quality of evidence outputs
- Improved work processes (Peer review, evidence templates)
- Spaces of engagement to link researchers and policymakers


-Bringing together the “right people in the room to discuss relevant policy issues affecting the country”

- Improvement in networking events and knowledge sharing (Parliamentary evidence series)
- Youth Action Workgroup (Ministry, ZeipNET and the ZYC)
- Convening power, brokering and coordination.

-Direct engagement and getting the critical stakeholders eg. through policy dialogues and knowledge cafes has been a major success



Reflections...

- ZeipNET, small and relatively organisation
 - Needs & Appropriate design of approaches to meet needs?
 - Capacity building: one level or three at once? Start with broader environment or organisation level and move to individual?
 - Focus on thematic areas such as key services (health finance(economics), education) to get traction
 - Linking the different strands of our work
 - Flexibility in programming
 - Lessons from policy dialogues and knowledge cafes
- 



Opportunities

- Embedding the EIPM Course within institutions that already have a remit to train civil servants (ZIPAM)
- Scaling up or replicating the programme in other government departments
- Strengthening of the institutional landscape (national evidence infrastructure)
- Linking with the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) which is currently leading the M&E of Zim-Asset
- Consider synchronizing approaches with SDG themes
- Work more directly with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees themselves so that they are able to critically appraise evidence
- Partnering with other local institutions and development partners to ensure sustainability and continued growth of ZeipNET



Thank you
Danke xie
Khawp khun
Gum ootio
Selamat
Juspa
Spacibo
Arigato

Mahalo
Obrigada