

EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION- MAKING LANDSCAPE MAP FOR PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI

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Presentation outline

- Background
- Main role players in the EIDM
- Existing gaps in the EIDM
- Organisational silos impeding flow of evidence
- Relationship between evidence producers and users
- Landscape

Background

- Parliament of Malawi is a governance sector responsible for legislative, oversight and representative roles.
- It has 193 Members of Parliament who belong to 21 Parliamentary Committees.
- These Parliamentary committees are responsible for
 1. Analyzing policy issues
 2. Scrutinizing the work and expenditure of the government
 3. Examining proposals for primary and secondary legislation
- The specific area for each parliamentary committee enables it to specialize and build up a body of expertise among its members.

Main role players are in the EIDM

- Members of Parliament (MPs) are the main role players in this Evidence Informed Policy Making
- The MPs require evidence both in the Parliamentary Committees and the House debates.
- They need evidence to find out the facts of a case or issue; gather evidence from expert groups or individuals; sift evidence and drawing up conclusions.

Existing Gaps in the EIDM in Parliament of Malawi

- The MPs come from different academic backgrounds and have busy work schedule.
- They lack technical skills to access, appraise, synthesize and to apply the evidence for decision making during parliamentary committee and House debate.
- Lack of these technical skills sometimes contribute to legislations and policies of insufficient quality that fail to address problems or achieve policy objectives.

Organizational silos impeding the flow of evidence in Malawi Parliamentary system

- Parliament of Malawi research department is understaffed (5 researchers to serve 21 Parliamentary)
- The research staff have limited access to information on science and technology and overall parliamentary databases.
- Internet access is not as accessible as it is supposed to be

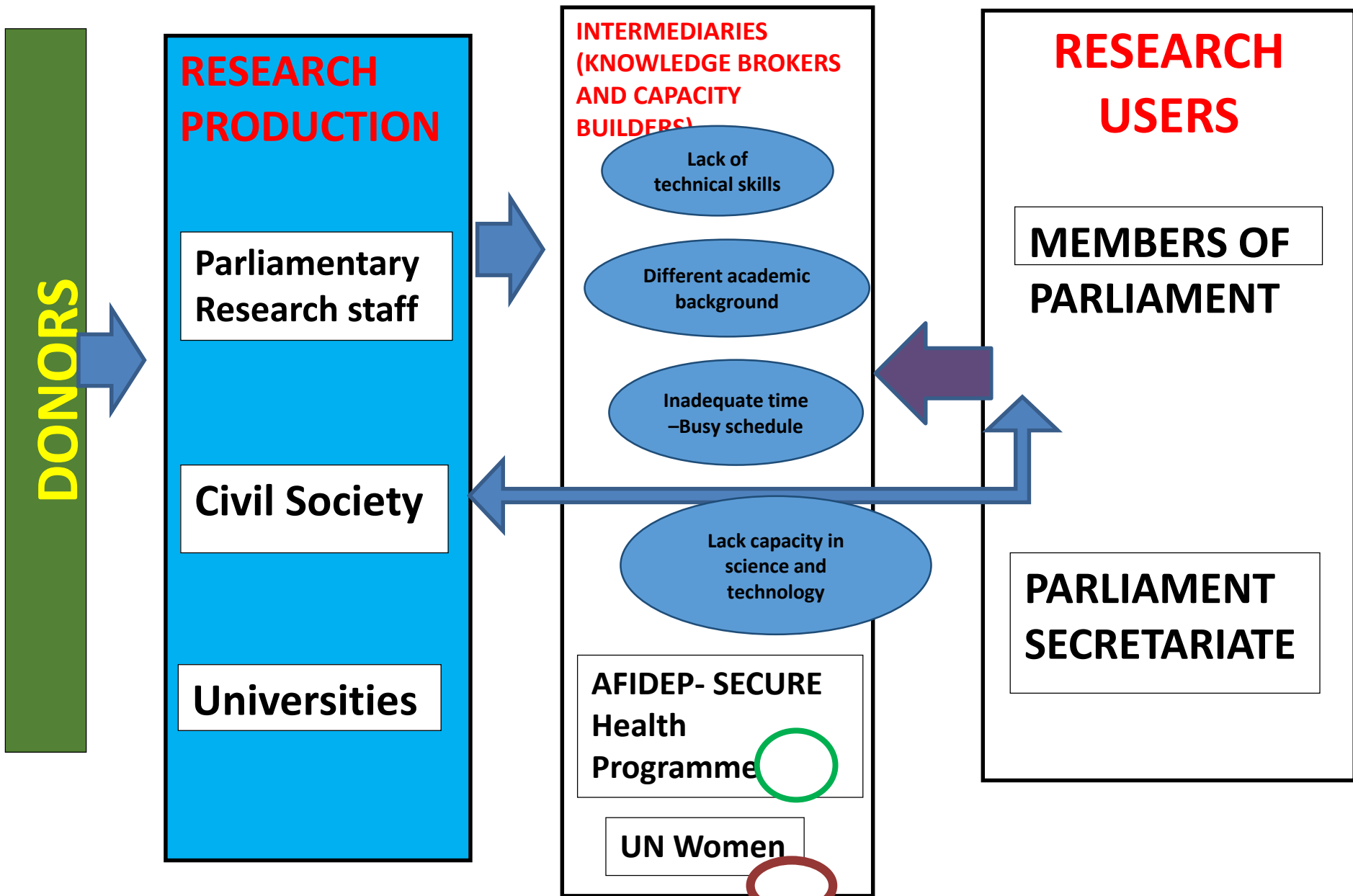
Relationship between research producers and Members of Parliament and Staff

- The producers of research evidence are the parliamentary staff, civil society and university think tanks.
- They generate evidence to assist inquiries by MPs for legislation and policy making.
- The MPs need evidence and update information for:
 - debating great range of legislations and other policy issues effectively
 - representing their constituents in Parliament.

Relationship between research producers and Members of Parliament and Staff

- The relationship is stronger between the research producers and the MPs tend to be stronger
 - In areas that require quantitative data
 - Analysis such as national budget and its implications on the constituents.
- It is the parliamentary researchers and civil society that engage the MPs in other subject matters.
- Evidence use in decision making is sometimes affected by the MPs' personal motivations (desire for political advancement to influence policy for power in a legislative body and for private gain)

PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING LANDSCAPE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION