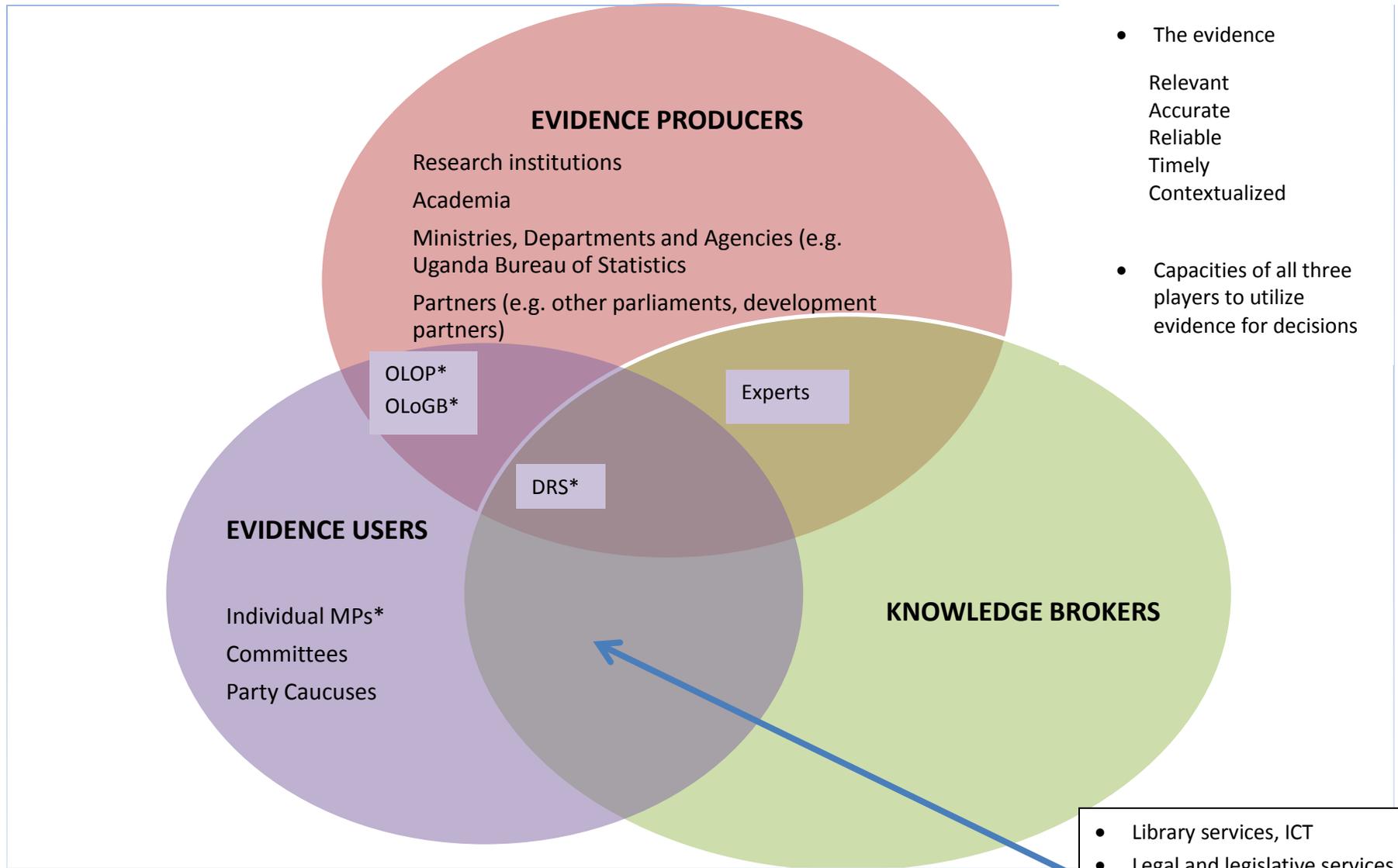


A REPRESENTATION OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

In the context of:

- The evidence
 - Relevant
 - Accurate
 - Reliable
 - Timely
 - Contextualized
- Capacities of all three players to utilize evidence for decisions



- Library services, ICT
- Legal and legislative services
- Committee support staff
- Institute of Parliamentary Studies
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Political Assistants

*DRS – Department of Research Services
MPs – Members of Parliament
OLOP – Office of the Leader of Opposition
OLoGB – Office of the Leader of Government Business

Evidence 2018

Evidence Ecosystem map outline

Section1

1. The map relates to the legislature sector of Uganda
2. The main role players are:

Production of research: Department of Research Services, Research institutions, Academia, Experts/consultants, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, other parliaments, Development partners.

Users of research: Department of Research Services, Individual Members of Parliament, Committees, Party caucuses, Parliamentary Forums

Intermediaries: Department of Research Services

Producers and users: Political offices; Office of the Leader of Government Business, Office of the Leader of Opposition

Producers and intermediaries: Experts

Users and intermediaries: Library services, Legal and legislative services, Committee support staff, Institute of Parliamentary Studies, Parliamentary Budget Office, Political Assistants, ICT

The department of Research Services is unique in that it produces, transmits, interprets and synthesizes of information

3. Gaps that exist in the evidence ecosystem

Pure intermediaries/knowledge translators/brokers are apparently missing.

4. Are there bottlenecks or silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system
- Parliament calendar

The need for evidence in the legislature depends on the Business of the House and committees. This information is usually availed in piecemeal and

at short notice. Consequently producers have limited time within which to gather evidence to respond to debate.

- Capacity of the 3 players to play their roles effectively
 - (i) Ability to produce information that is relevant and usable by the Parliament
 - (ii) Education level, awareness and attitudes of MPs, High turnover
 - (iii) Staff skill levels, specialties and numbers in gathering, appraising and communicating evidence
 - (iv) Identifying champions of evidence in all the 3 groups

- Reliability of information

Parliaments will always need to draw in external expertise. It is important to know where to draw from.

Channeling requests

Parliaments have many different channels through which they gather evidence, but often the systems for systematically identifying and responding to MPs' evidence needs are limited. While some parliaments have attempted to put in place mechanisms for feedback from MPs on products presented by research and information staff, these are often not systematically implemented, and the extent to which the evidence provided has met MPs' needs remains difficult to gauge.

- **Access to research in the library:** Many African parliamentary libraries, which serve as a main source of information for staff and MPs, do not have access to up-to date journal subscriptions. This can make it difficult to inform debates with the latest research, especially in the content of increasingly complex and highly specialized policy issues.³⁰

Quality assuring evidence: There is no single agreed quality-assurance mechanism for evidence in the parliamentary context. Some research services are beginning to put in place standards, handbooks and templates for key evidence products, but most do not have formal peer-review structures in place for the evidence they synthesize and present to decision makers

5. What best characteristics the relationship between research producers and users in your country/the sector you are describing

These are very distinct groups

Section 3

- a) The type of intervention/support the system would most benefit from is **capacity building for use of evidence to inform debates and interventions.**
- b) How the map relates to the three themes of the Evidence 2018 conference: engage, understand, impact

Parliament needs to **engage** with producers of evidence to obtain information relevant to the issue for debate. Then the Members needs to understand how to use the information produced. The unique role of the legislature is to turn the policy process upside down – taking a bottom - up view from the perspective of needs for services in areas outside the capital. This view features such questions as: “How will this proposed policy affect the people living in my district or living in villages and small towns far away from the capital? How will this affect business, health or education in my district? Is the proposed policy consistent with the values prevalent among the people and interests outside the capital? Does the policy go too far – or not far enough – to suit these preferences? What are the unintended consequences that could adversely affect the people and interests in my district? Are the means chosen to implement the policy acceptable to those whom I represent?”

The result of this bottom-up process is more democratic and produces better and more stable policy – by identifying possibly adverse impacts, making appropriate compensatory adjustments in advance, and educating local citizens on the underlying purposes of the proposed new policy.

Evidence, analysis, and impact information all play an important role in making this legislative review of proposed policy more meaningful and effective.

- c) Aspects of the engagement described in the map that work well and have potential to be up-scaled

Producers and users

d) A creative metaphor to describe the overall evidence ecosystem

“Connecting Knowledge to power”