

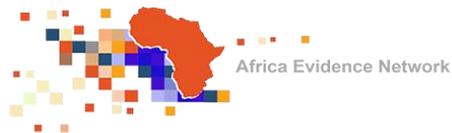
Evidence-informed decision-making landscape in the context of devolved system of government in Kenya

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This map is part of a series of maps on the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscapes in different countries in Africa. The series comprises 25 maps and is available from the Africa Evidence Network. This is map 25 in the series. Maps were produced as part of the bursary conditions for attendance at Evidence 2016 (<http://evidenceconference.org.za/>). Bursaries were provided as part of the UJ-BCURE programme, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

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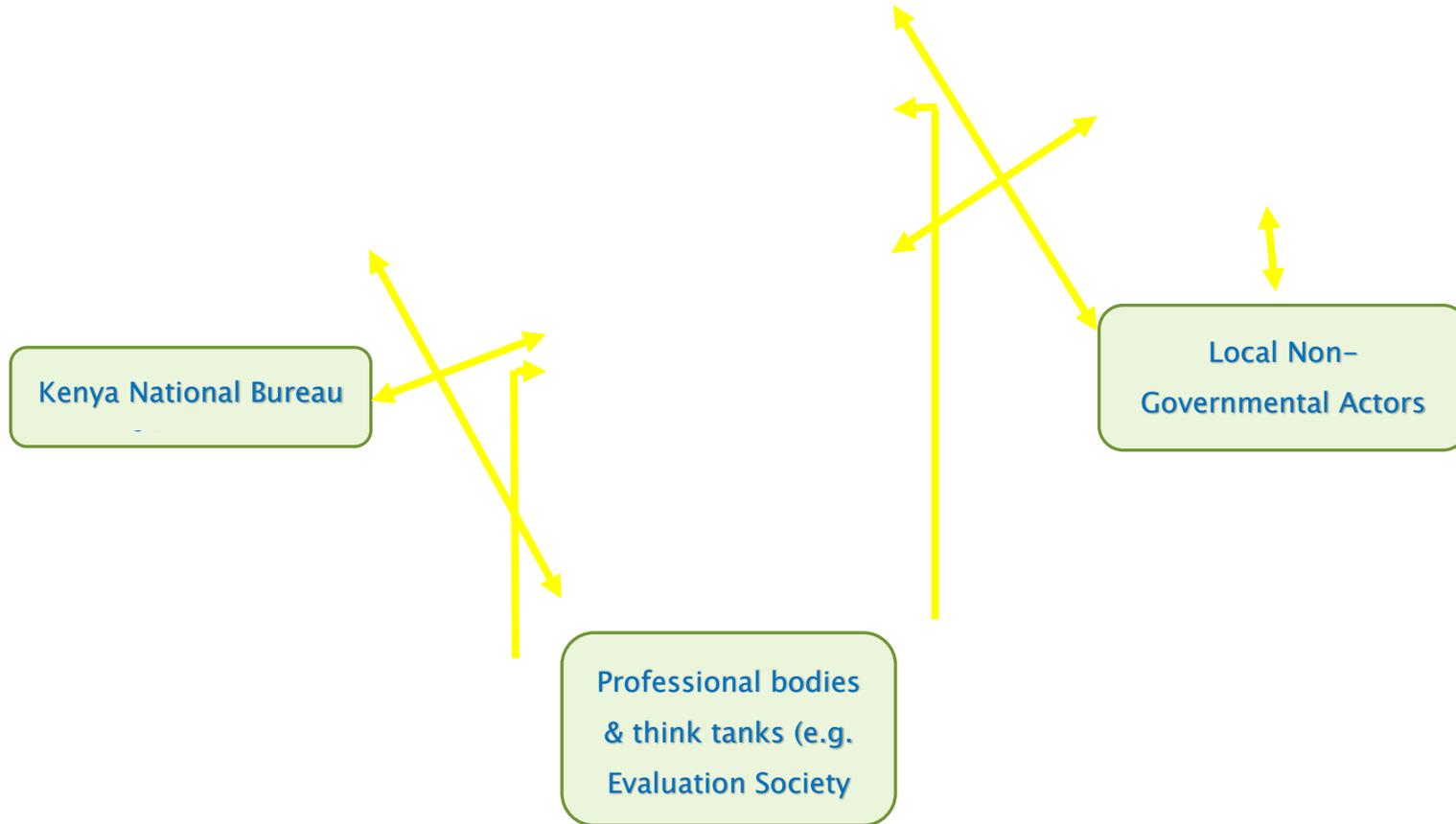
Country Context

- In 2010, Kenya ushered in a new constitutional dispensation that was characterized by significant departure from the centralized governance system to a devolved system of government with the creation of 47 counties headed by executive Governors.
- This new devolved system of government came along with implications within the development front that required other development actors to review their development action, engagement and approaches to make meaningful impact at the local county levels.
- It also had implications on the demand and supply of evidence to ensure policy making, programs development, and projects design and implementation at the County levels are informed by research and evidence.
- Other development actors refocused at the County levels as units of development action by independently or collaboratively carrying our research and evaluations to inform County specific development planning, programming, and action.
- The national government with the help of other development actors responded by developing the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) to run hand in hand and compliment the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES).

- However, these efforts are work in progress and evolutionary and gaps still exist in both demand and supply of evidence to inform decision making.
- For instance, even though there are distinct functions of national and county governments, there are area of overlap where sharing of evidence for joint decision making is necessary.
- County governments still lack both staff and organizational capacity to demand and use evidence for decision making.
- Non-governmental development actors at the county level are largely community-based such as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGOs), and National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs) with local project presence, cooperatives and farmers associations, welfare groups, and faith-based organizations which also lack capacity in EIDM.
- Research and academic institutions, international development agencies, and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) mostly still engage with national government with regard to supply and demand for evidence.
- Most county governments are yet to establish functions responsible for demand and supply of evidence rendering legislation and executive decision making not sufficiently supported by evidence.
- Capacity building services in production and use of evidence is lacking at the local levels since most reputable consulting and capacity building organizations and experts are located in major towns and cities and focus more on the national government and international development actors.

Evidence-Informed Decision Making Landscape Map





Conclusions

- The landscape map is very thin on research production and use but heavy on research intermediaries.
- There is a very heavy interaction between research producers and intermediaries.
- There is hardly any direct interaction between research producers and users.
- Research intermediaries play a central and key role in promoting research production and use.
- There is need to increase the quality and quantity of research/evidence producers at the County/Local levels.
- There is need to support and promote a more direct relationship and interaction between research producers and users for sustainability, relevance, and timeliness of evidence.
- Research intermediaries have been engaging with both research producers and users with the objective of understanding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and supporting participatory formulation of strategies and actions geared towards making a positive impact on demand, supply, and use of evidence in policy formulation, programs development, projects design and implementation.
- The Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK) has a very good working relationship with Monitoring and Evaluation Department (MED) in promoting the demand and supply of research, evidence, and evaluation outputs within national government and is currently making exploratory initiatives to reach out to the county governments. This initiative can be strengthened by having strong county/regional chapters of ESK and thematic (Technical) working groups.
- Creative metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system: **“DEVOLVED EVIDENCE FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**