

# Tunisia, evidence-based policy-making by parliamentarians

Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif

2016

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 3 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).

*Suggested citation:* Cherif, O.S. 2016. Tunisia, evidence-based policy-making by parliamentarians. AEN EIDM Landscape Mapping Series No 3. Johannesburg: Africa Evidence Network (AEN) <http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/resources/landscape-maps/>



Strengthening Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Africa

[www.africaevidencenetwork.org](http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org)

## Evidence Summit

The map relates to Tunisia, evidence based policy making by parliamentarians. Particularly parliamentarians' involvement in promoting evaluation culture in the country. In Tunisia different stakeholders including parliamentarians, the government (Ministry of Public Service, Governance and Fight Against Corruption) and evaluation community (Tunisia Evaluation Network - TEN) work together on strengthening enabling environment for evaluation. There is a national strategy of Good Governance and Fight Against Corruption. This strategy addresses evaluation as an important tool to enhance the performance of public policy. TEN is working on the mapping of national evaluation capacities (NEC) and then launch a national dialogue about a national evaluation model. Many evaluations were conducted in Tunisia specially in the development field, usually sponsored by donors. The supervisory bodies (presidency, Ministry of Finance ) and the Court of Auditors led many evaluations but the use of these evaluations need to be improved.

Recently all stakeholders got together in organizing the historical session at the Tunisia parliament on evaluation during the 5th EvalMENA Evaluation Conference and General Assembly. This surely demonstrates the commitment of the Tunisian authorities to transparent and accountable governance and provides a model for other countries to follow. The "localized" version of the Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 was launched at the General Assembly. Tunisia Evaluation Network is an active evaluation society among many other national evaluation societies.

Parliamentarians and policy makers have the role to promote monitoring and evaluation nationally. Parliamentarians work as conduit between government and people, so in accountability of the parliament to the people and the government to the parliament. Parliamentarians also have a role to demand and support legislation on Monitoring and Evaluation and National M&E Policies. Developing and strengthening evaluation policies in countries is important for good governance and effective development. The parliamentarians have a dual role: Promote evaluation of SDG agenda and promote monitoring and evaluation nationally. Parliamentarians and policy makers can make sure that national strategies and policies are in line with and include evaluation, particularly by making sure that evaluation reports are discussed in Parliamentary Committees\Commissions oversight function to provide accountability of governments\ministries.

In addition, Tunisia actively supported the recent UN General Assembly resolution on national evaluation capacity development (A/RES/69/237, *"Evaluation Capacity Building for the Achievement of Development Results at Country Level* <http://www.unevaluation.org/mediacenter/newscenter/newsdetail/105>), which reiterates the importance of strengthening national capacity for evaluation and invites for a more coordinated support in strengthening national capacity for the evaluation of national development policies and programmes. So the support and engagement from high level at the government is there.

## Research Production

**Tunisian Evaluation Network in partnership with donors and regional networks**

**Center of social researches and studies**

**UN Agencies in partnership with Tunisian researchers**

**Tunisian Institute of strategic studies**

## Research Translate

**TEN tries to put at the disposal of the national evaluation community resources translated into Arabic. (as the Arabic version of "Road Results")**

## Research Use

**Parliamentarians**

**Public officers are responsible policy making and implementation**

**Tunisian Evaluation Network (which organized in partnership with ENAP Quebec a first session of an international training on development evaluation in May 2016 for 22 Tunisian officers)**

**National School of Administration**

**Professional evaluators**

**Parliament to demand more research and evaluation reports for evidence based policy making**

Page 3

In Tunisia, stakeholders are working on several interventions in different fronts. Tunisia Evaluation Network works with the government and parliamentarians on the national evaluation policy process. In the recent evaluation event at the parliament of Tunisia, a Parliamentary Committee on Evaluation was launched. This is a big step in strengthening evidence based policy making at parliament level and one of the few national parliamentary committees on evaluation. By holding EvalMENA conference 2016 in Tunis, the stakeholders showed commitment for evaluation capacity building.

Also the country received a project from EvalGender+ network, an initiative of EvalPartners to strengthen “evaluation of SDGs in equity and gender lens”. The project aims mapping national evaluation capacities in the country, capacity building on evaluating SDGs in gender and equity lens and doing a pilot evaluation. This will be an important step for evaluation capacity building.

It is needed to provide further support for the national evaluation policy development process. Tunisia also needs forward looking strategy for national evaluation system led by the public sector with participation from the civil society. It is needed to map out research capacity of the country in relation to evidence based policy making. The parliamentary committee on evaluation should be more strengthened to demand research and evaluation reports from various stakeholders. The committee needs to have necessary technical expertise on this. More parliamentarians need to be made aware of importance of evaluation and how to use evaluation reports.

The pilot evaluation scheduled under the EvalGender project, based on success, need to be replicated with more public officers. So that relevant public officers have the experience to design, implement, manage and disseminate evaluations. The pilot evaluation report can be used as a learning document. Also the mapping report should be used to plan for evaluation capacity building in the country.

The map relates to conference themes: engage: understand and impact. This talks about engaging all stakeholders interested in evaluation field building. It also about understanding concepts on evidence based policy making particularly by parliamentarians. Achieving impact is the ultimate goal of all these interventions mentioned in the paper. The final poster will be provided in July by the deadline.