

Guidance on how to conduct a rapid landscape review map

Africa Evidence Network (AEN)

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This guidance note was used as the basis for 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. 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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Strengthening Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Africa

www.africaevidencenetwork.org

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This document contains guidelines on the development of an evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscape map for a country, sector, or area of work. Maps can be presented in the form of a poster consisting of three sections or pages.

Poster outline

The posters should consist of three pages.

Section 1 (1 page):

Provide an overview of the map you will be including on page 2. Consider providing information such as:

- What country / sector / area of work your map relates to.
- An overview of who the main role players are in the EIDM landscape (please explain acronyms used in the map in full).
- What gaps exist in the EIDM landscape (i.e. what type of organisations/initiatives are currently missing)?
- Are there bottlenecks or organisational silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system?
- What best characterises the relationship between research producers and users in your country/the sector you are describing (e.g. distinct groups; co-producers of knowledge; etc.)?

Section 2 (1 page):

Map the position of and interactions between EIDM role players in the research-policy environment.

An example of a proposed map template is included on p. 3 of this document. For examples of completed landscape maps please refer to the documents *South Africa Research to Policy Landscape Review* and *Malawi Research to Policy Landscape Review* on the AEN website (<http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/resources/>)

(1) On your map please include:

- Role players in the production of research (e.g. universities; research councils; think tanks).
- Role players in the use of research (e.g. government; NGOs; professional bodies).
- Intermediaries (e.g. knowledge brokers; donor organisations; networks).

(2) Map out the relationship between these role players using arrows or descriptive bubbles.

(3) Highlight any role player that engages in EIDM capacity-building with a green circle (see example below).

(4) Highlight any role player that presents a network or a community of practice to support EIDM with an orange circle (see example below).

(5) If possible, outline which government department co-ordinates the use of evidence across government.

(6) If possible, outline differences between national and provincial departments in the evidence landscape.

(7) Don't worry about the landscape diagram looking messy! We aim for comprehensiveness and understand that the EIDM landscape is often difficult to map neatly. The below might be able to give you some potential design ideas, but you are free to adopt your own design as long as it includes the three types of role players stated above (i.e. research users, producers, and brokers).

Section 3 (1 page):

Conclusion:

Consider answering the following questions:

- What type of intervention/support would the system most benefit from?
- Comment on how your map relates to the three themes of the Evidence 2016 conference: engage, understand, impact.
- Do you think that there are aspects of the engagement described in your map that works well and has potential to be upscaled?
- Is there a creative metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system (e.g. evidence eco-system/jungle; research to policy highway etc.)?

Proposed Rapid Landscape template:

