Zimbabwe EIDM evidence landscape map

Mr. Ronald Munatsi

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Zimbabwe EIDM Evidence Landscape Map

The evidence landscape map shows the national evidence infrastructure (institutional) that support the use of evidence in policy making in Zimbabwe.

Stakeholder Overview

The general stakeholders in the 'research-to-policy' matrix consists of institutions that generate research or produce evidence required for policy decision-making, those who act as brokers or research intermediaries and the end-users of the evidence (government policy makers). Focus is on existing linkages between research institutes/think-tanks, the academia, civic society organisations including professional bodies/business membership organisations on the extreme right end. These produce evidence in one form or the other. In the middle we have organisations acting as evidence brokers or research intermediaries. These bridge the link between the producers and consumers of evidence through various interventions, for example, capacity building, synthesising evidence, packaging, communicating among other initiatives.At the extreme right end we have the users/consumers of evidence. These are the decision /policymakers.

The main players who were identified in the EIDM landscape are *quasi- government research institutions* (which have a direct remit to supply evidence to government ministries like Finance, Industry and Commerce e.g. The Zimbabwe Economic Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) ; *universities* (these also play a role in the pro-active and commissioned research within the EIDM landscape); *research regulatory bodies* such as the Research Council of Zimbabwe - there conduct national research prioritisation exercise to fund research which informs/influences decision making, policy making and development.

Multi-lateral and Bi-lateral institutions such as International Monetary Fund, World Bank, the UN family, Africa Development Bank also conduct consultancy based research for government ministries such as Finance, Industry and Commerce, Youth Development among others. The evidence from the research has contributed to decision making and policies within the government ministries. The Government of Zimbabwe rarely supports its own research but collaborates with development partners.

Office of the President and Cabinet – A key player within the EIDM landscape, as national policies and blue prints monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is within their mandate.

Civil Society Organisations produce research, though challenges still exist for most NGOs to have their research findings contribute to national decision making/policy making due to the mistrust that exist between the Government of Zimbabwe and civil society organisations.

Knowledge/ Evidence Brokers such as the Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network (ZeipNET), ZIMBISA are the only two organisations who have taken a deliberate move to implement interventions to promote evidence use in policy making by creating awareness of the

evidence agenda, participatory capacity building activities and creating an enabling environment for researcher producers and users to engage. This has been done through policy dialogues and knowledge cafes.

Please note that some of these have a dual role where they may be both producers and translators.

Existing Gaps within the EIDM Landscape
The most evident gap in the Zimbabwean EIDM landscape is lack of deliberate linkages between the academia including independent research based organisations with the government. Only those research organisations and thinktanks with a direct remit to provide government's research needs e.g. ZEPARU are actively working with government directly. Although some few non-governmental organisations, for example UNICEF are working closely with government, a significant number of others find it extremely difficult to engage government so as to either collaboratively doresearch or to communicate their research findings.

Are there bottlenecks or organisational silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system?

The following challenges exist within the EIDM system:
- Minimal capacity (skills, knowledge) to access, appraise and communicate evidence for decision making;
- Limited or no access to high quality research evidence portals by government ministries;
- Limited platforms exist that link researchers to policy makers, for example knowledge café, policy dialogues;
- Institutional politics – " where is the evidence coming from" is always an issue within government.

Relationship between research producers and users in country

Zimbabwe has a very good institutional framework that has great potential to support EIDM but it is largely dysfunctional. Many of the institutions perform their functions in isolation. The existence of research and policy planning units in almost every ministry is a good thing but what lacks is their engagement with external research institutions like think tanks and other research organisations. External non-governmental players can ride on those institutions that have a direct mandate to support government research needs and forge smart partnerships. Government is usually suspicious of NGOs but these help generate important research and also support capacity building programmes and other interventions that support the use of evidence in policy making thereby impacting positively and changing people's lives. This way there is collaboration by the different players in identifying national research priorities and co-production of evidence to inform policy decisions

Evidence Landscape (Zimbabwe)

RESEARCH PRODUCTION

Government Driven Initiatives

- Research Council of Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe Economic Policy & Analysis Research Unit
- Scientific Industrial Research & Development Centre
- Biotechnological Research & Training Institute (BRTI),
- Professional Bodies / Business Membership Organisations
- NGOs, Bilateral & Multilateral Organisations
- Universities Zimbabwe Science Academy

RESEARCH TRANSLATION

- Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network (Pilot Project)
- ZIMBISA
- Research Council of Zimbabwe
- National Economic Consultative Forum
- Government Ministry Research & Policy Planning Units
- NGOs, Bilateral & Multilateral Organisations

Capacity Building Brokering Coordination

Capacity Building Brokering Coordination

RESEARCH USE

- Parliament of Zimbabwe
  Ministry of Industry and Commerce
  Ministry of Youth Development
- Office of the President Business Membership Organisations
  Ministry of Finance
  Ministry of Industry and Commerce
  Ministry of Small Scale Enterprises
- Ministry of Health & Child Care
- Other Ministries
- Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration & Management
- NGOs, Bilateral & Multilateral Organisations