

POLICY MAKERS' INVOLVEMENT IN PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE

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AT

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Policy definition and types
 - Policy maker and policy formulations
 - Major objectives of (health) policy
 - Evidence definition and application
 - Why policy makers need evidence- link between policy and evidence
 - Production of evidence
 - Drivers in producing evidence and how involved
 - conclusion
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WHAT IS POLICY ?

- Plan or principle of actions agreed/chosen by government, corporates body or even individuals
- A deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes
- A course of action by government, political party, or business, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions etc
- Deliberate plan of action by Government, private sector organizations, social groups, and individuals to guide decisions and achieve rational outcome/s in a defined are of interest,


A documented and endorsed road map for achieving a desired outcome with clear purpose, action lines and performance measurement




TYPES OF POLICY

- **Consider:**
 - *Provision of free immunization services to all children under the age of two year*
 - *Free medical care to all senior citizens*
 - *Introduction of school feeding program in the federal republic of Nigeria*
 - *Imposition of speed limit on high ways*
 - *Use of seat belt by motorist*
 - *Prohibition of tobacco smoking in public places*
 - *Adoptation of dhis2 platform for reporting health data in Nigeria*
 - *-making the rich pay more tax to enable the poor benefit from social services*
 - *Self regulation by associations, union to enhance official credibility*
- ***Can be distributary, regulatory, re-distributary or self regulatory-Lowi (1964)***

POLICY MAKER AND POLICY FORMULATION

- A person authorized to formulate or be involved in formulating policy
 - Someone who sets the plan pursued by Government, business body etc
 - Policy formulation:
 - Selecting the desired objectives – *better if supported with measurable evidences*
 - Identifying the targets of the objectives- *more acceptable when backed with evidences)*
 - Determining the pathway to reach that objective- *attracts more confidence if evidence-based*
 - Designing the specific program in respect of the goal- targets, funding, politics- *gains more priority if evidence-based*
 - Implementing the measure, evaluating and assessing the impacts (outcome)- *more authentic and credible if backed with evidence*
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MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF HEALTH POLICY

- Forecasting the vision of the future with benchmarks (*set with evidence*) for short and medium terms
 - Identifying priorities (*based on evidences from current performance*) with clear roles distribution
 - data on disease burden
 - cost effectiveness of chosen interventions
 - impacts of existing interventions/ need for reform
 - Consensus building and information dissemination to stakeholders- *convincing if evidence -based*
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TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOOD POLICY MAKING-SIR GUS O'DONNELL- PERSONAL VIEWS

1. Thou shalt be clear about the desired *outcome-lack of clear problem to solve is a sin*
2. Thou shalt evaluate policy as objectively as possible- *measure success (with evidence)*
3. Thou shalt not bear false witness against the neighbor's policies- *stakeholders' buy-in and ownership- (better achieved with evidence)*
4. Thou shalt not assume the government has to solve every problem- *prioritise with evidence*
5. *Thou shalt not rush to legislate-consensus building and buy- in*
6. *Honor the evidence and use it to make decision-clear link between the two*
7. *Thou shalt be clear who is accountable for what and line up the powers and accountability-transparency and accountability*
8. Thou shalt not kill the messenger- *consensus building and information sharing for acceptability and ownership*
9. *Thou shalt not forget that it is a privilege to serve- justification with evidence on chosen policy*
10. Thou shalt keep a sense of proportion- *focus on result backed with evidence*

WHAT IS EVIDENCE?

- There is a convincing evidence between exposure to sun and a skin cancer
- He was released when the judge ruled there was no evidence against him
- We found further scientific evidence for this theory
- Have you any evidence to support this allegation?
- Since 1300c- ‘appearance from which inferences may be drawn” from old French evidence, evidentia (proof) originally distinction or clearness
- By late 1400c- explained as “ground for belief”
- By 1600cc it was seen to mean “obviousness”
- By 1500cc, Legal bodies started giving more weight to evidence than witness in taking decision.
- *The facts, signs or object that will make one believe that something is true*

Whether an Evidence is seen as noun or as verb, the bottom line is that—It provides basis for decision making



TYPES OF EVIDENCES

Evidence is classified in several ways.

- As noun (suggest, indicate) OR as verb (testify ,proof,)
- physically detectable by senses- seeing, feeling, hearing ,smelling, etc
- Scientific proof- shape of the earth, data,
- electronic- video ,audio, pictures, Intelligence reports

Foot/finger prints

But for decision making purposes, the best evidences are data generated from various sources

APPLICATION- WHY EVIDENCE NEEDED?

Evidence is required by decision makers:

Prosecution- courts, security agencies etc

Diagnosis	Justification for achievement/failure	
Confirmation	Confidence	benchmarking
Accountability	Acceptability	commitment
Existence	Ownership	Reform
Performance	Credibility	Advocacy
Trend	predictions	Decision
Surveillance	standard setting	Conclusion
Disparity	priority setting	Target setting

WHY POLICY MAKERS NEED EVIDENCES? 1

- “developing and sustaining policies that attack inequalities in the use of critical health services requires **usable information** about the constraints faced by the poor. If policy design and implementation are not based on **deep understanding** of the critical constraints faced by the poor, they (policies) are likely to fail”-*Abdo s.Yasbeck*
- “What matters is what works”- *Blair Government*
- “ must produce policies that really deal with problems, that are forward-looking and shaped by evidence rather than a response to a short-term pressures; that tackle causes not symptoms”-*(UK Govt white paper-modernizing government 1999)*
- “ So for this new policy frame work that was approved today, puts in place a much better opportunity to engage with states, Local Governments and communities, and executing the priorities of the change agenda.”-*Nigeria’s Minister of environment (trust 23rd February 2017)*

WHY POLICY MAKERS NEED EVIDENCES? 3

- Results are increasingly required and used by program managers to:
 - enhance accountability
 - Justify budget allocation
 - be used as tool for resource mobilization
 - verify and improve quality
 - Making case for continuity, expansion, discontinue or reform
- Global shift in focus from inputs to outcome and results
- Competition for meager recourses among priority programs
- Means for promoting public awareness and transparency
- Convincing constituents that the chosen investments have positive returns.
- Credible evidence on performance and whether desired outcomes are achieved

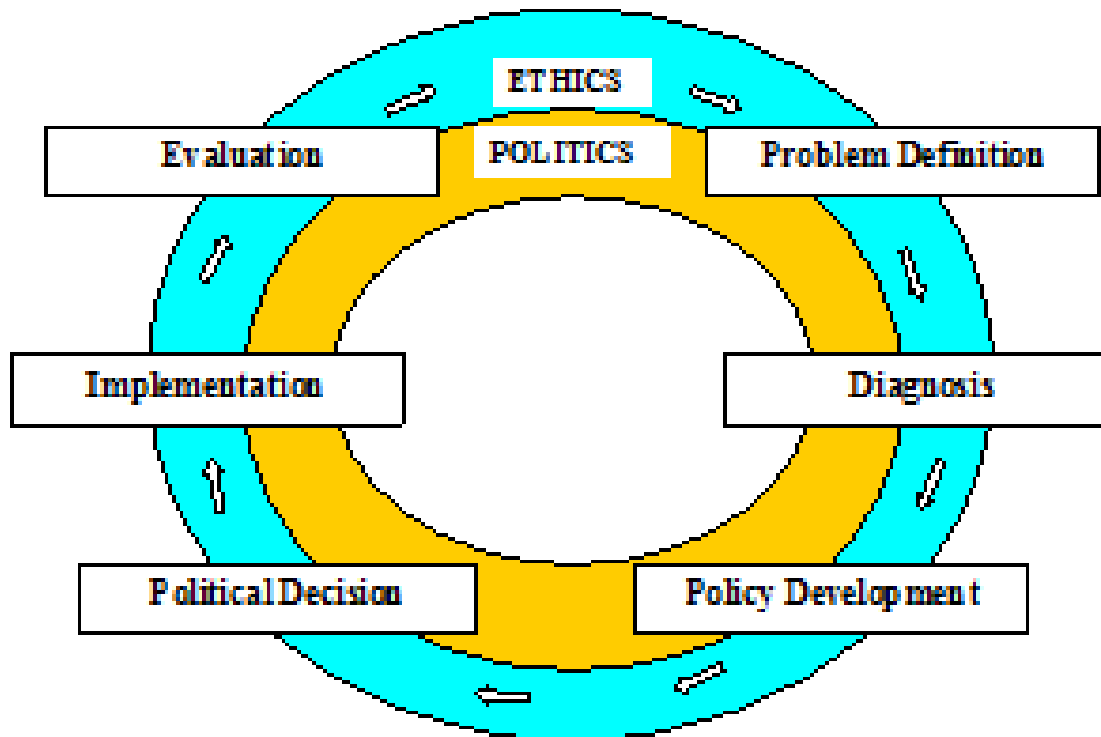
WHY POLICY MAKERS NEED EVIDENCES? 2

- Knowledge about the effectiveness of development programs- what does/does not work
- Identifying causal relationships between policy, program or project and the desired outcomes
- Making comparisons and choices between several options

Evidence-based policy is guided by solid analysis *(of evidences)* that shows what works and what does not and why- it helps countries embark on meaningful reforms and policy improvements that in turn, increases accountability and facilitate performance-based budgeting and management



LINK BETWEEN POLICY AND EVIDENCE -1



Policy Cycle- *world bank*

LINK BETWEEN POLICY AND EVIDENCE-2

- *Assess current performance to set priorities*
 - some shortcomings deserve more attention than others because they have a greater impact on priority
- *Diagnose the causes of poor system performance:*
 - use systematic methods to identify those causes of poor performance in order to develop a set of interventions
- *Examine local, national, and global experience:*
 - In developing policy/reform initiatives, policy makers can and should learn from the wide range of available evidence about how various reforms have worked out in other countries around the world. adapt that experience to their specific local conditions.


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LINK BETWEEN POLICY AND EVIDENCE-3

- ***Assess the political feasibility new policy/policy changes***
 - new policy/reform typically redistributes resources and creates winners and losers. Political analysis is needed to decide whether a reform can garner sufficient support in your situation to be adopted and implemented and to provide a basis for developing political strategies for managing the change process
- ***Analyze and plan to overcome implementation conditions and constraints:***
 - once new policy / reforms are initiated, on-going attention to implementation, with support from the highest levels of the government, is critical to ensure success.
- ***Evaluate new policy/reform initiatives***
 - sound monitoring and evaluation is part of this process and for reforms, it is a one-time event and instead repeated moves around the cycle may be needed.

WHO PRODUCES EVIDENCE ?—1

- 'whistleblowers aid recovery of \$151m and #8bn- FG'- [daily trust 13th february2017](#)
 - Government agencies
 - Cooperate bodies
 - Laboratory scientists
 - Donors/philanthropists
 - Research institutions
 - Academic institutions
 - Consortium bodies
 - Civil societies
 - Students
 - Prosecutors
 - And many others
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HOW IS EVIDENCE PRODUCED?

The modalities for producing evidence depend largely on the purposes for which the evidences are required

- *evidences required for prosecution in a court of law , or for accountability in financial institutions are very much differently produced from those commonly required by the health sector*
- *Population and household census conducted/projected at regular intervals provide basis for national planning and resource allocation by Governments*
- *population survey- health seeking behaviors, KAP studies*
- *Facility records review- diseases prevalence/incidence, utilization, drop outs*
- *Laboratory investigations- isolation of causative agents, sensitivity/specificity tests*
- *Surveillances- disease incidence, outbreak detections*
- *Special case investigations- genetic sequencing,*
- *Observations- environment, habits, cultures etc*
- *Many other sources –imaging, FGDs,etc*

DRIVERS IN PRODUCING EVIDENCE, HOW INVOLVED?-1

Lets consider-


- 1-- 'To provide support to the National Health policy by preparing alternative proposals for decision makers at all levels based on scientific analysis, including proposals for health legislation , and assisting the translation of policies into relevant and feasible strategies, based on **research evidence**'-*NPHCDA decree (Act) 29, 1992*
- 2--'to provide technical support for the planning, management and implementation of PHC **by conducting studies on health plans** for PHC at various levels to see whether they are relevant to National Health Policy, feasible and multi sectorial'-*NPHCDA decree (Act) 29, 1992*
- 3--' over the years, the National population commission, as parts of its statutory responsibility to generate data, has developed capacity to **collect high quality data** for planning and national development '-*Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) project report Sep.2015*
- 4--' the **end line survey** was implemented by the National population commission in **collaboration** with other organizations such as National bureau of statistics and FMoH. The NPC provided the sample frame, conducted the questionnaire pretest, training field workers, collected data from the field, and entered the data. The MLE project provide technical assistance, supervision and monitoring of filed activities-*MLE report Sep.2015*

DRIVERS IN PRODUCING EVIDENCE, HOW INVOLVED? -2

Consider:

5--“ Kogi state Government yesterday said it will send a team to understudy the home grown school feeding program in Osun state as part of preparations aimed at ensuring effective take off of the program in the state. The committee will gain knowledge of the feeding program in Osun state”-*daily trust newspaper 2nd February 2017*

6--“my name is Xavier Bosch-Capblanch and I am the PI of a research on paper-based information systems at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This research will take place in three African countries. A potential candidate is Nigeria. However, for us it is paramount that the project is real interest to MOH and that it aligns with current and near future policies on information systems, because we don't want to carry out a research which if of no use or little use”-*Xavier, 28th April 2016*



DRIVERS IN PRODUCING EVIDENCE, HOW INVOLVED? -3


7-”The decision by HNED to carry out an assessment of the health and health related needs of the women and children was two -folds: a) to create awareness about the nature and the size of the problem and, b) to provide evidence- based solutions that will inform cost-effective preventive, promotive and curative policy and practical interventions for the benefits of these marginalized groups in IDP camps.

The document provides **practical recommendations which policy makers** and health managers in Government and the development sector, private and civic society organizations can carry out to get value for money and investment on the people residing in IPD camps and in similar places”-

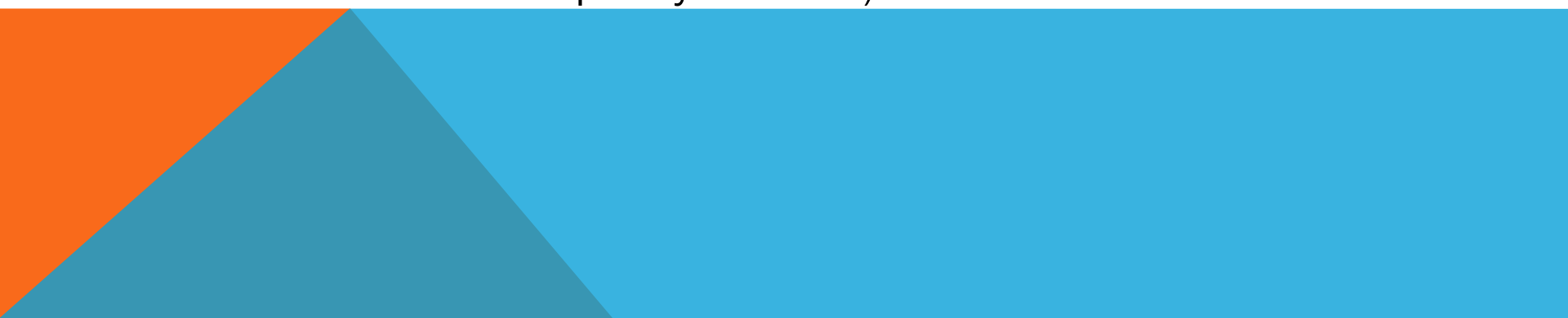
Network for health equity and development (NHED) march 2016

DRIVERS IN PRODUCING EVIDENCE, HOW INVOLVED? -3

Possible inferences from the examples above and several other scenarios:

- Government Agencies can initiate and drive the production of evidence as parts of their constitutional mandates (eg NPHCDA and NPC)
 - Government Agencies and collaborate with each other and involve partners in producing evidences (eg NPC, NBS and FMoH)
 - Government Agencies can initiate the process of the production of evidences by solicit technical and financial support from partners (eg NPC and MLE)
 - Government Agency can initiate , fund and drive the production of evidences for its new or policy reform (eg Kogi state)
 - Research institutions can initiate and persuade Government to join the production of evidences (Swiss TPH, NPHCDA)
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DRIVERS IN PRODUCING EVIDENCE, HOW INVOLVED? -4

- Research institution can initiate and solicit funding from donors and later involve Government-(possibly BMGF/Swiss TPH)
 - Donor body can initiate and request research body to drive the process(eg possibly BMGF/Swiss TPH)
 - Private bodies can initiate and drive the process (eg pharmaceutical companies)
 - Private body can initiate and involve research institutions to drive (eg pharmaceutical companies/ universities)
 - Research institutions initiating and driving the process- (eg Universities for teachings and routine works)
 - Private institutions/organizations can initiate and drive the process, then later involve Government and other policy making bodies (NHED works in IDP camps in yobe state)
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CONCLUSION

- Policy and evidence are inseparable twins
 - New and reforming policies attract better understanding , funding, trust, confidence **if supported and driven by evidence**
 - Policy makers, can initiate and drive the process of production of evidence as part of statutory functions- NPC, NBS, NPHCDA, NACA etc
 - scientist, donor Agencies and many stakeholders can initiate and drive the process of production of evidence
 - Policy makers can be the producers , funders and users of evidence
 - Policy makers can be persuaded with evidences to use evidences produced by other stakeholders
 - Several factors can make/compel policy makers to use evidences- *politics, public out cry, international agenda etc*
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