

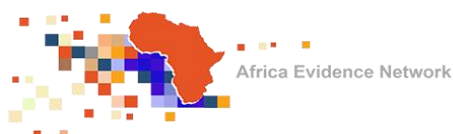
# Evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscape map for Kenya

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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 18 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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## **EVIDENCE 2016 CONFERENCE   LANDSCAPE MAP OUTLINE – JENNIFER MUTUA - KENYA**

The proposed Evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscape map is for Kenya. It includes all sectors and key stakeholders at the national and county levels. The Monitoring and Evaluation Department (MED), Ministry of Planning is the EIDM landscape's focal rallying point by stakeholders. MED co-ordinates the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES). The County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) is linked to NIMES. Other actors are the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Ministries, Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Sector working Groups, consultants, Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Donors, Universities, Research Think Tanks and institutes such as the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Analysis (KIPPR), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) and Tegemeo, among others.

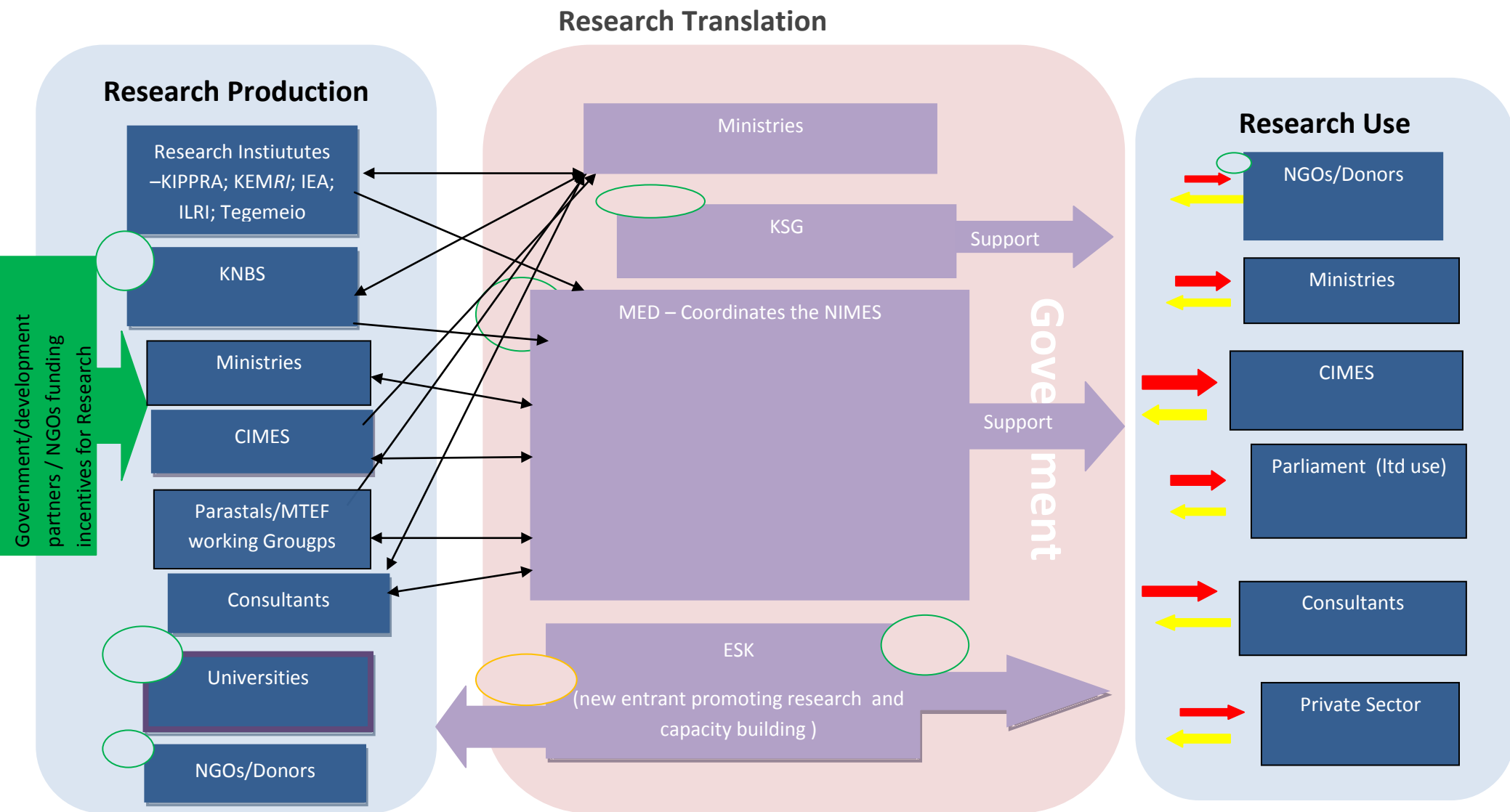
The Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK) and the Kenya Parliamentary Caucus for Evaluation (linked to the African Parliamentary Network for Development Evaluation – APNODE) are new entrants, who are currently finding their place within the system. The Kenya School of Government (KSG) provides M&E training for ministries, counties' staff., with plans underway to also include ESK members.

The NIMES since its establishment in 2004 has improved through multi-stakeholder (e.g. World Bank, UN, DFID, SIDA) capacity building efforts and consultations. MED's mandate includes the production of the Annual Progress Reports (APR) and coordination of the evaluations of the Medium Term Plan of Vision 2030 as well as the Annual Public Expenditure Review (PER). There are delays in the production of the APRs and these feeding into the budgetary and planning processes. There are also gaps between priority setting and planning within government agencies, which has threatened successful implementation of programmes. The evaluation function has largely been under-utilised with most focus have been on monitoring.

The NIMES' initial conceptualization envisaged all M&E stakeholders' information (i.e. State and non-state actors) feeding into it. This is yet to be achieved as the System remains mainly a public sector affair. Contributory factors to this include individual and institutional capacity limitations within the system. Consequently, other development partners prefer to use their own systems. The linkages to the CIMES are still at a very nascent stage as the Devolved structure that brought the 47 Counties into being was only established in 2013.

A co-ordinated and harmonized approach for all relevant actors remains a challenge. This includes the linkages between MED and the KNBS whose envisaged collaborations are to e.g. ensure the data collection and analysis of sector monitoring indicators through ministries and counties' administrative information systems. It is also not evident that the two collaborate closely in the latter's surveys' programmes in order to provide the relevant information for indicator construction and research.

Nationally, capacities for data processes have remained weak; similarly, data collection systems of Ministries are not integrated and data analysis does not get the desired attention, dissemination of reports of findings and further research into the findings and recommendations of the surveys. The systems also tend to be more organized for some Ministries than others such as health and education, probably due to differentials in capacities. There is little or no analysis, dissemination or use of the data for policy decisions at the local levels due scarcity of resources for M&E such as equipment (including paper, pens etc.) and transportation.



**Fig. 1: Map of some relationships between the main role players in the Kenyan EIDM environment**

## **Conclusion**

In an environment of weak national EIDM culture and practice and the advent of the devolved system of government where massive resources are now concentrated at the counties the following support is needed for the system:

- Individual and institutional capacity strengthening both at national and county levels for government including at MED, Ministries on data collection, analysis, storage and utilization.
- Individual and institutional capacity strengthening for ESK and Parliament as new entrants in the EIDM landscape. Tied to this is the need to bring on board more of the political class including as champions for EIDM i.e. the Executive, Governors and Senate.
- Wider stakeholder participation that includes the NGOs, academia, research institutions, media and public in the EIDM landscape.
- A more harmonized and coordinated approach for all relevant research role players including between and among e.g. KNBS, NIMES, Ministries and County administrative data systems.
- More advocacy to increase the uptake of evaluation function as currently most focus is on monitoring.
- Increased national budgetary allocation to EIDM landscape including for research . monitoring and evaluation.
- EIDM Policy and legal framework to enforce

**Comment on how your map relates to the three themes of the Evidence 2016 conference: engage, understand, impact.**

The landscape map echoes the three themes of the evidence 2016 conference. It highlights the EIDM role players and each of their roles through linkages, whose proper understanding and harmonized/co-ordinated action is necessary for improved development execution and impact.

**Do you think that there are aspects of the engagement described in your map that works well and has potential to be upscaled?**

Yes. The research Think Tanks like KIPPRA, KEMRI, Tegemeo, ILRI and IEA have done well in research that has informed policy formulation and execution at macro and micro levels. The new role players in the form of ESK and parliament have the potential to revolutionize the EIDM landscape if supported to firmly take their place.

**Is there a creative metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system (e.g. evidence eco-system/jungle; research to policy highway etc.)? Evidence super highway.**