

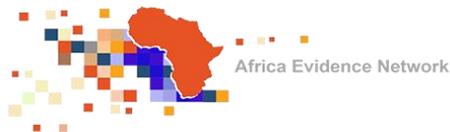
# Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME): The way to go for effective EIDM

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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 24 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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# **ELECTRONIC POSTER FOR EVIDENCE 2016 CONFERENCE**

**Engage. Understand. Impact**

**CSIR ICC, Pretoria, RSA**

**Poster title**

**Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME); the way to go for  
effective EIDM**

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## **1.1 PME Overview**

Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) is a Result Based M&E (RBME) approach which emphasizes on setting expected results and ensuring that they are realized in the course through participatory tracking and assessment by stakeholders. This PME approach is being implemented in Malawi's Mchinji District within the District Assembly. PME system is meant to be quite efficient and effective to ensure social accountability of interventions at community and district levels.

## **1.2 Main role players in the EIDM landscape**

The main role players in this PME are M & E officers from; the District Assembly (DA), Desk M & E officers from Public institutions (police, labor office, health, Agriculture, fisheries, education etc) and all Non-Governmental Organizations with Citizens Health being the main Coordinating NGO in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government. Though research institutions are not the main role players in the EIDM landscape but they play a commendable role which is conducting research itself. The research findings are then shared with the M & E officers who then conduct PME. Such research institutions include universities such as College of Medicine (COM), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) and local/International NGOs (LNGOs / INGOs).

## **1.3 Gaps in the PEM within EIDM landscape**

Currently the major gaps that exist in EIDM within the PME approach are lack of tracking and assessment of implemented interventions, lack of qualified personnel with relevant M & E knowledge and lack of an evidence pool that can be used for EIDM within the PME model.

## **1.4 Bottlenecks or organizational silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system**

Bottlenecks are available within the PME approach and these have added to the poor flow of evidence through the system. Such bottlenecks include: lack of skills in evidence collection, analysis and data management by the M & E Officers and poor feedback on evidence from Research institutions to M & E officers as Evidence users for EIDM as well as funding problems coupled with limited resources such as computers.

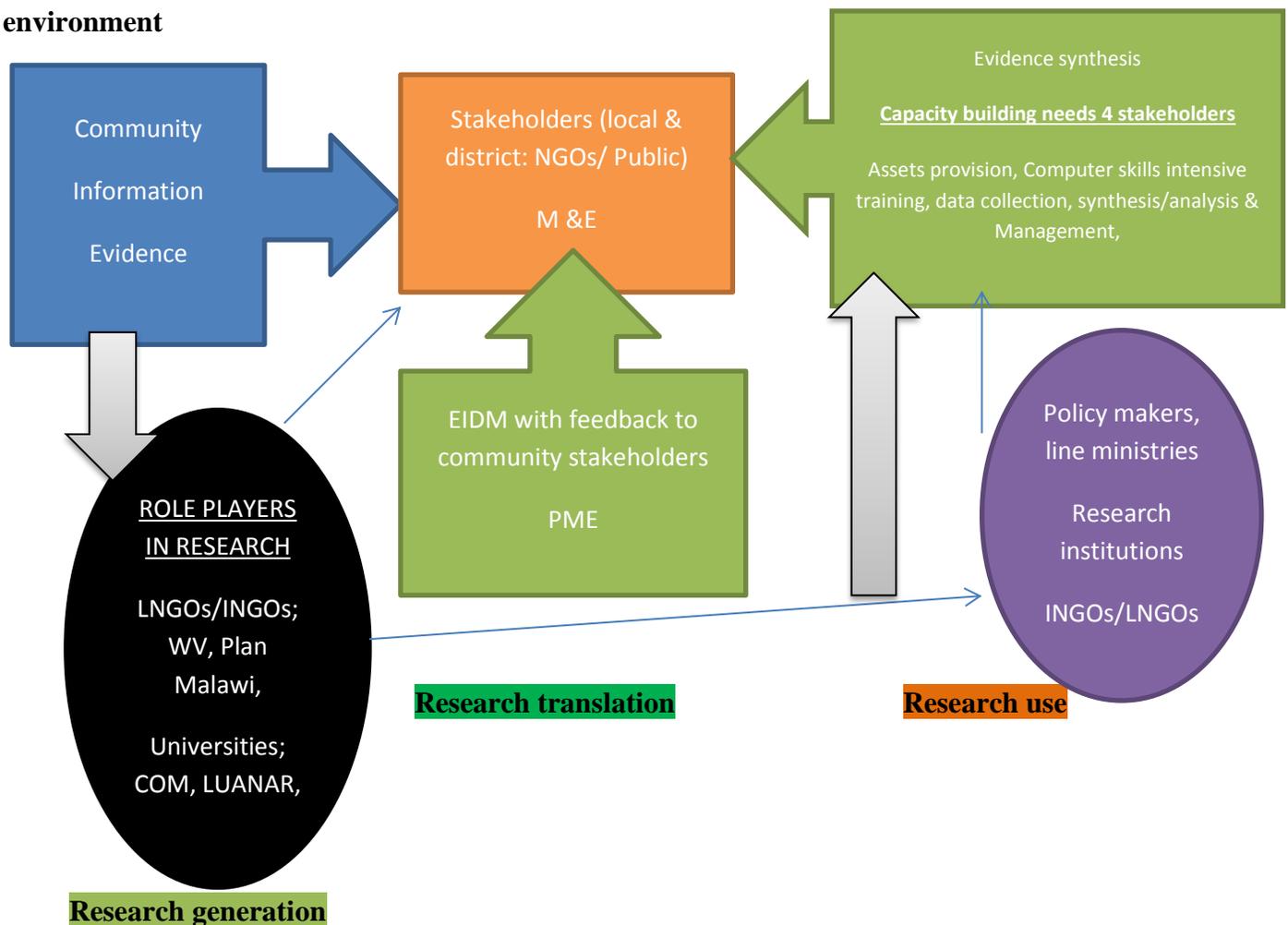
## **1.5 Relationship between research producers and users in M & E**

The best character that describes the relationship between research producers and users in Malawi's M & E sector is that users have no keen interest in the research work. The users lack ownership of the research work and hence they do not follow up on the final results of the research. At times given the final research results they will not use the evidence given EIDM thus mostly decisions are made based on personal experiences and not evidence.

### 1.6 Capacity-building needs for M & E Officers

For effective PME and EIDM M & E officers needs more capacity building in the following area on top of provision of physical assets such as computers; computer skills intensive training, data collection, data synthesis / analysis and data management.

### 2.0 PME map and interactions between EIDM role players in the research-policy environment



### **3.0 Conclusion**

#### **3.1 Intervention/support to benefit PME**

PME will need donor support on capacity building so that its objectives are realized and at the same time gaps and bottlenecks that exist such as data collection, management and analysis within the system are sealed for effectiveness of the system.

#### **3.2 Relation of PME to Evidence 2016 conference**

##### **3.2.1 Engage**

Multiple stakeholders are engaged in the PME as it is participatory and that with good coordination and proper supervision over the PME system much of the evidence that is available at community level can be made use of for decision making.

##### **3.2.2 Understand**

PME aids M & E officers to understand the evidence they have through evidence review sessions such being the case there is greater room for positive change and development through EIDM.

##### **3.2.3 Impact**

PME has the potential to impact on the local stakeholders at community level but given the complexity of the gaps that exist in the system, there is no much impact at community level.

#### **3.3 Aspects of PME map that works well and has potential to be upscale**

The following are some aspects of PME that works well and has the potential to be scaled up: stakeholders understanding of available evidence and how to use it for EIDM, scrutiny over available evidence, how evidence can be made available, tracking and assessment of implemented interventions which promotes transparent execution and social accountability of service delivery in the district.

#### **3.4 Creative metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system**

The EIDM can be described as continuity in the engagement of researchers and policymakers/programme managers, in order to account for swift evolutions for planning and policy implementation.