# Rapid Landscape Review Map: A navigation guide to the R2P jungle in Uganda

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## A: COUNTRY BACKGROUND: Uganda, Health.

### Research producers:

- Universities:
  - o Public Makerere, Mbarara
  - Private Mukono (UCI), Nkozi (UMU)
- Research institutions:
  - Cancer Institute (UCI)
  - Virus Institute (UVRI)
  - Agriculture (NARO)
- Think-Tanks:
  - ACHEST (African Centre Health & Social Transformation)
  - IPPR (Institute for Public Policy Research)
  - o UNAS (Academy of Sciences)

#### Users of research:

- Government departments:
  - o Prime Minister:
    - M & E/Impact Evaluations
  - o Ministries:
    - Health
    - Public Service
    - Finance
  - Legislature Committees:
    - Health
    - Budget
- International agencies:
  - o DFID
  - o WHO
- Local NGOs:
  - CSBAG (Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group)
  - (UNACOH (Uganda National Health Consumers Organization)
  - HEPS (Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development)

#### Intermediaries:

- National institutions:
  - UNRO (Uganda National Health Research Organization)
  - UNCST (National Council for Science and Technology)
  - UAC (AIDS Commission).
- Non-state actors:
  - ACHEST
  - o IPPR
  - Uganda Evaluators Association (UEA)

- Regional & Global Networks:
  - EVIPNet (Evidence Informed Policy Network)
  - KNET (Knowledge Translation Network Africa)
  - SPEED (Supporting Policy Engagement for Evidence-based Decisions)
  - GESI (Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative)

#### **B: GAP ANALYSIS:**

**Skilled critical mass, critical density**: University programmes emphasize primary research with less value for syntheses, evidence briefs and hardly any opportunities for engagement with decision makers

**Working in silos:** institutional structural arrangements or external funding lines, with absence of vibrant national platforms

**Optimizing policy windows**: in research translation to provide palatable evidence briefs for policy

**Sustainability**: beyond donor projects that denote the **local funding** gaps

### **C: RESEARCH PRODUCERS & USERS:**

- There has been an increase in research demand by users in particular state actors, and a concomitant increase in supply.
- Policy makers often ignore the research adduced to them, even after they have made the request
- When research informs decisions, the decisions are impactful.

# **Efforts: Push or Pull or Exchange or Integrated**

### RESEARCH PRODUCTION

## **Universities (>8)**

Makerere; Mbarara; Gulu; Busitema Mukono; Nkozi; Namuwongo; Ishaka

\*Networks for research & capacity building: Thrive, MEPI/MESAU

Research Institutes/Councils (>5)
UCI; IDI; UVRI; MRC; JCRC

Think tanks/Private consultants (>2)
ACHEST: IPPR

## RESEARCH TRANSLATION

Government departments (>3)

UNRO; UNCST; UAC

Non-state actors (>3)
ACHEST; IPPR; UEA

## Networks (>3)

REACH/EvipNet ("African Centre"); KNET; AEN; SPEED \*Schools of Medicine & Public Health

African Centre for Systematic Reviews & Knowledge Translation

Systematic Reviews; Evidence Briefs; Policy dialogues; Priority setting & capacity building

### RESEARCH USE

## **Universities (>8)**

Graduate students; Faculty researchers; Policy programmes

# Civil society/Media (>3)

Journalists (USJA); Advocacy groups (NGO Forum, HEPS); Consumer groups (UNHCO)

# Government departments (>4)

OPM, NPA, MoH/HPAC, Cabinet, Parliament/Health Committee Briefs/Memos; Health policy

# Health care organizations (>10)

Prevention care & treatment

# **Funding for Production:**

GoU/Research Instit.; Non-state actors (NIH, BMRC, EU, ANRS)

# **Funding for Translation:**

GoU/OPM; Non-state actors (IDRC, DFID, AHPSR, AiGHD, EU, 3ie)



## **Funding for Use:**

Technical Working Groups
Policy dialogues
Research Unit Parliament

## **Conclusions:**

- Among the promising interventions are (a) set up a **national platform** for research producers and knowledge brokers, (b) **capacity strengthening** for techno-professionals charged with producing policy briefs, in government departments; (c) sustainable financing.
- ➤ Engaging decision makers is key in improving research uptake for public policy; Understanding what works in EIDM and contextual issues; and assessing whether the use of research positively impacts human lives
- ➤ **Direct relationships** with decision makers works very well and should be scaled up via a **buddy system** supplied by expanding **sustainable capacity** among **graduate students** in research institutions.