

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

Ekwaro A. Obuku, African Centre for Systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

A: COUNTRY BACKGROUND: Uganda, Health.

Research producers:

- *Universities:*
 - 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)
 - UNAS (Academy of Sciences)

Users of research:

- *Government departments:*
 - Prime Minister:
 - M & E/Impact Evaluations
 - Ministries:
 - Health
 - Public Service
 - Finance
 - Legislature Committees:
 - Health
 - Budget
- *International agencies:*
 - DFID
 - 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
 - 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

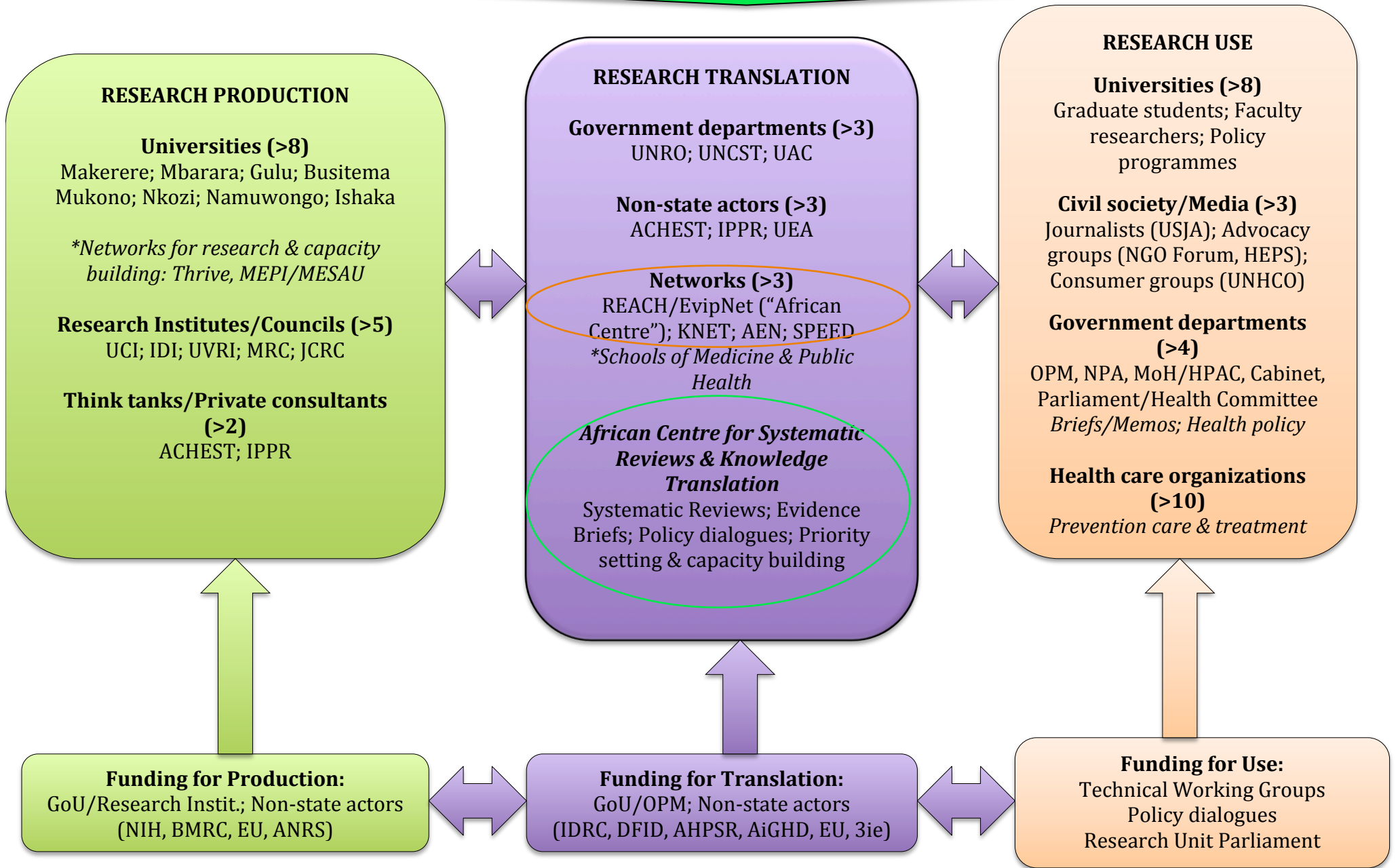
Optimizing policy windows: in research translation to provide palatable evidence briefs for policy

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



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.