



Office of the Prime Minister
The Government of Uganda



Sixth edition of the Beninese Evaluation Days

THE USE OF EVIDENCE IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

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Presentation Outline

What are the practices for using evaluation results

What are the barriers of using evaluation results

How can evaluation results be improved for decision-making in Africa?

How can ICTs help to improve the use of evaluation results for decision-making in Africa?

What are the practices for using evaluation results

Uganda has been making significant strides in utilizing evaluation results to improve its policies and programmes.

- ❑ Established evaluation units within various ministries and agencies to monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and programmes.

- ❑ Established a robust system for conducting evaluations across various NDPIII programmes (GEF- a repository of government evaluations) and the NDPIII M&E Web-based system.
 - Evaluation findings are actively used to inform the design and implementation of development interventions
 - Ensuring that resources are allocated strategically and efficiently. For example, if an evaluation reveals that a specific program targeting poverty reduction is not yielding the desired impact, the government can adjust the program's design or redirect resources towards more effective initiatives.

- ❑ Prioritized capacity building in evaluation techniques and methodologies through training and professional development of evaluators eg the **Young Emerging Evaluators** under **Uganda Evaluation Association**.
 - A pool of experts with the necessary skills to conduct rigorous evaluations has been built.
 - This not only enhances the quality and reliability of evaluation findings but also promotes the utilization of evaluation results at various levels of decision-making.

What are the barriers of using evaluation results

- ❑ Limited awareness and acceptance among stakeholders, of the importance of evaluation.
 - How to interpret and utilize evaluation findings effectively.
 - Thus evaluation reports often end up gathering dust on shelves, failing to inform decision-making processes.

- ❑ Inadequate communication and dissemination of evaluation results.
 - Evaluation reports don't reach the intended audience.
 - ❖ Strategies, including the use of plain language, easy-to-understand infographics, and targeted delivery mechanisms, are being fast-tracked to ensure that evaluation findings are utilized by stakeholders at all levels

What are the barriers of using evaluation results

❑ Resistance to change.

- Resistance to implementing evaluation recommendations due to a fear of the unknown, a reluctance to modify existing practices, or concerns over potential loss of control.
 - ❖ Encouraging open dialogue with stakeholders in the evaluation process to overcome the barrier through continuous training, awareness campaigns, and emphasizing the value of evidence-based decision making for improved development outcomes.

❑ Resource constraints- lack of financial and human resources for evaluation activities.

- Limits the frequency and scope of evaluations, making it difficult to produce timely and relevant findings.
- Affects the capacity to disseminate, communicate, and train stakeholders on the significance and utilization of evaluation results, evaluation activities are often deprioritized, and the results may not be relevant or reliable due to lack of resources

1

▪ Institutions have been created like; Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, which are responsible for generating and disseminating evidence.

Institutions ensure access to accurate and reliable data, research, and information.

2

▪ Investment in technology and online platforms to ensure easy accessibility of evidence. Government Citizen Interaction Centre (GCIC)-timely, cost-effective and data driven communication.

Allows access to the latest research and data for informed decision making in timely means

3

▪ A culture of monitoring and evaluation has been embraced to enhance evidence-based decision-making.

Implementation of policies and programs is closely monitored to assess effectiveness and impact. eg National Annual Performance Assessment(NAPAR). This feedback loop provides decision-makers with evidence on whether interventions are achieving intended outcomes

Regular evaluations that help to identify areas that require further improvement, ensuring a more evidence-based approach to decision-making



How can evaluation results be improved for decision-making in Africa?

- ❑ Invest in building capacity of evaluation professionals.
 - Provide training, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing platforms.
 - Equips evaluators with the necessary skills to design rigorous evaluation studies, collect high-quality data, and analyze findings effectively.

- ❑ Strengthen data collection systems and invest in technology.
 - Facilitates efficient and reliable data collection, analysis, and reporting processes.

- ❑ Establish evaluation standards and guidelines.
 - Streamline evaluation practices guidelines specifying steps, methods, and indicators to be used, ensuring consistency and comparability of results.

- ❑ Clearly define the objectives and goals of the evaluation before it is conducted.
 - Brings out clear understanding of what aspects of the program or policy to be focused on.
 - Evaluation results are relevant and aligned with the specific needs and interests of decision makers.

How can ICTs help to improve the use of evaluation results for decision-making in Africa?

Enhance data collection & management

- Use of ICT tools such as mobile applications and data management systems
- Leads to accurate and timely evaluation results.
- Use of mobile applications and data management systems streamline the process.
- Thus evaluation results are reliable and up to date.

Computer-based testing

- Allows for randomized questions thus ensuring a fair evaluation process in addition to accurate and reliable results.
- Participants receive scores and performance thus easy to track and compare results hence identification of patterns and trends in evaluations.
- Enhances efficiency and effectiveness, ultimately leading to better assessment outcomes.

Mobile data collection

- Enable data collection through smartphones and internet access, which streamlines the data collection process.
- Digital data collection eliminates the need for manual data entry, minimizing errors and saving valuable time and resources.
- Evaluators gather real-time information from remote areas, thus improving the accuracy and timeliness of the evaluation results.

Results accessibility & dissemination

- Easy sharing of evaluation findings through digital platforms such as websites, social media, and email newsletters.
- Ensures wider audience access.
- Allows remote access of the information by policymakers and stakeholders thus contributing to evidence-based decision-making.



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Questions? Comments!! Contributions###

