Using evidence to inform policy

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Waiting for the findings

Doesn’t work very well for getting evidence into policy and practice
The messy reality

Evidence plays a minor role in the policy process
Many factors compete with evidence for attention
Getting policymakers’ attention
Engagement as a virtuous cycle

Establishing a virtuous cycle between the production of policy-informed research and evidence-informed policymaking.

Improves uptake and use
Examples of evidence use

Rural preschools in Mozambique

- Improved cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes
- Increased enrolment
What was the policy change

- Rollout of preschools across rural areas
- National education strategy includes early childhood development (ECD) for the first time
- Government established a National Commission on ECD
How did this change happen

- Teamed up into an organised group to advocate for ECD
- Encouraged organised partner on government side
- Regular engagement and communication throughout
- Clear results
Evidence use in China

Rural Education Action Project (REAP): successful policy change from impact evaluations

- Early and on-going engagement
- Policy action team
- Chinese research partners
- Simple messages
- Site visits
- Variety of briefs

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How you engage matters

• Have a well thought through plan
• Early engagement with key actors
• Be on-going from the start of the study
• Be ready for opportunities
• Produce information in various formats
Knowledge translation

- Briefs, one-pagers, flyers
- Case studies and stories of change
- Articles, working papers
- Videos, podcasts, webinars
- Blogs
- Twitter and Facebook
- Study website or webpages
- Email, listservs, newsletters
Summary

Policymakers use evidence that is useful

- Involved in framing the research and study design
- Were engaged throughout the study, especially at the beginning and at the end
- Findings were timely and feasible
- Messages were clear and presented multiple formats and through multiple channels to key audiences