

EVIDENCE INTO
ACTION TEAM

PROGRAMME GUIDE

A guide to programmes funded by the Evidence into Action Team – A key part of DFID's Research and Evidence Division.



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AFRICAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH APPROACHES (AURA)



Building capacity in sub-Saharan African universities to improve research quality, strengthen research communication and enhance the teaching of research



Isabelle Wachsmuth / WHO

Dates

From 01/11/14 to 31/03/2018

Lead institution

Institute of Development Studies

Collaborating institutions

University of Loughborough
Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA)

Contact details

Siobhan Duvigneau – S.Duvigneau@ids.ac.uk

Description

AURA supports sub-Saharan African universities to play a greater role in poverty reduction and economic growth by strengthening individual and institutional capacities in 15 university departments to improve the quality of the research they produce, strengthen how they communicate research and enhance the teaching of research to students. Online learning courses and open education resources will enable further university departments to benefit from this work.

Themes

Health, agriculture, environment

Regions/countries

Sub-Saharan Africa

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Project/61322/Default.aspx>

DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL RESEARCH CAPACITY IN THE HEALTH SECTOR



Training and mentoring researchers to carry out policy-relevant research on health care delivery



Dates

From 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2020

Lead institution

The International Union Against TB and Lung Disease

Collaborating institutions

Médicins sans Frontières
The Bloomberg Foundation

Contact details

Anthony Harries - adharries@theunion.org

Description

The UK is providing around £5 million over five years to the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (the Union) to support the expansion of an innovative capacity building programme in operational research of relevance to global public health.

The main activities of the programme are:

- Running training courses in Operational Research
- Support for in-country Operational Research Fellows

Themes

Health

Regions/countries

Worldwide

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Project/60862/Default.aspx>

DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH UPTAKE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (DRUSSA)



Supporting Universities in Africa on research uptake



Dates

From 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2016

Lead institution

Association of Commonwealth Universities

Collaborating institutions

Centre for Research into Science and Technology, University of Stellenbosch (CREST), Organisation Systems Development

Contact Details

Karrine Saunders – karrine.sanders@acu.uk

Description

DRUSSA works with 22 African universities to improve the uptake and accessibility of local, contextualised research created by these universities. By supporting them to communicate their research more strategically and in appropriate ways to their audiences, the impact of the research is likely to be greater. As part of this DRUSSA is developing partnerships between some research institutes and policy-makers, industry and local communities.

Regions / Countries

Africa.

Collaborating Universities:

Botswana (University of Botswana)
Cameroon (Université de Yaoundé; University of Buea)
Ethiopia (Addis Ababa University)
Ghana (University of Ghana; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)
Kenya (University of Nairobi; Moi University; Kenyatta University)
Mauritius (University of Mauritius)
Nigeria (Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan, University of Calabar)
Rwanda (University of Rwanda)
South Africa (University of Fort Hare, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of the Free State, University of Limpopo)
Uganda (Mbarara University of Science and Technology; Makerere University),
Zambia (University of Zambia)
Zimbabwe (National University of Science and Technology).

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/project/60848/default.aspx>

Project website

<http://www.drussa.net/>

Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA)



Synthesising and sharing development experience from Latin America



Dates

From 01/03/2014 to 28/02/2017 (Phase 2)

Lead Institution

Practical Action Consulting Latin America

Collaborating institutions

Institute of Development Studies (Phase 2)

Contact details

Mark Lewis - mlewis@solucionespracticas.org.pe

Description

ELLA is a South-South knowledge sharing and learning programme that improves knowledge of Latin America's development among African policymakers, practitioners and researchers. It focuses on selected economic, environmental and governance themes determined by decision-makers. The higher level goal is that these target groups use the knowledge shared to inform policies and practice in Africa and Latin America.

ELLA has two main components:

- comparative evidence synthesis and primary research
- the use of this evidence as the basis for exchange and learning through 'Learning Alliances' – programmes connecting people from government, civil society and research, both online and offline.

Themes

Environmental management, Economic Development and Governance.

Services available

Resource bank of knowledge products in multiple formats; participation in Learning Alliances.

Regions/countries

Asia (Phase 1 only), Central and South America, Sub-Saharan Africa.

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/project/60739/default.aspx>

Project website

<http://ella.practicalaction.org/about>

Global Open Knowledge Hub (GOKH)



Increasing the availability and accessibility of development research



Dates

01/04/2013 to 31/03/2016

Lead institution

Institute of Development Studies

Contact details

Debbie Beer – d.beer@ids.ac.uk

Description

Three key services - British Library for Development Studies, Eldis online portal and BRIDGE gender services – which make research more available, accessible and re-usable. There is particular emphasis on technical tools and innovations that enable southern partners to source and upload open access content into the Hub through use of open source technology and to draw out relevant content and present it on their own websites in forms suited to their own audiences and contexts.

Services available

Eldis internet-based information service: filtering, structuring and presenting development information primarily via the web and email.

Eldis Communities brings together development professionals to augment their networks, and strengthen their thinking and practice through exchange and dialogue online.

British Library for Development Studies (BLDS) is the largest collection of materials on social and economic development in Europe, with over 200,000 print titles on a comprehensive range of development themes, many of which are unavailable in either European or US libraries.

BRIDGE supports gender advocacy and mainstreaming with print and online information services, sharing development research, policy and practice.

Regions/countries

Worldwide

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Project/61047/>

Project website

www.eldis.org; <http://community.eldis.org/> <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/> www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

THE SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (SCIDEV.NET)



Increasing the provision of news on science and technology for the developing world



Dates

From 01/05/2001 to 31/03/2008 (Phase 1)
From 01/04/2008 to 01/03/2011 (Phase 2)
From 01/03/2011 to 31/03/2014 (Phase 3)

Contact details

Nick Ishmael Perkins - director@scidev.net

Description

SciDev.net is a multi-donor funded programme, designed to enhance the provision of reliable and authoritative news and information about science and technology for the developing world both through its website www.scidev.net, and through building science communication capacity within developing countries.

Services available

Website providing news and information on science and technology for the developing world

Platform for policy-makers, researchers, media, and civil society to explore how science and technology can reduce poverty

Regional networks of freelance journalists, researchers, policy-makers, advisors and consultants

Professional training and capacity building tailored for science communicators and researchers on specific topics

Regions/countries

Worldwide

Manuals and Toolkits

Extensive list of "practical guides" posted on the website at: <http://www.scidev.net/en/practical-guides/>

DFID Project Reference

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Project/60837/Default.aspx>

Project website

<http://www.scidev.net/>

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (SRKS)



Building capacity to enable southern research institutions to access and communicate research



Dates

01/04/2013 to 31/03/2018

Lead institution

International Network for Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)

Contact details

Julie Brittain - jbrittain@inasp.info

Description

SRKS works with an international network of researchers, editors, publishers, librarians, ICT professionals and policy-makers to ensure that the research communication cycle works effectively. The programme builds on the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) model by building stronger, higher quality and durable research and knowledge systems. This involves activities such as librarian skills training, supporting emerging researchers in preparing research for publication, collaborative licensing and purchasing of digital library resources using locally sourced funds, and provision of cost-effective national and regional Journal Online networks

Services available

Information delivery – supporting access to journals

Authoraid – building research writing capacity

Journals Online – increasing visibility of southern research journals

Library development – supporting modern research libraries

Bandwidth management – supporting research institutions to optimise their use of bandwidth

Regions/countries

Worldwide

DFID Project Reference

203962

Project website

www.inasp.info www.authoraid.info

BUILDING CAPACITY TO USE RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN KENYA AND MALAWI



Increasing the demand for and use of evidence in health policymaking in Kenya and Malawi (AFIDEP)



Dates

01/11/2013 to 31/01/2017

Lead institution

African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)

Delivery consortium

The contract will be delivered by a consortium which includes AFIDEP, the East, Central and Southern African-Health Community (ECSA-HC), FHI 360, the Consortium for National Health Research (CNHR) in Kenya, the Research Support Committee at the College of Medicine (RSC-CoM) and the University of Malawi.

Contact details

Eliya Zulu - eliya.zulu@afidep.org

Description

The AFIDEP programme is part of the Building Capacity for the Use of Research and Evidence (BCURE) programme. AFIDEP aims to strengthen the use of evidence by health policy makers through a series of initiatives targeting policy makers at different levels, including senior leaders and mid-level policy makers. It also aims to strengthen organisational systems by building links between the national health research agenda and policy makers

Regions/countries

Kenya and Malawi

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://www.afidep.org/>

BUILDING CAPACITY TO USE RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MALAWI



Increasing government capacity to use research evidence in South Africa and Malawi (University of Johannesburg)



Dates

01/01/2014 to 31/12/2016

Lead institution

University of Johannesburg

Delivery consortium

The contract delivery is led by the University of Johannesburg (UJ), who will be supported by a consortium including the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, the EPPI-Centre, the South African Cochrane Centre, the Centre for Evidence-based Health at Stellenbosch, the South African Social Policy Research Institute, the Centre for Social Research at the University of Malawi and the Centre for Learning on Evaluation And Results for Anglophone Africa.

Contact details

Dr Ruth Stewart - r.stewart@ioe.ac.uk

Description

UJ will lead a collaborative project that sits within the Building Capacity for the Use of Research and Evidence (BCURE) programme. Working with a consortium of Malawian and South African delivery partners, the project will look to build the capacity of up to 700 individuals in those countries to develop evidence informed decision making.

Regions/countries

South Africa and Malawi

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/>

BUILDING CAPACITY TO USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN



Increasing Capacity to make evidence informed policy in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan (Harvard University)



Dates

19/08/2013 to 18/09/2016

Lead institution

Harvard University

Delivery consortium

The consortium is led by Harvard University, who will be supported by a consortium including the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Contact details

Deanna Ford - deanna_ford@hks.harvard.edu

Description

This is one of six programmes of work approved under the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) programme. The objective of this programme is to improve the ability of people in India and Pakistan to use research findings when designing policies and programmes, through providing specialist online training and other support. This will benefit government officials, Non-Government Organisations and research organisations, through building their skills to use research findings more effectively.

Regions/countries

India and Pakistan

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/cid/programs/evidence-for-policy-design>

BUILDING CAPACITY TO USE RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND SOUTH SUDAN



Building the capacity of governments to use evidence in Sierra Leone, Liberia and South Sudan



Dates

01-09-2013 to 31/08/2016

Lead institution

Adam Smith International (ASI)

Delivery consortium

Led by Adam Smith International in collaboration with the Africa Cabinet Government Network (ACGN) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

Contact details

Mark Johnston - Mark.Johnston@adamsmithinternational.com

Description

This is one of six programmes of work approved under the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) programme. The objective is to improve the ability of African governments to make collective Cabinet decisions that are evidence based. The programme is working intensively with Cabinet Secretaries in South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Liberia to improve their processes, systems and staff capability to use evidence effectively. The programme is also supporting the "Africa Cabinet Governance network" – a pan-Africa network of Cabinet Secretaries from 12 countries - to help them share learning and encourage cross-country collaboration.

Regions/countries

Sierra Leone, Liberia and South Sudan

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://www.cabinetgovernment.net/>

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN GHANA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE



Increasing the capacity of government and parliamentary officials in Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe to use research evidence (VakaYiko)



Dates

01/10/2013 to 31/09/2016

Lead institution

International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)

Delivery consortium

The VakaYiko project will be delivered by a consortium which will be led by INASP but also includes Ghana Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (GINKS), Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network (ZEIPNET), Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Contact details

Clara Richards - crichards@inasp.info

Description

The VakaYiko project sits within the Building Capacity for the Use of Research and Evidence (BCURE) programme. The aim of the project is to improve the ability of governments and parliaments in Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa to use research findings when designing policies and programmes. Through the provision of specialist training and other support, the VakaYiko project will work with key policymakers and practitioners to build their capacity to use research findings effectively.

Regions/countries

Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://www.inasp.info/en/work/vakayiko/>

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN BANGLADESH



Increasing the ability of the Bangladeshi government to use evidence for policy and programme decisions



Dates

15/09/14 to 14/03/2017

Lead institution

Ecorys

Delivery consortium

Ecorys leads a consortium with the Policy Research Institute (PRI) and PMTC Bangladesh

Contact details

Sheryl Loke – sheryl.loke@uk.ecorys.com

Description

This is one of six programmes of work approved under the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) programme. It seeks to build the capacity of policymakers across the Government of Bangladesh to make use of rigorous data and research evidence in decision making. It is working with teams and individuals across the civil service, including the Cabinet division, line ministries and the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre

Regions/countries

Bangladesh

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203778/>

Project website

<http://bcureglobal.wordpress.com/bcure-partners/>

INFORMATION AND NETWORKS IN ASIA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (INASSA)



Exploring the impacts of mobile technology in low income countries (IDRC)



Dates

01/09/2013 to 31/08/2017

Lead Institution

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Contact details

Laurent Elder, lelder@idrc.ca

Description

INASSA is a research programme, which is co-funded and managed by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). It looks to establish research networks across the South to generate evidence on the increasing levels of access to internet and mobile technologies which are occurring across Low Income Countries (LICs). The programme will analyse both the opportunities and threats that presents for development in relation to open governance, learning access, science and markets.

Services

An improved global evidence base on thematic and emergent issues from a Southern perspective through journal articles, volume chapters and conference publications.

The project is strengthening the capacity of southern researchers through on-going mentorship support to all research networks. Case studies will be developed on the conditions and factors that enable or constrain an integrated evaluation and communication approach; and a primer on the field-tested approach that integrates evaluation and communications.

Research uptake strategies for each network, bringing together research and policy through innovative techniques.

Themes

Governance, Education, Growth, Research Comms and Uptake.

Regions/countries

Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

Project website

http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Programs/Science_and_Innovation/Information_and_Networks/Pages/default.aspx

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS



Systematic assessment of development evidence to help policy makers understand what works.



Dates

01/03/2010 to 31/12/2015

Lead Institution

DFID commissions different partner organisations to carry out reviews depending on the subject area.

Contact details

Laura Koch l-koch@dfid.gov.uk

Description

Systematic reviewing describes an approach to methodologically mapping out the available evidence, critically appraising the evidence and synthesising the results. Systematic reviews strengthen the capacity of policy makers to make evidence-informed decisions by providing rigorous and timely assessments of the evidence base. To date DFID has published over 60 systematic reviews, which represents a significant contribution to the evidence base.

Services

The goals of DFID's systematic review programme are to:

- build support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making
- support the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods
- make it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy by using systematic reviews
- increase the value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works

Project website

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/SystematicReviews.aspx>

THE THINK TANK INITIATIVE (TTI)



The Think Tank Initiative strengthens organisations in the developing world that conduct policy research



Dates

10/02/2014 to 31/03/2020

Lead Institution

Implemented by IDRC, who work closely with 48 think tanks in 21 countries.

Contact details

Peter Taylor ptaylor@idrc.ca

Description

TTI is a multi-donor program dedicated to strengthening the capacity of independent policy research organizations in the developing world. Managed by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Initiative is a partnership between five donors. It provides core, non-earmarked funding to enable institutions to attract, retain and build local talent, develop independent research programmes, and invest in public outreach to ensure that research results inform and influence national and regional policy debates.

Services

TTI has the following goals:

- Provide a combination of core funding and capacity development support to enable think tanks, both individually and collectively, to achieve improvements in organizational performance, research quality, and policy engagement
- Facilitate and share learning about strategies for defining, building, and managing successful, sustainable think tanks with a wide range of policy research organizations and interested stakeholders.

DFID Project Reference

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204168/>

Project website

<http://www.thinktankinitiative.org/program/about-tti>

