



HOW EVIDENCE INFORMS POLICY DEVELOPMENT

THE CASE OF BURKINA FASO'S SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY (PNPS)

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INTRODUCTION

New areas of research focus on knowledge translation, knowledge brokerage, and other interventions to increase uptake of evidence

Little research exists about the process, of how when and why evidence is used during the policy process

Gray literature

- Draft reports: internal reports and memos
- Field evaluations, Working papers, midterm reports
- PowerPoint presentations from meetings, workshops, consultations



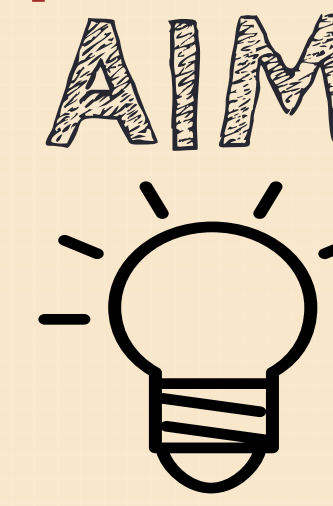
Research evidence

- Articles from the scientific literature
- Doctoral dissertations
- Evidence from data
 - Routine monitoring reports
 - Statistical surveys

Look at the uptake of evidence in policy development process

PNPS Agenda setting

The way in which certain problems manage to require an intervention from the public authorities = decision to formulate a policy



PNPS Formulation/Design

Definition of objectives what should be achieved with the policy and the consideration of different alternative action

METHOD

Case Study

- Informal interviews n=10
- Semi-directive interviews n=31
- Document analysis n=55
- Inductive approach and thematic analysis

Analysis based on policy process theories : context-actors-evidence

RESULTS

AGENDA SETTING

Evidence has been used to

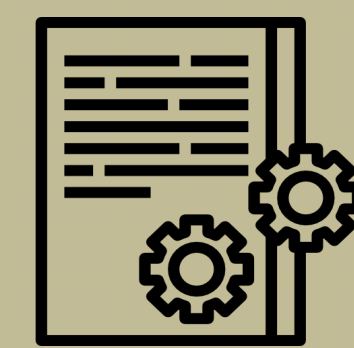
Gain knowledge about the problem: social protection GAP

Understand magnitude, causes, consequence, people involved

Gain knowledge about potential solutions

Support and justify the feasibility of social transfert program in Burkina Faso

National actors saw it as a public problem requiring government action



EVIDENCE USED

Grey literature/ government

- Evaluation report
- Statistical yearbook, National survey
- Poverty profile, Prospective study

Routine data

- Routine monitoring reports
- Monitoring indicator
- Early warning system

Grey literature/International organisation/NGO

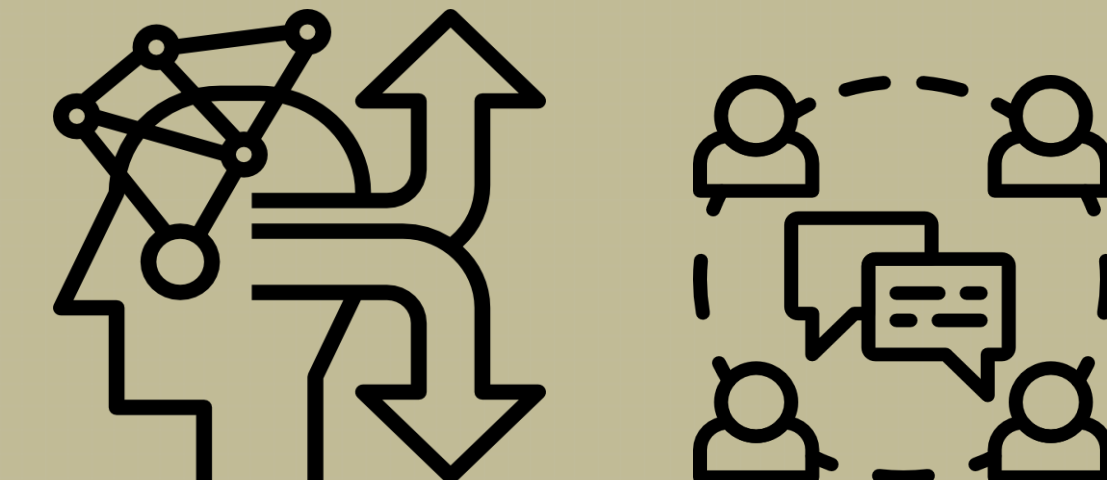
- Pilot project evaluation report
- Study report, Working papers
- Discussion papers

FORMULATION

Non Design situation

PNPS = gathers all conceivable actions of social protection, without any arbitration

Policy content was not motivated by careful deliberation / evaluation of the ability of the solutions to achieve the objectives



ACTORS / STRATEGIES

International agencies = Key actors for social protection knowledge transfer

Produce evidence: to support advocacy and political dialogue

Organize meetings / Use government meetings as an opportunity to share or diffuse evidence



Political gain

Social and political consequences of evidences were considered by the government to reject it

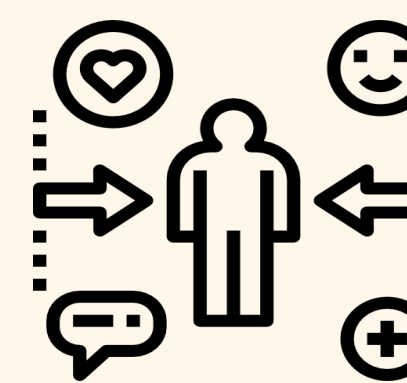
Involvement of national actors in the evidence production

have promoted the use and acceptance.

Credibility of evidence

National actors ignored funding and question research validity

Belief that authors use research to incorporate their opinions and ideas

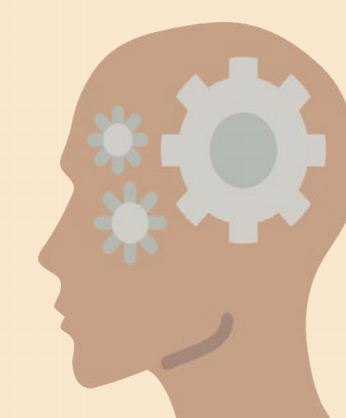


Reinforcement of capacities
Study trips for senior officials
National training workshops



Framing messages to match the needs of national actors

Selected /presented knowledge that fits their ideas and priority strategies



FACTORS PROMOTING/RESTRAINING EVIDENCE USE

DISCUSSION

Low analytical capacity: useful skill to acquire and use evidence in policy process

weak political will: low involvement of high-level decision-makers in formulation

Under-investment in research
Local research evidence not available

International research evidence available
Latin America

Evidence has been used in agenda setting process more than formulation

Research evidence has been less used than other

Non-existence of organizational arrangements to support policymakers in the used of evidence in policy formulation

Social protection evidence in Africa come mainly from the gray literature: working paper/product by international agencies

WAY FOR ACTION

Put in place an operational institutional mechanism to support policy makers

Raising awareness among high-level decision-makers on the importance of formulating knowledge-based policies

Support local research by strengthening the capacity of research centers and universities

Establish a link between social science and health research centers with social protection decision makers

International organizations should make greater efforts to engage policy-makers in defining research questions

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