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# ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF USE OF EVIDENCE IN LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY MAKING PROCESSES IN AFRICA

JUNE 2022

This document is prepared for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is prepared by the Assessment, Analysis, and Development of Tools to Strengthen the Use of Evidence in Policies and Legislation in Africa (TSUE) activity, a partnership of the United States Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS), the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).



Ghana has invested heavily in its parliamentary democracy.  
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## Project Data Sheet

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# Acronyms

<b>APNODE</b>	African Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation
<b>CLEAR</b>	Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results
<b>EIPM</b>	Evidence Informed Policy Making
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MPs</b>	Members of Parliament
<b>SSA</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>TSUE</b>	Tools to Strengthen the Use of Evidence
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This study assessed the use of evidence in policy and legislation by African Parliaments. The TSUE Team administered face-to-face questionnaires to Members of Parliament (MPs) and their staff from 10 African countries. The study has two components. The first component is an assessment of the use of evidence by African Parliaments and the challenges. The second component is an assessment of effectiveness of government oversight and accountability structures.

The core objectives were to:

1. Understand the current state of evidence use in African Parliaments and identify gaps and opportunities;
2. Understand barriers to the use of evidence by African parliamentarians as well as their capacity to generate, access, and integrate evidence in their work;
3. Understand types of data used by African parliamentarians to inform policies and laws; by whom and how the data is used; and
4. Improve access to evidence use by parliamentarians;
5. Understand the internal and external oversight and accountability structures and their effectiveness;
6. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the oversight and accountability structures in ensuring accountable, effective, and equitable policies and laws; and
7. Understand the challenges inherent in the use of these structures and how to overcome them.

## KEY FINDINGS

1. The academic community and MPs define “evidence” differently. Among these two groups, perspectives differ. Considering these discrepancies, this study defines evidence as one of the many factors, occurring externally or internally, to inform policy making and one that takes into account the social and political context of the Parliament.
2. More than half of all respondents – MPs and their staff – say they use evidence to drive legislation and policy. However, 14 percent of all respondents rate their evidence use as low or very low. Evidence uptake is shaped by three key factors: macro level factors; organizational level factors as well as the existence of institutional platforms that link policymakers and researchers.
3. Parliamentarians and their staff get evidence mainly from three key sources: virtual/online; internal; and external.

4. Of the many types of evidence, parliamentarians mostly use research reports, administrative or investigative committee reports.
5. There are three key barriers to accessing evidence: resources (financial and human), skill and capacity, and partisan politics.
6. Parliamentarians resort to their political caucuses for information support more than to the officially established units that exist.
7. Parliamentarians are in search of skills related to accessing and generating evidence, communicating, and using evidence to inform policies.
8. Like parliamentarians, staff are also in search of skills related to accessing and generating evidence, communicating, and using evidence to inform policies. But as expected, for staff, skills-related knowledge management platforms are critical.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of specific recommendations from the study, the following are worth noting:

### FOR THE RESEARCH & ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

#### 1. HELP DEVELOP A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY MAKING

Developing a common understanding of evidence informed policy making is critical to any effort to promote it as a standard for policy making in African Parliaments. A common understanding will help the development of a structured frame-

work and approach to evidence informed policy making. This could form the basis of developing a structured approach for building and strengthening systems for evidence informed policy making. It would also allow for standards to be set against which Parliaments could be assessed on the use of evidence in legislation and policy making.

#### 2. BUILD AND DEVELOP NETWORKING BETWEEN EVIDENCE PRODUCERS AND USERS

The study, supported by literature review, demonstrates weak linkages between evidence producers and users. The literature review shows a positive correlation between evidence use and the level of engagement between legislators and evidence generators.

Improving networking through dissemination platforms such as learning events, policy dialogues and thematic policy fairs would create opportunities for legislators to directly engage those who generate evidence.

### FOR DONORS & GOVERNMENTS

#### 3. BUILD CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF MPs AND STAFF

Building staff and MP capacity is described as a critical aspect in any institutional process. Evidence-informed policy making is a complex endeavour that requires multiple skill sets including research, data analysis, communication, community engagement, reporting and presentation skills, etc.

An analysis of the types of skills required for parliamentarians to be able to implement an evidence-informed policy making program is re-

quired. This should be followed by an assessment of skills available to parliamentarians to be able to determine what capacity and skills gaps exist. A determination should also be made on the cost-benefits of training existing staff and MPs, as opposed to recruiting the skills required to implement such processes.

#### 4. IMPROVE MACRO LEVEL FACTORS TO FACILITATE EVIDENCE UPTAKE AND USE

Donors and governments around the world should work to improve the macro environment for evidence use in legislation and policy. Issues that are critical in this regard include: the nation's democratic culture and tolerance of divergent views; support to the academic community, think tanks and CSOs, as well as the media.

#### 5. IDENTIFYING AND LEVERAGING EVIDENCE CHAMPIONS

Evidence from the literature shows that identifying evidence champions in evidence-informed policy processes promotes leadership buy-in and support. Ahmed et al. (2021) recommend evidence champions and trusted, long-term relationships as key to successful work with government agencies. Policymakers respond more positively to evidence informed policy making, possess better information, and exhibit more interest when "evidence champions" are engaged. A case in point was when the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Directorate, led by someone who has acted as a champion, was located within the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda and spearheaded the institutionalization of evidence use within the government over the past several years. Evidence champions are usually providing leadership sup-

port that understands the value of focusing on priority areas when time is constrained. Donors should work to identify and nurture champions to provide leadership.

### FOR PARLIAMENTS

#### 6. IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL FACTORS TO FACILITATE EVIDENCE UPTAKE AND USE

Parliaments around the continent should work to improve all the organizational-level factors that impede evidence use in legislation and policy. Parliaments should strengthen the various internal units responsible for generating evidence as well as build an organizational culture that promotes and supports evidence use. A critical component of this institutional strengthening should include a stakeholder mapping to identify roles and responsibilities of key actors, identify evidence producers, and support them in dissemination.

#### 7. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN AND BUILD LINKAGES WITH EXTERNAL SOURCES

The issue of collaboration between data producers and data users is one of the challenges in the chain of evidence generation to use. It is therefore important for Parliaments to build and strengthen their linkages with data producers. Parliaments should ensure there is legislation in place that protect the integrity of online and virtual sources of evidence.



#### 8. STRENGTHEN RESEARCH AND COMMITTEE SECRETARIATS AS PRIMARY SOURCES OF EVIDENCE FOR PARLIAMENTS

Given the importance of research and committee reports in evidence use in Parliaments, there is the need for Parliaments to strengthen their research and committee secretariats by providing them with the requisite human resources that cover the wide range of subject matter that Parliaments deal with. In a longer term, for evidence use to be institutionalized, Parliaments must have their own sources of evidence that they can call upon and most importantly rely on during critical moments when they need data and evidence to drive policy.

#### 9. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR VARIOUS POLITICAL CAUCUSES AS SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

MPs mostly turn to their caucuses for information. If these caucuses are properly supported by the various Parliaments and provided the needed support in terms of human and financial resources, they could be a reliable source of data and information that is unbiased and that supports the generation and use of evidence in legislation and policy.

#### 10. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD ESCHEW PARTISAN POLITICS IN THE GENERATION AND USE OF EVIDENCE

In their effort to access and use evidence, Parliaments should ensure that the interest of citizens and their allegiance to the Constitution are the primary considerations. Partisan politics should be secondary. Essentially, they can disagree with approaches but not with the facts.

## II. INTRODUCTION

There is growing recognition of the importance of evidence, particularly evidence from evaluations, in national decision-making and the crucial role of parliamentarians and their staff in ensuring that evidence-based approaches are used for strengthening oversight, budgeting resource appropriation, legislation, and policy making across all sectors.

Parliamentarians and their staff need data and evidence to make decisions that effectively, equitably, and justly allocate resources and meet people's social and economic needs. However, they face major technical and political challenges related to the generation and the use of evidence to inform policies. This challenge is acute in Africa given the dearth of information and analysis about the conditions, problems, and solutions of social and economic development. Parliaments in Africa lack the capacity to compile and use evidence in the design, oversight, and evaluation of legislation and policies on the critical economic and social issues facing various countries on the continent. Better use of evidence by parliamentarians, and associated research and policy making bodies will facilitate better development outcomes, and more transparent and efficient governance.

In view of this, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its implementing partners (University of Rhode Island, USA and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), under the "Assessment, Analysis

and Development of Tools to Strengthen the use of Evidence in Policies and Legislation" project conducted desk research and a study to assess the current use of evidence by parliamentarians as well as their capacity to generate, access, and use evidence in their work. The findings and recommendations from the study will be disseminated to several targeted stakeholders – Parliaments and their members, USAID and other interested actors working in the field of evidence informed policy making.

From the literature review conducted by the TSUE Team as part of the study, it was found that most of the evidence informed policy making (EIPM) literature to date has largely focused on evidence use within the executive arm of government – Ministries, Departments and Agencies (Draman et al. 2017). It further revealed that EIPM research has been primarily conducted at the executive and cabinet-levels, while limited research has been done at the Parliamentary level. Several studies (Gatune et al., 2021; Datta and Jones, 2021; Mihyo et al., 2016) show that the executive branch of governments have access to a larger pool of knowledge and expertise than national legislatures, hence, there is need to address this imbalance in access to knowledge between the executive, legislature, and judiciary in order to promote better quality policy making.

The literature review then highlighted six themes in relation to the use of evidence in African Par-

liaments. The themes were grouped into two categories: four themes were characterized as problem-related; and two themes were characterized as solution-related. The problem-related themes include the following:

1. Lack of clear definition of evidence;
2. Weak institutions (within Parliaments – research units and other information generation units) to support evidence use by Parliamentarians;
3. Weak links between evidence producers and policymakers, and lack of knowledge translation and communication skills among researchers; and
4. The underrepresentation of women in Parliament and research.

The solution-related themes are as follows:

1. Leveraging evidence champions to create leadership buy-in for effective use of evidence by parliamentarians; and
2. The need for capacity building and the challenge of institutionalizing effective systems of evidence use in Parliaments.

The literature review concluded that the current state of the use of evidence by African Parliamentarians has not been well documented, and several factors were responsible for this. Consequently, this study was conducted to address the gaps observed in the literature and shed more light on these gaps.

### III. OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE FOR THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment has two components. The first component is the use of evidence by African Parliaments and the challenges, which this paper assesses. The second component is the assessment of effectiveness of government oversight and accountability structures.

The objectives of the first component are to:

1. Understand the current state of evidence use in African Parliaments and identify gaps and opportunities that exist;
2. Understand barriers to the use of evidence by African parliamentarians as well as their capacity to generate, access, and integrate evidence in their work;
3. Understand types of data used by African parliamentarians to inform policies and laws; by whom and how the data is used; and
4. Improve access to evidence use by parliamentarians.

The objectives of the second component are to:

1. Understand the internal and external oversight and accountability structures and their effectiveness;
2. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the oversight and accountability structures in ensuring accountable, effective, and equitable policies and laws; and
3. Understand the challenges inherent in the use of these structures and how to overcome them.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a face-to-face questionnaire targeted at participants in selected African countries. A study instrument was developed and submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for approval. The field work started on February 15, 2022, after IRB approval and was completed in May.

### FACE TO FACE QUESTIONNAIRE

To administer the face-to-face questionnaires, 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were selected as sample countries. In each country, 10 MPs and five parliamentary staff were targeted as participants, bringing the total number of participants to 15 per country, and an overall total of 150 participants from the 10 countries. A convenience sampling approach was adopted in recruiting participants. To ensure a wide range of perspectives and some level of objectivity and representation among participants, various factors were taken into consideration: political party affiliation, gender, years of experience in Parliament, committee leadership, and leadership position in Parliament. The face-to-face questionnaires were administered by points of contact who were recruited to support the process in the selected countries.

### COUNTRY SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The 10 selected countries for the study are Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya,

Uganda, Cameroon, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The countries were selected to maintain regional balance. To enable identification of the broad issues of interest across different parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, the countries cut across West Africa (4), East Africa (2), Central Africa (1), and Southern Africa (3). West Africa has a high number because of linguistic considerations. East Africa has a low number because Rwanda decided not to participate. Central Africa is lower because the region was difficult to access.

2. The case countries were selected to obtain a balanced mix of those that are strong in the use of evidence (Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Botswana), as well as those that show some weakness (Liberia, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, and Cameroon). This categorization was based on the initial literature reviewed. This criterion would enable the research team to understand not only the factors that facilitate the use of evidence but also the issues that constitute barriers to evidence uptake.
3. The country selection also aimed for linguistic representation - Anglophone and Francophone.
4. The country selection considered current or planned USAID programming involving parliamentarians (Niger, Liberia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe).
5. The countries are mostly democratic with vibrant opposition parties, except Cameroon.

The complete list of countries and their status on the four criteria is shown in Table I.

**Table I: List of Countries**

Country	1 Region	2* Evidence Use	3** Language	4 USAID
1 Ghana	West Africa	S	A	
2 Liberia		W	A	Yes
3 Niger		W	F	Yes
4 Cote d'Ivoire		W	F	
5 Kenya	East Africa	S	A	
6 Uganda		S	A	
7 Cameroon	Central Africa	W	A/F	
8 Botswana	Southern Africa	S	A	
9 Malawi		S	A	Yes
10 Zimbabwe		S	A	Yes

\*S= stronger evidence use, W= weaker evidence use, \*\*A=Anglophone, F=Francophone

The literature review demonstrated that countries like Malawi, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya have a relatively “institutionalized” culture of evidence use for legislative functions. Malawi and Kenya are leaders in evidence use by parliamentarians in Africa. Kenya is the only country that has a Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence-Informed Oversight and Decision-Making (PC-EIDM) - the first of its kind found in the literature review.

## STUDY LIMITATIONS

The TSUE Team encountered several limitations in the process of conducting the assessment. The first limitation was related to the study design. The survey was initially designed solely as an on-line survey with limited interactions with parliamentarians. This design posed a great challenge

to data collection. The technical team therefore suggested that TSUE should engage points of contact in participating countries to assist with the data collection. Identifying and finalizing the contract for these individuals took longer than envisaged. One methodological limitation was that when the technical team switched to a face-to-face approach, time did not permit for any training and orientation for the data collectors. As a result, different approaches were used in the administration of the questionnaires. There were no real follow up, probing questions to some of the responses.

Related to this was the challenge of finalizing the list of selected countries. Of the initial list of suggested countries, two countries (Nigeria and Burkina Faso) were dropped from the list of sam-

ple countries. Nigeria was dropped because the country was in the run up to general elections which created time constraints and may have limited the participation of MPs in any research. Burkina Faso was dropped because of military takeover and the dissolution of Parliament. The Parliament of Rwanda, another initially selected country, turned down the team's request to participate in the study.

Another limitation encountered by the team was that of scheduling conflicts due to changing Parliamentary calendars. For instance, MPs from Kenya were unable to participate in the study because of upcoming elections in the country, though the Parliamentary staff completed the questionnaire. During the data collection process, MPs were in their constituencies campaigning for re-election.

There were also challenges related to logistics in identifying points of contact to administer the questionnaires in Cameroon and Uganda. Overall, the questionnaires were administered to participants at different times during the study, between March to May 2022.

## **SOURCES OF DATA**

Two sources of data were used for the study. The first source was the literature review (secondary data). The second source was the face-to-face questionnaire (primary data) administered to parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. The questionnaire contained both open and close-ended questions. The two sources of data were independently analyzed and triangulated.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

For the quantitative questions in the questionnaire, SPSS was used to analyze the data after the coding of responses was completed. In the case of qualitative responses, a thematic approach was adopted to analyze the data. Participants' responses to the open-ended questions were summarized and grouped according to the questions. The interview summary was read multiple times to better understand the content, identify useful comments, and observe key phrases. In the next stage of the analysis, observations of issues emerging from the responses were developed into common themes. The theme categories employed for the analysis were like those used for the literature review. The common issues identified were summarized and grouped into the existing thematic groups and new ones were created from issues emerging from the summary of responses.

## V. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The findings presented in this section draw from the analysis of responses provided by the MPs and staff of Parliaments. Responses from each group of participants, (MPs and Parliamentary staff) were analyzed independently and compared.

### BACKGROUND

The questionnaire was administered to 100 parliamentarians and 50 Parliamentary staff from the 10 countries bringing the total number of targeted participants to 150. The team received initial responses from 8 countries (there were delays with Cameroun and Kenya, so the team decided to start data analyses without their input. Cameroun, because it was added quite late in the study, and Kenya, because of the upcoming elections) with a total of 109 completed questionnaires (73%). Of the 109, 73 were from MPs and 36 from Parliamentary staff. Fig. 1 shows that a total of 78% of the parliamentarians who responded to the questionnaire were male and 22% were female. Similarly, of the Parliamentary staff who completed the questionnaire, 70% were male while 30% were female. The participation of women appears to be low but a true reflection of the composition of these Parliaments. According to data from the IPU ([www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)), the ratio of male MPs versus female MPs from the eight Parliaments is 79:21. A 22% female participation in this study reflects reality.

Sex of MPs respondents

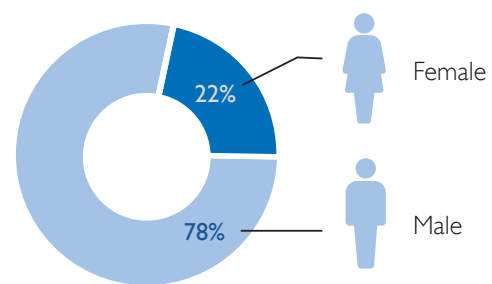


Figure 1. Sex of MPs Respondents

The study indicates the ecosystem of gender-sensitive mainstreaming is still evolving. There is extensive research conducted in this area by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and has highlighted many Parliaments are working to move away from their traditional male-dominated membership towards promoting equality. However, nationalizing the change often involves looking at the institution itself with a critical eye, acknowledging unseen barriers that deter the presence of women, limit their participation or hinder progress towards gender equality, and then taking strong action to address these issues. Gender equality is in the interest of both men and women, and a precondition for genuine democracy. But for many years, the responsibility of defending women's rights and gender equality in Parliaments rested mainly on the shoulders of women MPs. The focus needs to shift to the responsibility of Parliaments, as institutions representing the interests of all citizens.



Figures 2 and 3 show the experience of parliamentarians with legislative processes. The team observed that 52% of MPs who participated in the study have spent two terms or more in their respective Parliaments. More than a third of the MPs (34%) who responded belong to, or are currently serving in, the leadership of Parliamentary committees. This shows a wide range of legislative and leadership experiences among participants.

Similarly, staffers had diverse responsibilities and about 60% constituted the core group responsible for evidence generation.

### Terms spent in Parliament as MP

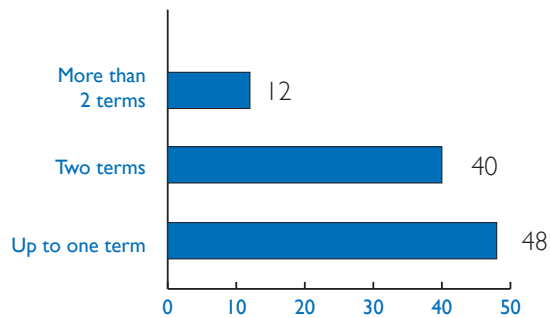


Figure 2: Terms spent in Parliament as MP

### Current role of MPs in Parliament

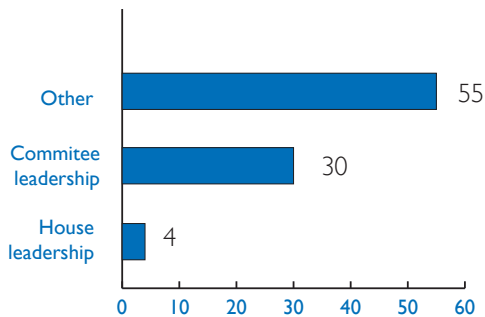


Figure 3: Current role of MPs in Parliament

## COMPONENT ONE

### DEFINITION OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

**KEY FINDING #1:** The research and academic community and MPs both define “evidence” differently. And among these two groups perspectives differ. Considering these discrepancies, this study defines evidence as one of the many factors, occurring externally or internally, to inform policy making and one that considers the social and political context of the Parliament.

The responses revealed that establishing a common understanding of what evidence means among African parliamentarians is an arduous task. Almost all respondents have a different understanding and interpretation of what evidence-based policy making means, even if they all underscored the use of facts/evidence to inform policies and legislation. This is consistent with the findings from the literature review. It was established in the literature review that articulating the meaning of evidence in the context of evidence informed policy making and legislation is critical to understanding the current state of evidence use in African Parliaments (INASP, 2016a; INASP, 2016b Shaxson and Datta, 2016).

Despite a diversity of understanding of the concept, respondents used a few common phrases to describe what evidence means. These include:

“Evidence is crucial in Parliamentary work”,  
Evidence is credible, systematic, methodological and objective information.” etc.

*“Evidence means proof. When you have evidence in your possession, it allows you to make sound decisions. To me, evidence is required and should be available to lawmakers to aid in making national decisions and policies.”*

*“Evidence simply present (sic) the facts required to make sound decisions. To me, evidence is required and should be available to lawmakers to aid in making national decisions and policies.”*

*“Evidence stands for facts. Throughout the years, the legislature use (sic) evidence in making Policy and national decisions as a system to ensure that their decisions are sound and credible and would bring about development.”*

A few common keywords or phrases run through the individual responses on the definition of evidence informed policy. These include empirical findings on subject matter; information for decision making; accurate information; information for decision making; and facts that will help to make good decisions.

The literature review highlighted that one of the early attempts to define evidence ended up providing a plethora of definitions. In a white paper issued in 1999, the UK Cabinet Office defined evidence as ‘expert knowledge; published research; existing research; stakeholder consultations; previous policy evaluations; the Internet; outcomes from consultations; costings of policy options; output from economic and statistical modelling’ (Cabinet Office, 1999: 33). This interpretation of evidence was supported by Marston and Watts (2003) who provided a catalogue of possible sources to include photographs, literary texts, official files, autobiographical material such as diaries and letters, newspaper files and ethnographic and particular observer accounts.

Oronje and Warira (2018) noted that what constitutes ‘evidence’ is a contentious issue. For Newman, Fisher and Shaxson (2012), evidence is one of the many different factors that informs policy making alongside other factors such as political realities and public debates. This is attributed to broaden the understanding of ‘evidence-informed policy,’ which moves away from a narrow focus on research and methodological rigor to a more inclusive understanding of the evidence that recognizes diverse forms of knowledge and information, such as citizen knowledge, practical experience, and administrative data (Jones et al., 2012 and Draman et al 2017).

The views of respondents confirm the findings in the literature that what constitutes evidence is not “settled”. In recognition of this, the literature review suggested that a common and acceptable definition of evidence for both users and producers of evidence is necessary and should be at the heart of any discourse on evidence informed policy making (Sutcliffe and Court 2005).

While both the literature review and the study have failed to clearly articulate a definition of evidence, to respond to Sutcliffe and Court’s (2005) call for a common definition, TSUE proposed a working definition based on an appreciation of the varied definitions in the literature and findings from the empirical study as: “Evidence is one of the many factors, occurring externally or internally, to inform policy making and one that takes into account the social and political context of the Parliament.”

## CURRENT USE OF EVIDENCE IN LEGISLATION AND POLICY MAKING

**KEY FINDING #2:** More than half of all respondents – MPs and their staff – say they use evidence to drive legislation and policy. About 14% of the respondents rate their

evidence use as low or very low. Evidence uptake is shaped by three key factors: macro level factors; organizational level factors as well as the existence of institutional platforms that link policymakers and researchers.

The findings from the study show how that both parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff recognize the importance of the use of evidence in policies and legislations. A careful review of participants' responses shows that there is a deliberate attempt by parliamentarians to ensure that most

**MPs Rating of the extent to which Parliament uses evidence to inform legislation and policies**

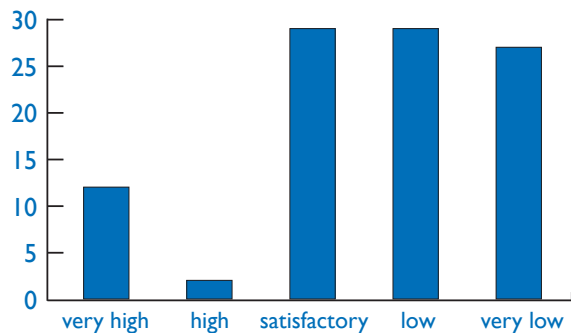


Figure 4: MPs' rating of the extent to which Parliament's use of evidence to inform legislation and policies

**Parliamentary staff rating of use of evidence in legislative process**

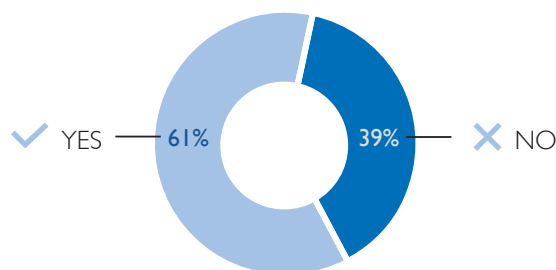


Figure 5: Parliamentary staff rating of use of evidence in legislative process

legislative processes are adequately informed by evidence, notwithstanding challenges they face in accessing and using evidence. Almost two-thirds (56%) of parliamentarians rated their current use of evidence in Parliament as 'high' or 'very high' (figure 4). Similarly, 61% of Parliamentary staff agreed that the legislative process in African Parliaments is informed by evidence (figure 5).

This aligns with the findings of the literature review that there is a growing recognition of the importance of evidence in decision making processes and the role of parliamentarians. An MP from Uganda stated that, "To a greater extent, Parliament executes its work through committees. These committees process a lot of information most of which is evidence based. In addition, most debates on the floor are based on evidence." To underscore the fact that evidence is at the core of legislative business, an MP from Malawi said, "To push a bill/legislation or any decision at Parliament, legislators require evidence to advance their argument". Thus, the use of evidence is part of legislative processes in Africa.

It is however a concern that 14% of MPs and staff rated their current use of evidence below satisfactory. This view may be closer to reality than the views espoused by the majority group of MPs and staff. It speaks to the current situation of most African Parliaments.

Parliaments in Africa differ broadly in their institutional role in policymaking, and this may be positively correlated to the capacity to take up and use evidence. Figure 6 presents the information needs of Parliaments at different stages of development, starting at the bottom with small and basic to large and well-developed Parliaments, with full information support functions at

## Evidence Uptake Shaped by the Type of Legislature

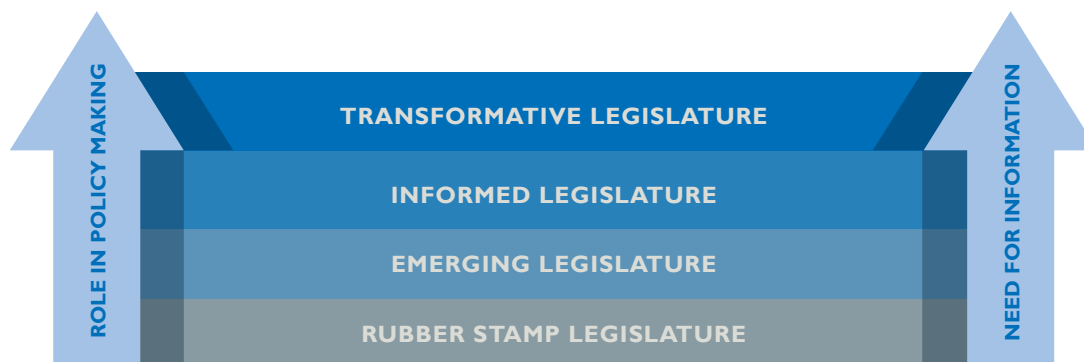


Figure 6: Evidence Uptake Shaped by The Type of Legislature. Source: (Miko and Robinson, 1994)

the top. It shows that the more developed a Parliament is, the more capacity it has to deal with complex information and analysis and vice versa. With increased interest in and drive towards EIPM by Parliaments in Africa, there is increasing pressure to operate at the top of the hierarchy even though most Parliaments on the continent are at the first and the second tiers of this information scale. According to Global Partners Governance (2017), “Only the largest research services can aim to cover, in any depth, most of the subject areas in which they may need to work”. So essentially, if most African Parliaments are operating at the bottom the scale presented in the figure above, it stands to reason that there will be challenges with evidence uptake. The key factors that shape evidence uptake in Parliaments can be categorized into two: macro level factors and organizational level factors.

The macro-level factors relate to a nation’s political and economic context as it relates to the policy making environment and may include political, academic and media freedoms, as well as the extent to which civil society groups are engaged in the policy space.

The organizational level influences include the Parliaments’ own organizational cultures, processes, and capacities which are shaped by the bureaucratic structure of Parliaments. The organizational capacity of Parliament including the strengths and weaknesses of the political and administrative sides of Parliament are all aspects of this category ([www.inasp.info](http://www.inasp.info)). It is important to note as articulated by Hayter (2017), that organizational cultures including leadership, beliefs and values around evidence are critical to the use of evidence to inform policy making. According to Mofolo et al. (2014) what account for the organizational weaknesses of most Parliaments, include: a lack of political will, inadequate leadership, management weaknesses, and institutional design.

Apart from the two major factors described above, another factor that shapes evidence uptake is the lack of institutional platforms that link researchers and policymakers. Datta and Jones (2011) reflect information in the schema above by observing that the need for legislative information and research, especially in developing and transition countries, is growing as policy making processes become more complex, particularly in

the context of globalization, regional integration, and decentralization. In this context, researcher-policymaker engagement has been identified as a critical factor for the success of EIPM. However, the links between researchers and policymakers have been defined as “weak” (Oronje and Warira, 2018; Marale, 2020; Datta and Jones, 2011). This calls for institutional platforms, which unfortunately do not exist. Even in countries that have stronger EIPM institutions, host of evidence producers outside the government producing top-notch research, such as Ghana, lack institutionalized platforms for disseminating research to policymakers which plague the system. According to Commodore and Boateng (2021), Ghana’s political landscape and evidence ecosystem present opportunities for boosting the instrumental use of evidence for policy decision-making through institutionalized platforms for engaging research institutions, CSOs, think tanks, and academia; however, Ghana lacks institutionalized platforms that constructively bring users and producers of evidence together.

Most African Parliaments – from Ghana to Kenya and Malawi, are confronted with the macro and institutional level challenges described above. They are confronted with lack of institutional platforms that facilitate interactions between them and data producers. Taken together, the above-described factors account for why over a quarter of all respondents note challenges with evidence uptake.

## SOURCES OF EVIDENCE USED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS

**KEY FINDING #3:** Parliamentarians and their staff get evidence mainly from three key sources: virtual/online, internal and external.

There are multiple sources of evidence available to African parliamentarians to inform their work. Parliamentarians and their staff reported that they rely mostly on the evidence obtained virtually or online and evidence generated internally. Online sources are rated as the easiest to be accessed by respondents. “It is easy to search for evidence so long as you have good internet connection, you can get the evidence online,” observed an MP from Zimbabwe. With the advent of internet and smartphones, parliamentarians can access any information online. “I just google the information on the internet,” says another MP from Malawi.

Among these sources, Parliamentarians identified online/virtual (96%) – from internal parliamentary sources such as their websites, exchange platforms, etc. as well as external – from academia, research organisations, CSOs etc.), internal (95%), and external (93%) as the leading sources of evidence they commonly used (figure 7). Similarly, Parliamentary staff identified the same sources of evidence used by Parliamentarians. (Figure 8)

Respondents explained other sources to include citizen reports, and expert opinion on key issues before the house.

On the ease of accessibility of various sources of evidence, most parliamentarians (99%) cited virtual/online sources as the easiest to access, followed by internal sources (97%), and external sources (81%, see Figure 10). However, some

### Sources of evidence available to MPs

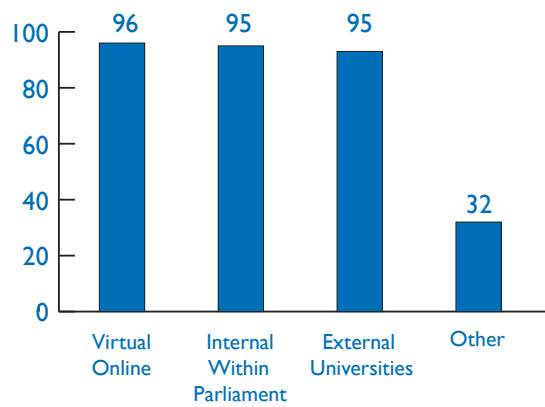


Figure 7: Sources of evidence available to MPs

### Sources of evidence available to Staff of Parliament

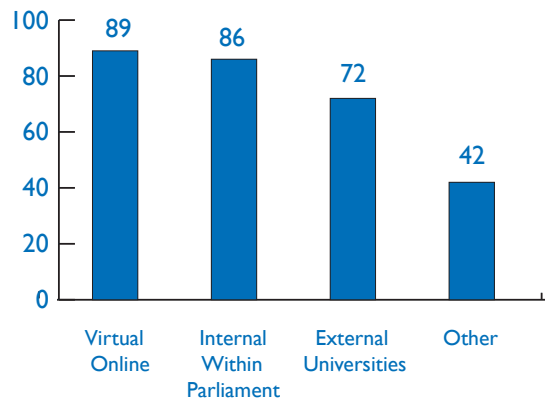


Figure 8: Sources of evidence available to Staff of Parliament

MPs expressed difficulty accessing evidence from these sources. It is noted that 19% said it was not easy to access evidence from external sources. Similarly, 3% and 1% said it was not easy to access evidence from internal and virtual sources respectively.

Parliamentary staff in figure 10 rated their accessibility to the sources of evidence in a similar order – online/virtual and internal were rated as the easiest (100%), followed by external sources with

78%. Interestingly, 33% of staff said it was not easy to access evidence from internal sources. Then 22% and 11% respectively said it was not easy to access data from external bodies and other sources.

On the issue of assessing the usefulness of evidence from various sources, the majority of parliamentarians (97%) indicated that evidence from both internal (within Parliament) and virtual/online are most useful, while 96% indicated that external sources are useful (figure 11). Online sources include research reports, administrative reports, investigative committee reports and evaluation reports. Parliamentary staff rated the usefulness of the sources of evidence in the same order as MPs. Another 3% however rated the virtual and internal sources as not at all useful. Similarly, 4.1% and 2.6% respectively rated external and other sources as not at all useful.

Though online sources are easily accessible, the challenge associated with them is that users are

### MPs' rating of ease of accessibility of the sources

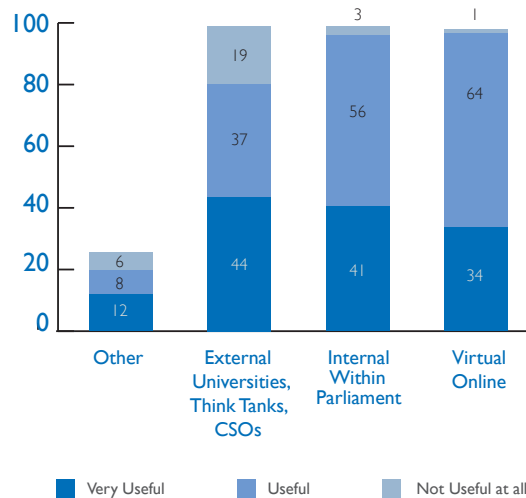
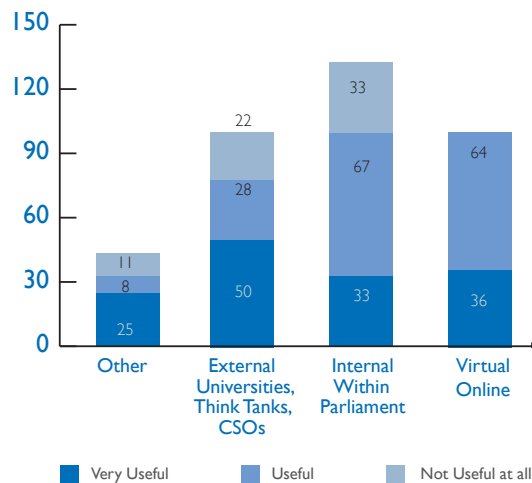


Figure 9: MPs' sources accessibility ratings

generally inundated with information which may be difficult to verify. To ensure the credibility of the information they are getting from online sources, respondents indicated that among on-line sources they commonly use are websites of international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programmes, World Bank, World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, and other similar organizations. On the other hand, most of the internal sources of evidence used by parliamentarians are issue/policy briefs, factsheets, and committee reports. These types of evidence are researched, analyzed, synthesized and packaged by Parliamentary staff.

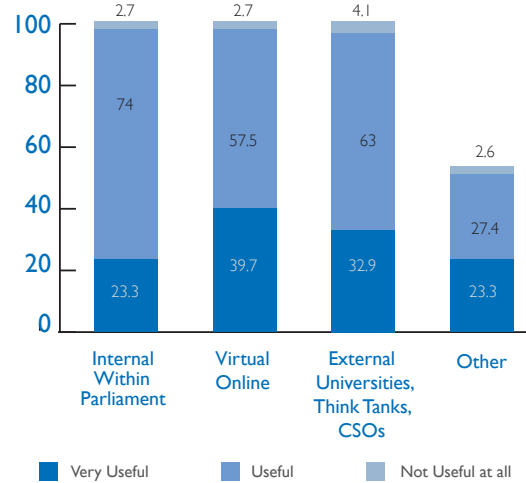
The advantage of these types of evidence compared to other types is that they are generated and packaged to meet the needs of parliamentarians. More importantly, Parliamentary staff are available to provide more explanation to the MPs on any aspect of the evidence when required. According to an MP from Zimbabwe, “It is very easy to consult departments or staff within Parliament since they are always available”. Another MP from Botswana stated that committee staff provide useful information within the period MPs require the information. So, they are not only very helpful, but they are also timely.

**Staff ratings of the ease of accessibility of evidence**



*Figure 10: Staff ratings of the ease of accessibility of evidence*

**MPs’ ratings of the usefulness of the source of evidence**



*Figure 11: MPs ratings of usefulness of evidence*

## TYPES OF EVIDENCE

**KEY FINDING #4:** Of the many types of evidence, Parliamentarians most prefer research reports, administrative or investigative committee reports.

The top three types of evidence respondents identified as most used by Parliamentarians, as shown in figure 12, are research reports – mainly secondary research and synthesis (80%), administrative reports (75%) and special investigative committee reports (69%). Evaluation reports are cited as the fourth (64%) most used, while citizens’ views are rated as the fifth (59%) type of evidence most used by parliamentarians.

These findings simply mean that first, parliamentarians and their staff do not prioritize the use

of evaluation reports. Second, as a representative body, they also do not use views from citizens. Third, and most importantly, expert opinion in the eyes of parliamentarians does not count as much as administrative reports for instance. The findings are not surprising though. As indicated earlier, there seems to be no institutional platforms that link researchers to policymakers. This perhaps partly explains why evaluation reports and expert opinions do not rank among the top three types of evidence used by Parliamentarians.

Types of evidence available to MPs

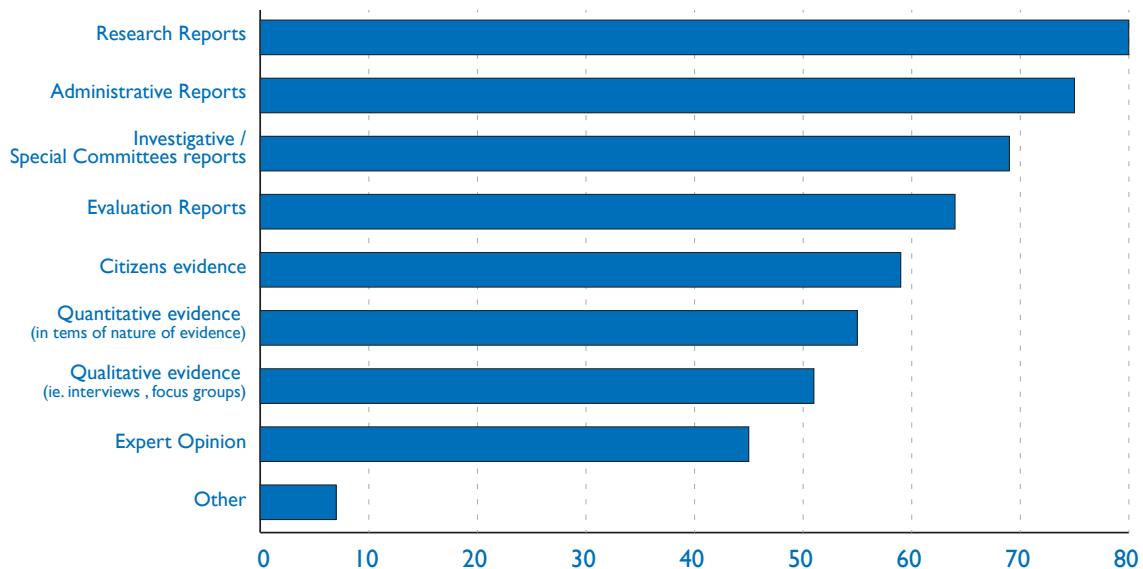


Figure 12: Types of evidence available to MPs



## IMPORTANCE OF TYPES OF EVIDENCE

While rating the importance of types of evidence used in policies and legislations, respondents rated research, administrative, and special investigative reports as the top three most important types of evidence (figure 13). Despite their importance, evaluation reports are not among the top three types of evidence that parliamentarians considered as most useful. Similarly, citizen/constituent views do not feature in the top three most important types of evidence used by parliamentarians. This could be an indication of a lack of requisite skills and resources required to deal with these types of reports by Parliaments.

Though evaluation reports are important, they are not readily available to Parliamentarians when discussing policies and legislations. One MP from Zimbabwe observed that, "Evaluation reports give an understanding of the performance of government projects and are produced after thorough research and getting opinions from beneficiaries".

The study further revealed that most Parliaments do not have M&E departments, they depend on government agencies to give them their information which may not be forthcoming, or it may be delayed. "Sometimes when you request information from a government ministry, department, or the district commissioner, it takes longer than necessary, and this affects the use of evidence in our work," observed an MP from Malawi.

According to the study, citizens' views and opinions is another important form of evidence that is not readily available to parliamentarians. According to an MP from Botswana, "Citizens' evidence is the most important because it provides information about what is happening on the ground in my constituency." Unfortunately, the majority of African parliamentarians cannot easily access this type of evidence because they do not have constituency offices where such evidence can be generated and synthesized for the use of members.

### Importance of type of evidence ratings

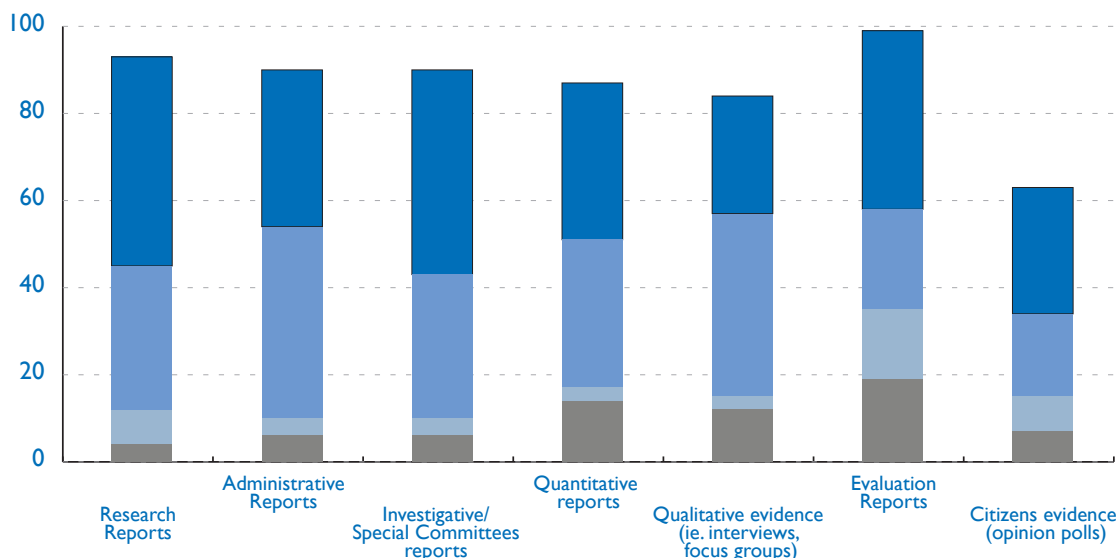


Figure 13: Importance of evidence available to MPs

## BARRIERS TO ACCESSING EVIDENCE

**KEY FINDING #5:** There are three key barriers to accessing evidence: resources (financial and human), skill and capacity, and partisan politics.

Respondents enumerated several barriers they faced in accessing evidence. More than two-thirds (77%) of the respondents said they have ‘resource challenges’ when accessing evidence. Some of the resource constraints include lack of financial support to carry out effective oversight activities, lack of adequate human capital and access to e-resources due to lack of funds to pay for subscriptions and membership fees. Other barriers caused by resource constraints include lack of reliable internet facility and well-equipped research and M&E departments. Lack of skills and capacity also constitute a major barrier to parliamentarians’ ability to access evidence. The majority of parliamentarians are not well trained in the use of ICT and other digital tools required to generate and access evidence. These views are consistent with the literature. According to Puntton (2016), capacity constraints are among the

most common factors affecting evidence use in policymaking in developing countries. Goldman et al, (2018) stated that the key challenges include the difficulty of getting a learning approach in government, capacity issues, and ensuring follow-up. The lack of staff capacity is linked to lack of coordination between units (Shah and Commodore, 2021).

Yet another barrier is lack of skills and capacity. This was mentioned by 70% of respondents. Commodore and Boateng (2021), speaking to the issue of lack of skills, pointed to the overwhelming and complex nature of evidence (and the capacity of policymakers to effectively apply evidence in the policymaking process), which compounds the lack of skills and biases and complex political processes.

Similarly, few MPs have analytical skills and ability to synthesize complex information into usable formats to support their legislative functions. There are disparities in the capacity of parliamentarians to access and use evidence because “MPs are coming from different professional and educational backgrounds”, as noted by an MP from Malawi. The problem of lack of resources

### Major Barriers to accessing evidence

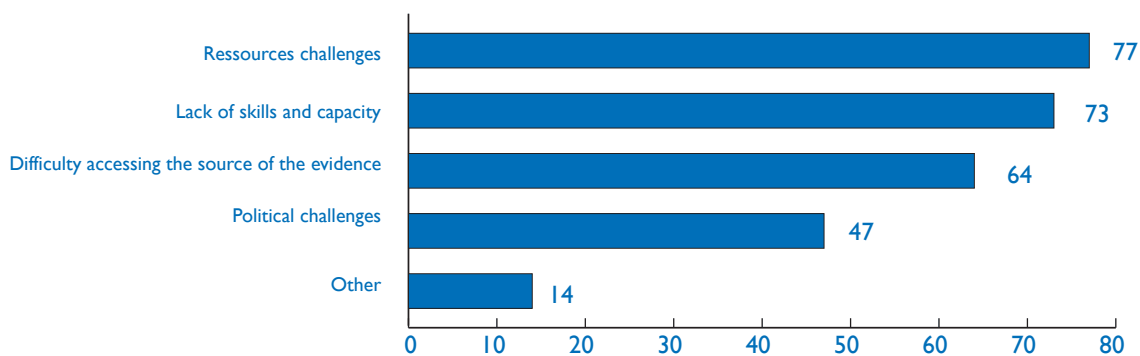


Figure 14: Major barriers to accessing evidence

and capacity is both institutional and individual, and this was highlighted in the literature review. To address this challenge, Oronje et al., (2019) argued that strengthening individual capacity for evidence use must be accompanied by institutional capacity. Motani et al, (2019) observed that capacity building is the biggest contributing factor to policy making. They recommend sustained capacity-building of leadership and functional skills across Parliaments, if EIPM is to become widely adopted. Also, 64% mentioned difficulty in accessing sources of evidence while about 50% stated that political challenges posed serious barriers to them in accessing evidence (figure 14). Translated in simple terms, this means that often loyalty to party and party positions prevent parliamentarians from accessing information and evidence from sources that are not considered sympathetic to their position, even if credible. It is important to note, as articulated in the literature, that even though evidence is portrayed as an a-political, neutral, and objective policy tool, it is neither neutral nor uncontested (Nutley, 2003 as cited in Sutcliffe and Court 2005). It is therefore imperative to note that Parliaments are highly partisan and divisive bodies, hence evidence access and use cannot be completely devoid of politics and

partisanship. This demonstrates distinctive characteristics and challenges for Parliaments, including the public nature of evidence; the need for political balance; and appealing to representative as well as epistemic ideals (Geddes, 2020).

An important barrier to accessing evidence cited in the literature but not confirmed by the study is the issue of research design. According to Ndiaye (2009), very often, research is designed and carried out without regard for its potential users or beneficiaries. Nankya (2016) agreed with this view and concluded that bottlenecks which impede the flow of evidence include: (1) lack of knowledge translation skills among researchers which can enable them to synthesize and communicate their findings in a consumer-friendly way, engaging policymakers, practitioners, and the public to understand science and use research evidence in the day-to-day decision making, and (2) lack of appreciation for the importance of reporting scientific research evidence among journalists. The question arises: How can the dialogue between researchers and decision-makers be improved? This takes us back to the challenge of lack of platforms for researcher-policymaker dialogue.

## INFORMATION SUPPORT SYSTEMS

**KEY FINDING #6:** Parliamentarians resort to their political caucuses more as information support than the officially established units that exist as information support.

In figure 15 below, parliamentarians identified Parliamentary caucuses, think tanks/CSOs, and committee staff as the leading information support systems available to them in the generation and use of evidence. Despite their importance, research departments were not among the top three information support systems mentioned by Parliamentarians. One challenge confronted by research departments across most Parliaments is the fact that they lack the requisite capacity and specialist knowledge to provide the needed support to parliamentarians. Further to this, most of these departments are unable to package information in ways that are easily usable by MPs. Consequently, their products are often not appealing, leading MPs to stay away from them

rather than rely on them for evidence. One cause of this problem is the fact that over the years, most Parliaments have not prioritized research. As a result, there has been little or no investment in building these departments. It is of interest to note that Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs) were rated higher as support systems than the research departments even though PBOs are a new phenomenon in African Parliaments. It is important to note that parliamentarians identified Parliamentary caucus as a major support system. This shows the significance of the Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM), the model established by Kenya's Parliament.

### Information support systems available to MPs

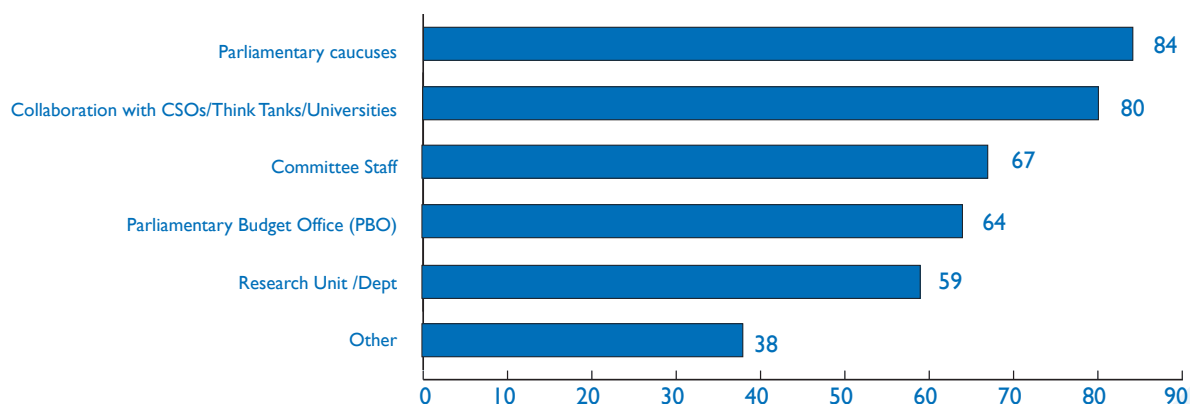


Figure 15: Information support systems available to MPs

## VI. ASSESSMENT OF MPs' SKILLS AND AWARENESS OF TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

### AWARENESS OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

Knowledge management tools and platforms are essential to how information is packaged, stored, and retrieved by users. However, almost 56% of parliamentarians stated that they are not aware of any knowledge management tools and platforms in their Parliaments (figure 16). Without a doubt, this has a significant impact not only in regard to evidence generation, but most importantly, evidence use. This is because today, given the pre-eminence of technology and the use of technological solutions in all spheres of work, once evidence is generated, dissemination will be through such tools and platforms.

MPs knowledge awareness management tools and platforms

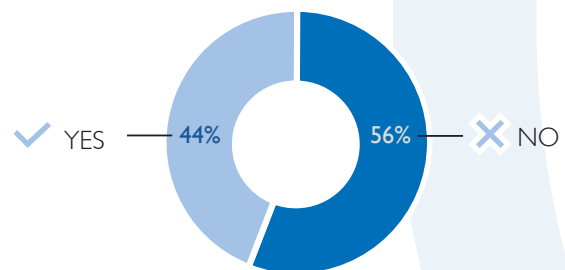


Figure 16: MPs knowledge awareness management tools and platforms

### ASSESSMENT OF MPs' SKILLS REQUIRED TO ENHANCE EVIDENCE USE

Lack of capacity to access and use evidence was a major theme that emerged from the literature review. Similarly, figure 17 shows that more than two-thirds of Parliamentarians (73%) indicated they have limited capacity to both generate and use evidence for their work. This confirms data and the discussions in earlier sections of this report where the issue of lack of skills and resources were prominent when it comes to access to

evidence. This finding is important in explaining the level of usefulness MPs attached to different types of evidence. When asked to assess their capacity in several skill areas required to enhance their use of evidence in decision making, almost all the parliamentarians rated their capacities in the use of ICT, digital tools, analysis and synthesis skills as average or below average.

#### Assessment of the skills of the Parliamentarians

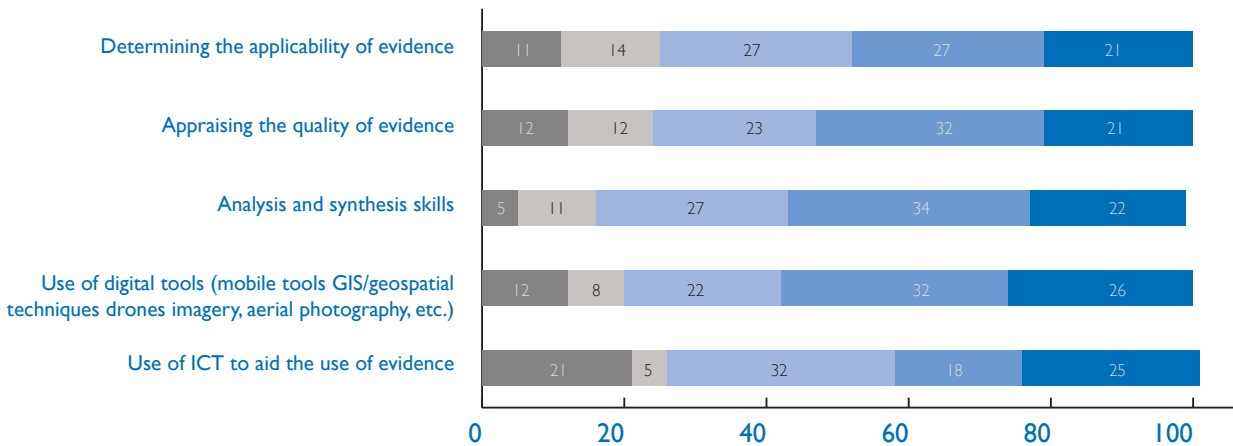


Figure 17: Assessment of skills of Parliamentarians

## VII. SKILLS AND SUPPORT REQUIRED BY MPs TO IMPROVE USE OF EVIDENCE

**KEY FINDING #7:** Parliamentarians are in search of skills related to accessing and generating evidence, communicating, and using evidence to inform policies.

Parliamentarians identified key areas in which they would like to develop their capacity to improve the use of evidence in policies and legislation. The top three areas include: accessing and generating evidence, documentation and communication of evidence, and using and uptake evidence to improve legislation as shown in figure 18 below.

Skills and support required by MPs to improve the uptake of evidence

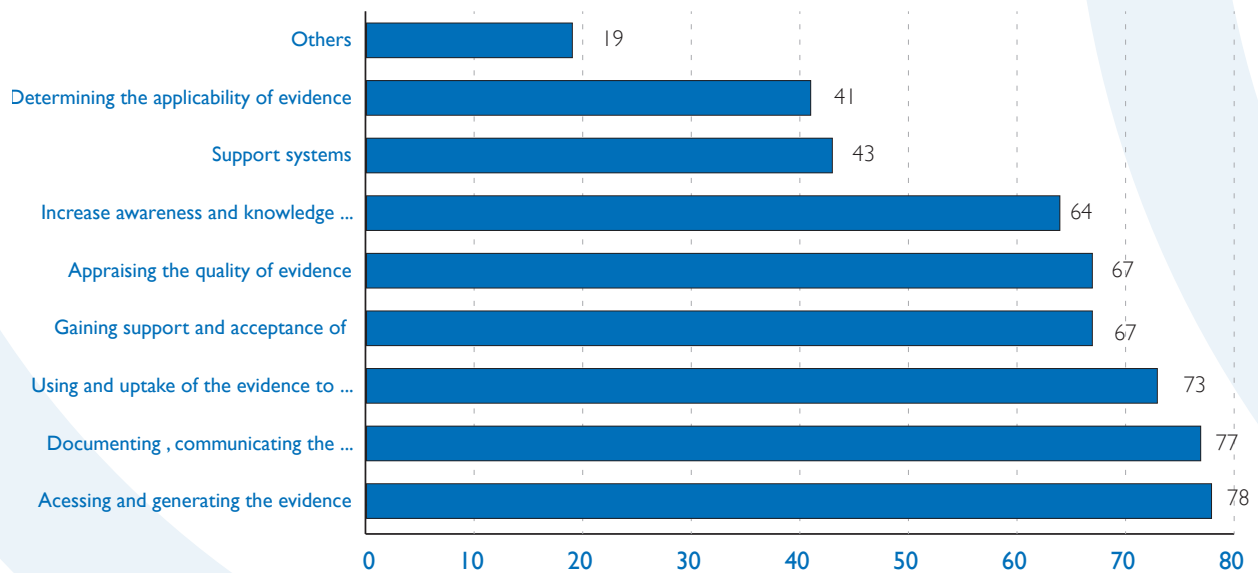


Figure 18: MPs skills and support to improve evidence (in percentages)

## VIII. SKILLS REQUIRED BY STAFF

**KEY FINDING #8:** Like parliamentarians, staff are also in search of skills related to accessing and generating evidence, communicating, and using evidence to inform policies. But as expected, for staff, skills related knowledge management platforms are critical.

Parliamentary staff were also asked to identify important skill areas they required to effectively support the generation and use of evidence. A total of 72% of the staff indicated that increased awareness about knowledge management is very critical to them; then 61% stated that skills to access and generate evidence is key, while 56% identified documenting and communicating evidence in a convincing manner is important to them (figure 19).

### Skills required by staff to effectively use evidence

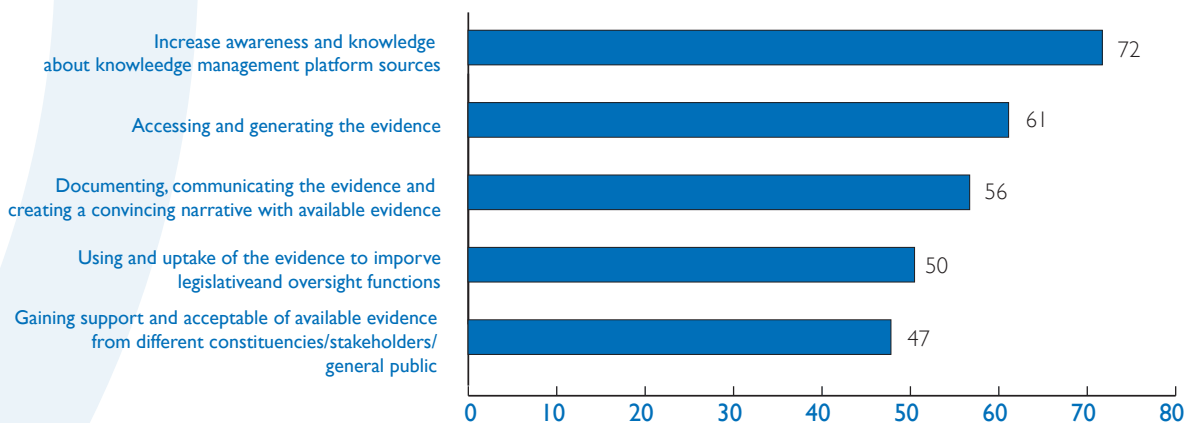


Figure 19: Staff skills for effective evidence use (percentages)



## COMPONENT TWO

### OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES IN AFRICA

This section of the report presents findings on the assessment of the capacity of parliament's oversight and accountability structures and how these affect parliaments' use of evidence. Findings from the preceding section on the access to and use of evidence have a direct effect on the ability of Parliaments to undertake their oversight and accountability function. This assertion is supported by the finding that timely and credible evidence is crucial to the role of parliament.

Specific objectives of this section include the following.

- Explain the concepts of oversight and accountability
- Examine the tools and structures available to parliaments for oversight and accountability
- Assess how the use of and access to evidence affects oversight and accountability functions

### INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES

Parliaments exist to ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery. Through their core functions of lawmaking and oversight, Parliaments hold governments to account on behalf of the people, ensuring that government policies and actions are both efficient and commensurate with the needs of the public. Parliament's role is crucial in checking excesses on the part of officials who have the mandate to disburse state resources.

In executing their mandate, Parliaments:

- Ensure transparency and openness of Executive activities. They shed light on the operations of government by providing a public arena in which the policies and actions of government are debated, scrutinized, and subjected to public opinion.
- Hold the Executive branch accountable. Parliamentary oversight scrutinizes whether the government's policies have been implemented and whether they are having the desired impact.
- Provide financial accountability. Parliaments approve and scrutinize government spending by highlighting waste within public-funded services. Their aim is to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure; and to uphold the rule of law.
- Parliaments protect the rights of citizens by monitoring policies and examining potential abuses of power, arbitrary behaviour and illegal or unconstitutional conduct by government officials.

Through the twin-concepts of oversight and accountability, Parliaments discharge the above-named responsibilities.

Oversight has been variously defined in scholarly literature. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s publication, "Tools for Parliamentary Oversight: A Comparative Study of 88 National Parliaments" by Hironori Yamamoto, adopts a working definition of parliamentary oversight to be the review, monitoring, and supervision of government and public agencies, including the implementation of policy and legislation. This covers the work of

parliamentary committees and plenary sittings, as well as hearings during the parliamentary consideration stage of bills and the budgetary cycle.<sup>1</sup> Pelizzo and Stapenhurst (2004) presents oversight as the obvious follow-on activity linked to lawmaking. After participating in law-making, the legislature's main role is to see whether or not laws are effectively implemented and whether, in effect, they address and correct the problems as intended by their drafters.<sup>2</sup>

Oversight of the Executive is designed to fulfill a number of important purposes and goals, including:

- Ensure executive compliance with legislative intent.
- Improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of governmental operations.
- Evaluate program performance.
- Prevent executive encroachment on legislative powers and prerogatives.
- Investigate alleged instances of poor administration, arbitrary and capricious behavior, abuse, waste, fraud, and dishonesty.
- Assess agency or officials' ability to manage and carry out program objectives.
- Assess the need for new federal/national legislation.
- Review and determine federal/national financial priorities.
- Protect individual rights and liberties; and

- Inform the public about how its government is performing its public duties.<sup>3</sup>

Accountability on the other hand, means being able to provide an explanation or justification, and accept responsibility, for events or transactions and for one's own actions in relation to these events or transactions. It is about giving an answer for the way in which one has spent money, exercised power and control, mediated rights, and used discretions vested by law in the public interest.

Accountability exists when there is a relationship in which an individual's or institution's performance of tasks or functions are subject to another's oversight, direction or request for information or justification for their actions. The most concise description of accountability is: 'the obligation to explain and justify conduct'. This implies a relationship between an actor, the accountant, and a forum, the account holder, or accountee. Bovens (2006) reinforces the above-described notion when he notes that accountability is a relationship between an actor and a forum in which the actor has an obligation to explain and to justify his or her conduct; the forum can pose questions and pass judgement, and the actor may face consequences. His views on accountability are premised on public integrity and confidence perspectives because in his view, accountability helps to instil confidence that the public sector is being managed appropriately.

Accountability and by extension, oversight, are incomplete without an accompanying regime of

1 Hironori Yamamoto, 2007. *Tools for Parliamentary Oversight: A Comparative Study of 88 national parliaments*. An IPU Publication.

2 Pelizzo, Riccardo and Stapenhurst, Rick, 2004. *Tools for Legislative Oversight*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3388, September 2004.

3 Morton Rosenberg, *When Congress Comes Calling: A Primer on the Principles, Practices, and Pragmatics of Legislative Inquiry*, [www.constitutionalproject.org](http://www.constitutionalproject.org). Accessed May 20, 2022.

sanctions. Thus, Schedler, Diamond and Plattner (1999) and Pelizzo and Staphenurst (2013) note that a comprehensive model of public accountability comprises two dimensions: answerability and enforcement. While answerability denotes the obligation to provide information and justification for one’s actions; enforcement is the institution of formal action against institutions or officials who have acted beyond their mandate - illegally and incorrectly. A sanctions regime that ensures answerability and enforcement, requires internal and external institutional mechanisms, particularly as they relate to Parliament.

Traditionally, there are two types of accountability – vertical and horizontal. Vertical accountability is the means through which citizens, the media and civil society seek to enforce standards of good performance on officials. On the other hand, horizontal accountability is a situation where state in-

stitutions check the abuses of other public agencies and branches of government.

Evidence from literature and empirical findings of this research suggest newer versions of accountability, i.e., diagonal and social. The former - diagonal accountability represents the engagement of citizens in the workings of horizontal accountability mechanisms. Social accountability is where citizens/civil society organizations participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability. This is a particular type of horizontal accountability. The exact oversight and accountability on duty-bearers, Parliaments across the continent rely on a number of tools at their disposal.

Review of literature and interviews conducted with Parliamentarians and staff of Parliament suggested a number of tools that are internal and external to Parliamentary institutions, as depicted in figure 1 below. Internal mechanisms are the

**Oversight tools**

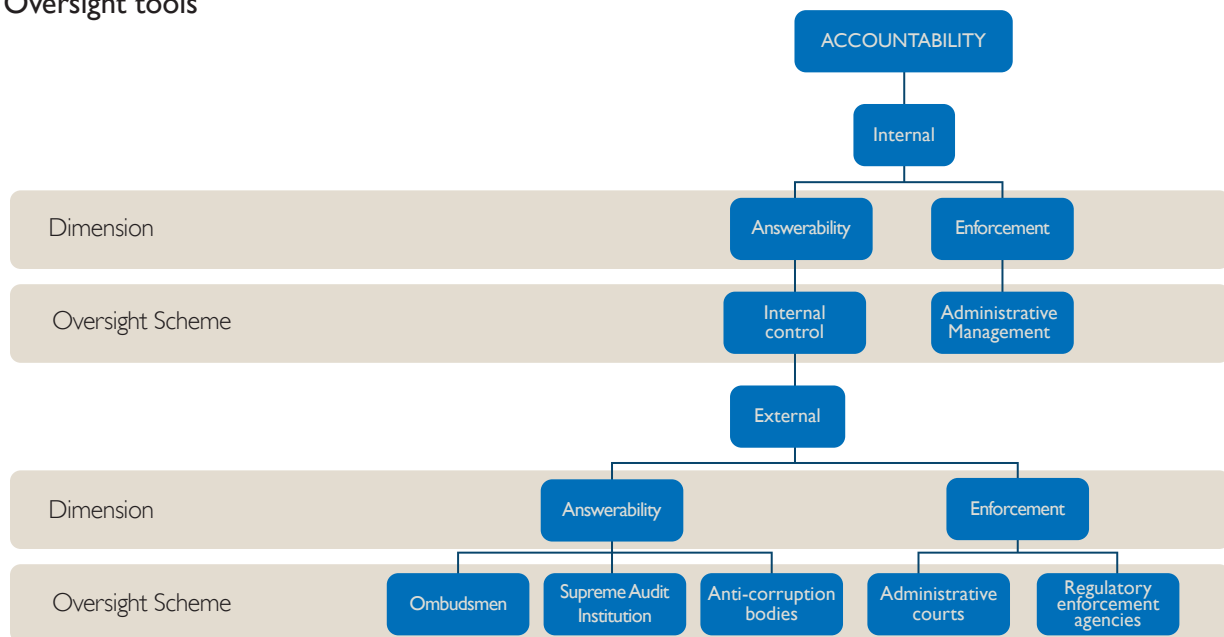


Figure 20: Oversight Tools. (Source: OECD Oversight Handbook (Year))

tools that are available to Parliaments to exact oversight and accountability on duty-bearers.

The internal tools include adhoc or special committees, hearings, interpellation, questions, question time, and specialized committees. These tools and how they work, are briefly described below.

- Ad hoc or Special Committee: A committee set up to obtain information on a matter that is under investigation by a Parliament.
- Hearings: Procedures used by parliamentary bodies to obtain oral information from persons outside the bodies concerned. Hearings can be public or investigative.
- Interpellation: A formulated question on the conduct of the government or its departments that often determines accountability by means of votes on motions. The procedure of interpellations differs from one parliament to the other. It can be launched as a single inquiry or moved as follow-up to other written or oral questions.
- Questions: Requests made by an individual member of parliament or a group of members for information about a subject. A question can be either written or oral. See also Interpellation.
- Question time: A period in the parliamentary agenda that is allocated to oral questions and their answers.
- Specialized Committee: Also, sometimes known as Select Committees, are committees appointed to perform a special function that is beyond the authority or capacity of a standing committee. A specialized committee is usually established by a resolution that outlines its duties and powers and the procedures for appointing members. Special com-

mittees are often investigative rather than legislative in nature, though some select and special committees in some jurisdictions have the authority to draft and report legislation.

Data from the study (figure 2) revealed that the most widespread oversight tools used by Members of Parliament and their staff (across those studied) are:

- Plenary – during which MPs get the opportunity to discuss issues of national interest before the full glare of the media. It also often provides the opportunity to question Ministers and other duty bearers; and in the Westminster system, to question the Prime Minister during question time.
- Committees of inquiry – these are special committees set up to probe issues of concerns that come before a Parliament. They are usually given a specific mandate and time-frame within which to complete their task.
- Question time – most popularly used in the Westminster system but slowly being adopted (in varied forms) by most hybrid parliamentary systems in Africa. It provides a unique opportunity for MPs to question Ministers (even those that are not MPs) on specific issues – local or national.

The purpose of interrogating whether the African Parliaments from whom responses were elicited for this study have internal oversight tools at their disposal is not simply to count the tools. On the contrary, it is to establish whether they have the necessary conditions to carry out oversight. If the tools exist to help them carry out oversight, the question then is, what prevents them from being effective or what gaps exist that need to be bridged.

### The Main Oversight Tool used in Your Parliament

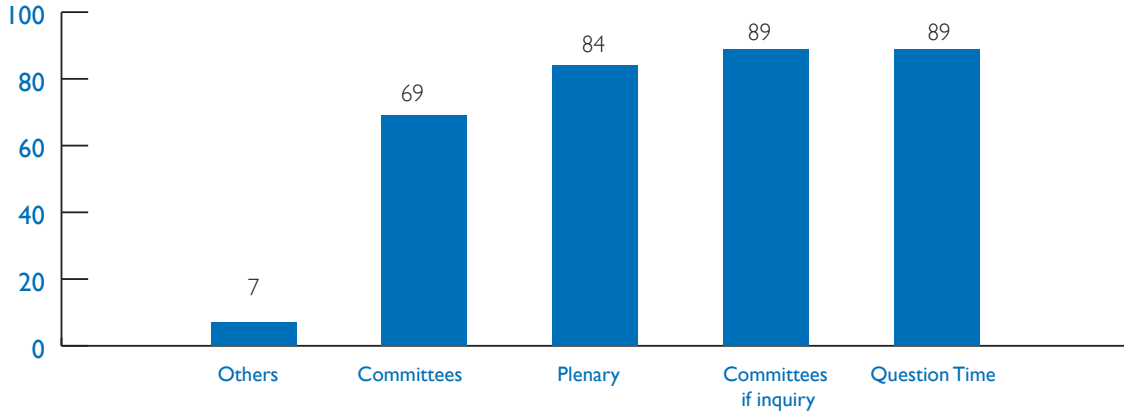
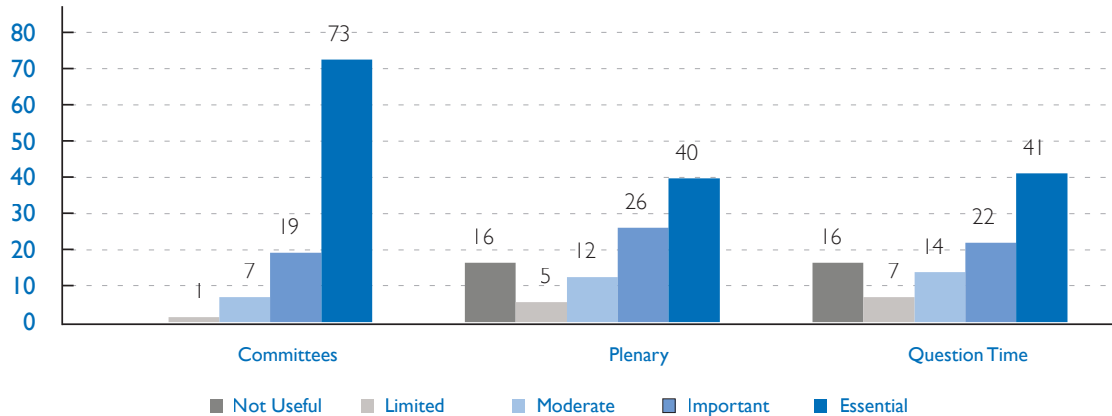


Figure 21: The Main Oversight Tools Used in Your Parliament

From the data, it has been established most of the Parliaments have the key tools needed to exact oversight. In terms of the usefulness of the tools for oversight and accountability, majority of respondents rated the committee system as the most useful. This is followed by another set oversight tools (i.e. field visits, interpellation, public hearings) and lastly plenary and question time (see figure 21).

Historically, Parliaments work through smaller units – mainly committees. These are decentralized units of the institution populated with Members who have some expertise of the subject matter and are able to work technically and do so more quickly. This is opposed to the entire plenary where Members often play to the gallery and proceedings sometimes get unwieldy. This is what explains the views of those surveyed regarding the usefulness of these tools at their disposal.

### Ratings of Usefulness of Oversight Tools



### Ratings of Usefulness of Oversight Tools

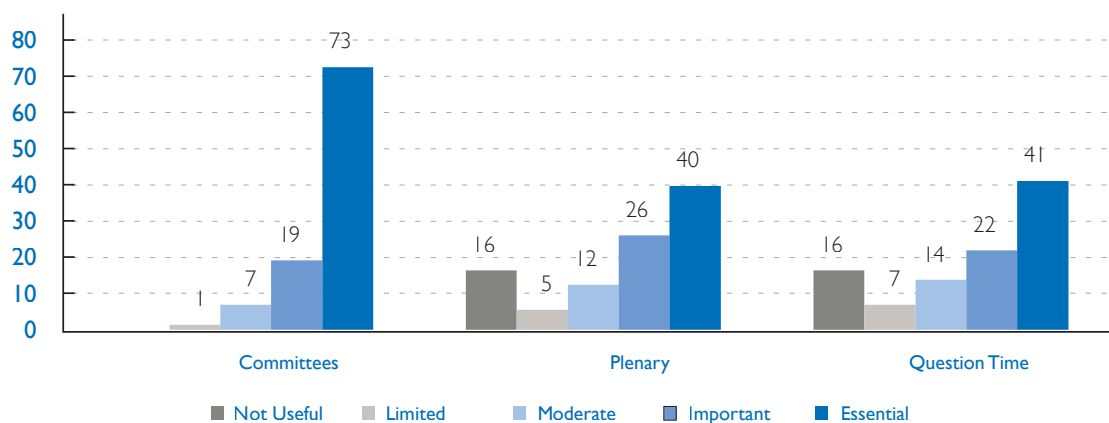


Figure 22: Ratings of Usefulness of Oversight Tools

Members of Parliament are politicians and often, their objectivity and independence could be compromised in the process of deploying the tools at their disposal. Therefore, to ensure there is a comprehensive oversight and accountability system in place, internal mechanisms have to be complemented with external mechanisms. For instance, Parliaments often rely on the work of external structures for information and evidence and in return, these structures also rely on information from Parliaments in the discharge of their duties. In terms of external accountability structures, there are three main ones that cut across all the countries surveyed. These are: Auditor General; Anti-Corruption Commissions and Ombudspersons. The nomenclatures differ a bit in certain countries, but the functions remain the same.

- **Auditor General:** An Auditor General, also known in some countries as a Comptroller General or Comptroller and Auditor general, is a senior civil servant, often an officer of Parliament whose main mandate is to examine the execution of the national budget with the

goal of improving government accountability. Having examined government operations as they relate to the budget, they report to Parliament – in most cases, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). In the francophone system, the equivalent of the Auditor General is called the Cours des Comptes (Court of Accounts). This is a body made up of Magistrates who examine government spending the same way the Auditor General does in the anglophone system.

- **Anti-Corruption Commission:** It is the institution tasked with the responsibility of investigating corruption and other related crimes. Its sole function is receiving and investigating complaints of alleged or suspected corrupt practices. In some Anglophone countries, this body is called The Inspector General of Government (i.e. in Uganda). In the Francophone countries, they have a different name. In Niger for instance, the body is called the High Authority for the Fight against Corruption and Assimilated Offences (HALCIA). It is called

### Oversight Structures Outside Parliament

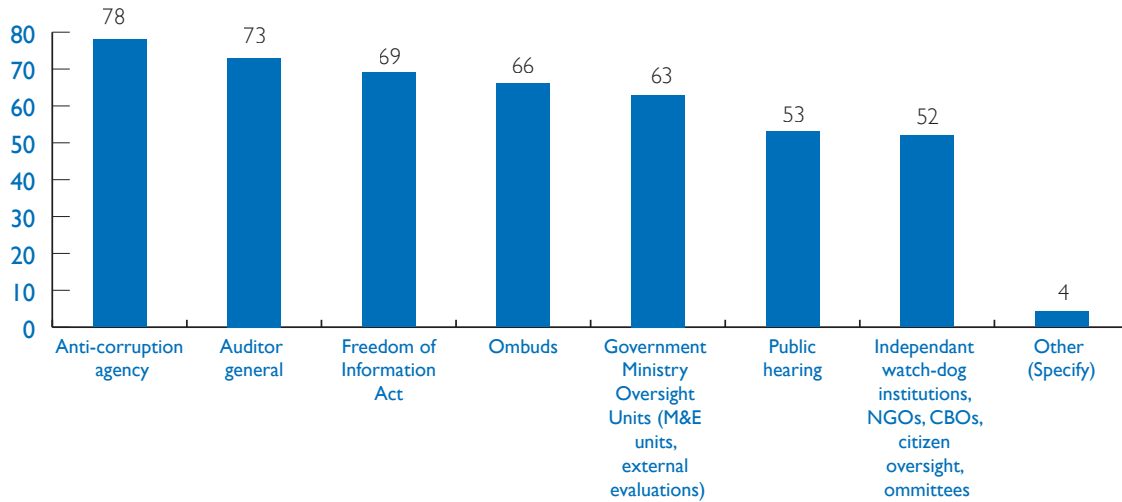


Figure 23: Oversight structures outside parliament

the High Authority for Good Governance in Cote d'Ivoire.

- Ombudsperson: A person, independent from the government and sometimes also independent of parliament, who heads a constitutional or statutory public institution that handles complaints from the public regarding the decisions, actions or omissions of the public administration. The office is called the

ombudsman, mediator; parliamentary commissioner; people's defender; inspector-general or a similar title. In Ghana for instance, this body is called the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Data from the survey across the different Parliaments indicates that several external tools are available to Parliaments in the discharge of their

### Ratings of Usefulness of Oversight Structures Outside Parliament

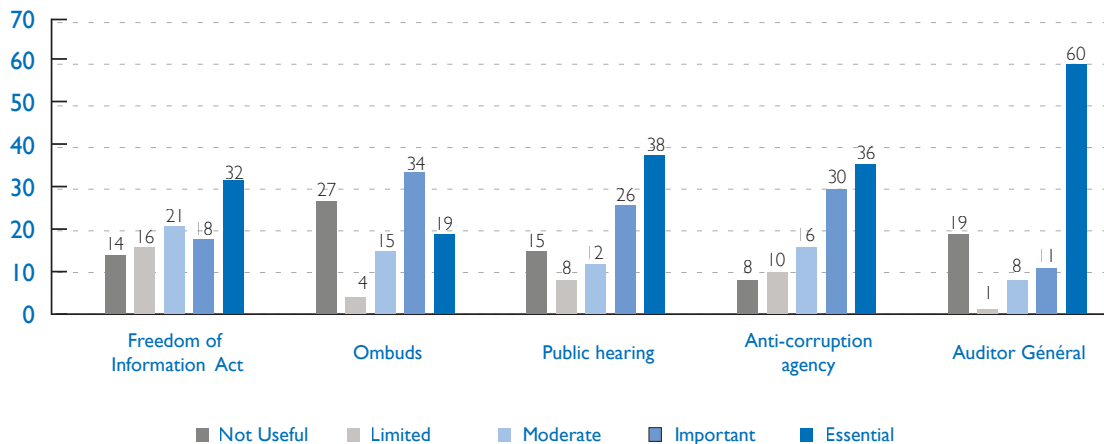


Figure 24: Ratings of the usefulness of Oversight structures outside parliament

oversight and accountability functions (figure 4). The top three tools cited by to most Parliamentary respondents are: Anti-Corruption Agencies; Auditors-General; and Freedom of Information Acts. Other tools include Ombudspersons, Independent Watchdogs and Public Hearings.

Regarding the importance of these external tools, the Auditor General and the Anti-Corruption Agencies were rated by seven out of every ten MPs as important and essential. This is followed by Public Hearings and Ombudsman (figure 5). The explanations/reasons for these ratings are discussed below in the next section which deals with the appraisal of the tools in general.

## ANALYSES

It is clear from the data that the countries assessed, have at their disposal, both internal and external tools for oversight. Over time, there seems to be emerging on the African continent, a maturing political culture but this has often been compromised by excessive partisanship that hinders the work of Legislatures. To be clear, this problem is not unique to the African continent and partly explains the weakness of most of the tools available to Parliaments. The strong party cohesion that exists in Parliaments and which should have been used to promote legislative work and oversight, is often used to promote the interest of the party, thereby compromising the powers of Parliament to provide effective checks on the Executive.

From the data on internal tools for exacting oversight and accountability, committees were described by respondents as the most effective. Committees have been described as the “nerve centre” of parliamentary effectiveness because, as indicated earlier, they constitute the decen-

tralized units where most parliamentary business is conducted. Parliaments across the world have committees as one of their basic structures. It is no surprise that the data in figure 3 shows that of all the internal oversight tools at the disposal of Parliaments, committees are the most important. For the purposes of evidence generation and uptake, policy and approaches targeting committees rather than individual MPs might prove to be more effective given the trust that most MPs have in these structures.

In spite of their relative strength vis-à-vis other internal tools, one key challenge for committees is that they do not have prosecutorial powers. They have to rely on multiple agencies and channels for further action, including the enforcement of their recommendations and prosecution of their findings.

In terms of the external tools, Anti-Corruption Agencies have been rated as the most important external accountability structure. Even though most responses did not provide any proof as to why this is the case, evidence from the literature supports this position. Globally, there is general agreement that corruption is costly to states, individuals and mostly impacts more on the poor. Estimates by the World Bank (year) show that the cost of corruption is considered to be more than 5% of global GDP (US\$ 2.6 trillion) according to the World Economic Forum with over US\$ 1 trillion paid in bribes each year. For the African continent, the African Union (2002) estimates that 25% of the GDP of African states, amounting to US\$ 148 billion, is lost to corruption every year.<sup>4</sup> Given this impact of corruption, most coun-

<sup>4</sup> See “Literature review on costs of corruption for the poor”, Transparency International and U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre at [www.u4.no/publications/literature-review-on-costs-of-corruption-for-the-poor.pdf](http://www.u4.no/publications/literature-review-on-costs-of-corruption-for-the-poor.pdf), p. 2 Accessed July 1, 2022.



tries have invested in setting up Anti-Corruption Agencies, which despite the odds, have made some in-roads in the fight against the canker.

While these agencies play a crucial role in ensuring effectiveness in the fight against corruption, other factors such as political will, public sector reforms, private sector engagement and civil society vigilance can also contribute significantly to enhance the effectiveness of these agencies. One key challenge with such agencies is the issue of political interference and lack of independence of these agencies. In addition, they are often resource constrained. There is sometimes a deliberate effort on the part of budget owners and managers to starve them of resources they need to carry out the mandates that have been entrusted to them.

Reflecting on these constraints, Patrick Meagher and Caryn Volland (2015) identify ten factors that are critical for the effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies:

- Their political mandate.
- Cross-agency coordination.
- Focus on prevention and monitoring government implementation.
- Accountability.
- Independence.
- Powers.
- Well-trained staff and adequate resources.
- An enabling environment.
- Complementary institutions; and
- Complementary legislation.<sup>5</sup>

5 "Regional Conference on Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Financial Intelligence Units in Fighting Corruption and Money Laundering in Africa" 07 - 08 May 2018, Holiday Inn Hotel, Mauritius Mauritius Communiqué.

Across the continent, the research showed familiarity of Anti-Corruption Agencies to these factors, particularly the issues of their mandate, independence and resources. In Ghana for instance, over the years, views shared by respondents and literature showed the contribution of the Anti-Corruption Agencies to parliamentary oversight is dampened by the perception that the agencies are not independent and that some cases have not been prosecuted, possibly because of political interference and influence. The words of an outgoing British High Commissioner to Ghana – Jon Benjamin – have some resonance here. Here is what he had to say in (add year, or occasion):

We have seen far too much greedy, wanton corruption in too many spheres in government, in politics, public administration, in business, in traditional leadership, in football and in the media and there are too many levels from top to bottom..... "I refer to numerous cases on which no action is taken such as the arson at the Central Medical Stores in early 2015 in which over four million Pounds worth of UK funded medical supplies were destroyed of which nobody, at least, yet has faced justice. Indeed, nobody and not a single person of any high standing has gone to jail for corruption in Ghana for more than a decade."<sup>6</sup>

The Auditor General (AG) has also been identified as a key external accountability structure. The duty of the AG within each country is to certify and report on the accounts of government departments and public undertakings. The AG's position is so sensitive that the post is usually a protected one under several of the continent's constitution, in the bid to preserve the freedom and independence of that office. The AG works

6 "Too much Greedy Corruption" in Ghana – Joe Benjamin at Starfmonline.com, June 4, 2017.

very closely with, and is supposed to be an officer of, Parliament. One of the primary roles of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in each Parliament is to examine the reports prepared by the AG as well as carry out appropriate follow-up.

Despite their important role in oversight, PACs are confronted with challenges, similar to the Anti-Corruption Agencies. Given the generally accepted view that the AG should be an Officer of Parliament (Stapenhurst, Pelizzo, and Jacobs 2014), the situation is interesting in that most PACs in Africa have very little or no involvement in the appointment or dismissal of the AG. For instance, the AG in Ghana was dismissed in 2021 by the President without recourse to Parliament.<sup>7</sup> In addition, they are also confronted with issues of independence.

Three types of independence are worthy of mention. These include:

- Organizational independence: this refers to the least possible degree of government participation in the appointment of the agency's authorities, implementation of its functions, and its decision making.
- Functional independence: this refers to the agency's ability to carry out its functions without the undue interference of any third party or the executive; and
- Financial independence: this refers to the impossibility of the government to impede or restrict the agency's activities by reducing its budget.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> See for example: "You forced me out; Domelevo counters Akufo-Addo after long silence" [www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com) July 21, 2021. Accessed June 23, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> "Regional Conference on Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Financial Intelligence Units in Fighting Corruption and Money Laundering in Africa" 07 - 08 May 2018, Holiday Inn Hotel, Mauritius Mauritius Communiqué

## IX. CONCLUSION

The literature review identified a number of gaps on evidence use by African Parliamentarians. First is the fact that evidence informed policy making processes have been dominant exclusively within the executive domain. The literature notes that EIPM research has been primarily conducted at the executive and cabinet-levels, while limited research has been done at the Parliamentary level. Several studies (Gatune et al., 2021; Datta and Jones, 2021; Mihyo et al., 2016) revealed that the executive branch of governments have access to a larger pool of knowledge and expertise than the national legislatures, hence, there is a need to address the imbalance in access to knowledge between the executive, legislature, and judiciary in order to promote better quality policymaking. The assessment confirmed this imbalance; EIPM is new to Parliaments.

The second gap identified is the absence of discussion on how technology and digitization facilitate and improve the use of evidence. While the field of evidence is new, technology has taken center stage in how institutions are organized, at least in the last decade and a half. As a result, and given the exponential growth in the use of digitization in all spheres of human life today, this gap is significant. However, it is not clear from the study's findings if it improves evidence use.

The third gap is that the use of evidence seems to be skewed more towards some select sectors, i.e., health, education and public financial manage-

ment. Here again, the study, particularly the country case studies, to some extent confirm evidence use as prevalent in certain sectors, i.e., health.

By way of summary, this study has confirmed that first and foremost, evidence informed policy making is new to Parliaments, but it is also a fast-growing field.

Second, even though the issue of evidence is new to Parliaments, it has a great potential. If Parliaments are properly engaged to embrace it, it can change the developmental trajectory of the continent. Rather than making policy "in the dark", parliamentarians can now make policies that are informed by solid evidence. Budgets will be informed by the realities on the ground; laws will be made with solid evidence and well thought through ideas; and citizens' needs and concerns will inform laws and policies. This will completely change the face of the African continent.

Third and finally, Parliaments need to be accompanied in this journey. Currently, not much investment is being made both by academics and donors in the field of evidence informed policy making. Parliaments will pass laws, pass budgets, and make policies whether they have evidence or not. Supporting them in this regard will be a worthwhile effort.

Similarly, the study established the existence of both internal and external tools of oversight across the ten Parliaments that were studied.

It has also established that not all the tools are deemed to be effective and useful. It is essential to re-emphasize the importance of legislative oversight and accountability as tools of national development, particularly in Africa and in other developing countries or regions where majority of citizens are still grappling with issues of basic needs. Effective oversight and accountability are undisputed pre-conditions for advancing the goals of national development.

In analyzing oversight and accountability capacity in emerging legislatures, particularly in developing countries, it was found that tools exist, and are at the disposal of Legislators for use in oversight. However, the 'conjunction of factors' that can lead MPs to fulfill their oversight functions is lacking. Morgenstern and Manzetti (2000) argue that the development of legislative oversight of the executive requires MPs who are motivated by:

- A public outcry for reform (which generally implies the existence of a free and independent press) and
- Career or other interests to confront, rather than support the executive.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to these two critical factors, the cause of oversight and accountability is advanced when there exists a critical mass of Legislators who are independent minded and not influenced by party leaders and party ideology. To pursue the public interest, independent-minded Legislators require or need to push for:

- A high level of professionalization of the legislature.
- A long-lived democracy to continue developing the institutions for vigilance among which an independent judiciary is paramount; and sufficient constitutional authority to pursue their interests.<sup>10</sup>

9 Scott Morgenstern and Luigi Manzetti, "Legislative Oversight: Interests and Institutions in the US and Argentina", Paper prepared for delivery at Notre Dame conference on Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies, May 2000.

10 Ibid.

## X. RECOMMENDATIONS

This final section of the report makes some recommendations. The recommendations are divided into two. The first set of recommendations are general, drawing from the literature; while the second set draws from the data gathered from the administration of the face-to-face questionnaires.

From both the study and the literature, the issue of capacity is prominent. At the institutional and at the individual levels, capacity plays a major role in both evidence generation and use. In fact, it has been identified as one of the key barriers to evidence use. Motani et al. (2019), after examining lessons from Evidence-informed Decision-making in Nutrition and Health (EVIDENT) in Kenya, recommended sustained capacity-building of leadership and functional skills across Parliaments, if EIPM is to become widely adopted.

Again, in both the literature and the study, the issue of politics has been prominent. One of the ways of getting around the challenge of politics is the use of evidence champions. Given the mostly heterogeneous composition of Parliamentary committees, which includes representatives from across parties, political balance becomes very crucial. This is where there is need for leadership buy-in and evidence champions. Studies (Ahmed et al., 2021; Echt and Hayter, 2018) showed that policymakers respond more positively to EIPM, perceive a stronger social support network, possess better information, and exhibit more inter-

est in EIPM when “evidence champions” create leadership buy-in. Examining the intersection between evidence-informed decision-making and broader governance approaches, Ahmed et al. (2021) recommend evidence champions and trusted, long-term relationships as key to successful work with government agencies. They argued that developing buy-in, not only from leadership but also a team, prevents having to start all over again if the leader who initially started the process leaves their position.

Evidence champions, it should be noted, need to be cultivated and nurtured. Having worked with parliamentarians in Kenya for over 12 years, Marale (2020) argued that although Parliament’s Caucus on Evidence-informed oversight and decision-making is a good initiative, the push for EIDM in Parliament has not been without challenges. The major challenge includes attracting and retaining evidence champions. To address this, her work advocated using two major approaches: (1) Establish a pool of evidence champions among MPs; and more importantly, (2) Nurture evidence champions from the onset by including evidence-informed decision-making in the induction of new MPs.

Another important general recommendation is one that comes from Romao (2021). He offered a range of solutions on how to improve the use of evidence in policy making: (1) Enforcing as a requirement that legislation and policy projects

be supported by evidence; (2) Fostering an organizational culture that is more open to innovation and creativity; (3) Creating “evidence to policy” offices and centers; (4) Hiring evidence advisors – researchers that work closely with policymakers; (5) Hiring scholar-practitioners – people with academic training to support policy processes; and (6) Investing in the creation of organizational registries and data, while making it useful for decision makers. On better collaboration with think-tanks, Marale (2020) suggests creating opportunities to bridge the gap between MPs and external think-tanks and researchers through policy dialogues and by developing linkages, partnerships, and collaborations.

It is also important for Parliaments and individual MPs to be provided with sufficient resources, skills and constitutional authority to exercise oversight and accountability over duty bearers. This is also borne out of the literature – the lack of skills and resources to access and use evidence.

With regards to external oversight and accountability structures, three things are important if they must live up to their mandates. These include:

- Sufficient resources.
- Clarity of mandate; and
- Clearly defined independence.

The final recommendation relates to the external tools of oversight. Given the challenges that some of the structures responsible for external oversight face as argued by Patrick Meagher and Caryn Volland (2015) and confirmed by anecdotal evidence, it is important for stakeholders, policy makers and all those interested in strengthening

accountability from outside of Parliaments, to ensure that these structures:

- Have sufficient resources consistent with their mandate.
- Have clear mandates and powers (even if new legislation is needed).
- Work collaboratively across different agencies and their activities are coordinated.
- Work closely with complementary institutions – particularly non-governmental (the media, Civil Society Organizations and Citizens Groups interested in the fight against corruption); and most importantly
- Work within an enabling political environment where they can exercise their mandate without any interference.

In terms of specific recommendations from the study the following are worth noting. They are categorized and targeted:

## **FOR THE RESEARCH ACADEMIC COMMUNITY**

### **I. HELP DEVELOP A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY MAKING**

Developing a common understanding of evidence informed policy making is critical to any effort to promote it as a standard for policy making in African Parliaments. A common understanding will help the development of a structured framework and approach to evidence informed policy making. This could form the basis of developing a structured approach for building and strengthening systems for evidence informed policy making.

It would also allow for standards to be set against which Parliaments could be assessed for the state of use of evidence in legislation and policy making.

## 2. BUILD AND DEVELOP NETWORKING BETWEEN EVIDENCE PRODUCERS AND USERS

The study and literature review demonstrate weak linkages between evidence producers and users. The literature review shows a positive correlation between evidence use and the level of engagement between legislators and evidence generators.

Improving networking through dissemination platforms such as learning events, policy dialogues and thematic policy fairs would create opportunities for legislators to engage direct those who generate the evidence.

## FOR DONORS AND GOVERNMENTS

### 3. BUILD CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF MPs AND STAFF

Building staff and MP capacity is described as a critical aspect in any institutional process. Evidence-informed policy making is a complex endeavour that requires multiple skills set ranging from research, data analysis, communication, community engagement, reporting and presentation skills just to mention a few.

An analysis of the types of skills required for Parliamentarians to be able to implement an evidence-informed policy making program is required. This will be followed by an assessment of skills available to parliaments to be able to determine what capacity and skills gap exist. A determination should also be made on the cost-benefits

of training existing staff and MPs as opposed to recruiting the skills required to implement such processes.

### 4. IMPROVE MACRO LEVEL FACTORS TO FACILITATE EVIDENCE UPTAKE AND USE

Donors and governments around the world should work to improve the macro environment for evidence use in legislation and policy. Issues such as the nation's democratic culture and tolerance of divergent views; support to the academic community, think tanks and CSOs as well as the media are critical in this regard.

### 5. IDENTIFYING AND LEVERAGING EVIDENCE CHAMPIONS

Evidence from the literature shows that identifying evidence champions in evidence-informed policy processes promotes leadership buy-in and support. Ahmed et al. (2021) recommends evidence champions and trusted, long-term relationships as key to successful work with government agencies. Policymakers respond more positively to evidence informed policy making, possess better information, and exhibit more interest when "evidence champions" are engaged. A case in point is when the M&E Directorate located within the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda, led by an evidence champion, spearheaded the institutionalization of evidence use within the government over the past several years. Evidence champions are usually providing leadership support that understands the value of focusing on priority areas when time is constrained. Donors should work to identify and nurture champions to provide leadership.

## FOR PARLIAMENTS

### 6. IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL FACTORS TO FACILITATE EVIDENCE UPTAKE AND USE

Parliaments around the continent should work to improve all the organizational level factors that impede evidence use in legislation and policy. Here we are referring to strengthen the various internal units responsible for generating evidence as well as building an organizational culture that promotes and supports evidence use. A critical component of this institutional strengthening should include a stakeholder mapping to identify roles and responsibilities of key actors, identify evidence producers and support them in dissemination.

To strengthen internal tools Parliaments must be professionalized as much as possible – to borrow from Morgenstern and Manzetti (2000). This requires a lot of investment and capacity enhancement of MPs, particularly from an ethical perspective, for them to imbibe the ethos of patriotism and put national interests ahead of any personal or parochial interests.

### 7. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN AND BUILD LINKAGES WITH EXTERNAL SOURCES

The issue of collaboration between data producers and data users is one of the challenges in the chain of evidence generation to use. It is therefore important for Parliaments to build and strengthen their linkages with data producers. Parliaments should ensure there are legislations in place that protect the integrity of online and virtual sources of evidence.

### 8. STRENGTHEN RESEARCH AND COMMITTEE SECRETARIATS AS PRIMARY SOURCES OF EVIDENCE FOR PARLIAMENTS

Given the importance of research and committee reports in evidence use in Parliaments, there is the need for Parliaments to strengthen their research and committee secretariats by providing them with the requisite human resource that cover the wide range of subject matter that Parliaments deal with. In the longer term, for evidence use to be institutionalized, Parliaments must have their own sources of evidence that they can call upon and most importantly rely on during critical moments when they need data and evidence to drive policy.

In order to strengthen the internal tools at the disposal of Parliaments, one key recommendation is for policy makers and other interested stakeholders to prioritize the committees of Parliament as the target structures. Because of their importance and usefulness, they could be the vanguard for promoting evidence-informed policy making in Parliaments. Through them (committees), the culture of resorting to and using evidence could be established in most Parliaments.

### 9. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR VARIOUS POLITICAL CAUCUSES AS SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

MPs mostly turn to their caucuses for information. If these caucuses are properly supported by the various Parliaments and provided the needed support in terms of human and financial resources, they could be a reliable source of data and information that is unbiased and that supports the generation and use of evidence in legislation and policy.



## 10. PARLIAMENTS SHOULD ESCHEW PARTISAN POLITICS IN THE GENERATION AND USE OF EVIDENCE

In their effort to access and use evidence, Parliaments should ensure that the interest of citizens and their allegiance to the Constitution are the primary considerations. Partisan politics should be secondary. Essentially, they can disagree with approaches but not with the facts.

# XI. ANNEXES

## ANNEX I

Questionnaire for Members of Parliament on Use of Evidence for Policy and Legislation by Parliaments in Africa

### SURVEY: ASSESSING THE STATE OF EVIDENCE USE/INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT STRUCTURES IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS

#### Questionnaire for Members of the Legislature

#### Preamble

There is growing recognition of the importance of evidence, particularly evidence from evaluations, in national decision-making and the crucial role of parliamentarians and their support staff in ensuring that evidence-based approaches are used for strengthening oversight, budgeting resource appropriation, legislation, and policy making across all sectors.

Parliamentarians and their staff need data and evidence to make decisions that effectively, equitably, and justly allocate resources and meet people's social and economic needs. However, they face major technical and political challenges related to the generation and the use of evidence to inform policies. This challenge is acute in Africa given the dearth of information and analysis about the conditions, problems, and solutions of social and

economic development. Parliaments in Africa lack the capacity to compile and use evidence in the design, oversight, and evaluation of legislation and policies on the critical economic and social issues facing various countries on the continent. Better use of evidence by Parliamentarians, and associated research and policy making bodies will facilitate better development outcomes, and more transparent and efficient governance.

Against this background, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its implementing partners (University of Rhode Island, USA and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), under the "Assessment, Analysis and Development of Tools to Strengthen the Use of Evidence in Policies and Legislation" project are conducting desk research and a survey to assess the current use of evidence by Sub-Saharan Africa parliamentarians and their offices as well as their capacity to generate, access, and use evidence in their work. The research will also collect information on data that was used to inform policies and laws, who used the data, how data was used, and what impact the use of the data has had (e.g., evidence of the impact of the new or revised law on citizen's conditions or institutional/organizational performance). Finally, the survey will assess the internal and external oversight structures that are key to the effective implementation of evidence-based laws and policies.

The survey is divided into two sections. Section one focuses on the use of evidence and the associated challenges thereof. Section two assesses the internal and external oversight structures as well as their strengths and challenges.

To assist the research team to collect the necessary information for the assessment, you are kindly requested to answer the following questions:

### Personal Data

1. Country
2. Name
3. Sex.
  1. Male
  2. Female
4. Number of (terms) (years) spent in Parliament
  1. Up to one term
  2. Two terms
  3. More than 2 terms
5. Have you ever held a leadership role in parliament?
6. What is your current role in parliament?
  1. House leadership
  2. Committee leadership
  3. Other (specify)

### Section I: Assessment of Evidence Use in Parliaments

#### Sources of Evidence

1. What (your definition or understanding) is evidence in policy making?
2. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), rate the extent to which your parliament uses evidence to inform legislation and policies? Explain your choice
3. What are some of the sources of evidence available to you in the conduct of your policy making responsibility as an MP? (Provide examples under each category)
  1. Virtual – online
  2. Internal – within Parliament
  3. External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs
  4. Other (Specify)

4. For each of the sources listed above, indicate the level of ease of accessibility

	Not easy to access	Fairly easy to access	Very easy to access
Virtual – online	1	2	3
Internal – within Parliament	1	2	3
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs	1	2	3
Other (Specify)	1	2	3

Explain

5. From your experience what is the level of usefulness of evidence from each of the following sources of evidence?

	Not at all useful	Useful 3	Very useful
Virtual – online	1	2	3
Internal – within Parliament	1	2	3
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs	1	2	3
Other (Specify)	1	2	3
Other	1	2	3

Explain?

6. What are the major barriers to accessing evidence from the sources you have listed?
1. Lack of skills and capacity
  2. Political challenges
  3. Difficulty accessing the source of the evidence
  4. Resource challenges
  5. Other (Specify)

Explain?

## Types of Evidence

7. What types of evidence are available to you/your Parliament/or use most in the conduct of your role as an MP?

Evaluation reports

- Research reports
- Citizens' Evidence (opinion polls)
- Administrative reports
- Investigative/Special committees reports
- Quantitative evidence
- Qualitative evidence (i.e., interviews, focus groups)
- Expert opinion
- Other (Specify)

- 7b. Which of these types of evidence is the most important source, give reasons why?

8. On a scale of one to five, with 1 being "not at all useful" and five being "very useful", how would you rate the importance of each of the types of evidence selected above in the legislation and policy?

	1 Not at all useful	2 Limited use- fulness	3 Moderately useful	4 Important – substantially useful	5 Essential extensive
Evaluation reports	1	2	3	4	5
Research reports	1	2	3	4	5
Citizens' Evidence (Public opinion polls)	1	2	3	4	5
Administrative reports	1	2	3	4	5
Investigative reports					
Quantitative evidence					
Qualitative evidence					
Other (Specify)	1	2	3	4	5

9. How do you access evidence for your work?

- a. Provided through official channels
- b. Sort after through personal networks
- c. Both sources

10. Is the evidence available to you disaggregated by the following; (select all applicable)

	Yes	No
Gender	1	2
Age	1	2
PWD	1	2
Occupation	1	2
Geographical location	1	2
Income	1	2

11. Do you tend to use the same sources for evidence, or do you explore different sources depending on the issue at hand? Please explain/cite examples?
12. What information support systems exist in your parliament to facilitate access to information/evidence?

Research Unit/Dept
Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)
Committee Staff
Parliamentary caucus
Collaboration with CSOs/Think Tanks/Universities
Other (Specify)

13. On a scale of 1 to 3 where 1 represents Not at all useful and 3 represents Very useful, rate the support mechanisms available to you.

	1	2	3
Research Unit/Dept			
Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)			
Committee Staff			
Parliamentary caucus			
Collaboration with CSOs/Think Tanks/Universities			
Other (Specify)			

What are the reasons for your response?

14. How has the institution of parliament facilitated the use of evidence on the floor of the House?
  - a. What structures and mechanisms are in place?
  - b. How useful are these structures and mechanisms?
15. Is there an M&E system for assessing legislation operational in your parliament? (Is there an EIPM agenda for the whole house or only for selected sectors)

### **The Current State of Use of Evidence**

16. Do you seek evidence for every policy or legislation or only for selected Legislation? Name some legislation you have worked on in the past that you relied heavily on evidence.
17. To what extent are policies and legislation passed by your Parliament influenced by evidence? Elaborate and give examples.
18. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), to what extent has evidence influenced actions within Committees and/or on the floor of the House?
19. What are the factors that promote the use of evidence in your work? Give one practical example (describe) when you had timely access to evidence, and you were able to use it.
20. Are there any knowledge management tools and platforms that you currently use to assess the evidence provided to you? List them.

### **Barriers to Evidence Use**

21. What are the main obstacles /barriers/challenges you face in getting access to evidence for your work in parliament? (Give at least two obstacles)
22. What are the main obstacles to accessing expertise for your work? (Give at least two obstacles)
23. What are the institutional barriers/challenges to the use of evidence?
24. What are the challenges individuals face in the use of evidence?

### **Capacity Needs**

25. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), how would you assess is your skills in the following areas
  - a. use of ICT to aid the use of evidence
  - b. use of digital tools (mobile tools GIS/geospatial techniques, drone imagery, aerial photography, etc.)
  - c. analysis and synthesis skills

- d. Appraising the quality of evidence
  - e. Determining the applicability of evidence
26. What kind of skills and support systems would you require to assist you in effectively using evidence that is provided to you?
- a. Increase awareness and knowledge about knowledge management platforms sources
  - b. Accessing and generating the evidence
  - c. Documenting, communicating the evidence and creating a convincing narrative with available evidence
  - d. Gaining support and acceptance of available evidence—from different constituencies/stakeholders/general public
  - e. Using and uptake of the evidence to improve legislative and oversight functions
  - f. Appraising the quality of evidence
  - g. Determining the applicability of evidence
  - h. Support systems
  - i. Other (Please specify)

## Section 2: Assessment of Internal and External Oversight and Accountability Structures

27. What are the main oversight tools used in your parliament?
- Committees
  - Committees of Inquiry
  - Plenary
  - Question Time
28. What are the main accountability tools used in your parliament?
- Public Accounts Committees
  - Committees of Inquiry
  - Monitoring and evaluation units
  - Other (Specify)
29. On a scale of one to five, with 1 being “not at all useful” and five being “very useful”, how would you rate the usefulness of each of the accountability tools available in the development of policy?



	1 Not at all useful	2 Limited usefulness	3 Moderately useful	4 Important Sub- stantially useful	5 Essential extensive
<b>Oversight Tools</b>					
Committee	1	2	3	4	5
Plenary	1	2	3	4	5
Question time	1	2	3	4	5
Other (specify)	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Accountability Tools</b>					
Public Accounts Com- mittees	1	2	3	4	5
Committee of enquiry	1	2	3	4	5
Monitoring and evaluation	1	2	3	4	5
Other (Specify)	1	2	3	4	5

All are committees, and why only these select committees?

30. What are the main oversight structures that exist outside Parliament?

- a. Auditor General
- b. Ombuds
- c. Anti-Corruption Agency
- d. Freedom of Information Act
- e. Public hearing
- f. Government ministry oversight units (M&E units, external evaluations)
- g. Independent watch-dog institutions, NGOs, CBOs, citizen oversight committees
- h. Other (Please specify)

31. On a scale of one to five, with 1 being “not at all useful” and five being “very useful”, how would you rate the usefulness of each of the external structures available to the development of policy?

	1 Not at all useful	2 Limited use- fulness	3 Moderately useful	4 Important – substantially useful	5 Essential extensive
Auditor General	1	2	3	4	5

	1 Not at all useful	2 Limited use- fulness	3 Moderately useful	4 Important – substantially useful	5 Essential extensive
Ombuds	1	2	3	4	5
Anti-Corruption Agency	1	2	3	4	5
Freedom of Information Act	1	2	3	4	5
Public hearing	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

- f. Have they been useful or otherwise in supporting parliament in its oversight functions?
32. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these external structures?
33. What is the level of collaboration between Parliament and these institutions?

### Recommendations

34. What changes would you like to see to help you?
- access to more evidence in your work
  - to use evidence in your work.
35. What are your overall recommendations of actions or strategies to build the supply of evidence?
36. What are your overall recommendations of actions or strategies to generate demand for evidence?
37. What are your recommendations on how to strengthen the internal and external oversight structures?
38. Do you have any additional comments to share other than what you have already provided on the subject matter? We will like to hear you

## **ANNEX 2**

Questionnaire for Staff of Parliament on Use of Evidence for Policy and Legislation by Parliaments in Africa

### **SURVEY:**

#### **ASSESSING THE STATE OF EVIDENCE USE/INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT STRUCTURES IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS**

##### **Questionnaire for Parliamentary staff**

### **Preamble**

There is growing recognition of the importance of evidence, particularly evidence from evaluations, in national decision-making and the crucial role of parliamentarians and their support staff in ensuring that evidence-based approaches are used for strengthening oversight, budgeting resource appropriation, legislation, and policy making across all sectors.

Parliamentarians and their staff need data and evidence to make decisions that effectively, equitably, and justly allocate resources and meet people's social and economic needs. However, they face major technical and political challenges related to the generation and the use of evidence to inform policies. This challenge is acute in Africa given the dearth of information and analysis about the conditions, problems, and solutions of social and economic development. Parliaments in Africa lack the capacity to compile and use evidence in the design, oversight, and evaluation of legislation and policies on the critical economic and social issues facing various countries on the continent. Better use of evidence by Parliamentarians, and associated research and policy making bodies will facilitate better development outcomes, and more transparent and efficient governance.

Against this background, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its implementing partners (University of Rhode Island, USA and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), under the "Assessment, Analysis and Development of Tools to Strengthen the use of Evidence in Policies and Legislation" project are conducting desk research and a survey to assess the current use of evidence by Sub-Saharan Africa parliamentarians and their offices as well as their capacity to generate, access, and use evidence in their work. The research will also collect information on data that was used to inform policies and laws, who used the data, how data was used, and what impact the use of the data has had (e.g., evidence of impact of new or revised law on citizen's conditions or institutional/organizational performance).

The survey is divided into two sections. Section one focuses on the use of evidence and the associated challenges thereof. Section two assesses the internal and external oversight structures as well as their strengths and challenges.

To assist the research team to collect the necessary information for the assessment, you are kindly requested to answer the following questions:

### Personal Data

1. Country
2. Name
3. Sex.
  1. Male
  2. Female
4. Number of years in your role
  1. Up to one year
  2. Two years and more
5. Role in parliament
  1. Department Head
  2. Committee Clerk
  3. Research officer
  4. Other (specify)

### Sources of Evidence

6. What is your understanding of evidence in policymaking?
7. Does your Parliament have an “evidence informed policy-making program” (EIPM)?
8. What is your role in the evidence policy-making process?
9. What are some of the sources of evidence available to you in the conduct of your role as an MP?
  1. Virtual – online
  2. Internal – within Parliament
  3. External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs
  4. Other (Specify)

Provide examples under each category

10. For each of the sources listed above, indicate the level of ease of accessibility

	Not easy to access	Fairly easy to access	Very easy to access
Virtual – online	1	2	3
Internal – within Parliament	1	2	3
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs	1	2	3
Other (Specify)	1	2	3

Explain?

11. From your experience, how would you assess the usefulness of evidence from each of the following sources of evidence?

	Not at all useful	Useful	Very useful
Virtual – online	1	2	3
Internal – within Parliament	1	2	3
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs	1	2	3
Other (Specify)	1	2	3
Other	1	2	3

Explain?

12. Is the evidence synthesized for the MPs in a usable/digestible format? Explain.

13. Do you disaggregate data available to you? Select all disaggregation applicable.

	Yes	No
Gender	1	2
Age	1	2
PWD	1	2
Occupation	1	2
Geographical location	1	2
Income	1	2
Other		

14. How has the institution of parliament facilitated the use of evidence on the floor of the House? What structures exist in your parliament. i.e., M&E role
15. Is your department/committee affiliated with any external institution/organization in evidence generation?
16. Are there mechanisms that support or facilitate the sourcing of evidence from private citizens in the country? Explain these mechanisms and how it works
- a. (Does the parliament accept private members' bill)
  - b. (How does the standing orders of the parliament support the accessing of evidence)
17. Some countries have elevated EIPM to establish an M&E at the cabinet-level or within the structures of the legislature. What pertains to your country? How would you assess the effectiveness of this approach?

### The Current State of Use of Evidence

18. To what extent are policies and legislation passed by your Parliament influenced by evidence? Elaborate and give examples.
19. What are the factors that make it possible to use evidence in your parliament?
20. Are there any knowledge management tools and platforms that you currently use to assess the evidence provided to you? Name and explain.
21. Which type and sources of evidence/data do Parliamentarians in your country commonly use as part of their parliamentary work?
- a. Research evidence
  - b. Systematic reviews/Synthesis on a topic
  - c. Evidence from evaluations (baseline, midterm reviews, end of project, impact studies etc)
  - d. Expert opinion
  - e. Statistics/administrative data
  - f. Public opinion polls/citizens' evidence
  - g. Quantitative evidence
  - h. Qualitative evidence (i.e., interviews, focus groups)
  - i. Other
22. On a scale of 1-5, how would you describe the extent to which Parliamentarians in your country have access to the required data/evidence needed to inform laws and policies?
1. Very high
  2. High
  3. Moderate

4. Low
5. Very Low

Please explain the reason

### Barriers to Evidence Use

23. What are the main obstacles /barriers/challenges you face in the generation of evidence for use by parliament?
  - a. What are the institutional barriers/challenges?
  - b. What are the individual barriers/challenges?
24. What are the barriers/challenges to evidence use in your Parliament?
25. In your own opinion, is the legislative process adequately informed by evidence?

### Training Needs

26. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), how would you assess is your knowledge of ICT that can aid the use of evidence
27. What kind of skills would you require to assist you in effectively using evidence that is provided to you?
  - a. Increase awareness and knowledge about knowledge management platforms sources
  - b. Accessing and generating the evidence
  - c. Documenting, communicating the evidence and creating a convincing narrative with available evidence
  - d. Gaining support and acceptance of available evidence—from different constituencies/stakeholders/general public
  - e. Using and uptake of the evidence to improve legislative and oversight functions

### Recommendation

28. What are your overall recommendations of actions or strategies to build both the supply of and demand for evidence?
29. What are your recommendations to promote evidence use by Parliamentarians in their legislative functions?

## ANNEX 3

Online Survey on Use of Evidence for Policy and Legislation by Parliaments in Africa. This is the link for the [online survey](#) .

## SURVEY:

### ASSESSING THE STATE OF EVIDENCE USE/INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT STRUCTURES IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS

Questionnaire for Parliamentary staff

#### Preamble

Thank you for your interest in this study. This survey is aimed to collect data from Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff across Africa to understand the current use of evidence, barriers to evidence use, and opportunities for strengthening the use of evidence to inform legislative and policy-making functions. All data collected will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

The survey forms part of the "Assessment, Analysis and Development of Tools to Strengthen the Use of Evidence in Policies and Legislation project" which is financed by the USAID Africa Bureau and implemented by the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the University of Rhode Island, USA.

The survey is divided into two sections. Section one focuses on the use of evidence and the associated challenges thereof. Section two assesses the internal and external oversight structures as well as their strengths and challenges. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes.

Do you wish to participate? a. Yes b. No

### ENQUÊTE : ÉVALUATION DE L'ÉTAT DE L'UTILISATION DES PREUVES/STRUCTURES DE CONTRÔLE INTERNE ET EXTERNE DANS LES PARLEMENTS AFRICAINS

Questionnaire pour le Personnel Parlementaire

#### Préambule

Nous vous remercions de l'intérêt que vous portez à cette étude. Cette enquête vise à recueillir des données auprès des députés et du personnel parlementaire à travers l'Afrique afin de comprendre l'utilisation actuelle des données probantes, les obstacles à leur utilisation et les possibilités de renforcer l'utilisation des données probantes pour éclairer les fonctions législatives et d'élaboration des politiques. Toutes les données recueillies seront traitées avec la plus grande confidentialité.



L'enquête fait partie du "Projet d'évaluation, d'analyse et de développement d'outils pour renforcer l'utilisation des données probantes dans les politiques et la législation" financé par le Bureau Afrique de l'USAID et mis en œuvre par l'Université Kwame Nkrumah des sciences et de la technologie, au Ghana, en partenariat avec le Ministère Américain de l'Agriculture (USDA) et l'Université de Rhode Island, aux États-Unis.

L'enquête est divisée en deux sections. La première section se concentre sur l'utilisation des preuves et les défis qui y sont associés. La deuxième section évalue les structures de contrôle interne et externe ainsi que leurs forces et leurs défis. L'enquête dure environ 10 minutes.

Souhaitez-vous participer ? a. Oui b. Non

#### **Basic information (Informations de base) \***

(Please provide basic information about yourself (Veuillez fournir des informations de base sur vous-même))

30. Which of the following best describes you? (Please tick only one) Laquelle des situations suivantes vous décrit le mieux ? (Veuillez cocher une seule case)
- a. Current Member of Parliament (Membre actuel du Parlement)
  - b. Former Member of Parliament (Ancien membre du Parlement)
  - c. Parliamentary staff or researcher (researcher, budget analyst, M&E specialist, etc) (Fonctionnaire parlementaire ou chercheur (chercheur, analyste budgétaire, spécialiste en S&E, etc.)
  - d. Former Parliamentary staff or researcher (Ancien membre du personnel parlementaire ou chercheur)

#### **CATEGORY A: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT/LEGISLATURE (CATÉGORIE A: MEMBRES DU PARLEMENT/LÉGISLATURE)**

This part of the survey is intended for current and past Members of Parliament/legislature only. Staff of Parliament (who are not former or current members of Parliament) should tick the appropriate response to the previous question.

(Cette partie de l'enquête s'adresse uniquement aux députés/législateurs actuels et anciens. Le personnel du Parlement (qui n'est pas un ancien ou actuel député) doit cocher la réponse appropriée à la question précédente.)

1. Your Country (Votre pays) :
2. Your Name (Votre nom) :
3. Your Sex (Votre sexe).
  1. Male (Homme).
  2. Female (Femme)
  3. Prefer not to say (Préfère ne pas dire)
4. Number of years in your role (Nombre d'années dans votre fonction)
  1. Up to one year (Jusqu'à un an)
  2. Two years (Deux ans )
  3. Two years and more (Deux ans et plus)
5. Current role or roles ever served in parliament (Tick as apply) (Rôle actuel ou antérieur au sein du Parlement (cochez la case correspondante)
  - a. Department/Committee Head (Chef de département/comité)
  - b. Committee Clerk (.Greffier de commission)
  - c. Committee Member (Membre de la commission)
  - d. Research officer/Supporting staff (Chargé de recherche/Personnel d'appui)
  - e. Other (specify) (Autre (précisez)
6. Your email address (Votre adresse électronique) :

## Section I : Assessment of Evidence Use in Parliaments (Évaluation de l'utilisation des données probantes dans les parlements)

### Sources of Evidence (Sources des preuves)

What (your definition or understanding) is evidence in policymaking? (1. Qu'est-ce (votre définition ou votre compréhension) est les données probantes dans l'élaboration des politiques ?

31. On a scale of 1-5, how would you describe the extent to which Parliamentarians in your country have access to the required data/evidence needed to inform laws and policies? (Sur une échelle de 1 à 5 (1 faible ; 5 élevé), évaluez dans quelle mesure votre parlement utilise des données probantes pour élaborer des lois et des politiques ?
1. Very high (Très élevé)
  2. High (Élevée)
  3. Moderate (Modéré)
  4. Low (Faible)
  5. Very Low (Très faible)
32. Please explain the reason behind the choice of your answer (Please enter text)? (Veuillez expliquer la raison du choix de votre réponse (Veuillez saisir le texte) ? )
33. Which factors influence your position in legislation and policymaking (please choose top three) (Parmi les facteurs suivants, lequel/lesquels est/sont le(s) plus susceptible(s) d'être le(s) facteur(s) qui influencera (ont) votre position sur la législation ou l'élaboration de toute politique (Veuillez choisir trois) ?
- a. Government/executive policy decision (Décision politique du gouvernement/de l'exécutif)
  - b. Party position (Position du part)
  - c. Evidence supporting the policy/legislation (Preuves à l'appui de la politique/législation)
  - d. Future impacts of the legislation/policy on people and economy (Impacts futurs de la législation/politique sur la population et l'économie)
  - e. Priorities of donors supporting legislation/policy (Priorités des donateurs soutenant la législation/politique)
  - f. Popular support and how the legislation/policy might cause me to lose my seat (Soutien populaire et comment la législation/politique pourrait me faire perdre mon siège)
  - g. Personal ideologies about the legislation/policy in question (Idéologies personnelles sur la législation/politique en question)
34. Which type and sources of evidence/data do Parliamentarians in your country commonly use as part of their parliamentary work? [Please select top four that apply] (Quels types et sources de preuves/données les parlementaires de votre pays utilisent-ils couramment dans le cadre de leur travail parlementaire ? [Veuillez choisir les quatre premières réponses qui s'appliquent])
- a. Research evidence (Preuves de la recherche)
  - b. Systematic reviews/Synthesis on a topic (Examens systématiques/synthèses sur un sujet)
  - c. Evidence from evaluations (baseline, midterm reviews, end of project, impact studies etc) (Preuves issues d'évaluations (base de référence, examens à mi-parcours, fin de projet, études d'impact, etc.)

- d. Expert opinion (Avis d'experts)
- e. Statistics/administrative data (Statistiques/données administratives)
- f. Public opinion polls/citizens' evidence (Sondages d'opinion publique/témoignage des citoyens)
- g. Quantitative evidence (Preuves quantitatives)
- h. Qualitative evidence (i.e., interviews, focus groups) (Preuves qualitatives (par exemple, entretiens, groupes de discussion))
- i. Other (specify) (Autres (précisez))

35. Does your Parliament have an “evidence-informed policy-making program” (EIPM)? (Votre Parlement dispose-t-il d'un “programme d'élaboration de politiques fondées sur des données probantes” (PEPD) ?

- Yes (Oui)
- No (Non)

36. Please indicate the extent to which you obtain evidence from your constituents to inform your legislative and policy-making functions? [Tick all that apply] (Veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous obtenez des preuves de la part de vos électeurs pour éclairer vos fonctions législatives et d'élaboration des politiques ?) [Cochez toutes les cases qui s'appliquent]

	Very high (Très élevé)	High (Élevé)	Satisfactory (Satisfaisant)	Low (Faible)	Very low (Très faible)	None (Aucun)
I consult my constituents through the General Assembly of communities (Je consulte mes électeurs à travers l'Assemblée générale des communautés)						
I consult my constituents through party offices (Je consulte mes électeurs par l'intermédiaire des bureaux de mon parti)						
I use evidence disseminated by my political parties (J'utilise les preuves diffusées par mes partis politiques)						
I obtain evidence through meetings with government sectors (J'obtiens des preuves lors de réunions avec des secteurs gouvernementaux)						

	Very high (Très élevé)	High (Élevé)	Satisfactory (Satisfaisant)	Low (Faible)	Very low (Très faible)	None (Aucun)
I obtain evidence from the leadership of communities (J'obtiens des preuves auprès des dirigeants des communautés)						

37. What are some of the sources of evidence available to you in the conduct of your policy-making responsibility as an MP? (Please tick the top two sources) (Quelles sont certaines des sources de preuves dont vous disposez dans l'exercice de votre responsabilité d'élaboration de politiques en tant que député ? (Veuillez cocher les deux premières sources)

Virtual – online sources (Virtuel - sources en ligne)

Internal – within Parliament (Interne - au sein du Parlement)

External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs (Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)

External—government reports, Multilateral agencies reports (Externes - rapports des gouvernements, rapports des agences multilatérales)

Other (Specify) (Autres (précisez))

38. Please rank the following barriers in order of severity as far as your access of evidence to inform legislative and policy-making functions are concerned (Veuillez classer les obstacles suivants par ordre de gravité en ce qui concerne votre accès aux preuves pour éclairer les fonctions législatives et d'élaboration des politiques.)

- Political challenges (Défis politiques)
- Difficulty accessing the source of the evidence (Difficulté d'accès à la source des preuves)
- Lack of skills and capacity (Manque de compétences et de capacités)
- Resource challenges (Problèmes de ressources)
- Underrepresentation of women (Sous-représentation des femmes)
- Difficulty to understand research (Difficulté à comprendre la recherche)

39. For each of the sources listed above, indicate the level of ease of accessibility (Pour chacune des sources énumérées ci-dessus, indiquez le niveau de facilité d'accès.)

	Not easy to access (Pas facile d'accès)	Fairly easy to access (Assez facile d'accès)	Very easy to access (Très facile d'accès)
Virtual – online (Virtuel En ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne - au sein du Parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs (Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify) (Autres (précisez))			

Please Explain your answer (Enter text) (Veuillez expliquer votre réponse (Entrez le texte))

40. From your experience, what is the level of use of evidence from each of the following sources of evidence. (D'après votre expérience, quel est le niveau d'utilisation des preuves provenant de chacune des sources de preuves suivantes.)

	Not at all useful (Pas de tout utile)	Useful (Utile)	Very useful (Très utile)
Virtual – online sources (Virtuel - sources en ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne - au sein du Parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs (Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify)(Autres (précisez))			

41. On a scale of one to five, with 1 being "not at all useful" and five being "very useful", how would you rate the importance of each of the types of data selected in the development of policy? ( Sur une échelle de un à cinq, 1 étant "pas du tout utile" et 5 étant "très utile", comment évaluez-vous l'importance de chacun des types de données sélectionnés dans l'élaboration des politiques ?)

	1. Not at all useful (Pas du tout utile)	2. Limited usefulness (Utilité limitée)	3. Moderately useful (Modérément utile)	4. Important – sub- stantially useful (Important - très utile)	5. Essential/ extensive (Essentiel/ étendu)
Evaluation data (Données d'évaluation)					
Research data (Données de recherche)					
Citizens' Evidence (Public opinion polls)(Témoignages de citoyens (sondages d'opinion)					
Administrative data (Données administratives)					
Systematic reviews (Examens systématiques)					
Quantitative evidence  (i.e., interviews, focus groups) (Données quantitatives (c'est-à-dire entretiens, groupes de discussion)					
Other (Specify) Autres (précisez)					

42. What information support systems exist in your parliament to facilitate access to information/ evidence? (Quels systèmes de soutien à l'information existent dans votre parlement pour faciliter l'accès aux informations/preuves ?)

Research Unit/Dept	
Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) (Bureau parlementaire du budget (BPD) )	
Committee Staff (Personnel des commissions )	
Parliamentary caucus (Groupe parlementaire )	
Collaboration with CSOs/Think Tanks/Universities (Tanks/Universités)	
Other (Specify)(Autres (précisez)	

43. On a scale of 1 to 3 where 1 represents “Not at all useful” and 3 represents “Very useful,” rate the support mechanisms available to you. (Sur une échelle de 1 à 3 où 1 représente “Pas du tout utile” et 3 représente “Très utile”, évaluez les mécanismes de soutien dont vous disposez.)

	1	2	3
Research Unit/Dept (Unité/Département de recherche)			
Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) (Bureau parlementaire du budget (PBO))			
Committee Staff (Personnel des commissions )			
Parliamentary caucus (Groupe parlementaire )			
Collaboration with CSOs/Think Tanks/Universities (Collaboration avec les OSC/Think)			
Other (Specify)(Autres (précisez))			

#### The Current State of Use of Evidence (L'état actuel de l'utilisation des preuves)

44. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), to what extent has evidence influenced your actions within Committees and/or on the floor of the House?

(Sur une échelle de 1 à 5 (1 faible ; 5 élevé), dans quelle mesure les preuves ont-elles influencé vos actions au sein des commissions et/ou sur le parquet de la Chambre ?)

5 = Very high (Très élevé)

4 = High (Élevé)

3 = Neutral (Neutre)

2 = Low (faible)

1 = Very Low (très faible)

45. What are the factors that promote the use of evidence in your work? Give one practical example (describe) when you had timely access to evidence, and you were able to use it.

(Quels sont les facteurs qui favorisent l'utilisation de données probantes dans votre travail ? Donnez un exemple pratique (décrivez) où vous avez eu accès à des données probantes en temps opportun et où vous avez pu les utiliser.)



**Barriers to Evidence Use (Obstacles à l'utilisation de données probantes)**

46. What are the main obstacles /barriers/challenges you face in getting access to evidence and expertise in doing your work? (Give at least two obstacles)

(Quels sont les principaux obstacles/barrières/défis que vous rencontrez pour avoir accès aux preuves et à l'expertise dans le cadre de votre travail ? (Donnez au moins deux obstacles)

a. What are the institutional barriers/challenges to use of evidence? (Quels sont les obstacles/défis institutionnels à l'utilisation des preuves ?

Enter text (Entrez le texte)

b. What are the individual barriers/challenges to the use of evidence?

(Enter text)

(Quels sont les obstacles/défis individuels à l'utilisation de données probantes ? (Entrez le texte)

**Capacity Needs (Besoins en capacités)**

47. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), how would Members of Parliament in your country access their skills in the following areas (Sur une échelle de 1 à 5 (1 faible ; 5 élevé), comment les députés de votre pays pourraient-ils accéder à leurs compétences dans les domaines suivants)

	Very high (Très élevé)	High (Élevé)	Satisfactory (Satisfaisant)	Low (Faible)	Very Low (Très faible)
Use of ICT to aid the use of evidence (utilisation des TIC pour faciliter l'utilisation des preuves)					
use of digital Tools (utilisation d'outils numériques)					
analysis and synthesis skills (compétences en matière d'analyse et de synthèse)					
Appraising the quality of evidence (Appréciation de la qualité des preuves)					
Determining the applicability of evidence (Déterminer l'applicabilité des preuves)					

48. What kind of skills and support systems would you require to assist you and other Members of Parliament to effectively use evidence that is provided to you? Select top 4

(De quels types de compétences et de systèmes de soutien auriez-vous besoin pour vous aider à utiliser efficacement les preuves qui vous sont fournies ?

- a. Increase awareness and knowledge about knowledge management platforms sources (Accroître la sensibilisation et la connaissance des sources de plateformes de gestion des connaissances)
- b. Accessing and generating the evidence (Accéder aux preuves et les générer)
- c. Documenting, communicating the evidence and creating a convincing narrative with available evidence (Documenter, communiquer les preuves et créer un récit convaincant à partir des preuves disponibles.)
- d. Gaining support and acceptance of available evidence—from different constituencies/ stakeholders/general public (Obtenir le soutien et l'acceptation des preuves disponibles - de la part des différents groupes d'intérêt, des parties prenantes et du grand public.)
- e. Using and uptake of the evidence to improve legislative and oversight functions (L'utilisation et l'assimilation des preuves pour améliorer les fonctions législatives et de contrôle.)
- f. Appraising the quality of evidence (Évaluer la qualité des preuves)
- g. Determining the applicability of evidence (Déterminer l'applicabilité des preuves)
- h. Access to Support systems (Systèmes de soutien)
- i. Other ( Specify) (Autre (Précisez))

## Section 2: Assessment of Internal and External Oversight and Accountability Structures (Évaluation des structures de contrôle et de responsabilité internes et externes)

49. On a scale of one to five, with 1 being “not at all useful” and five being “very useful”, how would you rate the usefulness of each of the accountability tools available in the development of policy? (Sur une échelle d'un à cinq, 1 étant “pas du tout utile” et 5 étant “très utile”, comment évalueriez-vous l'utilité de chacun des outils de responsabilisation disponibles dans l'élaboration des politiques ?)

	1 Not at all useful  (Pas du tout utile)	2 Limited usefulness  (Utilité limitée)	3 Moderately useful  (Modéré- ment utile)	4 Important – substantially useful (Important - très utile)	5 Essential extensive  (Essentiel étendu)
Committee (commission)					
Committee of enquiry (Commission d'enquête)					
Plenary (Plénière)					
Question time (Heure des Questions)					
Public Accounts Commit- tees (Comités des compt- es publics)					
Monitoring and evaluation ( Suivi et évaluation)					
Other (Specify) (Autre (précisez))					

50. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these accountability tools?

(Quelles sont les forces et les faiblesses de ces outils de responsabilisation ?

Enter text for strength (Entrez le texte pour la force)

Enter text for weaknesses (Entrez le texte pour la faiblesse)

What are the main oversight structures that exist outside Parliament in your country? Tick all that apply (Quelles sont les principales structures de contrôle qui existent en dehors du Parlement dans votre pays ? Cochez toutes les cases qui s'appliquent)

- a. Auditor General (Auditeur général)
- b. Ombuds (Médiateur)
- c. Anti-Corruption Agency (Agence anti-corruption)
- d. Freedom of Information Act (Loi sur la liberté de l'information)
- e. Public hearing (Audience publique )
- f. Government ministry oversight units (M&E units, external evaluations) (Unités de surveillance des ministères du gouvernement (unités de S&E, évaluations externes))
- g. Independent watch-dog institutions, NGOs, CBOs, citizen oversight committees (Institutions indépendantes de surveillance, ONG, organisations communautaires, comités de surveillance des citoyens)
- h. Other (Please specify) (Autre (veuillez préciser))

On a scale of one to five, with 1 being “not at all useful” and five being “very useful”, how would you rate the usefulness of each of the external structures available to development of policy? (Sur une échelle de 1 à 5, 1 étant “pas du tout utile” et 5 étant “très utile”, comment évaluez-vous l'utilité de chacune des structures externes disponibles pour le développement des politiques ?)

	1 Not at all useful (Pas du tout utile)	2 Limited usefulness (Utilité limitée)	3 Moderately useful (Modérément utile)	4 Important – substantially useful ((Important - très utile)	5 Essential extensive (Essentiel étendu)
Auditor General ((Auditeur général)					
Ombuds (Médiateur)					
Anti-Corruption Agency (Agence anti-corruption)					

	1 Not at all useful (Pas du tout utile)	2 Limited usefulness (Utilité limitée)	3 Moderately useful (Modérément utile)	4 Important – substantially useful ((Important - très utile)	5 Essential extensive (Essentiel étendu)
Freedom of Information Act ( Loi sur la liberté de l'information)					
Public hearing ((Audience publique )					
Other (Autre)					

- a. Have they been useful or otherwise in supporting parliament in its oversight functions? Ont-elles été utiles ou non pour soutenir le parlement dans ses fonctions de contrôle ?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these external structures? (Please enter text) (Quelles sont les forces et les faiblesses de ces structures externes ? (Veuillez saisir le texte)

Enter text for strength (Entrez le texte pour la force)

Enter text for weaknesses (Entrez le texte pour la faiblesse)

3. What is the level of collaboration between Parliament and these institutions? (Quel est le niveau de collaboration entre le Parlement et ces institutions ?)

- 5 = Very high (très élevé)
- 4 = High ( élevé)
- 3 = Satisfactory (satisfaisant)
- 2 =Low (faible)

1 =Very Low (très faible)

### Recommendations (Recommandations)

4. What changes would you like to see to help you? (Please enter text) (Quels changements souhaiteriez-vous voir apporter pour vous aider ? (Veuillez saisir le texte)
  - a. access to more evidence in your work (à accéder à plus de preuves dans votre travail)
  - b. to use evidence in your work. (à utiliser des données probantes dans votre travail.)
5. What are your overall recommendations of actions or strategies to build both the supply of and demand for evidence? (Please enter text)  
(Quelles sont vos recommandations globales d'actions ou de stratégies pour développer à la fois l'offre et la demande de données probantes ? (Veuillez saisir le texte)
6. What are your recommendations on how to strengthen the internal and external oversight structures? (Please enter text) (Quelles sont vos recommandations sur la manière de renforcer les structures de contrôle interne et externe ? (Veuillez saisir le texte)

### CATEGORY B: PARLIAMENTARY STAFF (CATÉGORIE B : PERSONNEL PARLEMENTAIRE)

This part of the survey is intended for Parliamentary staff only. Current or past members of Parliament should tick the appropriate response in the previous question. (Cette partie de l'enquête s'adresse uniquement au personnel parlementaire. Les membres actuels ou passés du Parlement doivent cocher la réponse appropriée à la question précédente.)

1. Your Country (Votre pays) :
2. Your Name (Votre nom) :
3. Your Sex (Votre sexe)
  1. Male ( Homme)
  2. Female (Femme)
  3. Prefer not to say (Préfère ne pas dire)
4. Number of years in your role (Nombre d'années dans votre fonction)
  1. Up to one year (Jusqu'à un an)
  2. Deux ans
  3. Two years
  4. Two years and more (Deux ans et plus )

5. Current role or roles ever served in parliament (Tick as apply)  
(Rôle actuel ou antérieur au sein du Parlement (cochez la case correspondante))
- a. Department/Committee Head (Chef de département/comité)
  - b. Committee Clerk (Greffier de commission)
  - c. Committee Member (Membre de la commission)
  - d. Research officer/Supporting staff (Chargé de recherche/Personnel d'appui)
  - e. Other (specify) (Autre, précisez)re (précisez)
6. Your email address: (Votre adresse électronique) :

## Section I: Assessment of Evidence/Data Use in Parliaments (Évaluation de l'utilisation des preuves/données dans les parlements)

Sources of Evidence/Data in your work (Sources de preuves/données dans votre travail)

7. What is your understanding of evidence in policymaking? (Please enter text) (Quelle est votre connaissance des données probantes dans l'élaboration des politiques ? (Veuillez saisir le texte)
8. Which of the following sources of evidence/data are commonly used by Members of Parliament in your country [Please select all that apply]? (Parmi les sources de données suivantes, quelles sont couramment utilisées par les parlementaires de votre pays [Veuillez sélectionner toutes celles qui s'appliquent] ?

	Yes (Oui)	No (Non)
Research evidence (Preuves de la recherche)		
Systematic reviews/Synthesis on a topic (Examens systématiques/synthèses sur un sujet)		
Evidence from evaluations (baseline, midterm reviews, end of project, impact studies etc) (Preuves issues d'évaluations (base de référence, examens à mi-parcours, fin de projet, études d'impact, etc.)		
Expert opinion (Avis d'experts)		
Statistics/administrative data (Statistiques/données administratives)		
Public opinion polls/citizens' evidence (Sondages d'opinion publique/témoignages de citoyens)		
Quantitative evidence (Preuves quantitatives)		
Qualitative evidence (i.e., interviews, focus groups) (Preuves qualitatives (par exemple, entretiens, groupes de discussion)		
Other (specify)(Autres (précisez)		



9. Does your Parliament have an “evidence-informed policy-making program” (EIPM)? (Votre Parlement dispose-t-il d’un “programme d’élaboration de politiques fondées sur des données probantes” (PEPD)

- c. Yes (Oui)
- d. No (Non)

10. Please indicate how difficult it is to access the various sources of data/evidence (Please tick against each source of evidence) (Veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure il est difficile d’accéder aux différentes sources de données/évidences (Veuillez cocher chaque source d’évidence)

	I find it extremely difficult to access data and evidence (Je trouve qu’il est extrêmement difficile d’accéder aux données et aux preuves)	I face very little challenge accessing this evidence/data (Je rencontre très peu de difficultés pour accéder à ces preuves/données)	I do not face any barrier accessing this evidence/data
Research evidence (Données de recherche)			
Systematic reviews on a topic (Examens systématiques sur un sujet)			
Evidence from evaluations (Preuves issues d’évaluations)			
Expert opinion ((Avis d’experts )			
Statistics/administrative data (Statistiques/données administratives)			
Public opinion polls/citizens’ evidence (Sondages d’opinion publique/témoignages de citoyens)			
Quantitative evidence (Preuves quantitatives )			
Qualitative evidence (i.e., interviews, focus groups) (Preuves qualitatives (par exemple, entretiens, groupes de discussion)			

11. Think of the last piece of work that you did, which of the following sources did you consult?

Please select all that apply

(Pensez au dernier travail que vous avez effectué. Parmi les sources suivantes, lesquelles avez-vous consultées ? Veuillez choisir toutes les sources qui s'appliquent)

Select Committees (Sélectionnez les comités)

- a. Journal articles and/or books (Articles de journaux et/ou livres)
  - b. Parliament library (Bibliothèque du Parlement)
  - c. Government departments (Services gouvernementaux )
  - d. International organisations (e.g. WHO, EU, FAO, UN, etc) (Organisations internationales (ex. OMS, UE, FAO, ONU, etc.))
  - e. MPs' research staff (Personnel de recherche des députés)
  - f. Professional associations (Associations professionnelles )
  - g. Journals (Revue )
  - h. Community forums (Forums communautaires )
  - i. Experts in the field (Experts en la matière )
12. Thinking of the last 12 months, how often have you consulted or used evidence as part of your parliamentary work (Au cours des 12 derniers mois, à quelle fréquence avez-vous consulté ou utilisé des preuves dans le cadre de votre travail parlementaire ?)
- a. Daily (Tous les jours )
  - b. A few times a week (Quelques fois par semaine )
  - c. A few times a month (Quelques fois par mois)
  - d. A few times a year (Quelques fois par an )
  - e. Never (Jamais )
13. Thinking about the last 12 months, which areas of your parliamentary work has evidence been the most important to you? [Please tick all that apply] (Au cours des 12 derniers mois, dans quels domaines de votre travail parlementaire les preuves ont-elles été les plus importantes pour vous ? [Veuillez cocher toutes les cases qui s'appliquent].
- a. Legislative work (such as drafting new legislation or amendments to existing) (Travail législatif (rédaction de nouvelles lois ou d'amendements à des lois existantes)
  - b. Select Committee work (post-legislative scrutiny or oversight investigations) (Travail en commission spéciale (examen post-législatif ou enquêtes de contrôle)
  - c. Tabling parliamentary questions to government ministers or officials (Déposer des questions parlementaires aux ministres ou aux fonctionnaires du gouvernement)

- d. Taking part in parliamentary debates (Participer à des débats parlementaires)  
Engaging with stakeholders (e.g. attending meetings, speaking at events) (Engager le dialogue avec les parties prenantes (par exemple, assister à des réunions, prendre la parole lors d'événements)).
- e. Constituency work / public outreach  
(Travail de circonscription / sensibilisation du public)

14. For each of the sources listed above, indicate the level of ease of accessibility (Pour chacune des sources énumérées ci-dessus, indiquez le niveau de facilité d'accès.)

	Not easy to access (Pas facile d'accès)	Fairly easy to access (Assez facile d'accès)	Very easy to access (très facile d'accès)
Virtual – online (En ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne - au sein du parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs (Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify) (Autre)(precisez)			

Explain?(Expliquez)

15. From your experience, how would you assess the usefulness of evidence from each of the following sources of evidence? (D'après votre expérience, comment évaluez-vous l'utilité des preuves provenant de chacune des sources de preuves suivantes ?)

	Not at all useful (Pas du tout utile)	Useful (Utile)	Very useful (Très utile)
Virtual – online (Virtuel - en ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne - au sein du parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs (Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify) (Autre)(précisez)			

16. For each of the following sources, indicate the level of ease of accessibility (Pour chacune des sources suivantes, indiquez le niveau de facilité d'accès)

	1. Not easy to access (Pas facile d'accès)	2. Fairly easy to access (Assez facile d'accès)	3. Very easy to access (Très facile d'accès)
Virtual – online (Virtuel -en ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne- au sein du parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs ((Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify)(Autre)(précisez)			

Explain? (Expliquez)

17. From your experience, how would you assess the usefulness of evidence from each of the following sources of evidence? (D'après votre expérience, comment évaluez-vous l'utilité des preuves provenant de chacune des sources de preuves suivantes ?)

	1. Not at all useful (Pas tout utile)	2. Useful (Utile)	3. Very useful (Très utile)
Virtual – online (Virtuel- en ligne)			
Internal – within Parliament (Interne- au sein du parlement)			
External – Universities, Think Tanks, CSOs((Externe - Universités, groupes de réflexion, OSC)			
Other (Specify) (Autre)(précisez)			

Explain?( Expliquez)

18. How often do you commonly disaggregate data and evidence available to you according to the following criteria? (À quelle fréquence ventilez-vous couramment les données et les preuves dont vous disposez en fonction des critères suivants ?)

	Always (Toujours)	Very Frequently (Très fréquemment)	Occasionally (occasionnellement)	Rarely (Rarement)	Never Jamais
Gender (Genre)					
Age (Âge)					
PWD (PWD)					
Occupation (Matière)					
Geographical location (Localisation géographique)					
Income (Revenus)					

#### Recommendations (Recommandations)

19. How has the institution of parliament facilitated the use of evidence on the floor of the House?  
Enter text (Comment l'institution du Parlement a-t-elle facilité l'utilisation des preuves dans l'enceinte de la Chambre ? Entrez le texte)
20. Does the parliament accept private members' bill? Yes/ No  
(Le Parlement accepte-t-il les propositions de loi émanant de députés ? Oui/ Non)
21. How do the standing orders of the parliament support the accessing of evidence?  
(Comment le règlement intérieur du parlement favorise-t-il l'accès aux preuves ?)
22. Some countries have elevated EIPM to establish an M&E at the cabinet level or within the structures of the legislature. Is this mechanism available in your country?  
(Certains pays ont élevé l'EIPM pour établir un S&E au niveau du cabinet ou au sein des structures du corps législatif. Ce mécanisme est-il disponible dans votre pays ? )
23. How would you assess the effectiveness of this approach? (Comment évaluez-vous l'efficacité de cette approche ?)

5=Very effective (très s efficace)

4= Effective (efficace)

3=Satisfactory (Satisfaisant)

2=Not effective (pas efficace)

1= Not very effective (Pas très efficace)

### The Current State of Use of Evidence (L'état actuel de l'utilisation des données probantes)

24. To what extent are policies and legislation passed by your Parliament influenced by evidence? (Dans quelle mesure les politiques et la législation adoptée par votre Parlement sont-elles influencées par des données probantes ?)

5=Very High (très élevé)

4=High (élevé)

3= Okay (bon)

2= Low (faible)

1=Very low (très faible)

25. What are the factors that make it possible to use evidence in your parliament? Please enter text (Quels sont les facteurs qui rendent possible l'utilisation de preuves dans votre parlement ? ( Veuillez saisir le texte)

26. Do you have a preference for how evidence or data is presented to you (e.g., format, style, or length)? (Avez-vous une préférence pour la façon dont les preuves ou les données vous sont présentées (par exemple, le format, le style ou la longueur) ?

Please explain (Veuillez expliquer)

Yes (oui)

No (non)

27. Thinking about the last 12 months, please indicate the extent that you agree that evidence has been useful in your parliamentary work (Si vous pensez aux 12 derniers mois, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord pour dire que les données probantes ont été utiles dans votre travail parlementaire.)

5=strongly agree; (tout à fait d'accord)

4=agree; (d'accord)

3= neutral; (neutre)

2= disagree; (pas d'accord )

1=strongly disagree (tout à fait en désaccord).

### Barriers to Evidence Use (Obstacles à l'utilisation des données probantes)

28. What are the main obstacles /barriers/challenges you face in the generation of evidence for use by parliament? (Quels sont les principaux obstacles/barrières/défis que vous rencontrez dans la production de données probantes destinées à être utilisées par le Parlement ?)

- a. What are the institutional barriers/challenges? (Quels sont les obstacles/défis institutionnels ?)
  - b. What are the individual barriers/challenges? (Quels sont les obstacles/défis individuels ?)
29. What are the barriers/challenges to evidence use in your Parliament? (Quels sont les obstacles/défis à l'utilisation de preuves dans votre Parlement ?)
30. In your own opinion, is the legislative process adequately informed by evidence? (À votre avis, le processus législatif est-il suffisamment éclairé par des données probantes ?)

### Training Needs (Besoins en formation)

31. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low; 5 high), how would you assess your knowledge of ICT that can aid the use of evidence (Sur une échelle de 1 à 5 (1 faible ; 5 élevé), comment évaluez-vous votre connaissance des TIC qui peuvent faciliter l'utilisation des preuves ?)
- 5=Very high (très élevée)  
 4= High (élevée)  
 3= Satisfactory (satisfait)  
 2=Low (faible)  
 1=Very low (très faible)
32. What kind of skills would you require to assist you in effectively using evidence that is provided to you? (Select top 4) (De quel type de compétences auriez-vous besoin pour vous aider à utiliser efficacement les preuves qui vous sont fournies ? (Sélectionnez les 4 premières réponses)
- a. Increase awareness and knowledge about knowledge management platforms sources (Accroître la sensibilisation et la connaissance des sources des plateformes de gestion des connaissances)
  - b. Accessing and generating the evidence (Accéder aux preuves et les générer)
  - c. Documenting, communicating the evidence and creating a convincing narrative with available evidence (Documenter, communiquer les preuves et créer un récit convaincant avec les preuves disponibles)
  - d. Gaining support and acceptance of available evidence—from different constituencies/stakeholders/general public (Obtenir le soutien et l'acceptation des preuves disponibles - de la part de différents groupes d'intérêt/parties prenantes/grand public.)

- e. Using and uptake of the evidence to improve legislative and oversight functions (Utilisation et assimilation des données probantes pour améliorer les fonctions législatives et de contrôle.)
- f. Analysis and synthesis skills (Compétences en matière d'analyse et de synthèse)
- g. Appraising the quality of evidence (Évaluer la qualité des preuves)
- h. Determining the applicability of evidence (Déterminer l'applicabilité des preuves )

### **Recommendations (Recommendations)**

- 33. What are your overall recommendations of actions or strategies to build both the supply of and demand for evidence? (Quelles sont vos recommandations globales d'actions ou de stratégies pour développer à la fois l'offre et la demande de données probantes ?)
- 34. What are your recommendations to promote evidence use by Parliamentarians in their legislative functions? (Quelles sont vos recommandations pour promouvoir l'utilisation des données probantes par les parlementaires dans leurs fonctions législatives ?)







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