

Global Programme on Democratic Governance Assessments – GAP (2008-2013)



- Offers guidance, technical assistance and financial support aimed at strengthening *national capacity* to conduct democratic governance assessments.
- Global production of knowledge and guidance on governance assessments – *Users’ Guides on Measuring...*
- Support to 35+ countries to conduct nationally-owned governance assessments
- Regional trainings and South-South support facilitation
- www.gaportal.org
- “country-led governance assessments” and PGAs

What to do with the data?



GAP experience on how to ensure sustainability and active use of information in policymaking

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Double-objective:



- Strengthens the *demand side* of governance (an accountability mechanism)
- Strengthens the *supply side* of governance (evidence base for national decision making)

ONE: *Broad-based ownership*



- **Develop ongoing relationships with users and potential champions**
– *beyond immediate national partners*

“You are more likely to use what you have contributed to”

→ Involve broad range of relevant stakeholders since the very beginning and throughout the process (not just within data collection)

State E.g. from Parliament, oversight institutions, Gender Ministry, Govt Communication & Info Service, Govt M&E Unit, etc.

non-State e.g. broader range of NGOs, media organizations, private sector, etc.

- Multiplier effect for visibility & policy uptake
- Oversight & quality assurance to increase buy-in and legitimacy



TWO: Investing in institutionalization

– *from day 1*

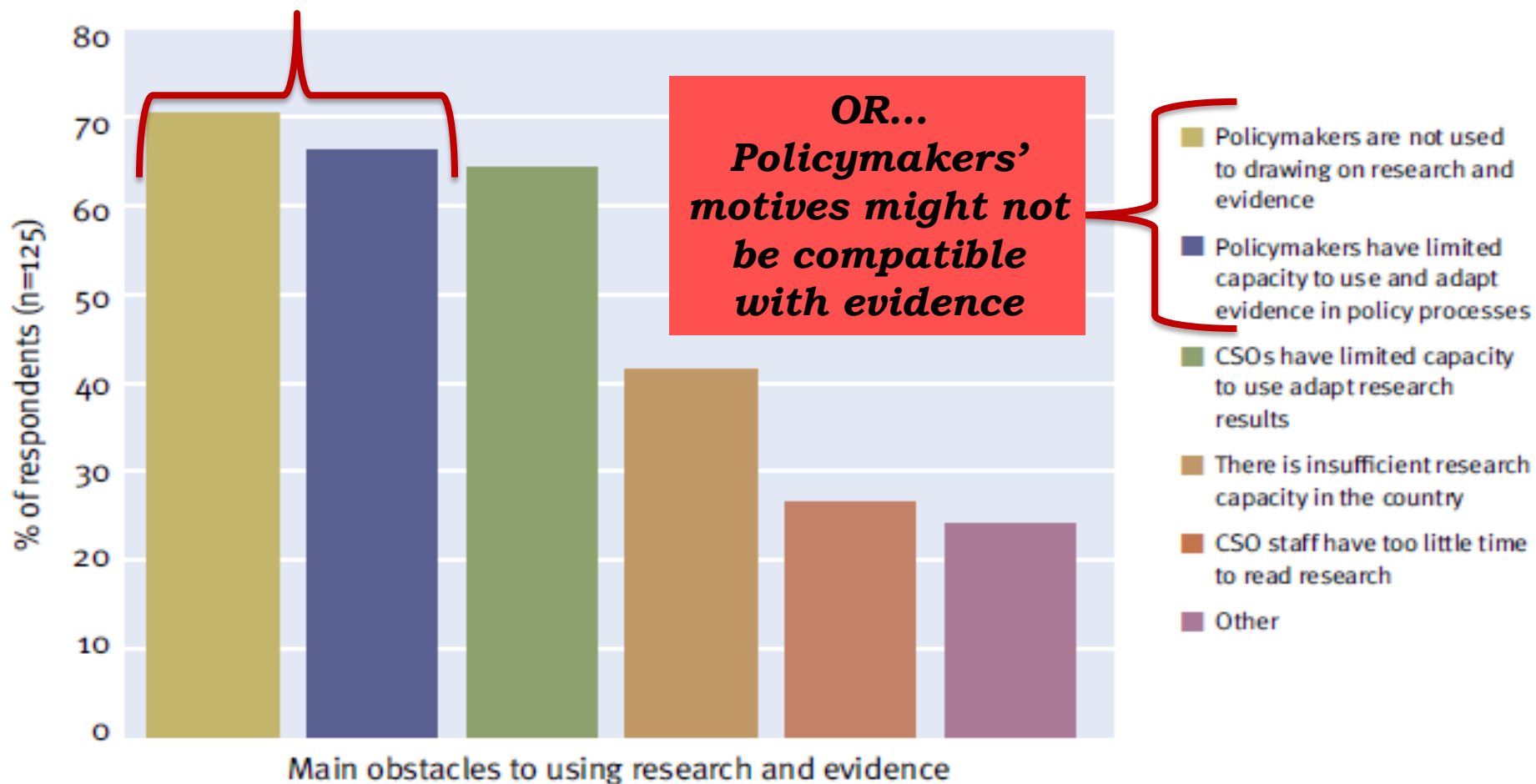


- **Need for institutionalization strategy (what happens after the first round?) vs. imperative to 'show results' first**
- **Choice of key stakeholders (use ICA!)**
- **Smart division of labor:**
 - Mapping as means to 'advertise' the initiative & to explore partnerships
- **Alignment with policy processes**
- **Cost-sharing**
- **Training:**
 - Curriculum of national schools of public administration

THREE: Feeding policy



Figure 5: Main Obstacles to Using Research and Evidence to Influence Policy



THREE: Feeding policy



- **Need for some ruthless pruning**
 - Simplify the system (and simplify it again!) so it focuses on a core set of indicators that are linked to decision-making
 - Decision-maker-friendly presentation
- **Need to move from indicators to target-setting**
 - Baseline → benchmarking (*below/on/above target*)
 - Critical for institutionalization of data collection
- **M&E: Too much of ‘M’, and too little of ‘E’**
 - Indicators provide a snapshot
 - What decision-makers need is an analysis of the causes and consequences of the patterns observed
- **Focus more on solutions than on problems!**

FOUR: *Multiple* story-telling



- **Issue-based advocacy → Issue-based constituencies**
 - Customized trainings for target audiences (from parliament, specific ministries, journalists, etc.) on how to interpret and utilize the data
 - Prepare customized results that meet the needs of specific groups
 - Targeted outreach to the public through well-trusted community members
- **Communicate with codes/symbols instead of using numbers**
- **Make data available online**, accessible to all (user-friendly), free of charge
- **Diversify use of media** (traditional and new)