

# The Role of Research Administrators in Converting Research Results into Policy and Law

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## Introduction

Translating research evidence into policy is crucial to improving the evidence base and implementation of research findings. Research and evidence can have an impact on policy and practice, resulting in positive outcomes. However, research translation is a complex, dynamic and non-linear process. Although Universities in Africa play a major role in generating research evidence, their strategic approaches to influence policies and decision-making are generally weak.

Research Administrators therefore need to play a bigger role in turning research into action



**Policy Makers, Researchers & Administrators Engagement Meeting**

## What has been done by Research Administrators

1. Involving policy-makers in research. Policy-makers who are consulted at the initial stages of a research project tend to be more open since they can actively participate and hence have a stake in shaping the research questions, and thereby take "ownership" of the research as well.
2. Regular interaction during the research project helped adjust the questions researched and the tools used to the needs of policy makers.
3. Making sure that the research addresses issues of policy relevance to the country, through the relevant ministries.
4. Involving researchers in policy consultations and the policy-making process to make them aware of the country needs.
5. Facilitate the access of researchers to relevant data, for instance, by creating a "trade data desk" within the ministry of trade to facilitate research or other dissemination activities.
6. Establishing contact and building a long-term cooperation with relevant ministries. The start can be facilitated by having a "champion" in the ministry.
7. Maintaining communication flows between the academicians, researchers and policy makers. Through these channels, policy makers have been able to inform academia of major policy questions. And this helped make research more policy relevant.
8. Making research findings readable and understandable to non-scientists through using simpler language, providing a brief and concise non-mathematical outline, and focusing on the application rather than the theoretical background.
9. Developing a dissemination or marketing strategy, which involves holding conferences at the university, sending regular policy briefs to relevant ministries and NGOs, establishing personal contacts with policy-makers.

## Evidence of Policies Developed

Uganda Clearinghouse for Health Policy and Systems Research - <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/uch/home>, house most of the rapid response briefs developed.

The Ministry of Health, Uganda website: <https://health.go.ug/publications/policy-documents>

## Categories of developed Policies

1. Curative Services
2. Disease prevention, mitigation & control
3. Essential medicines & Supplies
4. Governance, coordination & M&E
5. Health education, promotion, environmental health & nutrition
6. Health financing
7. Maternal and Child Health
8. Reproductive Health

There is a high interactions between policy makers, researchers, research administrators and other stakeholders in facilitating the uptake of research findings into policies.

