Enhancing evidence-based policy making through

Country-Led M&E Systems*

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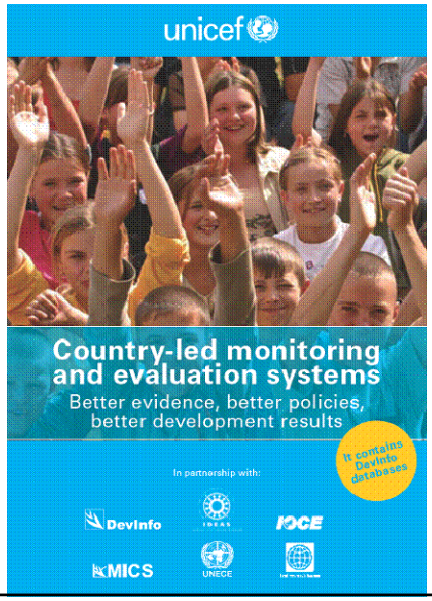
1. **M&E should be instrumental in ensuring effective decision making , by providing strong evidence**. Then:

- Why is M&E not playing its role to its full potential?
- What are the factors, in addition to the quality and adequacy of evidence, influencing the decision-making process in organizations and societies?
- How can the uptake of evidence in decision-making be increased?

Based on book published by UNICEF in partnership with key international institutions



- Authors:

  21 global evaluation leaders

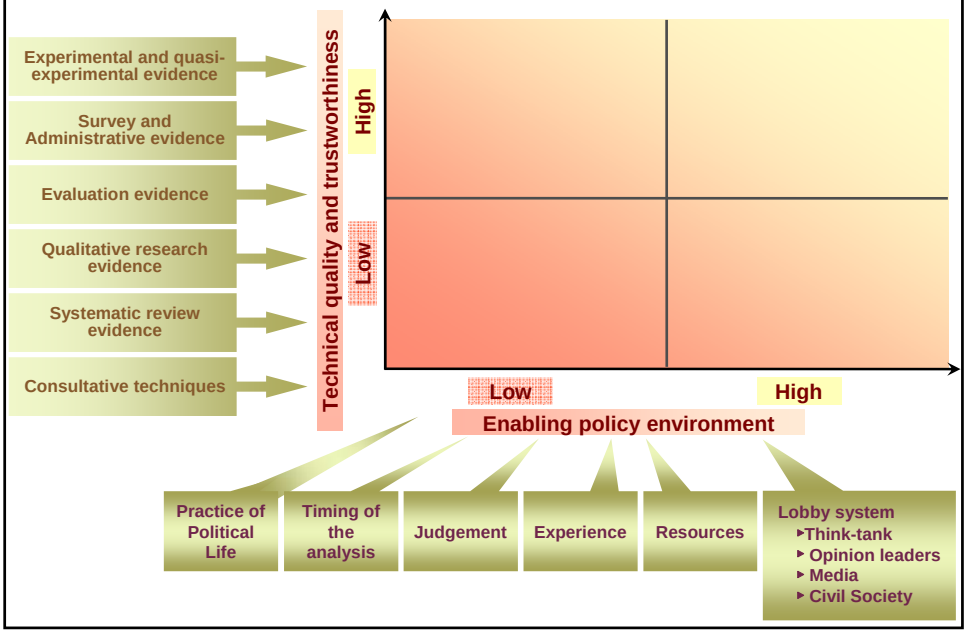
- Partnership:

  UNICEF, WB, UNECE, IDEAS, IOCE, DevInfo and MICS

What is Evidence-based Policy making?

An approach that helps people **make well informed decisions** about policies, programmes and projects **by putting the best available evidence at the heart** of policy development and implementation.

Putting the best available evidence at the heart of policy making?



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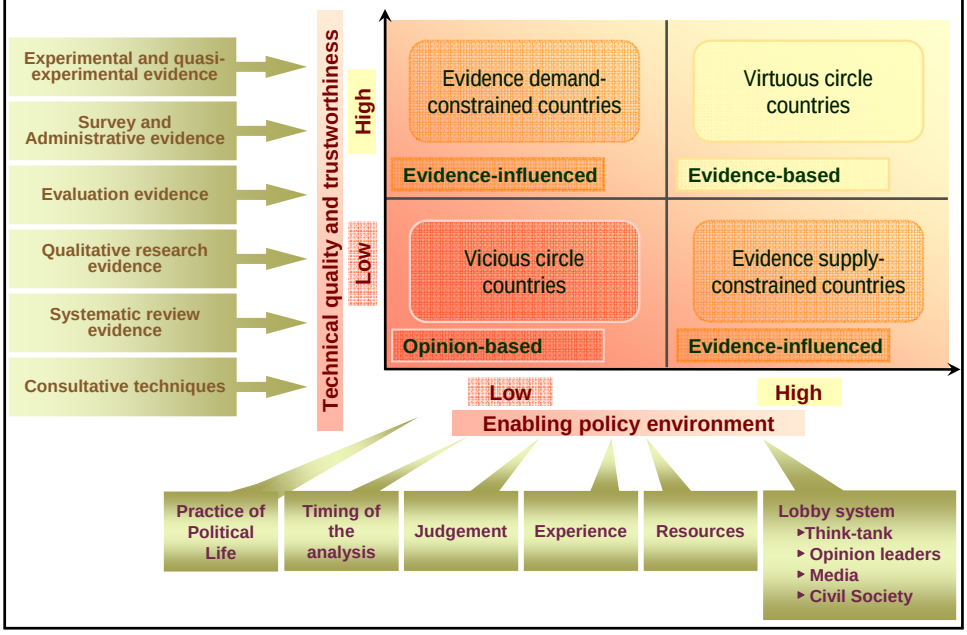

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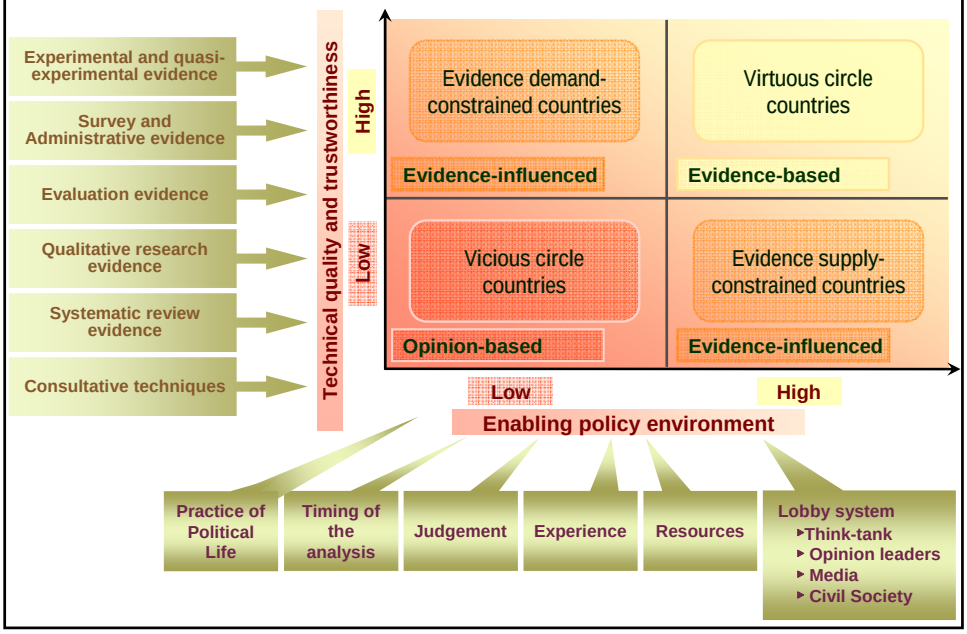
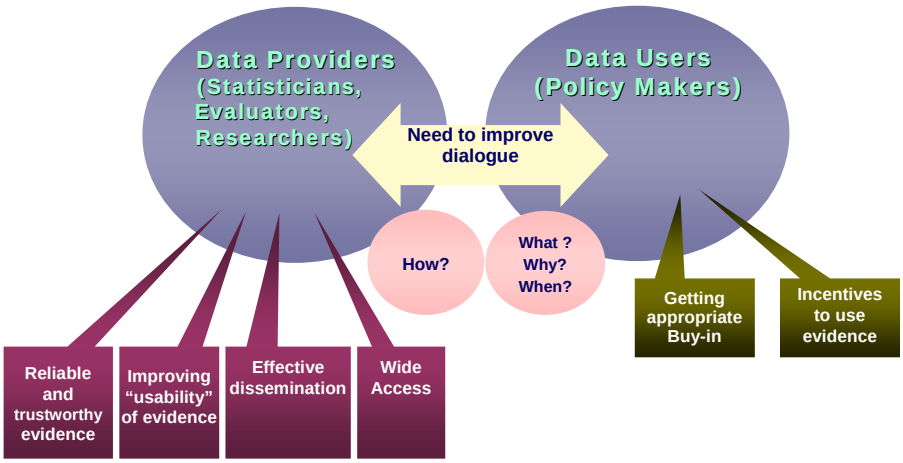
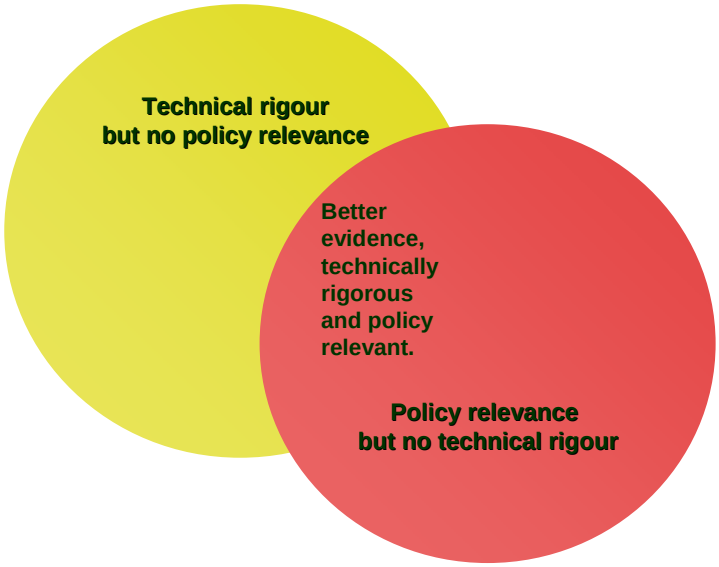


Evidence into practice: Increasing the uptake of evidence in policy making

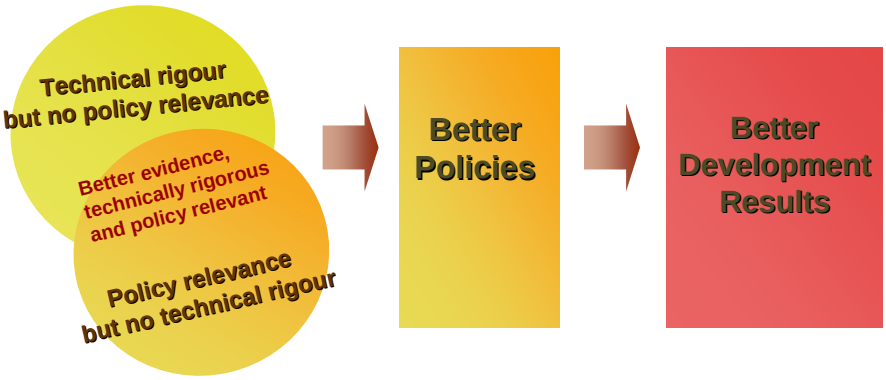


The "quality" challenge: How to match technical rigour and policy relevance?



Country-led M&E systems (CLES):

a strategy to match technical rigour with policy relevance



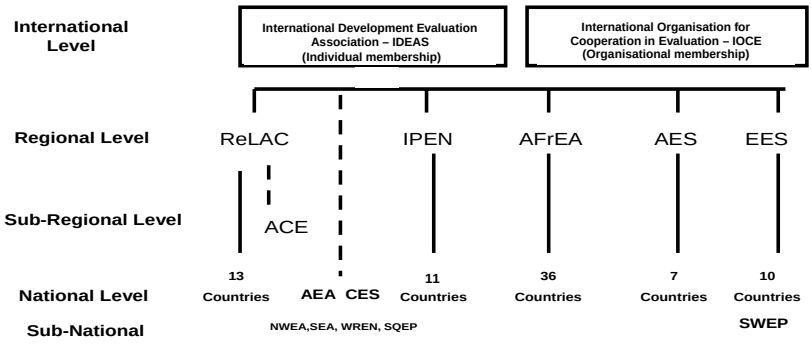
CLES: what

Country (and not donors) leads and owns the evaluation process by determining:

- what policy or programme will be evaluated (including donors coordination and alignment)
- what evaluation questions will be asked
- what methods will be used
- what analytical approach will be undertaken
- how findings will be communicated
- how findings will be used

"Country" led?

- Not exclusively the Government
- Also civil society, including Professional evaluation organizations (from 15 to 100 in a decade)



Source: Quesnel, 2006

CLES: Challenges

- drive towards ownership is partly supply-driven
- longer time frame
- perceived risk by partner countries that independent evaluations of donor support may have political and financial consequences
- perceived risk by donors of weak national capacities and, in some cases, of weak independence of national M&E systems

CLES: way forward

- Middle income, transition and developing countries cooperation to share good practices and lessons learned
- National evaluation organizations fostering endogenous demand (and supply) for monitoring & evaluation
- International organizations strengthening national capacities to design and implement national M&E systems