



FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
RESEARCH INTEGRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
SEPTEMBER 8-11 2013 , CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA AND ONLINE



Knowledge vs Politics: How Research can Contribute to Better Policy

John Young,
Research and Policy in Development Programme
Overseas Development Institute, London



FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
RESEARCH INTEGRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
SEPTEMBER 8-11 2013 , CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA AND ONLINE



Knowledge vs Politics: How Research can Contribute **Better to** Policy

John Young,
Research and Policy in Development Programme
Overseas Development Institute, London



HIV/AIDS

EXTREME POVERTY

DEFORESTATION

ENDANGERED ANIMALS and PLANTS

DESERTIFICATION

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

MALNUTRITION and HUNGER

POLITICAL CONFLICT

INFANT MORTALITY

FEMALE OPPRESSION

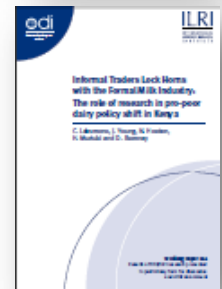
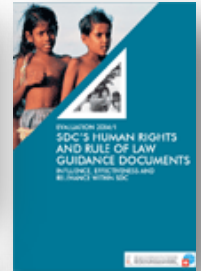
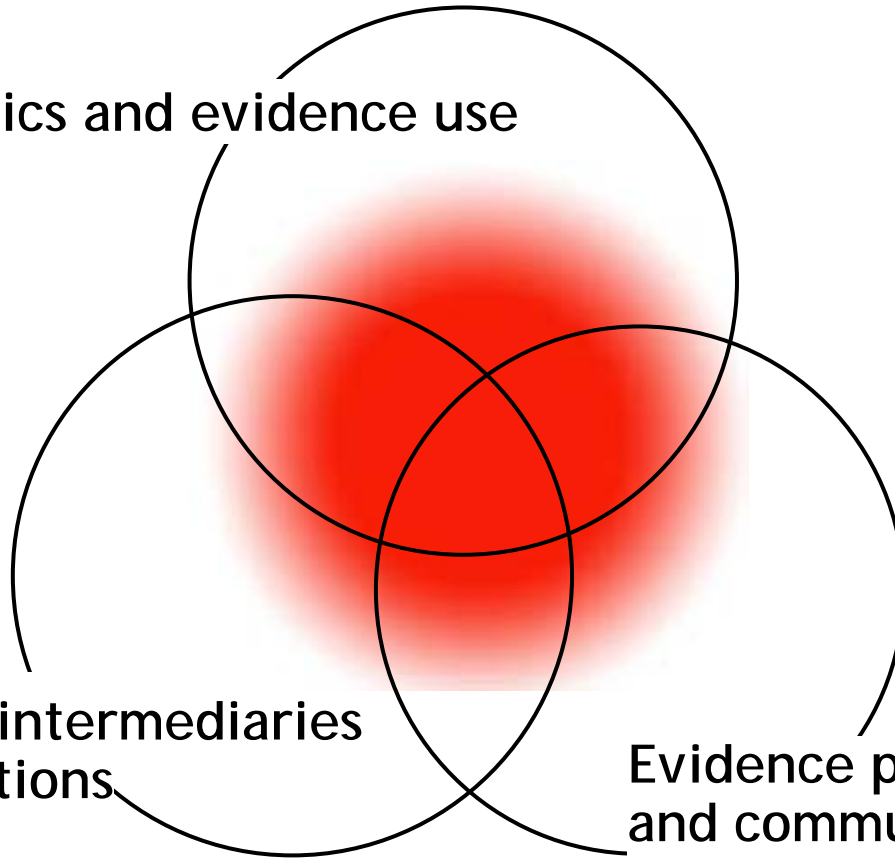
A photograph of a lush green rice field. In the center, a white rectangular sign is mounted on a white post, displaying the text "IR36" in bold black letters. The rice plants are tall and dense, filling the foreground and middle ground. In the background, a white fence or structure is visible, along with some distant buildings under a clear sky.

IR36

Power, Politics and evidence use

Knowledge intermediaries and interactions

Evidence production and communication





1. Policy processes are complex...

Identify the problem

↳ Commission research

↳ Analyse the results

↳ Choose the best option

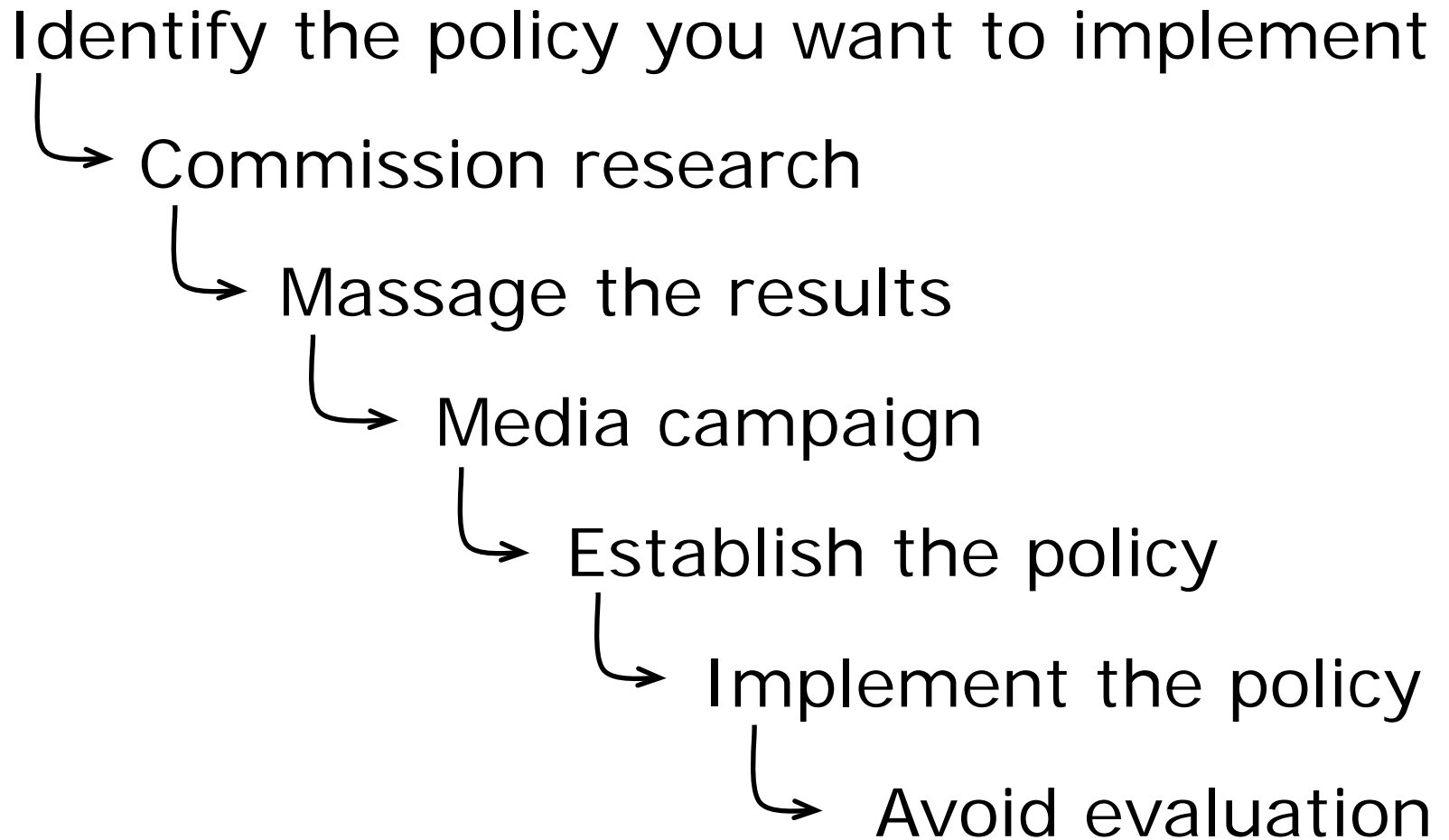
↳ Establish the policy

↳ Implement the policy

↳ Evaluation

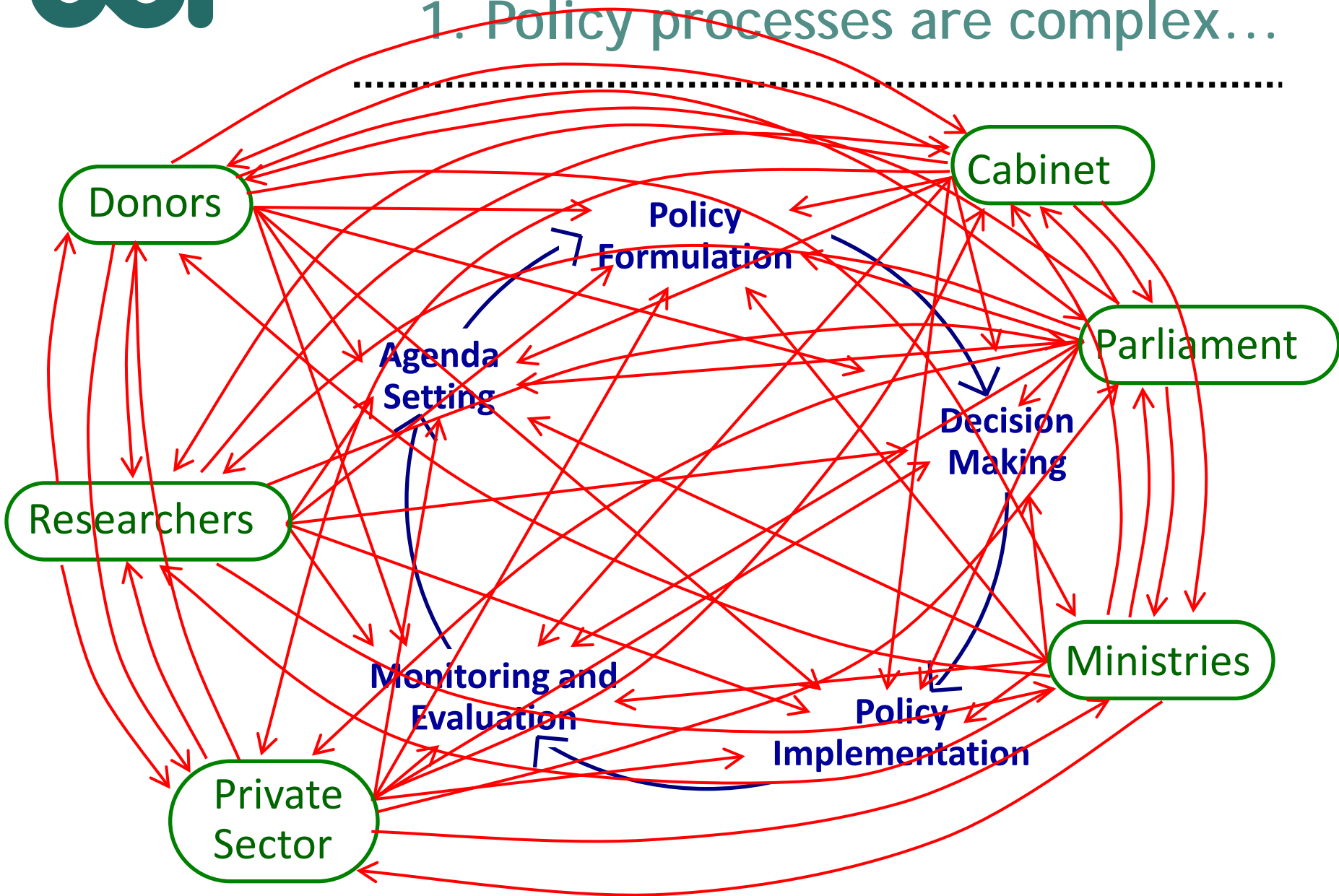


1. Policy processes are complex...





1. Policy processes are complex...





1. Policy processes are complex...

“The whole life of policy is a chaos of purposes and accidents. It is not at all a matter of the rational implementation of the so-called decisions through selected strategies”

Clay & Schaffer (1984), Room for Manoeuvre: An Exploration of Public Policy in Agricultural and Rural Development, Heineman Educational Books, London



2. Research



Overseas Development Institute

Fracture Points in Social Policies for Chronic Poverty Reduction

Kate Bird and Nicola Pratt with
Tammie O'Neil and Vincent J. Bolt



Chronic Poverty
Research Centre

Working Paper 242

Results of ODI research presented in preliminary
form for discussion and critical comment



2. Research plays a minor role

Policy makers practically incapable of using scientific evidence because of the 5 Ss:

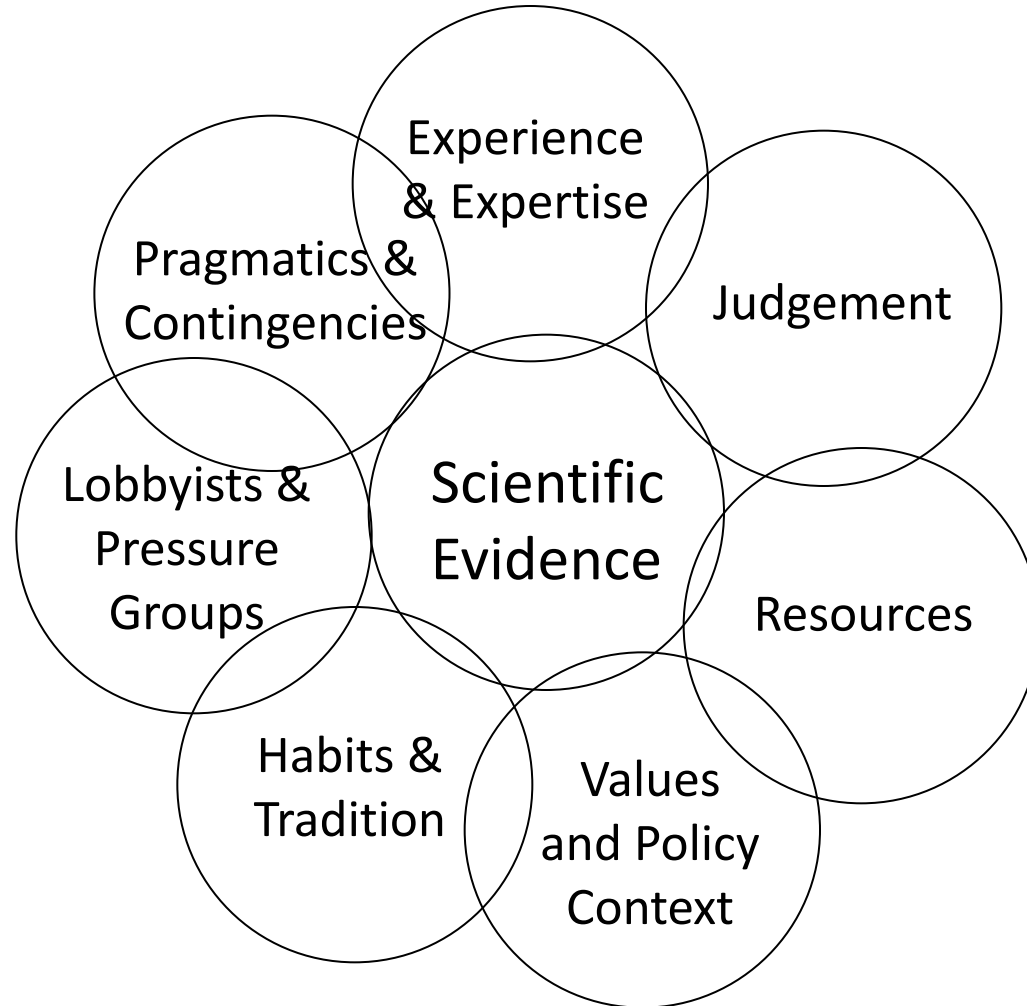
- Speed
- Superficiality
- Spin
- Secrecy
- Scientific Ignorance



Vincent Cable – Lib.
Democrat MP & Secretary
of State for Business
Innovation & Skills



2. Research plays a minor role



Source: Phil Davies Impact to Insight Meeting, ODI, 2005



2. Research plays a minor role

Researchers

- 'Scientific' (Context free)
- Proven empirically
- Theoretically driven
- As long as it takes
- Caveats and qualifications

Policy Makers

- Colloquial (Contextual)
- Anything that seems reasonable
- Policy relevant
- Timely
- Clear Message



3. But research can have huge impact

The Tanzania Integrated Health Improvement Project

“The results of household disease surveys informed processes of health service reform which contributed to a 43 and 46 per cent reduction in infant mortality between 2000 and 2003 in two districts in rural Tanzania.”

TEHIP Project, Tanzania: www.idrc.ca/tehip





4. A holistic approach

External Influences

Socio-economic and cultural influences, donor policies etc

The **political context** – political and economic structures and processes, culture, institutional pressures, incremental vs radical change etc.

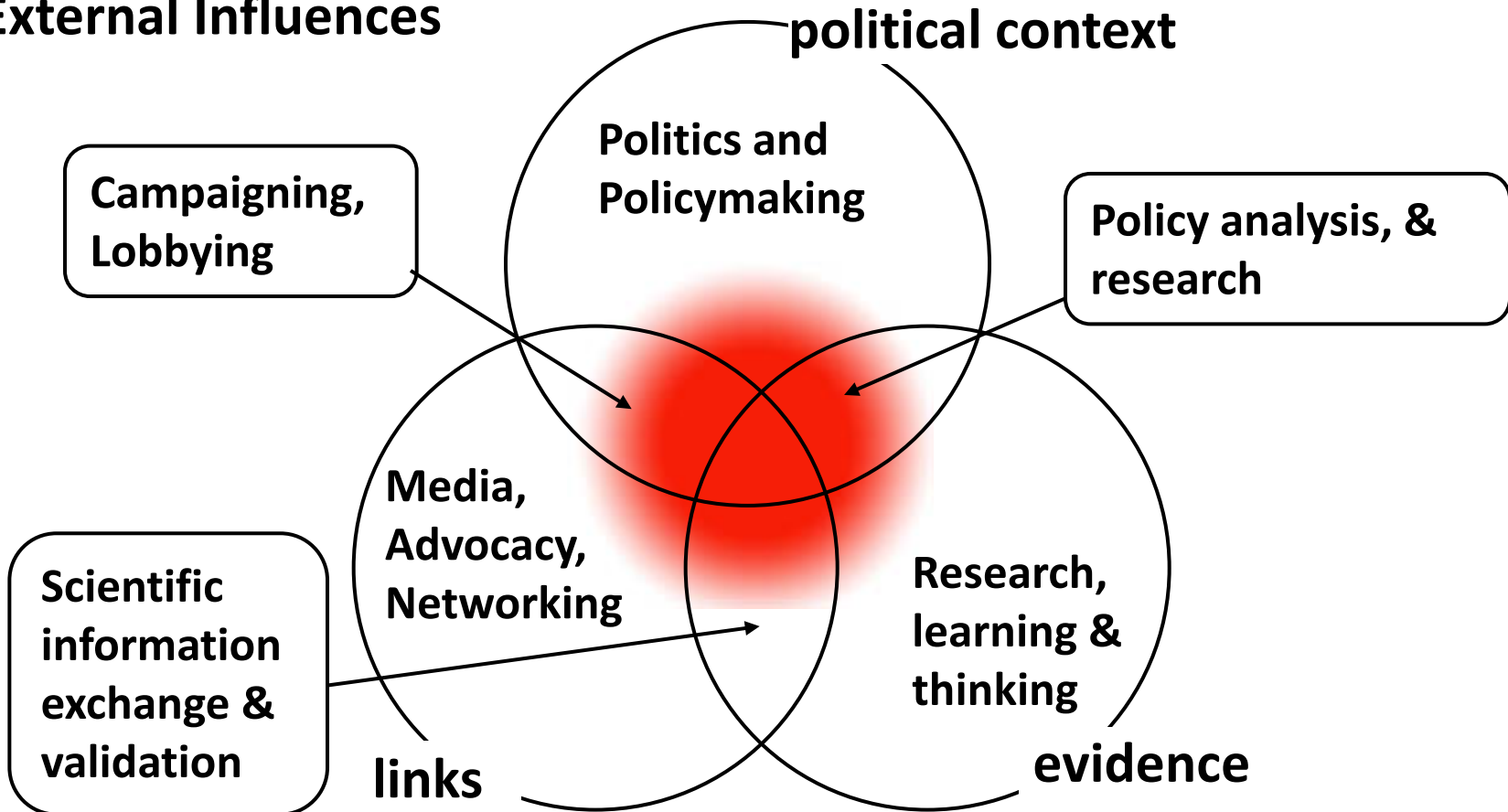
The **links** between policy and research communities – networks, relationships, power, competing discourses, trust, knowledge etc.

The **evidence** – credibility, the degree it challenges received wisdom, research approaches and methodology, simplicity of the message, how it is packaged etc



4. A holistic approach

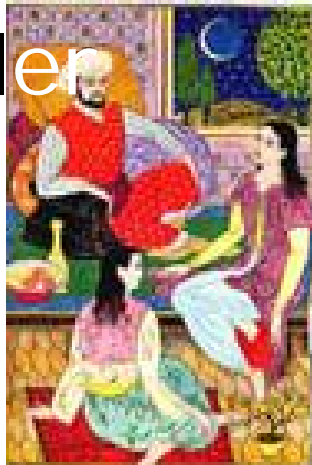
External Influences





5. Be a policy entrepreneur

Storyteller



Networker



Engineer



Fixer



Researcher

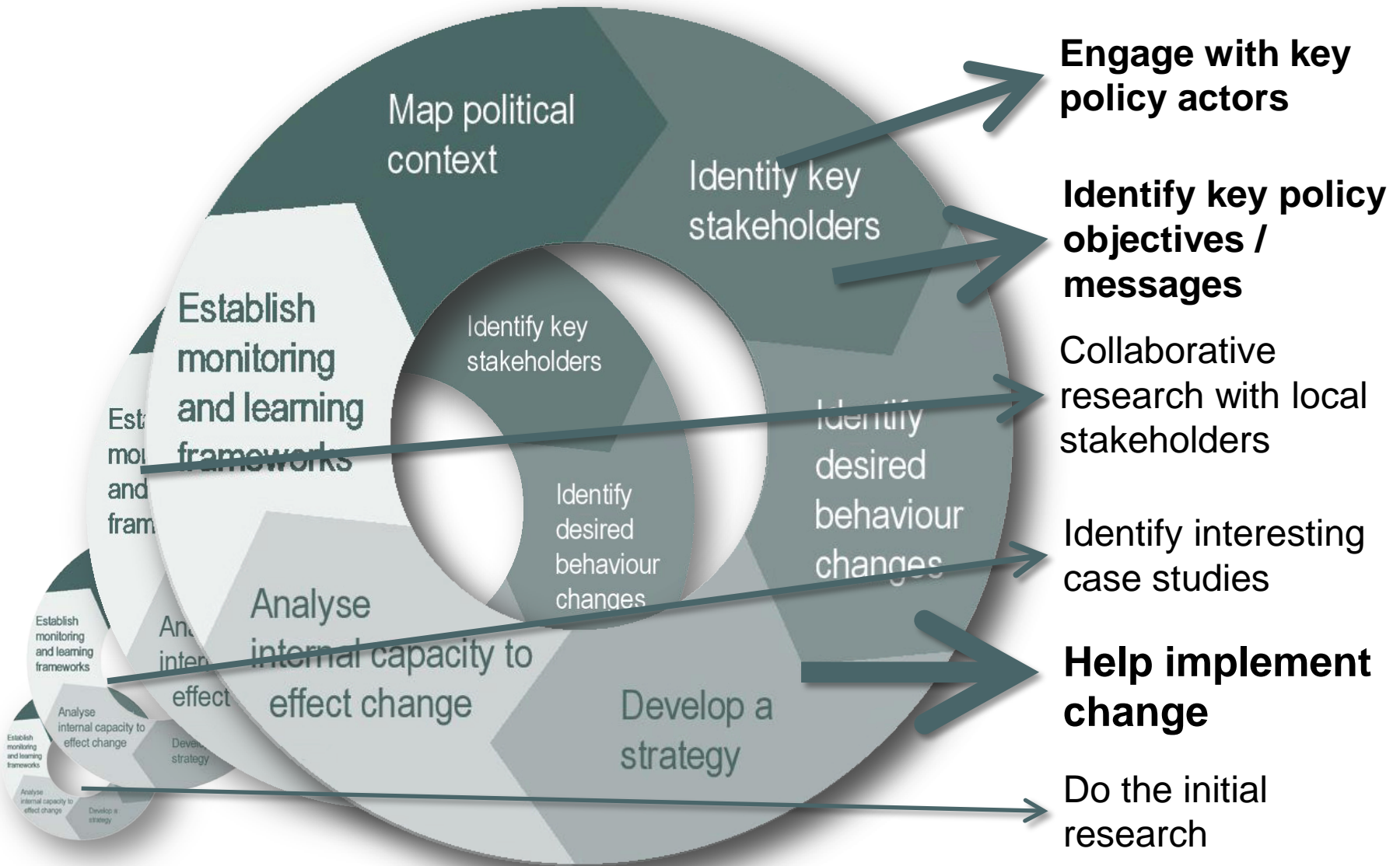


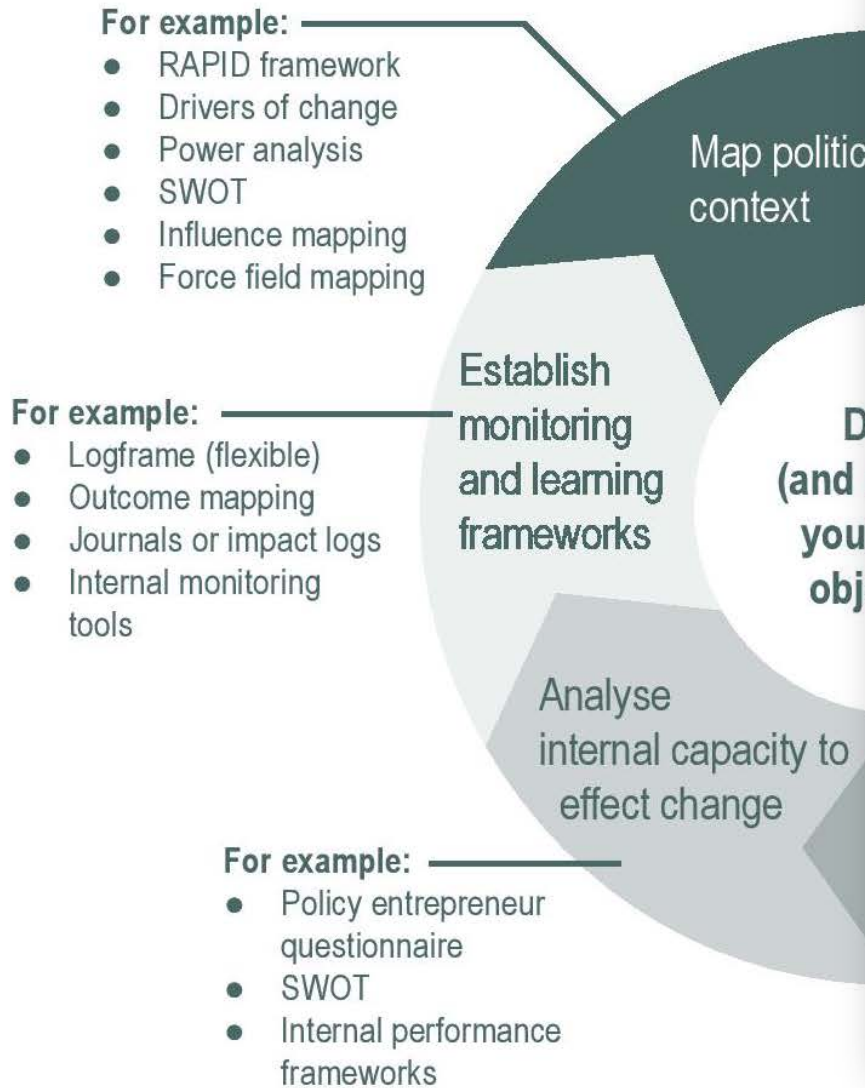
6. Do things differently

- focus more on policy
- establish different incentives
- establish different systems
- spend more on communications
- engage with different actors
- produce different products
- be ready to seize unexpected policy opportunities and move very fast



RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach





Helping researchers become policy entrepreneurs

How to develop engagement strategies for evidence-based policy-making

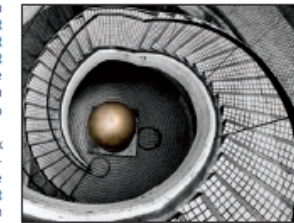
Donors spend billions of dollars on development research each year, but what is the impact on policy? What really influences policy-makers? Is it hard facts? Is it stories and anecdotes? What are they looking for, and who do they listen to, when considering policy options? Facts alone – no matter how authoritative – may not be enough.

This Briefing Paper summarises ODI's work on understanding how policy processes operate in the real world, as part of its mandate to inspire and inform policy and practice that lead to the reduction of poverty. ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme (RAPID) helps other organisations, and ODI itself, lock together high quality applied research, practical policy advice, and policy-focused dissemination and debate. RAPID also ensures organisations have the skills, capacities and networks necessary to engage successfully in policy discussions.

The paper condenses five years of work (see Box 1 overleaf) into six key lessons that are essential to any researcher or organisation wishing to generate evidence-based policy change, and an eight-step approach for policy entrepreneurs wishing to maximise the impact of research on policy. This is known as the RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach (ROMA).

Six lessons

First, policy processes are complex and rarely linear or logical. Simply presenting information to policy-makers and expecting them to act upon it is very unlikely to work. While many policy processes do involve sequential stages – from agenda setting through decision-making to implementation and evaluation – some stages take longer than others, and several may occur more or less simultaneously. Many actors are involved: ministers, parliament, civil servants, the private sector, civil society, the



The ROMA steps help policy entrepreneurs work in complex environments.

media, and in the development sector, also donors – all of them trying to influence the process, and each other. While Clay and Schaeffer's 1984 book, *Room for Manoeuvre*, describes 'the whole life of policy as a chaos of purposes and accidents', RAPID prefers terms like 'complex' (Ramalingam et al., 2008), 'multifactorial' and 'non-linear'. Recognising this complexity is essential for policy entrepreneurs if they are to engage with policy. Treating complex processes in a simplistic manner can undermine the chances of achieving the desired outcome. Strategies must be fluid and able to adapt to changing contexts and to take advantage of policy windows, and effective monitoring and learning systems are essential to keep abreast of the ever-changing dynamics.

Second, many policy processes are only weakly informed by research-based evidence. An ODI study of factors influencing chronic poverty in Uganda found that only two of 25 were related to information gaps (Bird et al., 2004). In a talk on evidence-based policy-making at ODI in 2003, Vincent Cable MP (Cable, 2003) said that policy-makers face difficulties when

Key points

- Researchers and policy-makers are missing chances to turn research findings into lasting change for the world's poor
- Policy processes are complex and rarely linear or logical
- Policy entrepreneurs need to be strategic, systematic and flexible in design, monitoring and learning of policy engagement

Overseas Development Institute

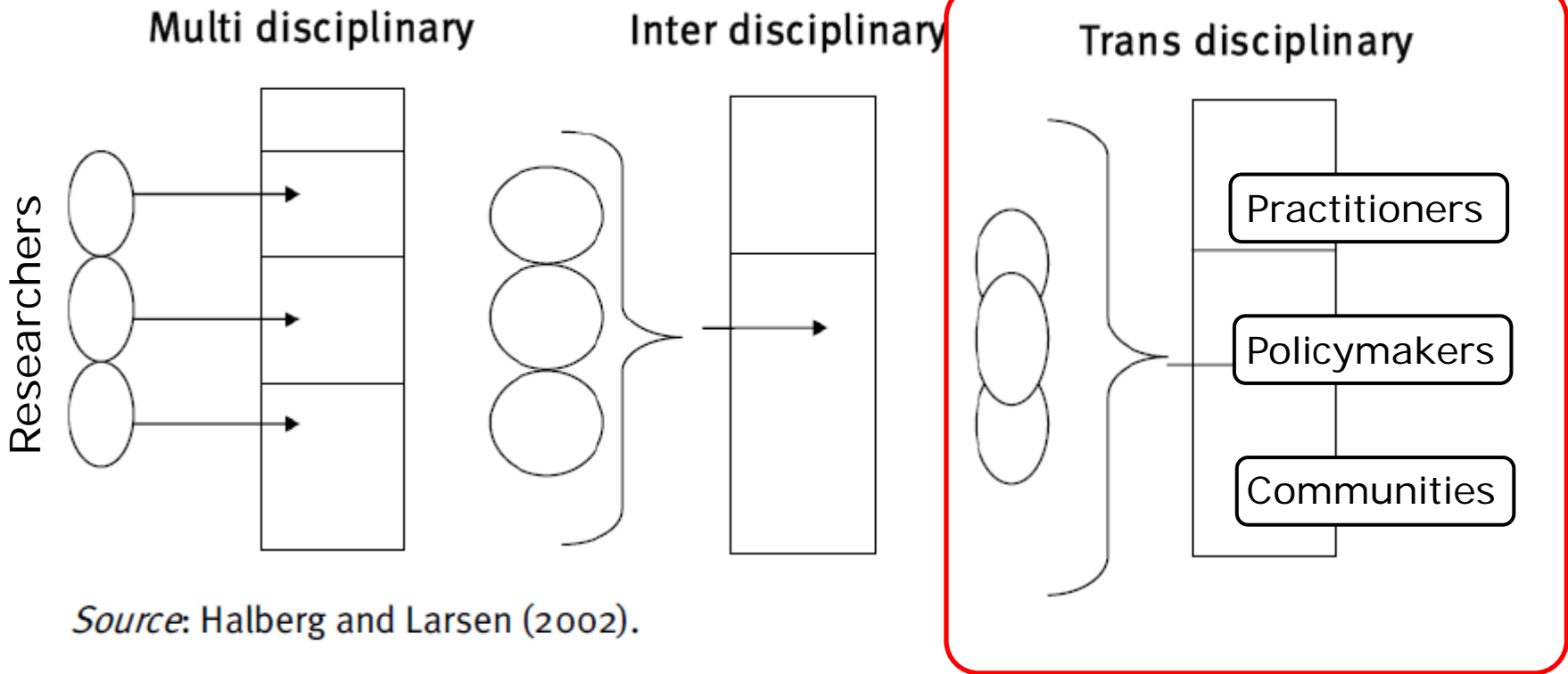
ODI is the UK's leading independent think tank on international development and humanitarian issues.

ODI Briefing Papers present information, analysis and key policy recommendations on important development and humanitarian topics.

This and other ODI Briefing Papers are available from www.odi.org.uk



Transdisciplinarity



Source: Halberg and Larsen (2002).

Earthquakes without frontiers



Vision

Comprehensive knowledge of the hazards and their context

Appropriate and effective pathways to resilience

A global partnership of people and organisations that can help

Bam 2003; 30,000 killed out of 100,000 population

400 MILES

KAZAKHSTAN

RUSSIA

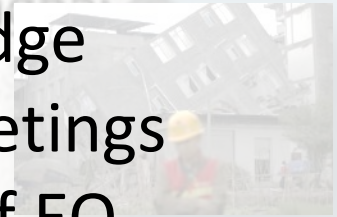
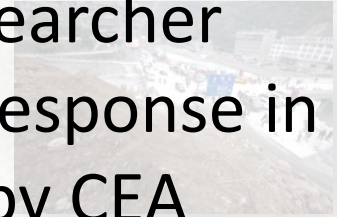
EwF in China

What's been done so far:

- Mapping faults by CEA
- Learning from the 2005 Sichuan EQ by China Social Work Research Centre
- Visit and meetings in Xi'an
- Meeting in Beijing
- Establishment of team and country-coordinator
- Mapping of faults

What will be done:

- Recruit local researcher
- Comparison of response in 2005 and 2013 by CEA
- More mapping of faults and SS research.
- 'Writeshop' to gather existing knowledge
- Stakeholder meetings
- Establishment of EQ research centre



<http://ewf.earth.ox.ac.uk>

BURMA



Australian Government

AusAID

Indonesia Knowledge Sector Initiative

GOAL	Indonesia has the capacity to develop effective and socially accountable policies that meet priority development needs.
PURPOSE	Indonesia's knowledge sector produces evidence to inform priority social development policies.

COMPONENTS			
SUPPLY	DEMAND	INTERMEDIARY	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
Selected organisations generate and communicate high-quality evidence to relevant policy makers	Selected government policy makers effectively demand and utilise high-quality evidence to inform social development policy	Selected organisations effectively translate the findings from research into policy options and policy options feed back into research	Important systemic and regulatory barriers to an effective knowledge sector are identified and mitigated

500 km

300 mi



Australian Government

AusAID

Indonesia

PHASE 1 (Six Years)

- Build up supply of high quality research
- Working dialogue on a national vision for knowledge sector development
- Identify priority policy reforms
- Start building constituents to advocate for priority reforms
- Provide sustainable funding for research organisations
- Commission studies to further investigate the sector, e.g.:
 - o Revitalising or establishing a national research institute
 - o GOI funding for research
 - o Entry points for relevant civil service reform



PHASE 2

- Assess investment opportunities in initial five years
- Building supply of policy makers, reforms and business
- Fostering broad-based use of evidence demonstrating policy success
- Decide on investment to improve the environment and exploration
- Provide organisational assistance for knowledge agencies
- Expand regional programs



Australian Government

AusAID

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PRO-POOR POLICY:

THE KNOWLEDGE SECTOR INITIATIVE



**Australian
AID** 

DESIGN DOCUMENT | JULY 2012

500 km

300 mi

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au>

[/countries/eastasia/indonesia/Pages/initiative-knowledge-sector.aspx](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/countries/eastasia/indonesia/Pages/initiative-knowledge-sector.aspx)



Briefing
October

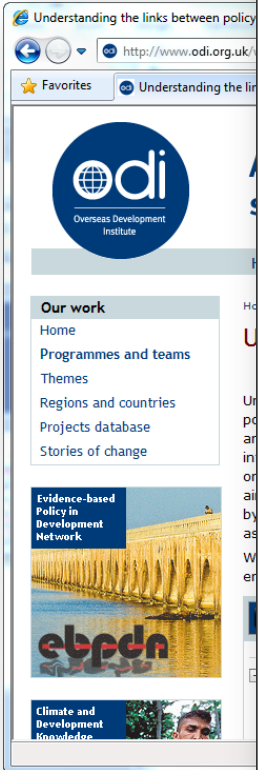


Briefing
September

rapid
Research and Policy
in Development



toolkit



www.odi.org.uk

The RAPID Programme

ODI's Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme aims to improve the use of research and evidence in development policy and practice through research, advice and debate. The programme has four main themes:

- The use of evidence in policy identification, development and implementation;
- Improving communication and information systems for development agencies;
- Better knowledge management to enhance the impact of development agencies;
- Promoting and capacity building for evidence-based policy.

We would like to acknowledge support for this work from the UK Department for International Development, the Global Development Network, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, and the Merck Foundation.

Overseas Development Institute

ODI is the UK's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues.

Briefing
Policy
Development

An

B

for this to need to do. First, understand what they need the evidence, credible, and (ii) all the policy message.

Second strategy supporter

The pro

The Policy chaos of at all a mix of these strategies Relevant overall of ODI's, Policy Life "research than the Sun, and Cost Effectiveness on development?"

Key points

- Researchers and policy-makers are missing chances to turn research findings into lasting change for the world's poor
- Policy processes are complex and rarely linear or logical
- Policy entrepreneurs need to be strategic, systematic and flexible in design, monitoring and learning of policy engagement

Overseas Development Institute

ODI is the UK's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues.

ODI Briefing Papers provide information, analysis and key policy recommendations on important development and humanitarian topics.

This and other ODI Briefing Papers are available from www.odi.org.uk

Helping
policy
How to
evidence

Don't develop what really hard facts? Is it they looking to considering the matter how? This Briefing on understanding the role to inspire and lead to the need and Policy in it helps other lock together practical policy dissemination at organisations, networks need policy discussion. The paper (see Box 5) are essential to wishing to change, and entrepreneurs of research of RAPID Outcome

Six lessons First, policy processes are rarely linear or logical to policy action. It is a policy process – from agenda setting to implementation stages take place. It may occur and actors are involved, the

Tools for Policy Impact

A Handbook for Researchers

Daniel Start and Ingie Hovland