Think Tank Initiative
2018 Policy Community Survey

Final Report on Africa

May 3rd, 2018

Initiative Think tank

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Project: 2976

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Introduction and Objectives

In 2009/10 and 2013, GlobeScan, a global stakeholder research consultancy, was commissioned by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in three regions: Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

In 2018, the TTI once again engaged GlobeScan to carry out the Think Tank Initiative Policy Community Survey in the same three regions.

Through the Policy Community Survey, the Think Tank Initiative aims to:

- Develop an understanding of the policy community in specific countries
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of particular think tanks, as perceived by a subset of the policy community
- Understand what activities are associated with the success of think tanks in order to help prioritize support strategies such as funding, training, and technical assistance
- Benchmark and track broad changes in the policy community and perceptions of think tanks in selected countries

This report presents the results of the African survey.

A global report will be prepared which presents an overview of the findings of the studies undertaken in all regions once they are completed.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Information needs of policy community unchanged, but easier to satisfy

This third wave of the policy community survey shows that over the past eight years, information needs of policy makers are fairly consistent, with economic/fiscal issues and information related to education and agriculture/food security remaining at the forefront. However, what appears to have changed is that policy stakeholders are more selective now in their information needs, suggesting perhaps a more focused approach in their work. Moreover, the perceived ease of obtaining information to support policy development has continued on a generally upward trend for most issues, particularly gender issues and on poverty alleviation. This is encouraging, as the issues for which stakeholders desire the most information to support policy development also tend to be relatively easier to obtain. Furthermore, new questioning around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this year shows that their dissemination has been successful in the region, as stakeholders consider information on the SDGs easiest to obtain relative to all other issues.

Websites and reports/publications continue to be top format/source of policy information, but social media of burgeoning interest

Websites, email, and print remain the most useful formats for stakeholders to receive information for national policy development, although interest in social media as a format has increased since 2013.

Overall, stakeholders rely on a fairly balanced mix of sources when seeking information to increase their understanding of policy development. Publications/reports, conferences/events, and discussion with colleagues/peers are the most commonly reported sources, similar to 2013. However, there has been a notable decrease in the usage of databases / statistical data banks, particularly in Uganda and Ghana.

Government organizations continue to dominate as a top source of information on social and economic policies, due to greatest alignment with stakeholders' research needs

When it comes to seeking out organizations to acquire information on social and economic policies, stakeholders generally rely on government ministries and government-owned research institutes. This is due to the close alignment with their research needs and is done despite the fact that the perceived quality of these institutions is relatively lower than for most other institutions tested, including national think tanks. The importance of alignment is further reinforced by the fact that international university-based research institutes enjoy the highest ratings of quality of research, but the lowest ratings of relevance of research to needs and thus are among the least-used organizations. It appears that relevance, rather than quality, is the main driver of usage.

Executive Summary

National think tanks maintain fairly strong ratings of quality, but have room to improve perceptions among government stakeholders

Overall, the quality of research provided by national think tanks is seen as fairly strong and consistent with previous waves. Those in research/academia and from NGOs and media continue to rate national think tanks most highly in terms of quality; however, elected government officials who are most directly involved in policy development rate the quality of national think tanks relatively lower than most stakeholder groups. For the minority of stakeholders who say they do not turn to think tanks, the main reason given is limited familiarity, which is cited considerably more often than in previous waves of this study. Raising awareness should be a key priority.

Across the region, national think tanks tested are generally seen as performing well with regards to having knowledge of the policy-making process, having quality research and researchers, as well as solid regional knowledge. Areas for improvement are fairly consistent across the region, with gender empowerment/equality research, having adequate infrastructure to function effectively, and partnering with non-government policy actors topping the list.

Implications

On the whole, perceptions of national think tanks in Africa are generally positive, although there is room for improvement:

- As the continent has become more connected over the years, national think tanks have more of an opportunity to increase familiarity and showcase their work to a wider audience, particularly on social media where stakeholders (particularly elected government officials) are increasingly spending their time.
- Other opportunities for national think tanks include working toward bridging the information gap on agriculture/food security, a topic where many stakeholders consider it relatively more difficult to obtain sufficient information.
- Focusing energy on gender empowerment/equality research could also be an opportunity for some national think tanks, as it is an area where nearly all national think tanks are lacking, but also where demand is fairly strong.

Making such research as relevant as possible and easy to access and understand will likely bolster the use of these types of national think tanks and hopefully encourage national governments or other entities to invest more in them, as many national think tanks continue to struggle with having enough infrastructure to function effectively – a condition which may become more acute once the Think Tank Initiative wraps up in 2019.

Methodology and Sample Composition

Methodology

The survey of policy stakeholders was conducted through online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews in 8 African countries from September 26th 2017 to February 12th 2018.

The participating African countries are Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The survey was offered in English and French.

		Africa							
	Total	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Nigeria	Rwanda	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
Total	344	45	42	42	43	39	45	45	43
Online	125	37	3	3	10	29	28	10	5
Offline	219	8	39	39	33	10	17	35	38
Telephone	162	8	30	31	4	3	16	35	35
Face-to-face	57	0	9	8	29	7	1	0	3

Methodology: Respondent Description

Respondents are from the following sectors:

- ***Government:** Senior officials (both elected and non-elected) who are directly involved in or influence policy making.
- **Non-governmental organization:** Senior staff (local or international) whose mission is related to economic development, environmental issues, and/or poverty alleviation.
- **Media:** Editors or journalists who report on public policy, finance, economics, international affairs, and/or development, who are knowledgeable about national policy issues.
- **Multilateral/bilateral organization:** Senior staff from organizations run by foreign governments either individually (bilateral such as DFID, USAID) or as a group (multilateral such as UN agencies, World Bank).
- **Private sector:** Senior staff working at large well-known national and multinational companies.
- **Research/academia:** Senior staff at universities, colleges, research institutes, and/or think tanks.

Stakeholders surveyed are senior-level staff in their organizations and active members of the national policy community, meaning that they develop or influence national government policy. Efforts were made to ensure that no two stakeholders were interviewed from the same organization. For government stakeholders only up to two respondents could be from the same ministry, but must be from separate departments.

Stakeholder sample lists were provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a donor of the TTI, and TTI grantee organizations, and were supplemented by GlobeScan. GlobeScan stakeholder names were reviewed by the IDRC and grantee organizations. To minimize bias, interviews were conducted with a mixture of people – some sourced by grantee organizations and some sourced by GlobeScan.

*Note: Government officials are referred to as elected government and non-elected government throughout this report. Which category government stakeholders belong to is determined by their answer to a survey question.

Methodology: Sample Summary

Number of Stakeholders Interviewed by Country, 2018

	Total	Africa							
		Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Nigeria	Rwanda	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
Total	344	45	42	42	43	39	45	45	43
Government, elected	37	5	2	1	3	0	8	15	3
Government, non-elected	46	6	8	9	7	5	4	0	7
Media	37	5	5	3	6	4	5	4	5
Multilateral/bilateral	27	2	4	1	5	2	5	4	4
NGO	60	7	8	9	7	10	7	7	5
Private sector	59	7	7	2	7	10	8	9	9
Research/academia	78	13	8	17	8	8	8	6	10

Think Tanks Tested in Each Country and Number of Respondents Rating Each Think Tank

Africa, 2018

Country	Think tank	Sample size
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Economic Association/Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EEA/EEPRI), Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)	43, 41
Ghana	Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)	42, 42
Kenya	Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)	39, 42
Nigeria	Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), AfriHeritage	20, 19, 11
Rwanda	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR)	30
Senegal	Initiative prospective agricole et rurale (IPAR), Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES)	30, 33
Tanzania	Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) (formerly African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) - Tanzania	17, 43, 35
Uganda	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR)	21, 40, 37

Please see the companion document entitled “Think Tank Fact Sheets – African Countries” for an overview of the key performance measures of specific think tanks in each country.

A Note on the Approach

Views are <u>not</u> representative of the whole policy community. The study was designed to gather views of *senior*-level policy actors within national policy communities on their research needs and their perceptions of think tanks' research quality and performance. The study was not intended to gather perceptions of a larger representative subset of the policy community which could generate statistically significant findings on demand for research. This approach was chosen consciously, recognizing the limitation it brings to the survey, but acknowledging the value of perceptions of individuals in senior positions within each national policy community who often are very difficult to reach.

These views provide the basis for reflection within the organizations supported by the TTI on how the organization's current performance is perceived by key stakeholders, and on ways in which the organization may enhance its organizational capacity to undertake policy-relevant research.

As was done for the African survey in 2009/10 and 2013, we set a target of 40 respondents per country with a balanced quota of responses across different stakeholder categories. For this wave, particular challenges were encountered in reaching elected government officials in Rwanda and non-elected government officials in Tanzania despite multiple attempts and the extension of fieldwork. To avoid delaying the project indefinitely we oversampled across other stakeholder groups to make up the difference for these two countries. As such, findings from Rwanda and Tanzania should be viewed with these considerations in mind.

A Note on Charts:

All figures reported in the charts are expressed in percentages, unless otherwise noted. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to the rounding of individual response categories or due to the fact that respondents could give multiple answers to a particular question ("total mentions" is then reported).

Please refer to the notes section on each slide to review actual question wording.

Initiative Think tank

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Type, Accessibility, Format

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Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Type, Accessibility, Format

Types of Information Required

Africa Level

- The types of information that members of the policy community desire have been fairly consistent over the past three waves of this study, with economic/fiscal issues, education, and agriculture/food security ranking highest and energy and foreign affairs lowest.
- Overall, when prompted, nearly three out of four respondents (74%) say that there is a demand for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Stakeholder Level

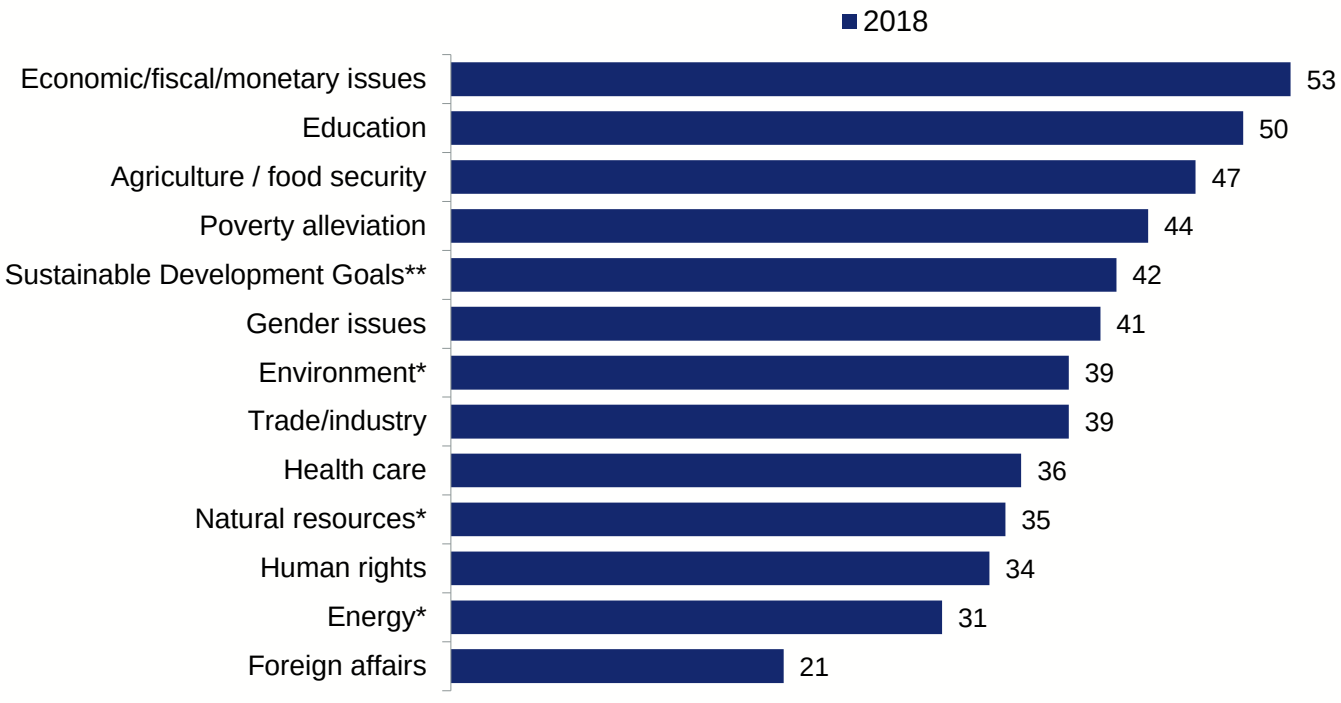
- Elected government officials and media representatives are mostly interested in economic/fiscal issues and agriculture/food security, while non-elected government officials and those in research/academia are primarily focused on information related to education.
- NGOs show the greatest interest in seeking information on gender issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while those in the private sector are most interested in trade/industry information.

Country Level

- At the country level, respondents generally prioritize information on economic/fiscal issues and education with regards to policy making. However, respondents from Senegal are far more likely to desire information on agriculture/food security than their counterparts in other countries. Similarly, respondents in Tanzania are more likely to seek information on trade/industry and those from Uganda are more interested in receiving information on gender issues.

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Africa, 2010–2018



% Total Mentions	
2013	2010
69	59
61	54
61	49
65	62
NA	NA
48	40
57	NA
52	46
52	41
46	NA
49	39
44	NA
33	22

Relative to previous years, stakeholders appear to be more focused in the types of information that they require (i.e., they don't select as wide a variety of topics as previous years). However, the trend of information required remains more or less the same.

* "Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (selected by 50% of respondents), but were segmented in 2013.

** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018

Initiative Think tank

Top mention
Second mention

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	53	69	59	46	76	64	52	75	53	68	71	69	63	83	67	48	50	53	58	77	64	46	58	55
Education	50	61	54	32	63	75	63	51	46	62	82	54	52	67	55	57	61	60	25	46	36	56	65	66
Agriculture / food security	47	61	49	46	54	58	46	63	45	73	73	56	48	64	52	43	55	58	39	54	33	45	62	49
Poverty alleviation	44	65	62	35	66	61	43	61	53	51	65	67	56	67	76	57	71	75	25	54	46	45	69	63
SDGs**	42	-	-	35	-	-	37	-	-	49	-	-	44	-	-	57	-	-	32	-	-	42	-	-
Gender issues	41	48	40	32	54	58	50	44	32	49	62	46	41	60	50	60	58	63	20	25	24	37	42	24
Trade/industry	39	52	46	35	68	42	33	46	48	54	64	54	41	57	43	22	29	33	61	64	57	33	45	43
Environment*	39	57	50	30	61	53	43	56	49	51	73	57	41	67	55	43	45	52	32	51	42	35	53	46
Health care	36	52	41	35	68	64	43	44	34	41	67	50	41	52	45	50	63	55	22	33	25	28	44	29
Natural resources*	35	46	50	22	51	53	46	51	49	49	67	57	37	48	55	33	32	52	31	41	42	33	40	46
Human rights	34	49	39	32	56	53	43	35	28	49	76	57	33	55	36	50	74	62	20	26	21	19	35	30
Energy*	31	44	50	30	41	53	35	44	49	59	73	57	41	40	55	25	26	52	29	52	42	21	34	46
Foreign affairs	21	33	22	19	39	36	28	31	24	38	62	41	30	38	24	18	21	14	14	31	15	14	17	13

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* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.
** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Initiative Think tank

Top mention
Second mention

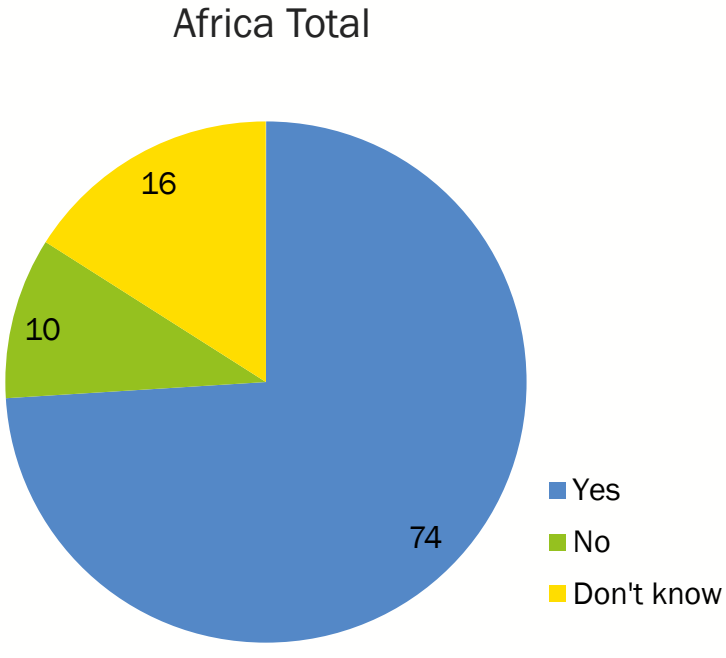
	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	53	69	59	62	63	58	52	89	73	40	58	69	56	76	67	38	53	46	60	68	57	60	66	44	51	83	50
Education	50	61	54	40	38	53	67	68	63	64	53	53	44	71	63	46	53	67	44	59	46	44	63	39	49	73	34
Agriculture / food security	47	61	49	56	53	58	43	51	56	43	53	51	40	68	65	26	35	39	73	73	51	47	71	29	47	80	43
Poverty alleviation	44	65	62	58	50	70	24	68	56	43	65	56	35	63	73	28	40	61	56	80	57	51	68	66	53	80	64
SDGs**	42	-	-	49	-	-	19	-	-	55	-	-	42	-	-	23	-	-	58	-	-	40	-	-	51	-	-
Gender issues	41	48	40	49	28	45	36	59	49	50	45	38	30	51	38	28	43	50	38	50	26	42	44	37	53	63	36
Trade/industry	39	52	46	47	53	38	24	68	51	40	45	60	33	49	54	23	18	48	36	61	37	62	59	44	44	70	43
Environment*	39	57	50	38	40	53	36	59	46	43	53	64	42	61	56	23	18	35	44	75	66	40	68	46	42	75	43
Health care	36	52	41	40	40	45	29	68	44	48	48	42	30	51	52	28	25	37	44	57	40	31	51	27	37	63	23
Natural resources*	35	46	50	47	38	53	24	62	46	38	50	64	26	41	56	23	8	35	44	57	66	36	49	46	42	73	43
Human rights	34	49	39	29	40	40	31	62	41	38	55	40	30	46	44	31	35	33	29	45	29	33	46	39	49	65	39
Energy*	31	44	50	33	30	53	21	59	46	31	38	64	33	51	56	5	10	35	51	52	66	36	46	46	37	63	43
Foreign affairs	21	33	22	29	15	13	21	43	32	19	30	24	12	39	33	21	8	35	22	36	14	18	37	17	26	45	7

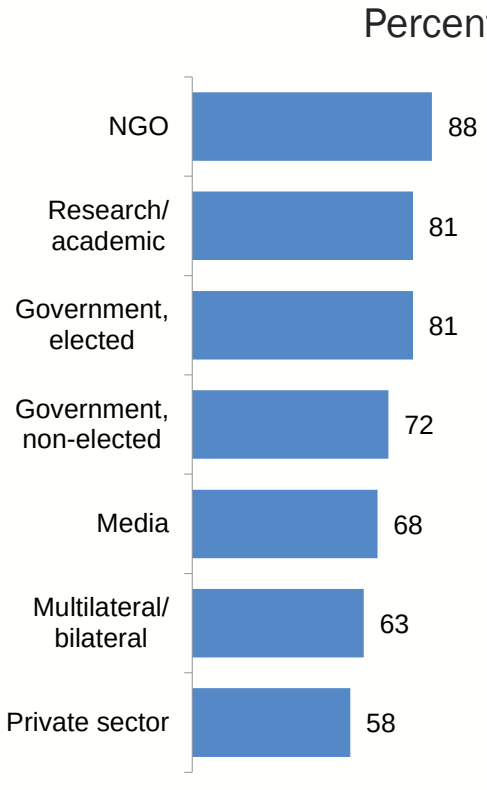
GLOBESCAN

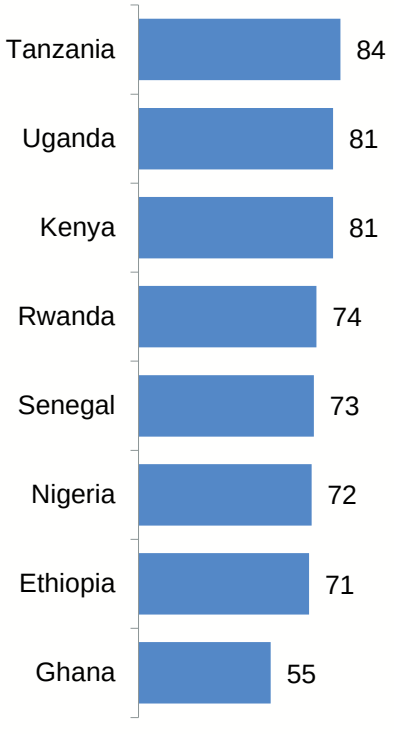
* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.
** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

Demand in Your Country for Information on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Percent of Stakeholders, by Stakeholder Type and Country, Africa, 2018







Is there a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research, and why?

Open-end Responses, Africa, 2018

Those who said that there was a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research in their country gave the following as reasons why:

- The need for better education amongst women and girls
- Demand for female empowerment/emancipation is relevant in all areas of life, but particularly in rural communities
- Can help to bring about equal rights and opportunities
- Financial empowerment (through jobs and property ownership) is noted as a crucial factor for gender equality, as well as economic growth
- More inclusive roles for women in areas of politics, science, and technology. Concerns are voiced about the lack of females in leadership positions despite policies encouraging this
- To help counter gender-based violence in society
- To improve access to health care services, with emphasis on reproductive health services

Respondents who did not believe that there was a demand for this research argued alternatively, that:

- It is a topic which has been "overdone" with much research in this field already undertaken
- Research in this area is not relevant to their country or culture
- It is not a prevalent issue in their country, in comparison to the West. They state that a lot has already been done in African countries to combat gender inequality, and this makes it less of an in-demand issue
- Gender research is not the issue; the problem is policy, the lack of action, and intrinsic behaviours
- It is not a high priority when compared to other social issues

> "The issue of access to different policy interventions, and their differentiated impact could still be important. But how to measure gender equality is something I am not comfortable with as it is done currently.– *Research/academia, Ethiopia*"

> "In corporate governance, research should be undertaken to determine the role and contribution of either gender in both public and private sector – *NGO, Kenya*"

> "The shortfall for the economy of Senegal due to the low involvement of women in decision-making/politics/policies etc. – *Multilateral/bilateral, Senegal*"

> "Studies that are related to female entrepreneurs and the challenges they face in the industry. I am interested in research that intends to tackle this issues. – *Private Sector/industry association, Ethiopia*"

> "The people do not see it to be a major issue – *Media, Ghana*"

> "Because our culture and civilization does not teach us this – *Private sector/industry association, Senegal*"

> "There is a lot of research which has been done on Gender. Evidence is not a problem for gender, but rather action and policy – *Research/academia, Ethiopia*"

> "It is not a big issue in Ghana like in the western world – *Private sector/industry association, Ghana*"

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Type, Accessibility, Format

Accessibility of Information

Africa Level

- Over the past eight years, the ease of obtaining information related to policy making has increased for most issues. Roughly half of stakeholders report that finding information on the SDGs, education, and gender issues is "easy," while roughly a third report the same for natural resources and agriculture/food security.
- When cross-examining the ease of finding information versus the types of information required, it becomes clear that overall, information that stakeholders deem to be of highest value is also relatively easier to obtain. The only exception is information on agriculture / food security, which is considered highly important, but less easy to obtain than most other issues.

Stakeholder Level

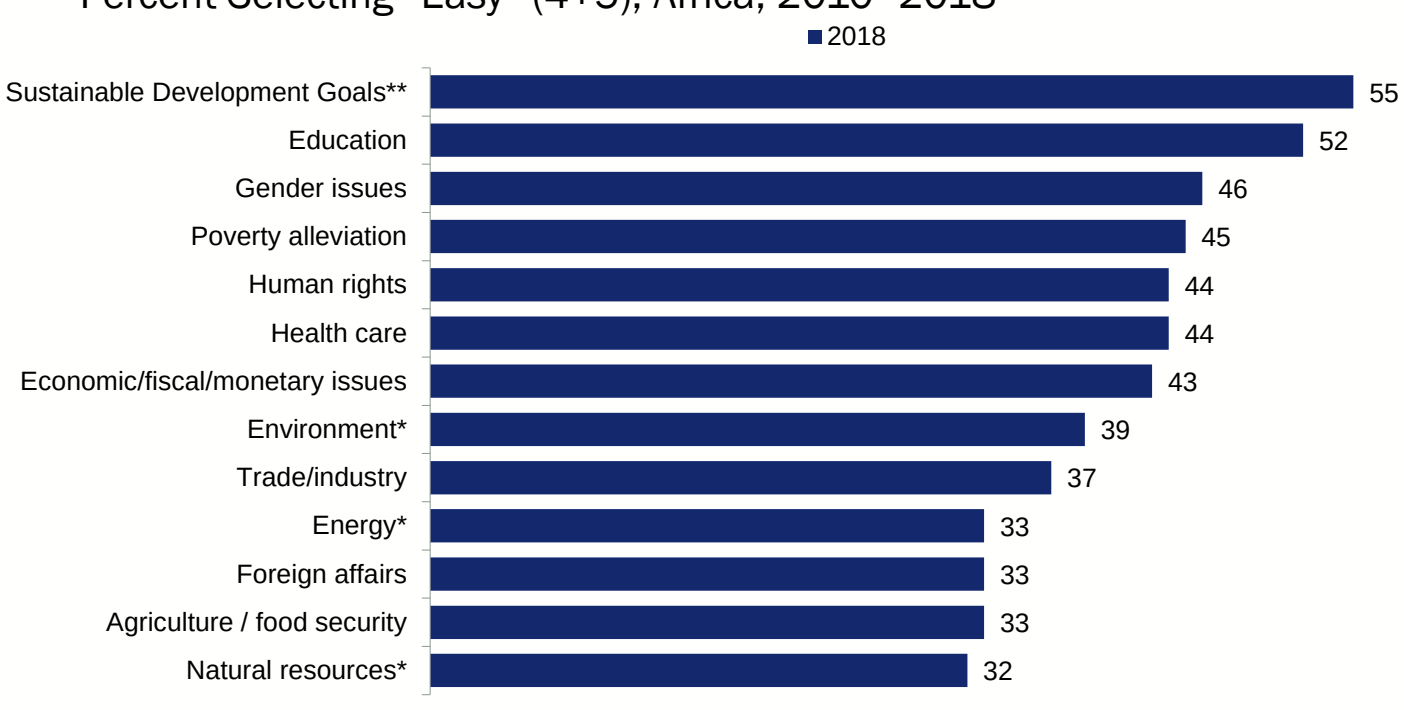
- Relative to 2013, information on human rights appears to be far more accessible to stakeholders from the private sector and multilaterals/bilaterals. Similarly, those from NGOs and multilaterals/bilaterals report that it is far easier now to obtain information on gender issues. Meanwhile, government stakeholders find that information on education is easiest to acquire.

Country Level

- The ease of obtaining information varies somewhat at the country level, with stakeholders from Kenya finding it easier to obtain information on agriculture/food security and poverty, while stakeholders from Rwanda are more likely to easily find information on gender issues and healthcare.

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Percent Selecting "Easy" (4+5), Africa, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Sustainable Development Goals**	NA	NA
Education	51	45
Gender issues	38	32
Poverty alleviation	37	32
Human rights	39	24
Health care	40	38
Economic/fiscal/monetary issues	37	41
Environment*	36	NA
Trade/industry	33	32
Energy*	25	NA
Foreign affairs	35	28
Agriculture / food security	39	34
Natural resources*	28	NA

Information on the SDGs are more likely to be considered "easy" to obtain by stakeholders from NGOs, research/academia and media, and least "easy" among those from the private sector and elected government.

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=100–279 in 2010, *n*=133–281 in 2013, *n*=72–182 in 2018)

"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (26% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.

** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018

Top mention
Second mention

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
SDGs**	55	-	-	15	-	-	47	-	-	61	-	-	58	-	-	71	-	-	47	-	-	61	-	-
Education	52	51	45	67	69	48	52	50	64	57	42	45	50	68	43	53	45	39	27	29	38	55	60	38
Gender issues	46	38	33	50	64	24	39	35	33	44	35	52	55	32	24	58	33	33	42	20	31	34	44	28
Poverty alleviation	45	37	32	31	41	32	30	23	44	53	39	36	53	57	31	53	34	22	33	24	32	49	43	29
Human rights	44	39	24	50	61	21	35	40	38	39	33	23	56	35	13	47	37	22	58	19	21	33	44	22
Health care	44	40	38	23	50	26	35	35	54	47	35	30	55	55	37	50	49	35	31	30	35	55	29	45
Economic/fiscal issues	43	37	41	65	42	26	38	40	58	48	26	32	29	54	57	38	39	26	41	28	40	44	33	38
Environment*	39	36	26	45	40	26	20	35	22	53	40	32	27	36	26	46	25	32	32	32	14	44	41	29
Trade/industry	37	33	32	54	32	33	13	39	45	65	29	28	18	33	33	62	22	21	28	28	29	27	40	27
Agriculture / food security	33	39	33	41	55	33	29	47	50	41	35	37	15	41	23	38	38	21	22	24	23	37	38	35
Foreign affairs	33	35	28	43	31	15	15	50	36	21	29	41	50	50	20	27	15	30	50	26	20	45	38	10
Energy*	33	25	26	45	24	26	25	32	22	36	20	32	18	6	26	40	19	32	35	38	14	31	23	29
Natural resources*	32	28	26	38	24	26	19	31	22	44	30	32	20	25	26	45	30	32	17	40	14	38	19	29

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=100–279 in 2010, *n*=133–281 in 2013, *n*=72–182 in 2018)
"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (26% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.
** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

GLOBESCAN

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Top mention

Second mention

	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
SDGs**	55	-	-	36	-	-	63†	-	-	78	-	-	33	-	-	89†	-	-	50	-	-	56	-	-	59	-	-
Education	52	51	45	44	33	48	36	44	19	67	76	79	32	59	27	67	71	58	60	35	38	70	54	44	43	52	40
Gender issues	46	38	33	23	27	22	47	50	15	62	56	18	31	48	11	82	59	57	29	14	11†	63	28	40	43	28	44
Poverty alleviation	45	37	32	27	20	29	20	28	13	78	50	32	13	50	14	82	56	43	52	37	35	43	36	26	48	44	50
Human rights	44	39	24	31	6	13	38	30	12	44	68	28	31	58	19	50	36	27	62	20	20	60	26	25	38	42	53
Health care	44	40	38	33	31	50	58	56	22	50	63	47	23	57	20	73	60	35	55	24	7	36	29	45	25	40	30
Economic/fiscal issues	43	37	41	29	12	39	45	45	33	35	74	55	50	55	28	33	52	33	41	27	30	52	30	44	55	36	50
Environment*	39	36	26	29	19	24	47	41	21	50	43	31	17	60	19	56†	43†	44	40	42	9	50	36	32	33	23	11
Trade/industry	37	33	32	33	10	53	40	32	10	41	72	52	29	50	19	33†	57	50	50	26	-	46	38	22	16	29	42
Agriculture / food security	33	39	33	12	24	30	22	42	17	78	43	35	29	43	19	40	57	28	39	50	39	29	38	42	25	31	16
Foreign affairs	33	35	28	31	67†	40†	33†	38	23	38†	58	27	0†	38	19	38†	33†	38	40	25	20†	25†	27	14†	45	28	67†
Energy*	33	25	26	40	17	24	33†	27	21	31	47	31	14	24	19	50†	25†	44	43	22	9	44	32	32	19	36	11
Natural resources*	32	28	26	24	20	24	30	26	21	50	45	31	27	35	19	44†	33†	44	40	32	9	25	30	32	22	21	11

Subsample: Those who require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=3–32 in 2010, *n*=3–35 in 2013, *n*=2–33 in 2018)

- "Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.
- ** "Sustainable Development Goals" were added as a new metric in 2018

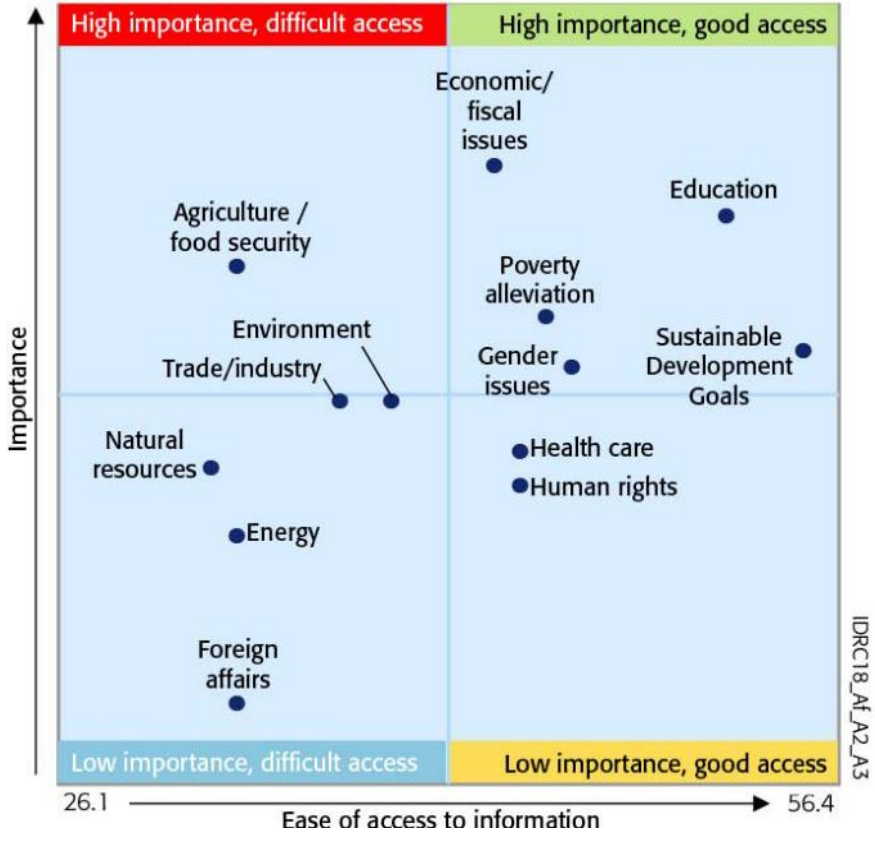
† Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (*n*<10).

Importance vs Ease of Access to Information

Total Mentions of Information Topic vs Respondents Selecting “Easy” (4+5), Africa, 2018

Overall, the information that respondents require the most for their work in national policy tends to be the information that is most easily obtainable.

However, information on agriculture and food security, a topic of relatively high importance, is relatively less easy to obtain than most other issues.



Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Type, Accessibility, Format

Preferred Format of Information

Africa Level

- Websites, email, and print remain the most useful formats for receiving information for national policy development. However, interest in these formats has declined somewhat for all three (particularly print), in favour of social media. One in four – up from 9% in 2010 – now see this as one of the most useful formats for receiving information.

Stakeholder Level

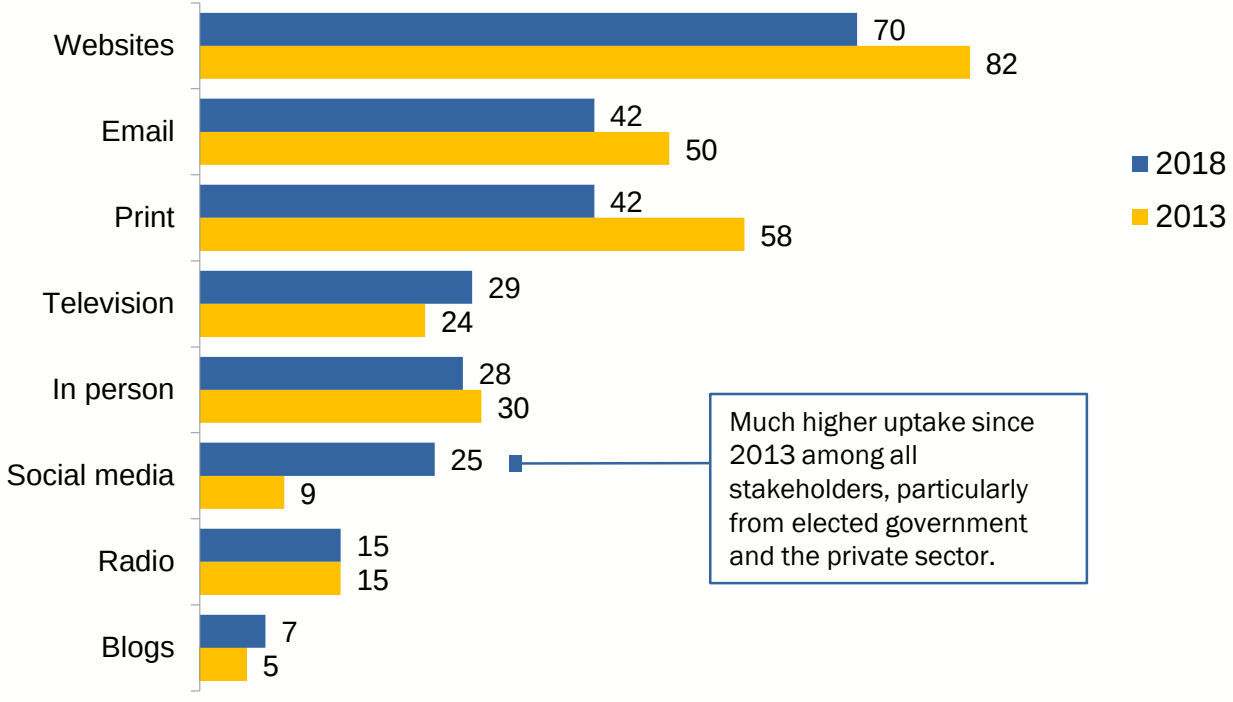
- Stakeholders from the private sector are more likely to find that information from television and social media is useful for policy development, while those from NGOs and research/academia are more likely to favour websites and email, respectively. Respondents from media have a generally balanced view of most formats, aside from blogs, which nearly all stakeholders consider to be least useful.

Country Level

- Traditional media such as radio is more likely to be preferred by stakeholders in Ghana, while personal contact is more likely to be considered useful by stakeholders in Kenya and Nigeria. However, stakeholders from Nigeria are also more likely to find social media useful, while stakeholders in Kenya view this format as least useful.

Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, Africa, 2013–2018



Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Elected government		Non-elected government		Media		Multilateral/ bilateral		NGO		Private sector		Research/ academia	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Websites	70	82	57	73	65	86	65	65	67	83	80	81	71	85	74	91
Print	42	58	41	54	46	59	27	55	44	64	43	65	32	46	51	61
Email	42	50	27	56	37	46	35	49	37	52	52	42	39	56	54	51
Television	29	24	32	37	28	30	35	25	33	5	15	21	46	20	22	27
In person (face to face or telephone)	28	30	30	29	26	27	35	35	33	40	30	29	20	30	26	25
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	25	9	32	2	17	6	22	13	22	10	27	18	39	8	18	8
Radio	15	15	5	24	24	14	24	33	11	5	20	18	15	10	9	8
Blogs	7	5	11	2	4	3	8	7	7	10	12	5	3	3	4	8

Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Country, Africa, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Ethiopia		Ghana		Kenya		Nigeria		Rwanda		Senegal		Tanzania		Uganda	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Websites	70	82	78	68	64	84	83	88	49	78	85	80	80	91	56	83	67	65
Print	42	58	60	73	33	65	55	70	26	27	26	50	40	27	44	88	47	48
Email	42	50	53	38	38	49	40	58	53	39	18	38	49	57	31	63	53	48
Television	29	24	16	23	43	27	12	13	44	56	28	13	36	18	29	15	26	18
In person (face to face or telephone)	28	30	24	28	26	22	43	25	40	20	28	35	33	52	16	15	12	48
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	25	9	16	13	21	3	10	8	49	17	33	10	16	7	33	10	26	5
Radio	15	15	7	20	38	41	14	3	9	24	23	25	11	14	11	7	12	10
Blogs	7	5	9	0	2	0	10	13	2	15	10	10	4	0	11	7	5	0

Initiative Think tank

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Source and Quality

GLOBESCAN

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Source and Quality

Preferred Source of Information

Africa Level

- As in 2013, stakeholders rely heavily on reports and publications to increase their understanding of national policy development. Conferences/events and discussion with colleagues/peers are also relied on by the majority of stakeholders, despite a slight decrease in reported use. Policy briefs are used by half of respondents.
- Just over half of respondents (55%) report that they use databases and statistical data banks to increase their understanding of national policy; however, this is a considerable drop from 2013 where nearly three in four (73%) reported the same.
- Newsletters and books are the two sources selected least by nearly all stakeholders.

Stakeholder Level

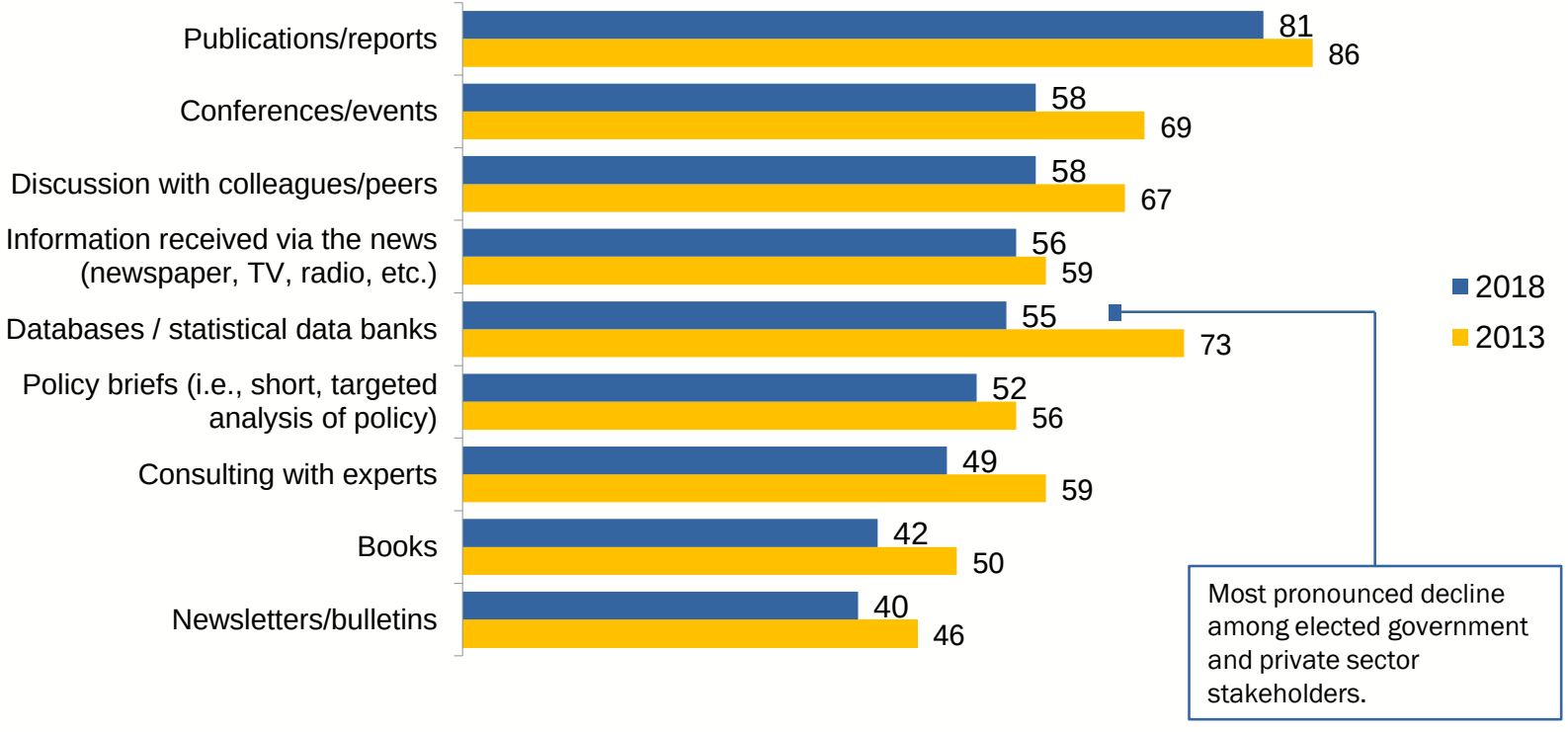
- NGOs and those from multilateral/bilateral organizations and elected government, are most likely to utilize policy briefs, while stakeholders from media, and research/academia are more likely to have a preference for conferences/events to bolster their understanding of national policy development.

Country Level

- Information received via mainstream news (e.g., newspapers, radio, TV) are favoured more by stakeholders from Nigeria and Senegal, while respondents in Kenya have an above-average interest in consulting with experts to gain knowledge on national policy development.
- Stakeholders in Ethiopia have an above average interest in databases and statistical data banks, while stakeholders in Uganda are more likely to turn to their colleagues/peers to increase their understanding of national policy development.

Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Africa, 2013–2018



Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Elected government		Non-elected government		Media		Multilateral/ bilateral		NGO		Private sector		Research/ academia	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Publications/reports	81	86	78	88	85	86	70	87	78	83	90	85	73	79	85	91
Discussion with colleagues/peers	58	67	49	63	57	69	51	60	67	74	63	68	56	62	63	73
Conferences/events	58	69	49	73	48	69	68	80	63	64	67	66	42	64	68	66
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)	56	59	51	66	50	56	68	75	63	52	63	66	54	54	50	51
Databases / statistical data banks	55	73	41	68	61	75	49	60	52	76	58	66	44	74	68	84
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)	52	56	57	46	50	58	49	47	70	69	60	52	36	59	51	58
Consulting with experts	49	59	38	61	50	61	49	62	56	64	58	61	39	59	53	52
Books	42	50	46	49	39	51	32	42	33	45	50	42	37	54	47	60
Newsletters/bulletins	40	46	46	34	39	48	49	49	33	40	38	50	34	52	44	44

Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, Africa, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Ethiopia		Ghana		Kenya		Nigeria		Rwanda		Senegal		Tanzania		Uganda	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Publications/reports	81	86	89	90	74	78	88	85	67	71	85	93	93	84	69	100	81	88
Discussion with colleagues/peers	58	67	60	60	52	78	62	83	65	34	54	60	69	73	36	63	70	83
Conferences/events	58	69	64	65	50	76	64	75	63	54	41	60	62	84	51	73	67	78
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)	56	59	42	45	57	76	50	80	72	49	44	70	67	66	51	68	65	65
Databases / statistical data banks	55	73	71	70	48	76	69	78	63	76	46	68	69	82	29	54	44	73
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)	52	56	56	65	50	62	57	53	58	39	31	58	64	66	36	71	60	70
Consulting with experts	49	59	53	63	50	86	69	58	53	39	33	33	56	59	22	76	56	60
Books	42	50	47	38	36	41	55	45	44	39	46	43	40	59	31	76	40	55
Newsletters/bulletins	40	46	40	43	38	59	45	55	44	49	28	25	47	59	51	34	28	53

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Source and Quality

Preferred Organizations for Research-Based Evidence

Africa Level

- As in previous waves of this study, relevant government ministries/agencies are the most preferred institutions that stakeholders turn to when they require information related to social and economic policies.
- Government-owned research institutes and international agencies are also selected as a primary source by half of all stakeholders.
- National and international think tanks trail only slightly behind, with roughly four out of ten stakeholders reporting that each is a “primary source.”
- Relevance and quality of research are the top two reasons why stakeholders consider an organization their primary source of information. As in previous years, lack of familiarity is the main reason why some stakeholders never use national think tanks when looking for research-based evidence.

Stakeholder Level

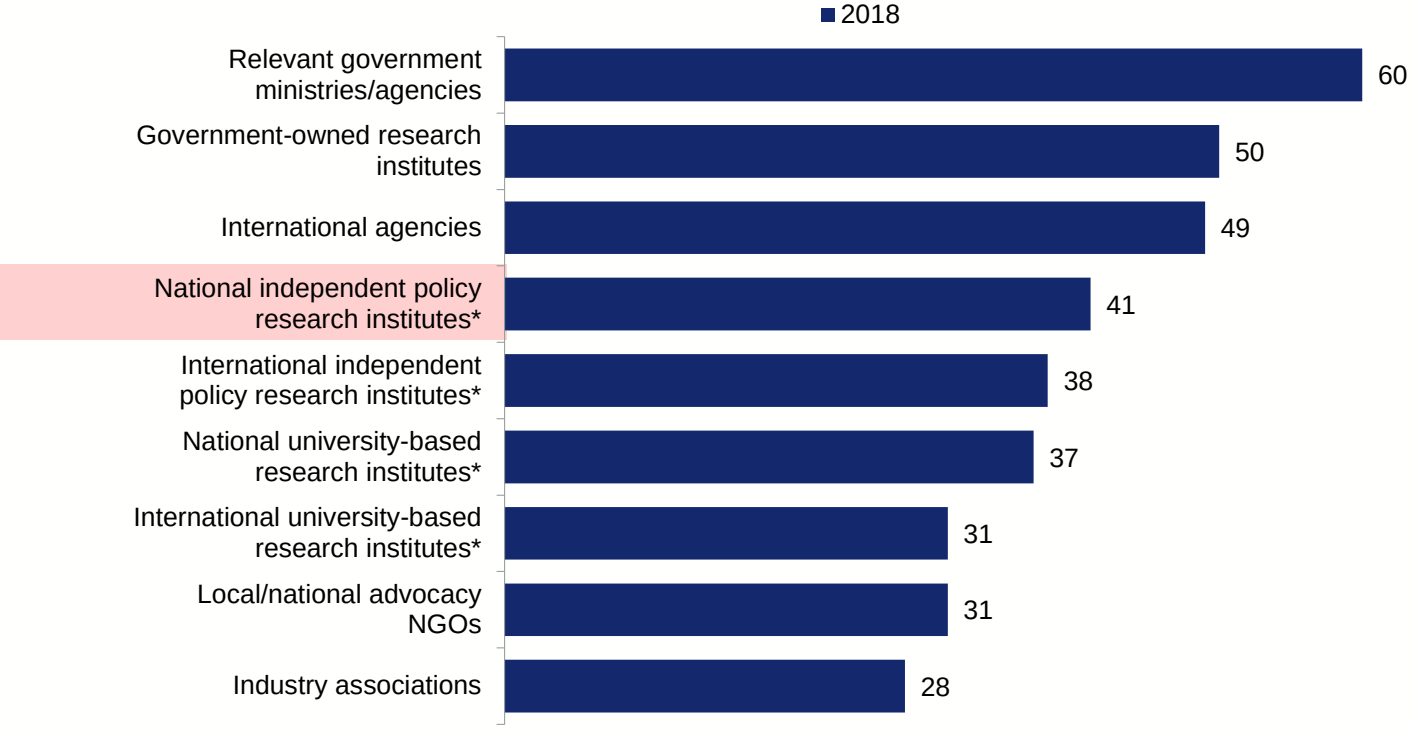
- Both elected and non-elected government officials look inwards and heavily rely on relevant government ministries/agencies and government-owned research institutes for information on social and economic policies. Government stakeholders are also least likely to report that they use national think tanks (<30%) as a “primary source,” whereas stakeholders from the media, NGOs, and research/academia report a much higher usage (>%50).

Country Level

- Stakeholders in Tanzania and Ghana are most likely to turn to national think tanks, while their counterparts in Nigeria and Uganda are least likely to do so.
- Unlike all other countries, respondents in Ghana are more likely to turn to national think tanks than relevant government ministries/agencies when they require research-based evidence.
- Members of the policy community in Ethiopia have an above-average preference for both national and international university-based research institutes when seeking information on social and economic policies.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), Africa, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Relevant government ministries/agencies	59	53
Government-owned research institutes	49	37
International agencies	44	50
National independent policy research institutes*	42	36
International independent policy research institutes*	35	36
National university-based research institutes*	34	38
International university-based research institutes*	26	38
Local/national advocacy NGOs	36	30
Industry associations	28	16

* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevant government ministries/agencies	60	59	53	76	73	50	67	75	70	65	53	46	44	60	50	67	56	52	44	52	52	59	51	42
Government-owned research institutes	50	49	37	62	46	39	59	72	53	59	49	26	33	36	36	43	48	32	31	38	24	59	47	41
International agencies	49	44	50	41	32	25	50	37	53	57	40	50	63	55	69	53	47	64	34	43	34	53	51	49
National independent policy research institutes*	41	42	36	27	39	25	22	39	29	51	45	43	37	40	48	57	40	41	31	34	28	53	51	41
International independent policy research institutes*	38	35	36	27	29	25	26	30	29	38	27	43	41	33	48	45	35	41	32	28	28	49	56	41
National university-based research institutes*	37	35	38	38	34	14	28	39	40	54	36	39	30	24	31	35	29	38	15	20	18	55	52	66
International university-based research institutes*	31	25	38	30	15	14	17	20	40	22	24	39	26	21	31	40	23	38	22	18	18	46	48	66
Local/national advocacy NGOs	31	36	30	14	39	25	22	28	22	65	45	43	26	29	33	48	52	53	24	31	16	22	29	22
Industry associations	28	27	16	24	32	8	17	25	14	46	31	35	22	21	10	25	18	10	41	39	25	23	26	13

* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevant government ministries/agencies	60	59	53	76	65	70	38	70	44	74	60	53	47	39	53	54	53	61	64	55	49	58	66	41	70	68	36
Government-owned research institutes	50	49	37	58	48	45	50	46	37	62	48	53	30	49	37	41	73	39	56	41	46	60	63	37	40	58	25
International agencies	49	44	50	56	53	60	52	46	49	50	25	67	51	44	50	31	38	48	51	45	57	53	49	27	47	55	55
National independent policy research institutes*	41	42	36	51	45	40	52	65	49	48	48	62	30	29	42	31	33	28	36	41	31	56	59	49	26	60	30
International independent policy research institutes*	38	35	36	58	38	40	43	41	49	36	18	62	42	41	42	26	40	28	36	45	31	42	44	49	21	28	30
National university-based research institutes*	37	35	38	51	33	58	48	41	46	31	28	47	21	29	38	31	40	33	36	25	31	44	66	46	35	45	45
International university-based research institutes*	31	25	38	40	25	58	36	30	46	36	18	47	23	37	31	26	18	33	27	18	31	36	39	46	26	28	45
Local/national advocacy NGOs	31	36	30	20	20	25	40	49	37	33	30	20	30	24	30	26	35	13	33	34	31	31	51	27	33	50	48
Industry associations	28	27	16	29	30	20	33	35	24	33	20	27	21	20	16	18	28	17	38	34	17	31	39	20	21	13	11

* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

Reasons for Turning to Specific Organization Mentioned, as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, by Organization Type, Africa, 2010–2018

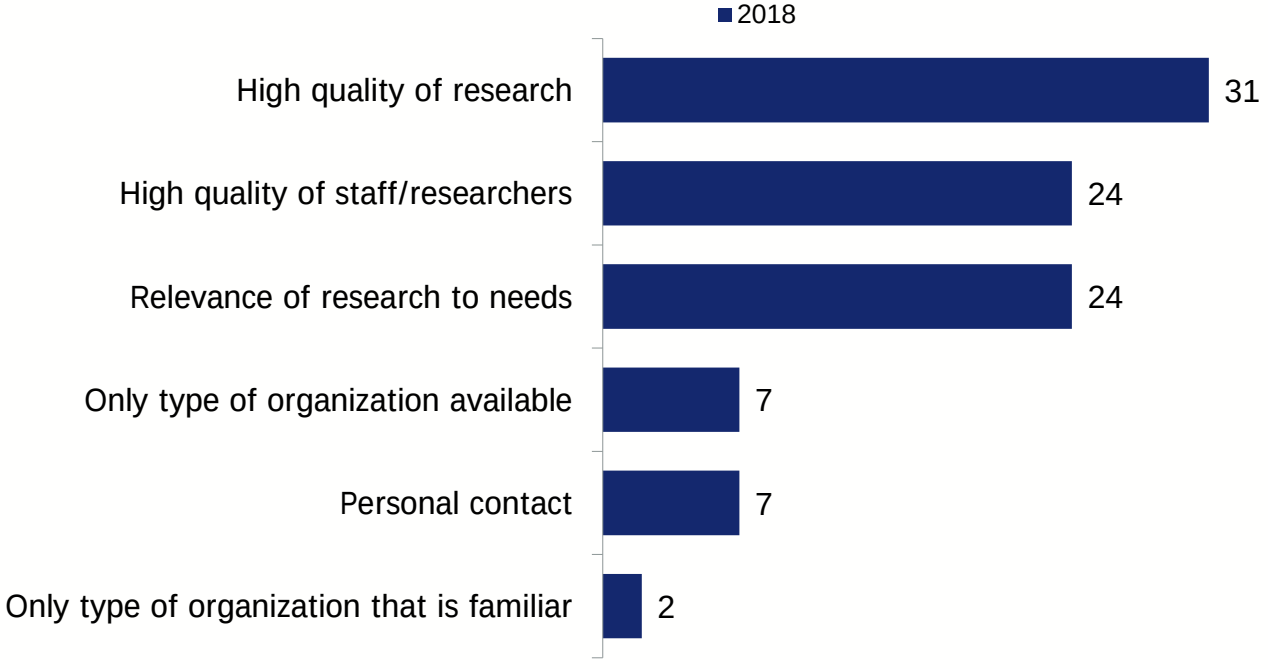
Top mention
Second mention

	Overall average			Government-owned research institutes (*n*=87)			National university-based research institutes (*n*=51)			International university-based research institutes (*n*=31)			National independent policy research institutes (*n*=54)			International independent policy research institutes (*n*=44)			Relevant government ministries/ agencies (*n*=90)			International agencies (*n*=52)			Local /national advocacy NGOs (*n*=37)			Industry associations (*n*=34)		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevance of research to needs	35	38	33	41	47	32	35	33	28	19	35	28	24	45	33	20	20	33	46	45	49	37	36	40	54	45	36	38	38	16
High quality of research	30	28	18	23	13	17	35	35	19	48	47	19	31	28	26	36	52	26	22	12	7	35	34	19	16	15	14	26	15	16
High quality of staff/researchers	15	13	12	14	13	14	22	18	16	16	14	16	24	16	10	18	18	10	4	6	6	17	13	9	14	11	14	3	10	-
Only type of organization that is familiar	2	7	5	6	10	5	0	4	6	0	2	6	2	6	3	2	2	3	6	7	4	0	8	1	3	12	10	3	8	5
Personal contact	8	6	8	5	6	7	4	5	7	6	0	7	7	0	2	7	3	2	9	15	11	4	2	6	5	8	10	21	10	16
Only type of organization available	4	5	9	3	7	13	2	3	4	0	2	4	7	1	10	5	2	10	9	11	7	2	3	8	3	6	2	3	13	21

Subsample: Those who say they use type of institute as a primary source of policy information (5 on 5-point scale) (*n*=19–140 in 2010, *n*= 39–143 in 2013, *n*=31–90 in 2018)

Reasons For Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, Africa, 2010–2018

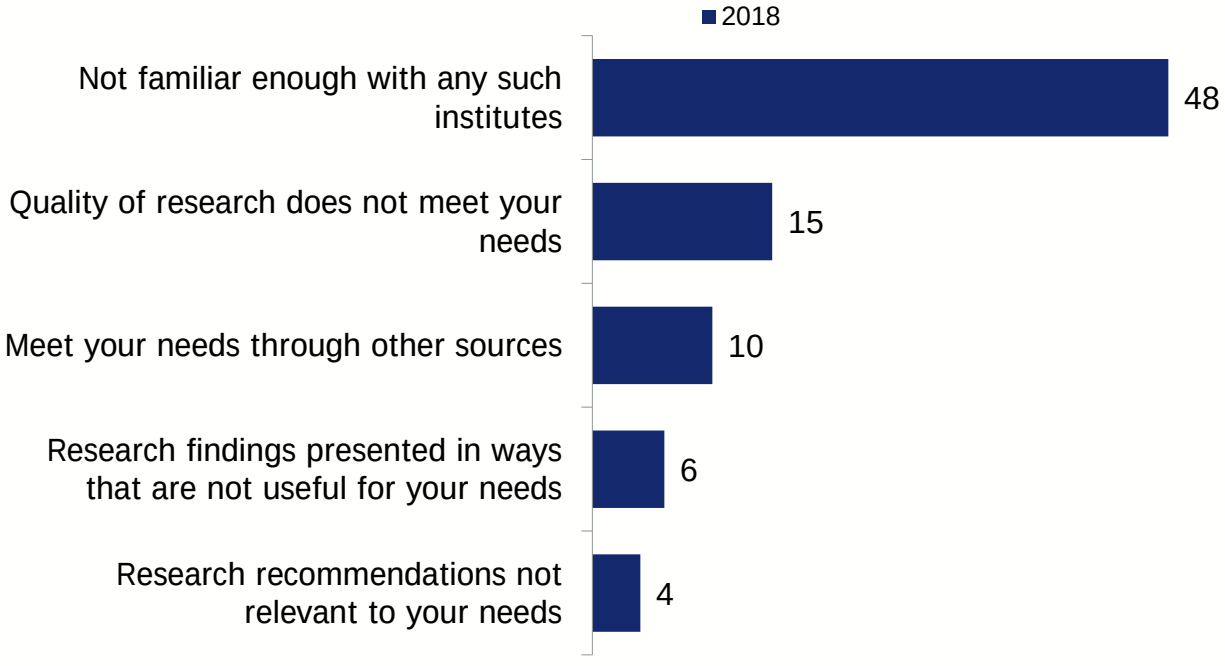


% Total Mentions	
2013	2010
28	26
16	10
45	33
1	10
0	2
6	3

Subsample: Those who have used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (*n*=58 for 2010, *n*=85 for 2013, *n*=54 for 2018)
Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart

Reasons for Not Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, Africa, 2010–2018



% Total Mentions	2013	2010
Not familiar enough with any such institutes	38	35
Quality of research does not meet your needs	14	13
Meet your needs through other sources	13	15
Research findings presented in ways that are not useful for your needs	9	10
Research recommendations not relevant to your needs	9	8

Subsample: Those who have never used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (*n=71* for 2010, *n*=56 for 2013, *n*=52 for 2018)
Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart

Information Required for Policy Making in Africa: Source and Quality

Quality Ratings of Organizations Providing Policy Information

Africa Level

- National think tanks tend to position well, being perceived as providing relatively good quality research.
- When looking strictly at quality of research, stakeholders give top marks to international university-based research institutes, with just over six out of ten rating them as "Excellent," a 10 percentage point increase from 2013. International agencies and international think tanks maintain a similarly high rating, with minimal change from the previous wave, while national think tanks follow slightly behind with just over half of stakeholders (54%) rating them as "Excellent." However, international think thanks and university-based research institutes are not used as frequently as other organizations, likely due to lower accessibility, familiarity, or relevance.
- Although government-owned research institutes and relevant government ministries are generally referred to most often for information on social and economic policies, their quality of research is moderate with about four out of ten stakeholders rating them as "Excellent."

Stakeholder Level

- Quality ratings of national think tanks are highest among those in research/academia and the media, and lowest among stakeholders from multilateral/bilateral organizations. Meanwhile, government stakeholders are most likely to give higher ratings to government-owned research institutes and much lower ratings to local/national advocacy NGOs.

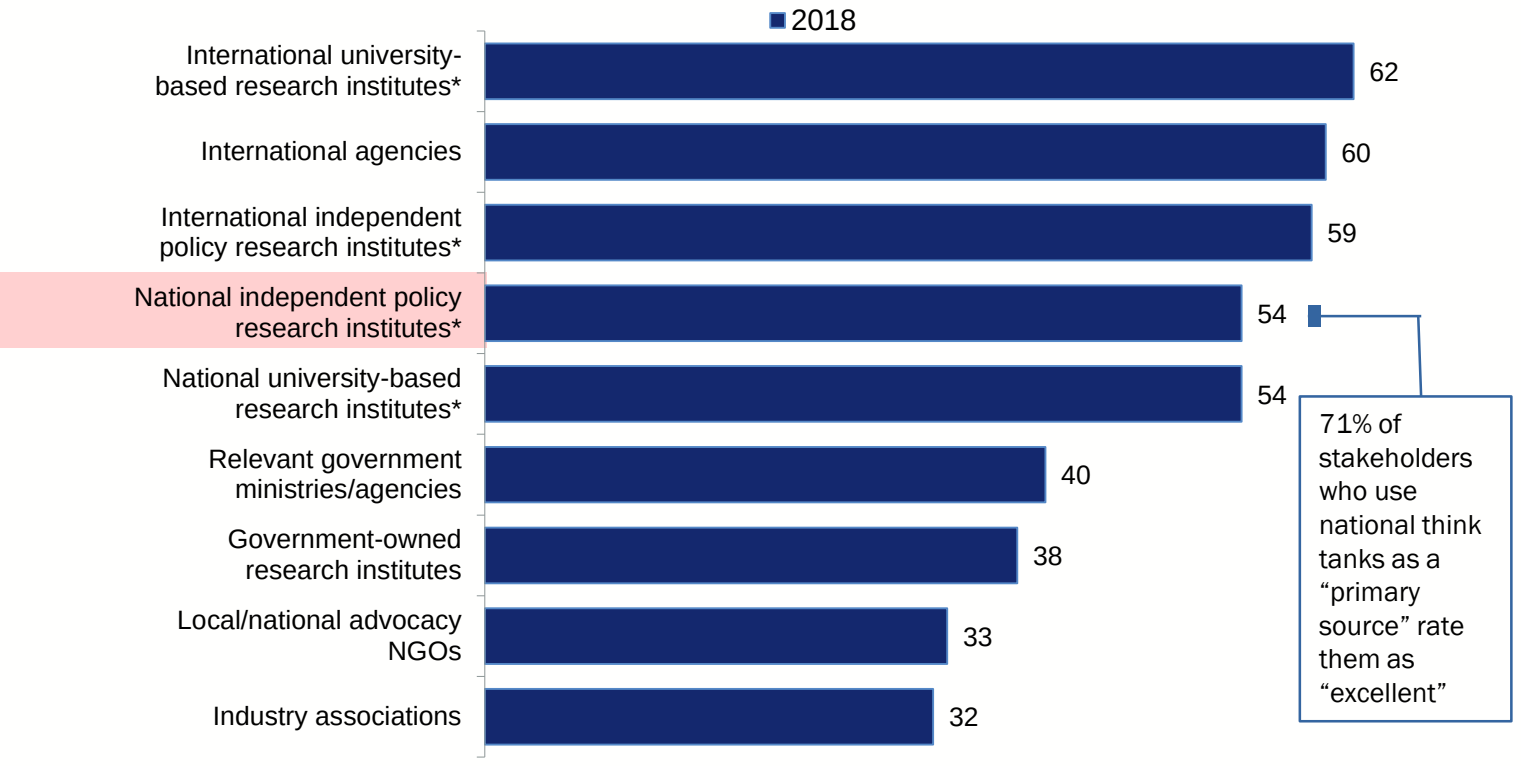
Country Level

- Stakeholders in Kenya are far more likely to give higher ratings of research quality to national think tanks and government-owned research institutes, while their peers in Nigeria are more likely to give the lowest ratings to these two organization types, and give above-average ratings to international agencies.
- Perceptions of quality of national think tanks could be improved in Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and Senegal.
- For national think tanks, perceptions at the country level follow a roughly linear pattern, where high perceptions of quality result in higher usage, and vice versa.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5), Africa, 2010–2018



% Total Mentions	
2013	2010
52	49
57	61
60	55
52	55
49	49
39	37
44	35
39	32
33	21

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=263–384 in 2010, *n*=273–380 in 2013, *n*=266–318)

*“Independent policy research institute” and “University-based research institute” were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into “International” and “National” options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability

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Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018

Top rating

Second rating

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
International university-based research institutes*	62	52	49	67	41	40	54	38	52	55	50	54	54	61	31	64	61	42	67	45	39	67	63	70
International agencies	60	57	61	56	56	52	56	63	49	76	60	73	62	62	80	58	52	68	62	58	52	59	54	58
International independent policy research institutes*	59	60	55	53	68	42	50	55	52	57	45	58	48	64	53	65	48	67	50	66	44	71	71	62
National independent policy research institutes*	54	52	55	42	55	42	50	49	52	62	44	58	38	41	53	57	58	67	45	51	44	65	58	62
National university-based research institutes*	54	49	49	52	59	40	43	51	52	52	47	54	46	39	31	60	60	42	44	31	39	66	54	70
Relevant government ministries/agencies	40	39	38	42	59	42	42	64	45	47	27	32	27	25	31	35	38	32	42	27	47	40	32	31
Government-owned research institutes	38	44	35	58	58	35	50	55	52	32	36	26	23	43	21	33	37	23	36	34	45	37	43	30
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	39	32	26	57	32	24	29	23	58	42	49	30	46	26	48	56	47	24	25	24	23	28	25
Industry associations	32	33	21	22	45	6	37	23	25	39	32	32	22	44	17	31	39	14	43	36	26	27	27	14

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (Total for 2010 *n*=18–93, total for 2013 *n*=22–73, total for 2018 *n*=18–73)

**"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey.

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Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Top rating
Second rating

	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
International university-based research institutes*	62	52	49	62	59	60	73	66	59	62	60	47	59	57	51	50	48	45	65	41	29	58	61	57	67	52	51
International agencies	60	58	61	55	64	50	60	63	59	68	61	63	80	58	78	43	47	58	50	50	64	61	63	42	64	58	59
International independent policy research institutes*	59	60	55	67	73	64	65	64	63	65	44	77	50	71	61	42	62	43	59	56	48	50	70	58	65	60	43
National independent policy research institutes*	54	52	55	53	53	64	58	71	63	71	56	77	36	43	61	45	40	43	53	54	48	59	67	58	50	52	43
National university-based research institutes*	54	49	49	54	40	60	64	70	59	62	43	47	32	43	51	42	61	45	43	47	29	62	67	57	62	49	51
Relevant government ministries/agencies	40	39	38	32	22	43	45	32	35	45	42	38	29	41	33	48	38	53	41	40	31	30	59	32	49	39	13
Government-owned research institutes	38	44	35	32	21	38	33	38	38	52	60	45	24	42	37	41	64	37	36	38	36	44	56	42	40	44	20
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	39	32	22	38	28	45	50	37	32	48	23	45	38	50	22	35	17	29	43	39	37	47	23	33	39	33
Industry associations	32	33	21	29	25	22	45	38	28	40	30	24	34	35	22	23	32	37	37	26	19	29	45	15	17	33	18

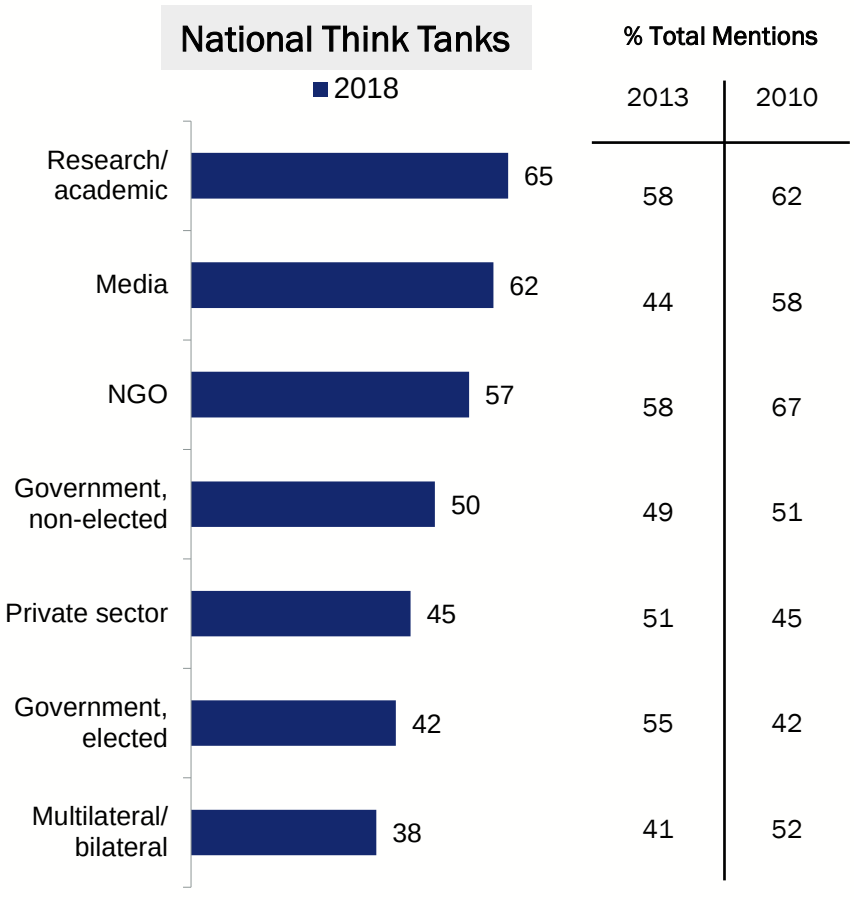
Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (Total for 2010 *n*=10–45, total for 2013 *n*=16–42, total for 2018 *n*=25–44)

***"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2010, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey.

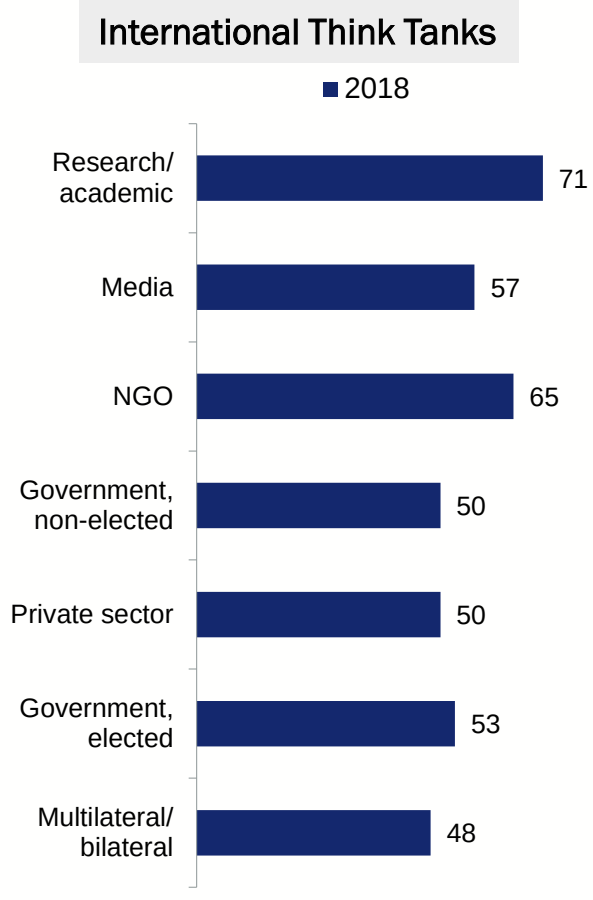
Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018



% Total Mentions	
2013	2010
58	62
44	58
58	67
49	51
51	45
55	42
41	52



% Total Mentions	
2013	2010
71	62
45	58
48	67
55	51
66	45
68	42
63	52

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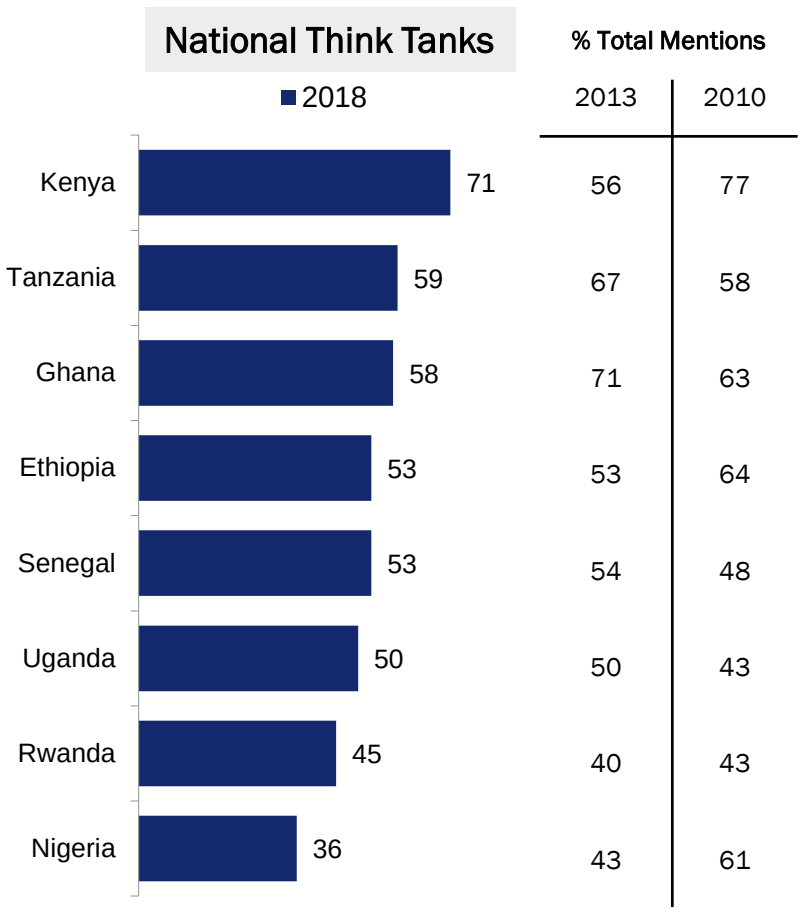
Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (*n*=24–90 in 2010, *n*=25–84 in 2013, *n*=24–72 in 2018)

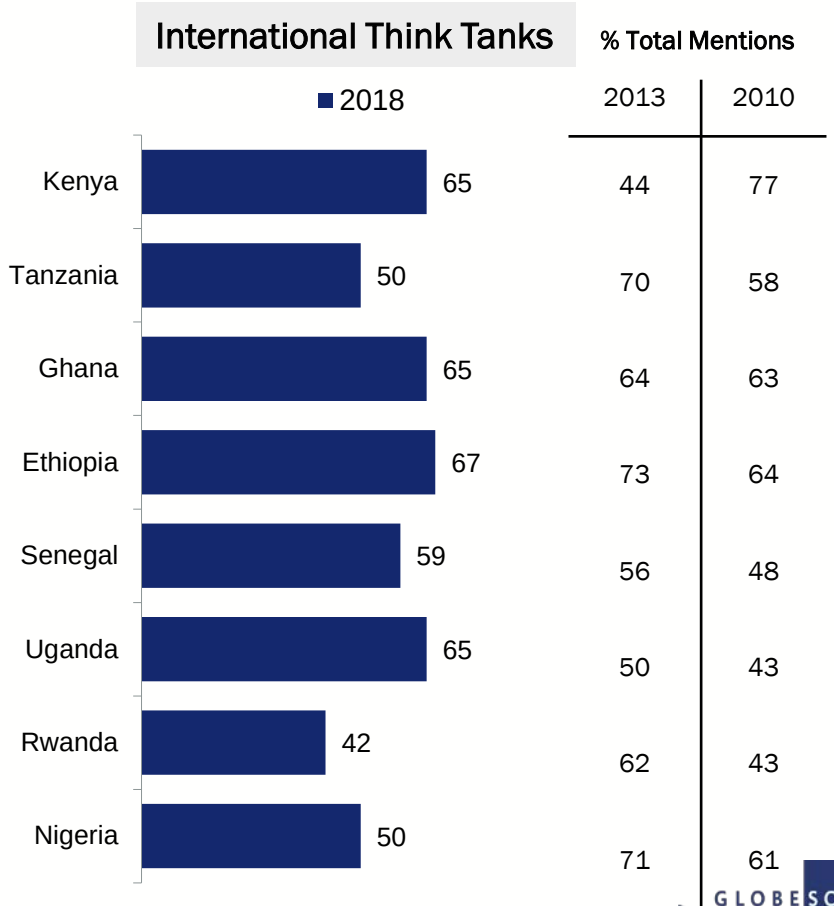
Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5), by Country, Africa, 2010–2018



National Think Tanks	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Kenya	56	77
Tanzania	67	58
Ghana	71	63
Ethiopia	53	64
Senegal	54	48
Uganda	50	43
Rwanda	40	43
Nigeria	43	61



International Think Tanks	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Kenya	44	77
Tanzania	70	58
Ghana	64	63
Ethiopia	73	64
Senegal	56	48
Uganda	50	43
Rwanda	62	43
Nigeria	71	61

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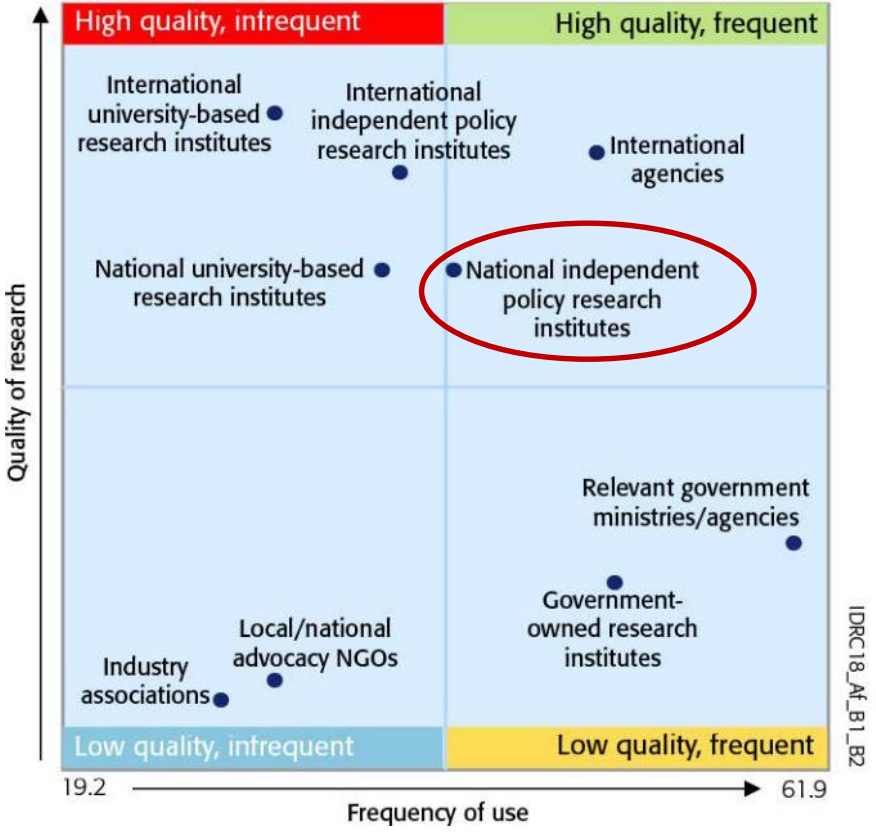
Subsample: Respondents who use Independent policy research institutes (2010 *n*=23–39; 2013 *n*=26–37; 2018 *n*=26–44)

Quality of Research vs Frequency of Use

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research "Excellent" (4+5) vs Use as a "Primary Source" (4+5), Africa, 2018

Although international university-based research institutes and international think tanks enjoy high ratings of research quality, they are used relatively less frequently than other sources. This may be due to lower familiarity, accessibility or relevance.

National think tanks are straddling middle ground – seen as good quality with good usage. A boost in their profile would like increase frequency of use as perceptions of quality are already good in many countries.



B2 Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=266–318)

Quality vs Frequency of Use of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research "Excellent" (4+5) vs Use as a "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, 2018

National Independent Think Tanks

International Independent Think Tanks

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B2 Subsample (*n*=283 for international independent think tanks, *n*=292 for national independent think tanks)

Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Familiarity with Think Tanks

- Respondents in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia are generally more familiar with the rated think tanks, while those in Nigeria and Rwanda are far less familiar. Stakeholders from Rwanda in particular are far less familiar with the think tanks tested relative to 2013, while familiarity with think tanks in Ethiopia has increased substantially over the same period.

Level of Interaction

- Overall, stakeholders who are familiar with the think tanks rated are most likely to see or hear them mentioned by a trusted colleague or contact, or encounter their work in the media at least every couple of months. About a third of respondents overall report that they interact with the think tanks through their websites at least every couple of months.
- Only a minority of respondents familiar with the rated think tanks read their annual reports or attend events organized on a regular basis.

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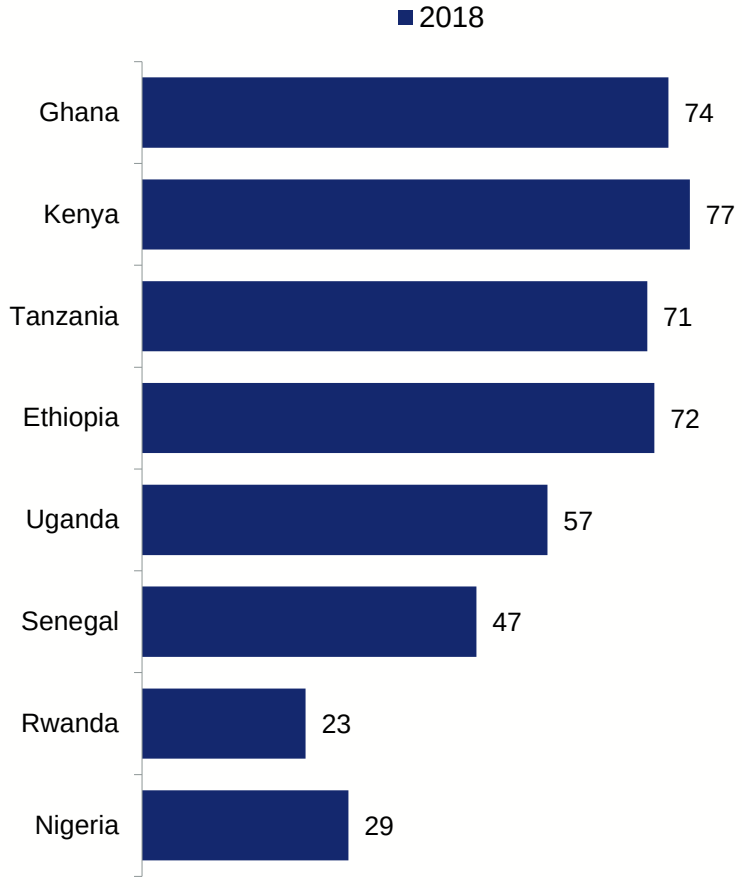
Familiarity with Prompted Think Tanks

Percent of Respondents “Familiar” (4+5) with Prompted Think Tanks, by Country, Africa, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Ghana	88	74
Kenya	71	59
Tanzania	68	63
Ethiopia	59	59
Uganda	55	49
Senegal	44	32
Rwanda	43	41
Nigeria	29	33

Number of Years Familiar with Think Tank's Work

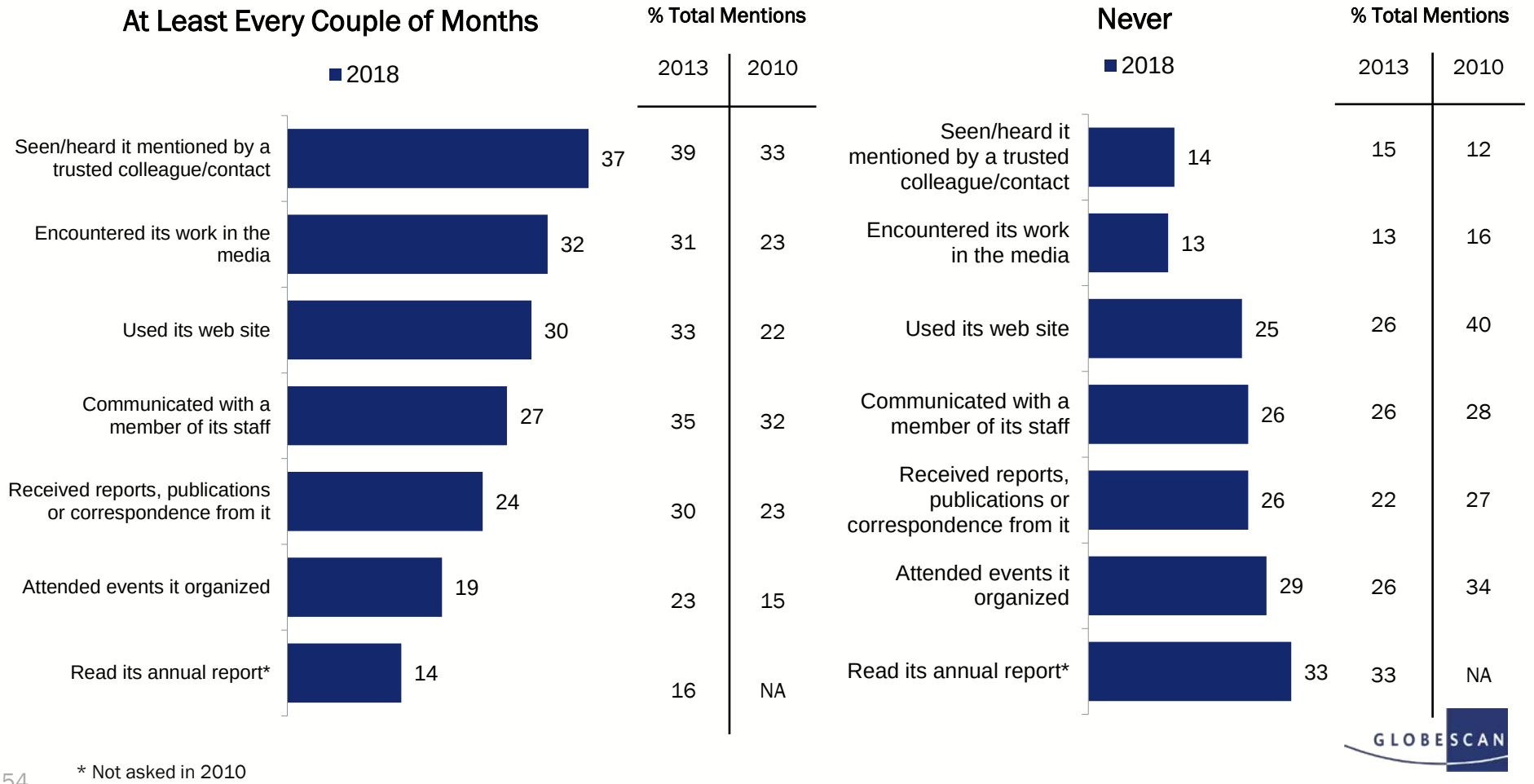
By Country, Africa, 2018

	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Nigeria	Rwanda	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
Less than one year	1	0	1	14	10	8	6	1
1 to less than 5 years	24	20	26	31	57	56	34	25
5 to less than 10 years	35	33	25	19	30	27	22	25
10 to less than 20 years	31	27	37	15	3	9	26	28
20 years or more	5	19	10	0	0	0	11	18

Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank
Table does not include those saying "don't know"

Frequency of Interaction with Think Tank via Various Channels

Average Responses Across All Rated Think Tanks, Africa, 2013–2018



* Not asked in 2010

Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Initiative Think tank

Africa – overall average*

- Overall, perceived performance across all think tanks tested has remained relatively stable since 2013, with performance on knowledge of policy-making rated highest along with quality of research. Having adequate infrastructure to function effectively and engaging in research on gender empowerment and women's equality are areas where perceived performance is considered lowest.

Ethiopia

- Perceived performance of think tanks in Ethiopia trail behind the Africa average on many attributes. On knowledge of policy-making processes, Ethiopian think tanks receive higher than average performance ratings, but fall behind the continental average on transparency, innovation in research, and making partnerships with non-government policy actors. Since 2013, perceived performance on quality of research and researchers has improved somewhat and is almost at par with the Africa average.

Ghana

- Think tanks in Ghana generally enjoy above-average performance ratings across most metrics despite a drop in perceptions on most measures since 2013. Quality of research and having a focus on high-priority issues are the two areas where performance is deemed highest, while its efforts toward gender equality/women's empowerment research and having adequate infrastructure are areas that receive the lowest performance scores.

Kenya

- The think tanks tested in Kenya are perceived to perform above average on nearly all metrics, particularly on the quality of researchers, where it scores highest and has improved notably since 2013. Other areas of notable improvement are having an innovative approach to research and the value of in-person events. Similar to most other countries, research on gender equality/women's empowerment is perceived to be its weakest performing area.

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*To view individual ratings of each think tank test, please refer to the companion document to this study titled, "Think Tank Fact Sheets – African Countries" for an overview of key performance measures on specific think tanks in each country.

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Initiative Think tank

Nigeria

- Perceived performance of think tanks tested in Nigeria is below average on all metrics and trailing behind ratings of previous years for most measures. The most pronounced negative gap with the Africa average relates to the value of in-person events and the quality of researchers and research. This may be partly due to the relatively low level of familiarity that respondents have with these think tanks.

Rwanda

- Think tank performance ratings in Rwanda vary considerably relative to previous years and are mostly below the Africa average. On regional knowledge, the think tanks enjoy above-average ratings and also score highly on knowledge of policy-making processes. However, stakeholders report that performance has slipped on clear communication of mission/programs and on having adequate infrastructure to function effectively. These results must be viewed with caution as the sample composition for Rwanda is not as balanced as in previous waves, with low representation from government stakeholders and a high proportion of feedback from those in the NGO and private sector.

Senegal

- On the whole, performance ratings of think tanks tested in Senegal align closely with the Africa average. However, metrics related to the quality of researchers, transparency, and the value of in-person events are areas where performance is above average, with notable improvement since 2013.

Tanzania

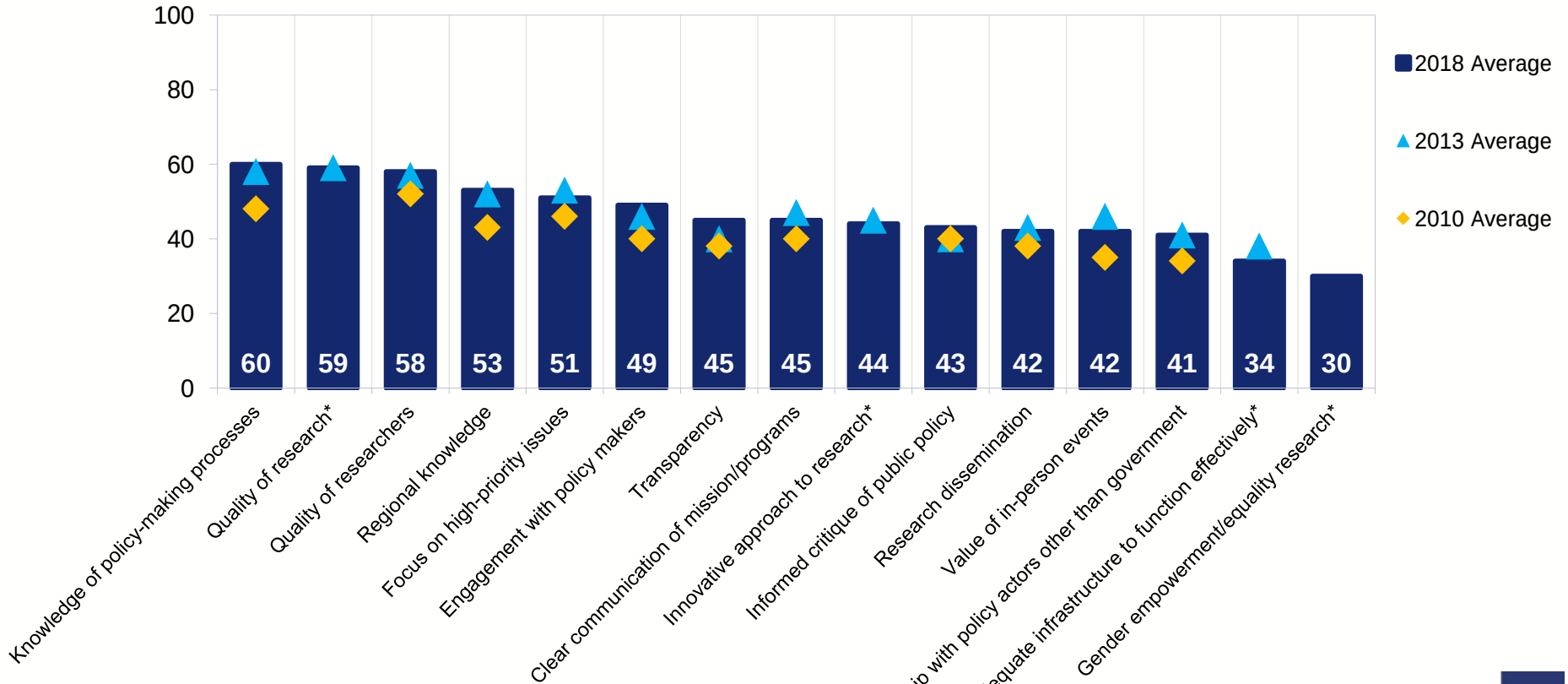
- Performance scores of think tanks in Tanzania are generally above the Africa average despite being slightly below 2013 ratings on most measures. Quality of research is one area where perceived performance is notably higher than in the previous wave. Think tanks tested in Tanzania also enjoy the highest positive ratings of performance on transparency relative to other countries. However, these findings must be viewed with caution the sample this wave is represented by a high proportion of elected government officials relative to previous waves.

Uganda

- Think tanks in Uganda score above the Africa average on most metrics, with performance perceived to be highest on knowledge of the policy-making process and quality of researchers. Performance on engagement with policy makers and gender empowerment/equality research is also fairly strong and higher than in all other countries.

Think Tank Performance

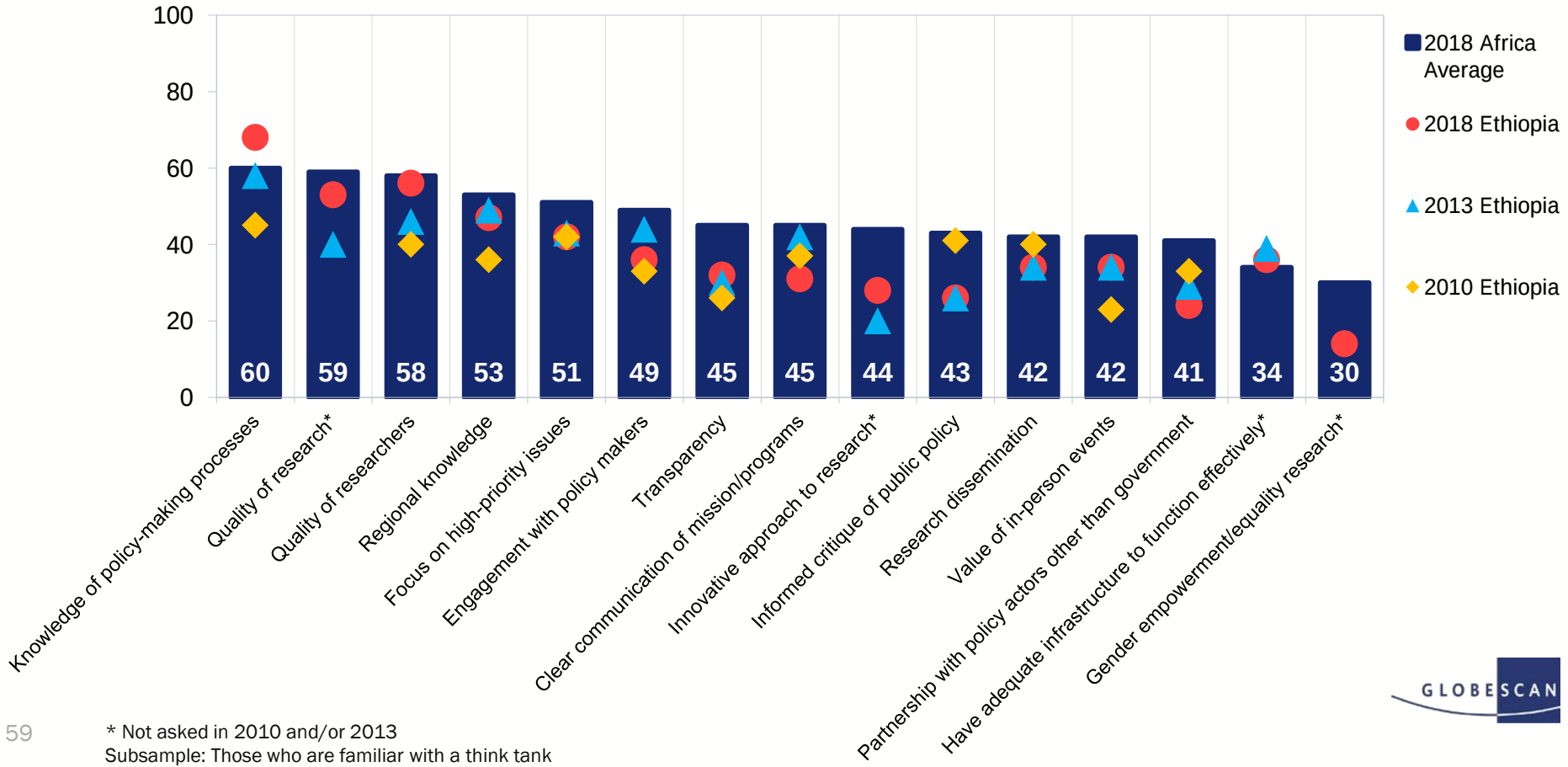
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Africa, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

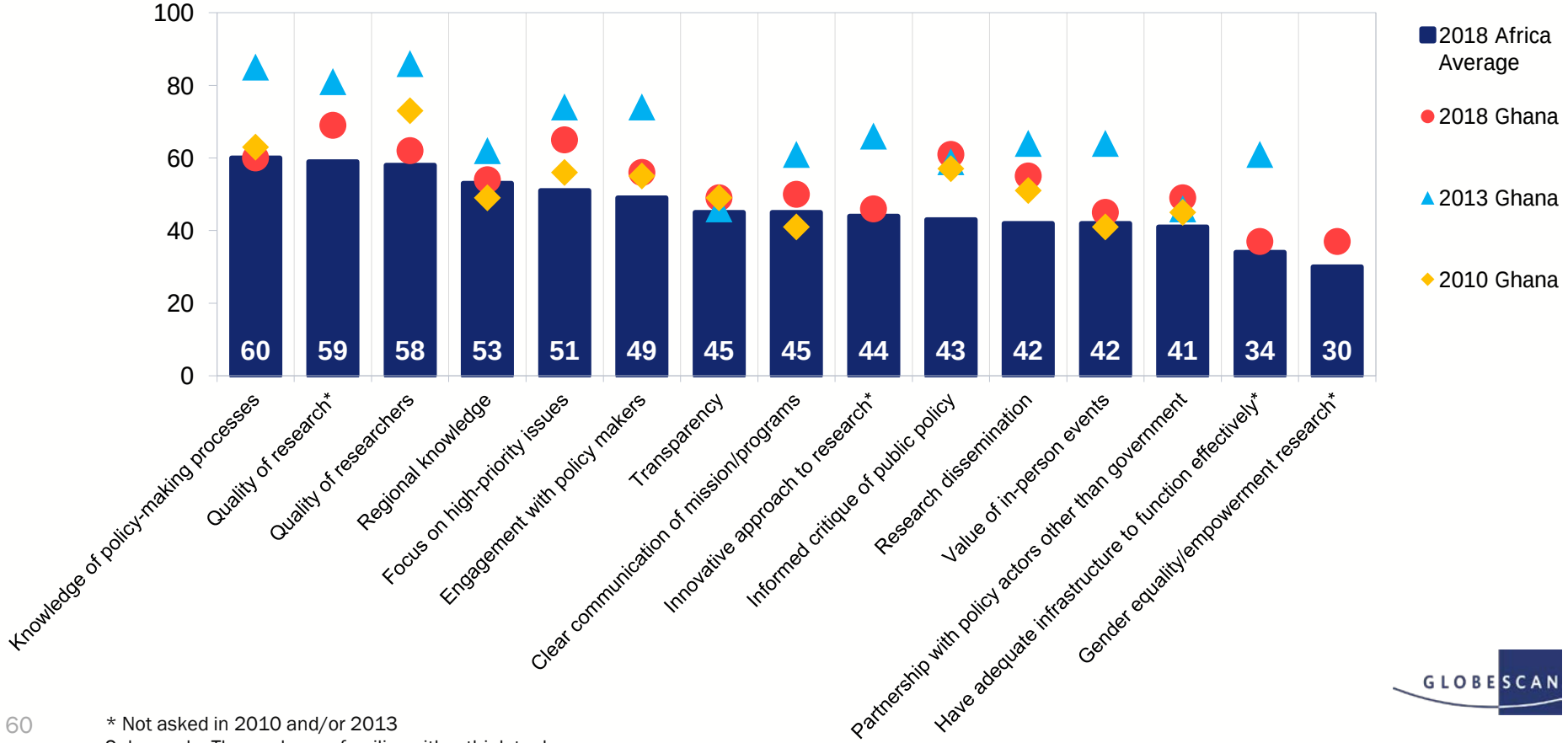
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Ethiopia, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

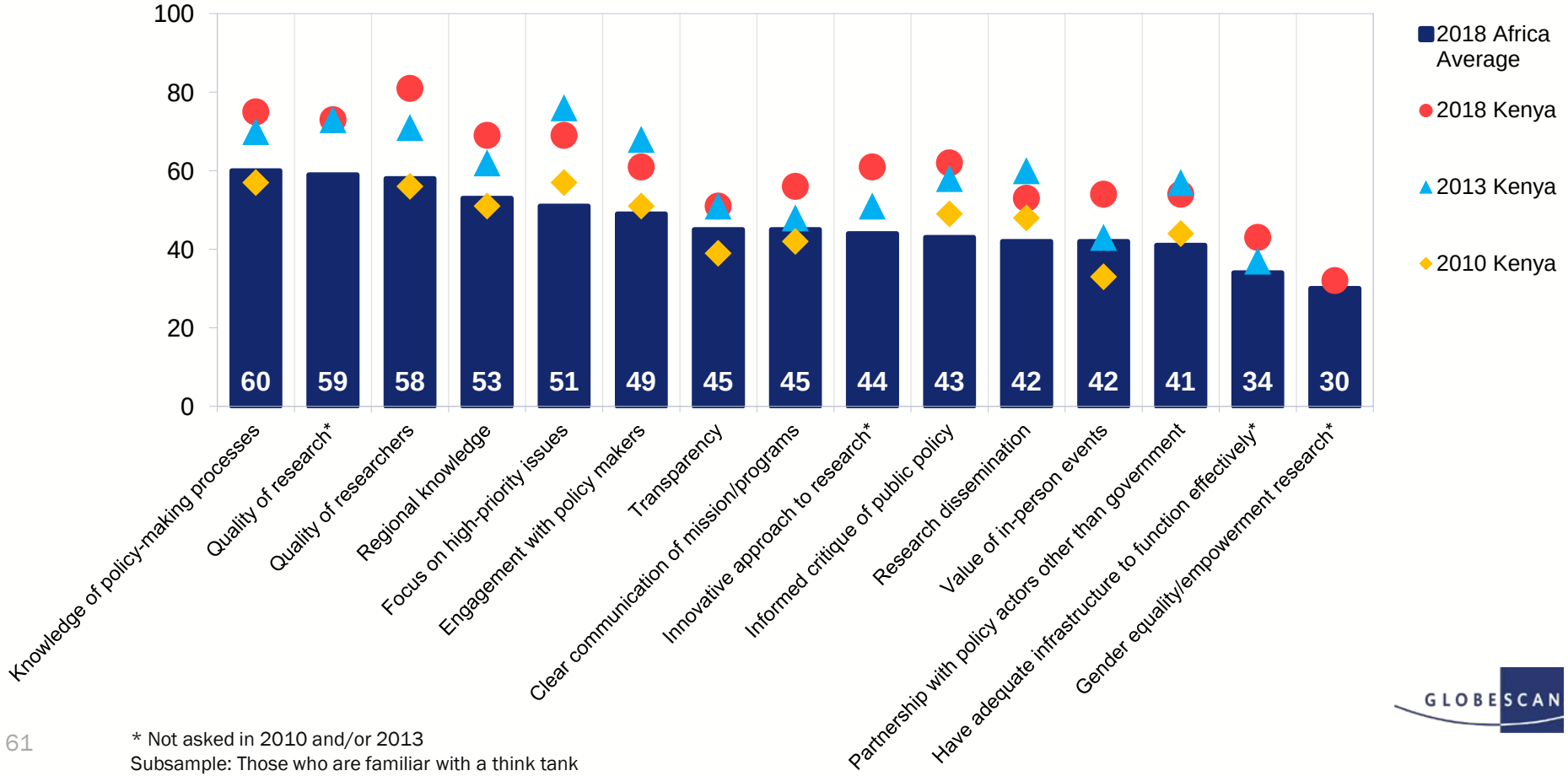
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Ghana, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

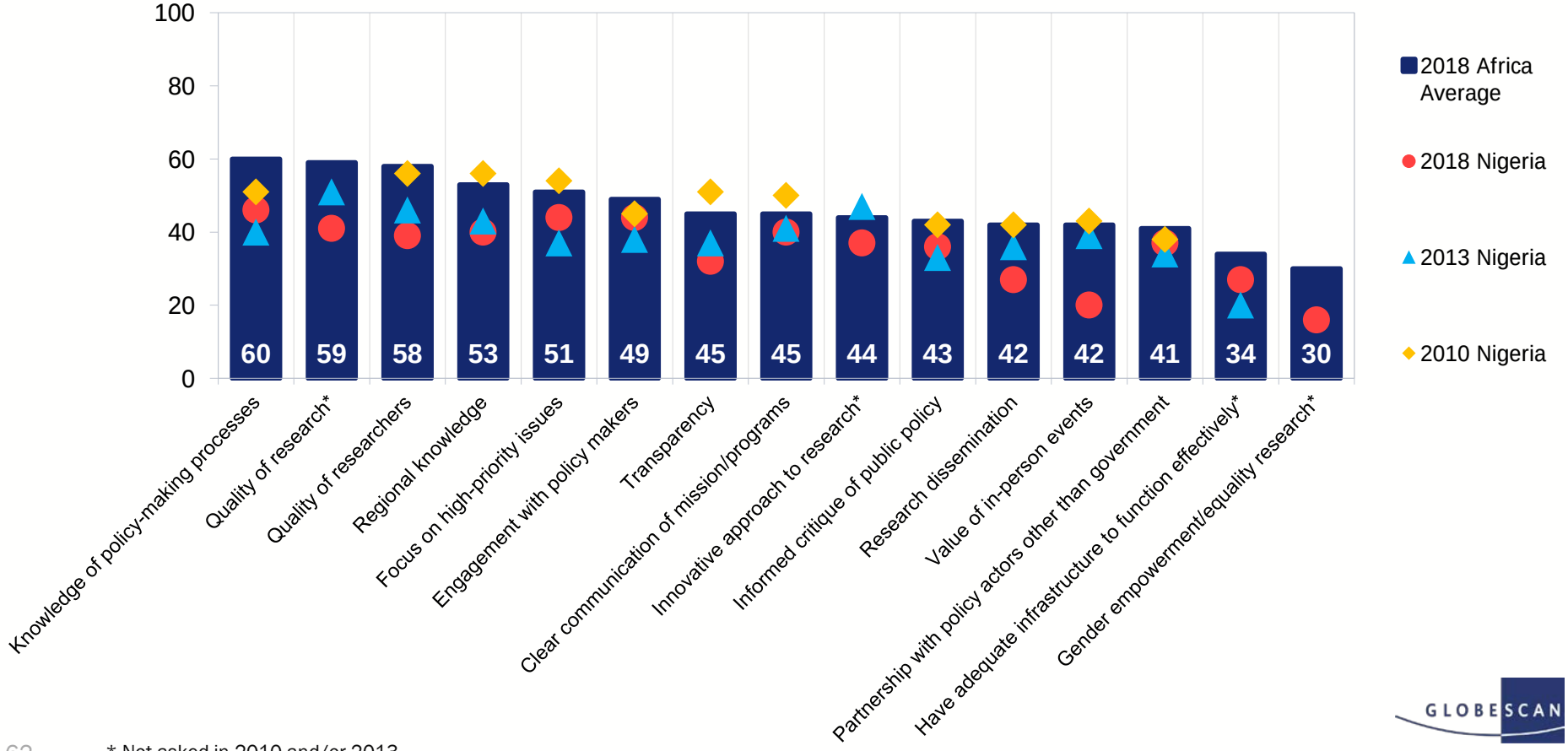
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Kenya, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

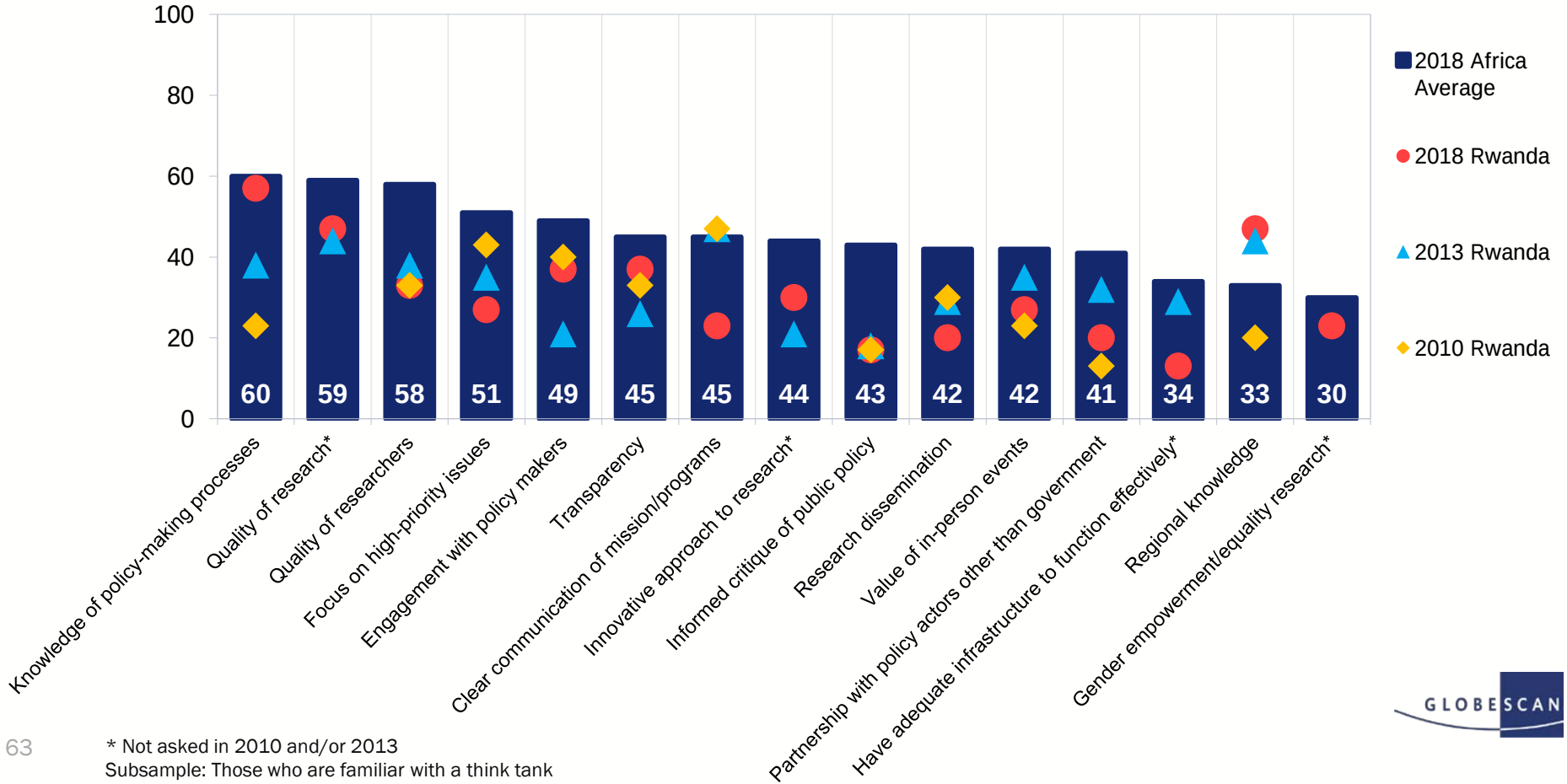
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Nigeria, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

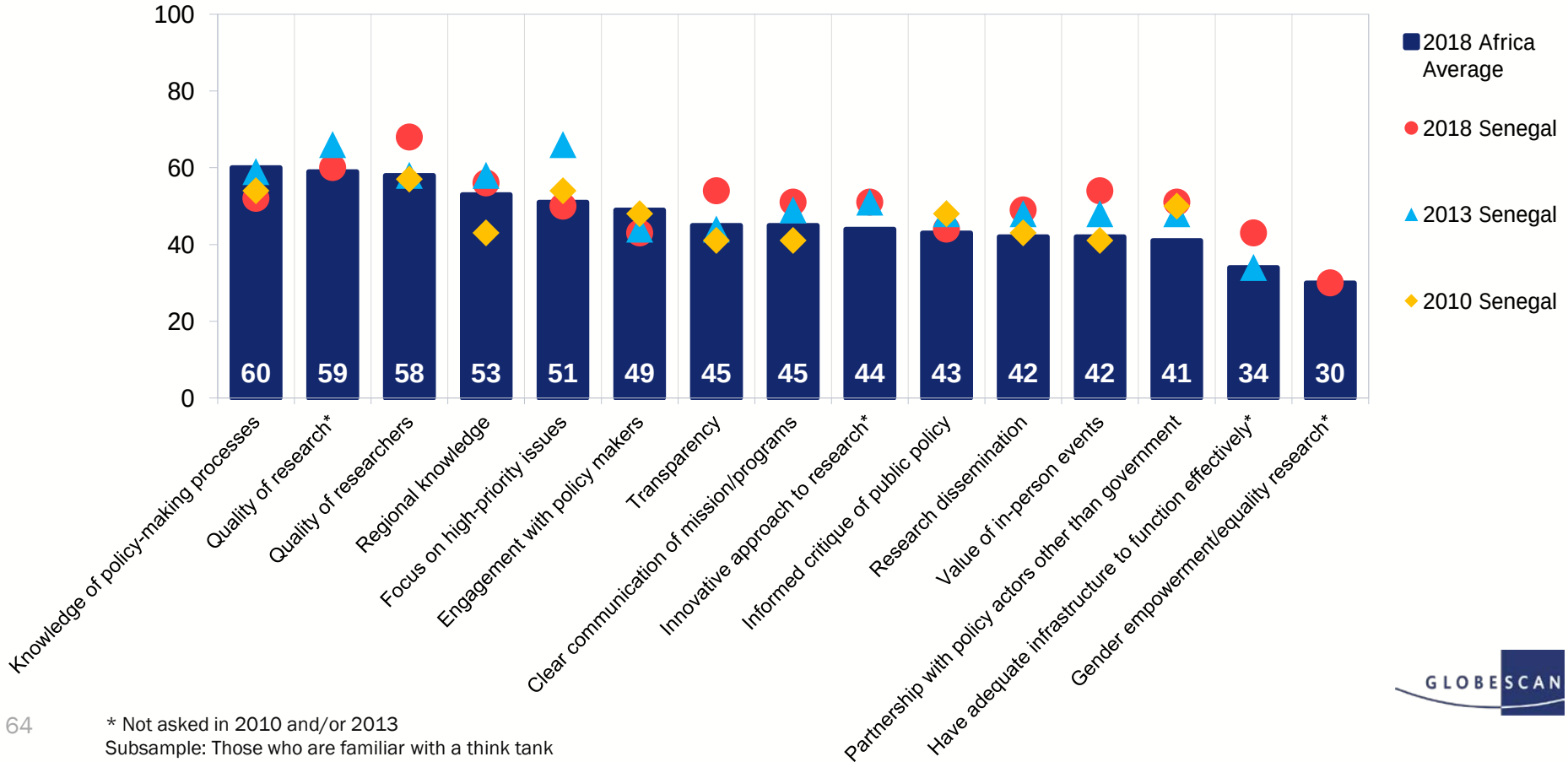
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Rwanda, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

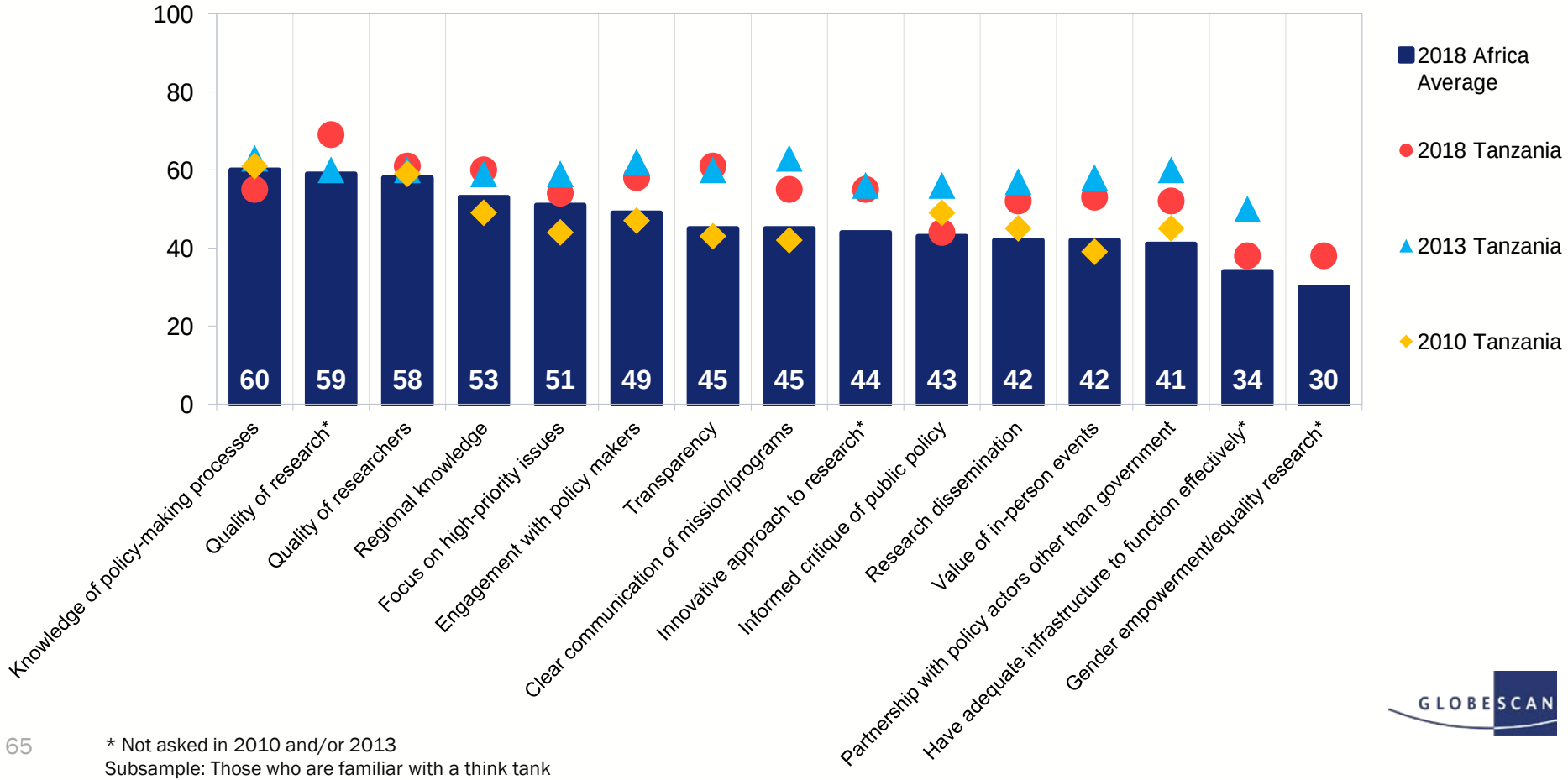
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Senegal, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

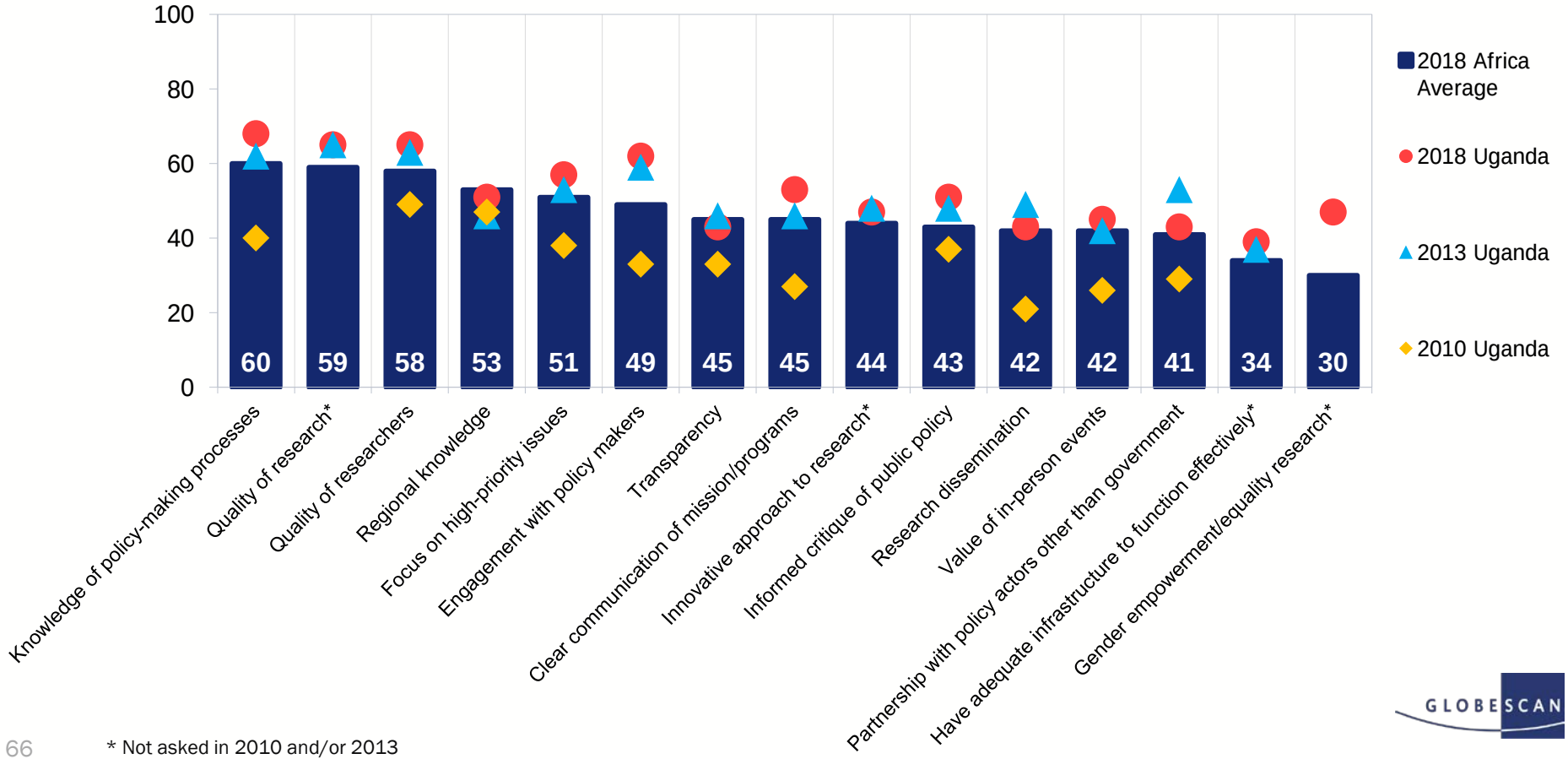
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Tanzania, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Uganda, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Top rating

Second rating

	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Knowledge of the policy-making process	60	58	48	68	58	45	60	85	63	75	70	57	46	40	51	57	38	23	52	59	54	55	63	61	68	62	40
Quality of research*	59	59	-	53	40	-	69	81	-	73	73	-	41	51	-	47	44	-	60	66	-	69	60	-	65	65	-
Quality and expertise of its researchers	58	57	52	56	46	40	62	86	73	81	71	56	39	46	56	33	38	33	68	58	57	61	60	59	65	63	49
Regional/local knowledge	53	52	43	47	49	36	54	62	49	69	62	51	40	43	56	47	44	20	56	58	43	60	59	49	51	46	47
Focus on high priority issues	51	53	46	42	43	42	65	74	56	69	76	57	44	37	54	27	35	43	50	66	54	54	59	44	57	53	38
Effective engagement with policy makers	49	46	40	36	44	33	56	74	55	61	68	51	44	38	45	37	21	40	43	44	48	58	62	47	62	59	33
Clear communication of its mission, programs and activities	45	47	40	31	42	37	50	61	41	56	48	42	40	41	50	23	47	47	51	49	41	55	63	42	53	46	27
Transparency/openness	45	40	38	32	30	26	49	46	49	51	51	39	32	37	51	37	26	33	54	44	41	61	60	43	43	46	33
Innovative approach to research*	44	45	-	28	20	-	46	66	-	61	51	-	37	47	-	30	21	-	51	51	-	55	56	-	47	48	-
Providing informed critique	43	40	40	26	26	41	61	59	57	62	58	49	36	33	42	17	18	17	44	48	48	44	56	49	51	48	37
Dissemination of research	42	43	38	34	34	40	55	64	51	53	60	48	27	36	42	20	29	30	49	48	43	52	57	45	43	49	21
Value of its in-person events	42	46	35	34	34	23	45	64	41	54	43	33	20	39	43	27	35	23	54	48	41	53	58	39	45	42	26
Effective partnering with public policy actors	41	41	34	24	29	33	49	46	45	54	57	44	37	34	38	20	32	13	51	48	50	52	60	45	43	53	29
Have adequate infrastructure in place to function effectively*	34	38	-	36	39	-	37	61	-	43	37	-	27	20	-	13	29	-	43	34	-	38	50	-	39	37	-
Research on gender equality/women's empowerment*	30	-	-	14	-	-	37	-	-	32	-	-	16	-	-	23	-	-	30	-	-	38	-	-	47	-	-

* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance

Africa Level

- Factors for improving national think tank performance have remained fairly consistent since 2010, with improved quality of research and increasing the availability of trained/experienced staff rated as most "important," while incorporating gender considerations in institutional policies/practices and in research are deemed relatively less important.
- The diversification of sources of funding is one area that has seen an increase in ratings of "important" (72%, up 9 percentage points from 2013).

Stakeholder Level

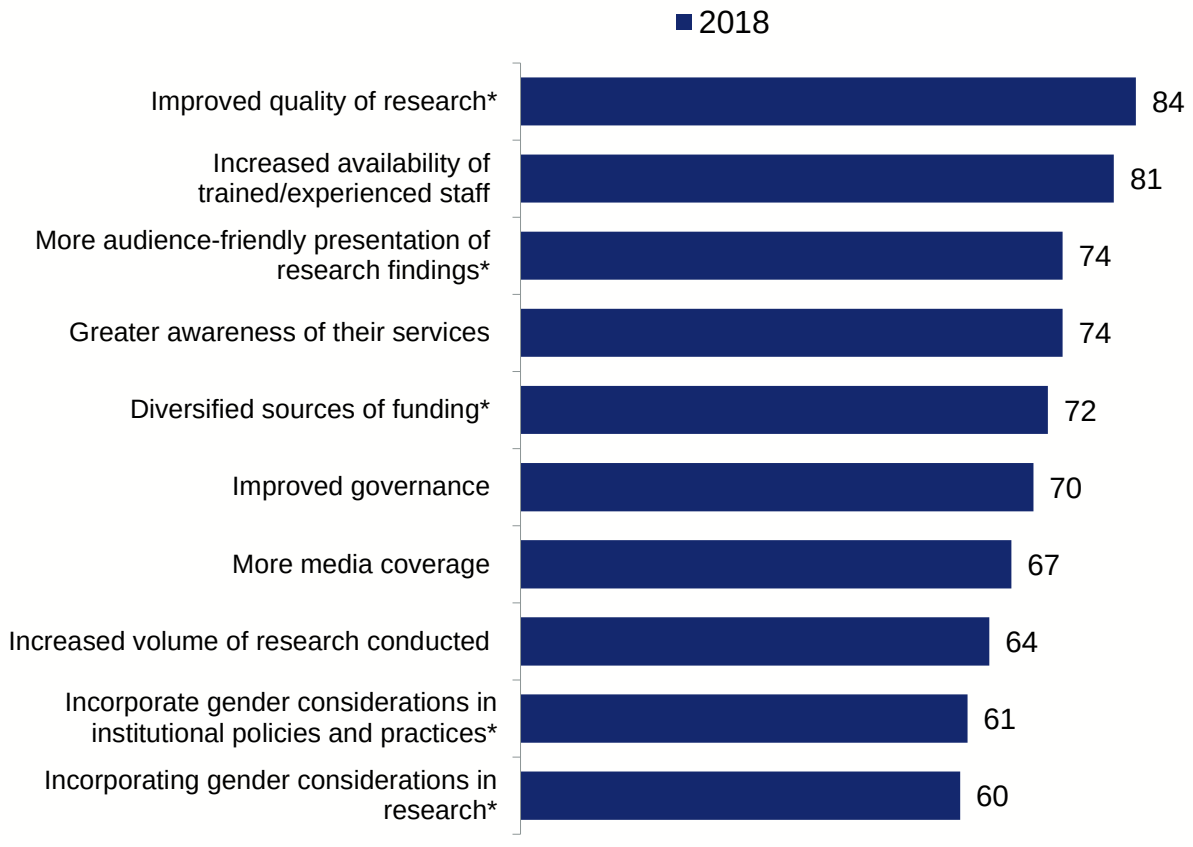
- Across stakeholder groups there is little variation in opinion regarding the most important factors for improving think tank performance. Respondents from the media are the strongest believers that more audience-friendly presentations of research findings are necessary to improve performance, while those from NGOs are more likely to be concerned about improved governance.

Country Level

- Overall, improving the quality of research is considered the number one factor for strengthening think tank performance; however, this feeling resonates more with respondents in Ethiopia and relatively less so with those in Rwanda.
- Respondents in Ethiopia and Senegal are more likely to believe that having more audience-friendly presentations of research findings is an important factor for improving performance, while their peers in Kenya are more likely to believe that diversifying sources of funding and improving governance are important factors.

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), Africa, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Improved quality of research*	90	NA
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	87	80
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings*	78	NA
Greater awareness of their services	77	66
Diversified sources of funding*	63	NA
Improved governance	71	72
More media coverage	60	57
Increased volume of research conducted	62	62
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	NA	NA
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	NA	NA

* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Africa, 2010–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Improved quality of research*	84	90	-	76	85	-	80	93	-	86	87	-	93	86	-	83	100	-	76	87	-	94	90	-
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	81	87	80	78	90	75	72	87	79	84	76	78	85	86	83	85	94	85	78	87	76	86	88	80
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings*	74	78	-	73	83	-	70	76	-	92	84	-	81	74	-	77	84	-	63	72	-	71	74	-
Greater awareness of their services	74	77	66	73	93	64	67	72	68	81	80	65	74	79	69	75	82	68	71	66	52	76	75	74
Diversified sources of funding*	72	63	-	73	63	-	61	66	-	81	56	-	67	60	-	72	68	-	69	61	-	76	66	-
Improved governance	70	71	72	73	73	61	70	72	76	73	73	80	63	69	60	75	74	74	64	64	63	72	71	78
More media coverage	67	59	57	54	68	61	59	55	58	86	69	70	48	60	43	80	69	58	64	44	51	68	55	59
Increased volume of research conducted	64	61	62	70	71	64	59	69	59	81	62	67	48	55	48	58	50	64	64	52	57	64	69	72
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	61	-	-	51	-	-	59	-	-	68	-	-	63	-	-	67	-	-	49	-	-	68	-	-
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	60	-	-	62	-	-	57	-	-	65	-	-	52	-	-	68	-	-	44	-	-	65	-	-

* Not asked in 2010

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

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Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Country, Africa, 2010–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

	Overall average			Ethiopia			Ghana			Kenya			Nigeria			Rwanda			Senegal			Tanzania			Uganda		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Improved quality of research*	84	90	-	98	83	-	81	89	-	95	90	-	84	90	-	69	90	-	87	95	-	71	88	-	88	93	-
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	81	87	80	89	83	78	69	89	88	90	88	91	93	83	94	77	88	63	78	93	83	73	90	63	81	93	95
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings*	74	78	-	84	70	-	62	73	-	79	88	-	79	78	-	49	55	-	84	86	-	78	73	-	70	80	-
Greater awareness of their services	74	77	66	87	75	65	50	76	76	81	85	78	74	73	83	69	75	54	76	77	63	78	88	51	74	70	89
Diversified sources of funding*	72	63	-	71	60	-	55	57	-	90	58	-	81	73	-	51	58	-	67	73	-	78	78	-	77	70	-
Improved governance	70	71	72	76	78	73	60	62	76	88	68	84	72	78	75	41	70	48	76	84	69	71	71	71	77	55	95
More media coverage	67	59	57	73	63	48	57	59	71	74	58	71	72	63	67	54	63	46	64	48	54	71	73	51	70	58	70
Increased volume of research conducted	64	61	62	73	60	70	50	51	66	69	55	78	70	71	71	59	68	48	60	43	60	62	80	61	65	73	64
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	61	-	-	60	-	-	52	-	-	71	-	-	63	-	-	49	-	-	67	-	-	51	-	-	74	-	-
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	60	-	-	60	-	-	55	-	-	67	-	-	72	-	-	49	-	-	60	-	-	56	-	-	58	-	-

* Not asked in 2010

Advice for independent policy research institutes to better assist stakeholders in their work

Open-end Responses, Africa, 2018

Advice for think tanks is relatively consistent, with many people mentioning the same recommendations across the board. Advice for think tanks focused on:

- Ensuring easy accessibility and timely dissemination of research results (through social media platforms and up-to-date websites) to ensure that information can be utilized
- General improvement of the quality of research
- Conduct studies that are relevant to the country, community, and society at large. These studies can be more beneficial for the development of the country, and can have a positive impact on policy
- Undertake wider and more representative research samples
- Avoiding political influence/sentiments. Concerns were expressed about the potential political bias of research, and how this should be avoided in order to maintain an objective output
- The need to conduct work with the public in mind. Many respondents recommend undertaking research which is of public interest, as well as the need to increase public involvement
- Increase interaction between think tanks, national/local research institutes, and government organizations. Collaboration and partnership with these organizations could drive policy impacts

> Disseminate the research findings in a user-friendly manner; improve the quality and coverage of the research, as well as using diversified methodologies and methods in researching – *Research/academia, Ethiopia*

> Always engage the stakeholders in the conceptualization and conduct of survey. Always conduct wider validation on the findings so as to create demand and ownership. – *Government, non-elected, Kenya*

> Try to focus on real problems facing the country. Most studies conducted in the Country, in my opinion, are based on availability of funds for the study. They are supply based not demand based. – *Government, elected, Ethiopia*

> They should be independent of all forms of political influence and interference – *Government, non-elected, Ghana*

> Work in perfect collaboration with partners and sources concerned in order to facilitate the accessibility of information and promote better information management – *Multilateral/bilateral, Senegal*

> Greater political independence, greater rigor, better oral presentation/delivery of findings, better skill in designing and interpreting questionnaires and surveys. – *Private Sector/Industry Association, Rwanda*

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