2018 Policy Community Survey – Global Report

Prepared for the Think Tank Initiative

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background. In 2010/11 and 2013, the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) engaged GlobeScan to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in several countries in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia. In 2018, TTI commissioned GlobeScan to repeat this survey in order to continue to track changes in the policy community and deepen understanding of how the information needs of policy stakeholders develop over time. A total of 900 stakeholders of the policy-making community participated in the research between September 2017 and June 2018. Findings from the study included the following:

The information needs of policy makers have evolved slightly over the years, with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) – a new metric for 2018 – ranking as one of the most important issue areas. The SDGs are cross-cutting and touch on a wide variety of issues, which in part may explain why they are in high demand. However, overall the needs of policy makers are similar to previous waves of research, with economic/fiscal issues ranking at the top in terms of importance for supporting their public policy work.

There is also strong demand for research on gender equality and women's empowerment. Through a new question introduced in the survey this year, respondents were asked whether they believe there is demand in their country for more information on gender equality and empowerment. Across all regions, respondents overwhelmingly agreed that there is demand for this type of research. Yet, despite this strong desire for gender research, it is considered relatively difficult to access information on these topics in South Asia and Latin America.

Stakeholders now appear to be much more selective in their information needs. Compared to previous years, stakeholders selected a much smaller range of policy information topics and sources. This could be indicative of a more focused approach to their research.

The ease of obtaining information related to policy-making remains moderate. The perceived ease of access varies across the three regions, with respondents in Africa generally reporting easier access to most information compared to those in Latin America and South Asia. Information on gender, the environment and agriculture/food security are considered relatively more difficult to access than other topics in South Asia and Latin America. This is notable considering the high importance assigned to these information topics.

The perceived usefulness of traditional media sources is declining, while interest in social media increases. Traditional media such as websites, email, and print have remained the preferred channels for receiving information for national policy development; however, perceived usefulness in all three formats has declined over the years. Simultaneously, interest in social media has increased across all three regions. This may be indicative of a downward trend for traditional formats in favour of social media.

National think tanks have a strong profile in South Asia and Latin America, where they are among the most frequently used sources of information. In Africa, usage of national think tanks is somewhat lower and has remained relatively unchanged from 2013. Limited familiarity is cited as the primary reason given by African respondents for not using national think tanks as much.

International and national think tanks are perceived to be producing relatively high quality research across all regions, along with international university-based research institutes and international agencies. Quality is the most important driving force behind national think tank use in Africa and Latin America, while in South Asia, respondents are more concerned with credibility. The relevance of research to the user's needs is also seen as a very important factor driving preferred usage across all three regions.

Although the perceived quality of government organizations is fairly low, relatively speaking, they are still heavily relied upon by stakeholders. Across all three regions, government agencies and government-owned research institutes are among the most frequently used sources of information, despite their relatively low quality ratings. The frequent use of these government sources is likely due to the close proximity of such institutions to government stakeholders, as well as their alignment with issues related to national policy development.

Publications and reports remain the most preferred source of information across all regions. A distinct preference for primary sources including databases or statistical data banks remains apparent in Latin America and South Asia. However, databases or statistical data banks have significantly dropped from 2013 among respondents in Africa, who now slightly prefer more interactive sources, including conferences/events and discussions with colleagues or peers. Despite significant declines across all information sources throughout the three regions, the ranking of sources remains fairly consistent and indicates that stakeholders have become more selective in their sources of information. Stakeholders in South Asia continue to report higher usage of nearly all information sources than their counterparts in Africa and Latin America, indicating more flexibility in their preferences.

Improving the quality of research and the availability of trained staff are the most important factors in improving the performance of think tanks across all three regions. Building up the internal capacity and performance of think tanks continues to be a top priority for potential improvements. Making reports more understandable and audience-friendly, as well as improving the awareness of services are also very important to stakeholders in improving think tank performance.

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Implications and Opportunities

Stakeholders urge national think tanks to maintain a strong focus on quality, accessibility, and awareness building. Although national think tanks enjoy relatively high ratings of quality, stakeholders also note that improved quality of research is the most important factor in enhancing the performance of national think tanks. This indicates the importance of quality research, a goal that must always remain of primary importance and where continued improvement is always possible.

Improving quality can in part be accomplished by ensuring that think tanks have a sufficient number of trained and experienced staff, which is also among the most important factors rated by stakeholders for improving performance.

However, high- quality research is not the only force driving usage. Issues around accessibility and limited awareness also continue to limit the potential of national think tanks. Stakeholders echo recommendations from previous years that materials need to be more audience friendly, with less jargon, in order to appeal to a wider audience. Also, awareness of national think tanks is particularly low in some countries and respondents in all regions report that they are most likely to learn about national think tanks from secondary sources such as colleagues or through the media. This shows that there is an opportunity for national think tanks to reach out more directly to stakeholders by better utilizing formats that respondents find most useful, such as websites, reports and publications, and social media – sources that these think tanks turn to more and more regularly.

Relevance and credibility are strong drivers of think tank usage. Although stakeholders recommend a focus on quality, the results of this study also show that the relevance of research outputs is equally important, if not more so in some cases. This is consistent with 2013 findings, as stakeholders generally continue to turn to organizations that are sharing information that is most important to them.

This is especially apparent for government stakeholders, as they continue to look inwards to their own government research institutions for policy research. A robust evaluation of research subject areas to ensure that they are relevant and a priority for policy makers would be beneficial. For example, in Latin America and Africa, information on agriculture/food security is in high demand, yet this information is relatively more difficult to access than other subject areas. If relevant national think tanks could share more policy- related information in this area, it could potentially boost the organization's profile while increasing the perceived relevance of their work.

Finally, findings show that a focus on relevant subject areas could also positively influence the credibility of an organization, especially if the research is transparent, objective, and devoid of any political influence; all factors that are of high importance to stakeholders, particularly those in South Asia.

A focus on increasing collaboration and partnerships is vital for the long-term sustainability of national think tanks. With the general trend of shrinking national and donor budgets, it is perhaps not a surprise that on the whole, most national think tanks rated in this study continue to be viewed as not having adequate infrastructure to function effectively. This problem will likely become more pronounced as TTI wraps up in 2019.

To help overcome this persistent challenge, national think tanks should focus more energy on developing partnerships with policy actors other than government in order to diversify sources of funding and limit political partisanship. According to stakeholders, partnership development is also one area in which there is much room for improvement. This can be done by increasing the relevance of their work, as mentioned earlier, and by being more innovative in their approach by incorporating more joint research projects or studies that are at the participatory or grassroots level. This will ensure that results are relevant and applicable to the local population, local donors, and policy makers, which will hopefully attract more investment and funding for infrastructure and capacity building.

INTRODUCTION

This 2018 Policy Community Survey was conducted by GlobeScan, a global stakeholder research consultancy, on behalf of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI). This survey is a follow-up to research initially conducted in 2010/11 and 2013, and spans the same three regions: Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

TTI is a multi-donor program dedicated to strengthening independent policy research institutions (aka "think tanks") in developing countries, enabling them to provide sound research that both informs and influences policy.

Through the survey, TTI aims to develop an understanding of the policy community while benchmarking and tracking changes in perceptions of think tanks over time. During the survey, stakeholders are asked broad questions about the policy-making context in their country, the types of information required for their work, ease of access, as well as the formats and sources of information used. They are also asked specific questions around think tank performance and potential areas of improvement.

The Policy Community Survey also aims to understand the strengths and weaknesses of specific think tanks, and to understand what activities are associated with the success of think tanks in order to help prioritize support strategies. While these findings are not included in this report, they will be used as a source for reflection by individual think tanks as they identify their priorities for capacity building and organization resilience. TTI will also utilize these findings to help inform its approach to supporting its grantee organizations in their progress toward sustainability.

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APPROACH

This study was designed to gather views of senior-level policy actors within national policy communities on their research needs and their perceptions of think tank 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 the demand for research. This approach was chosen consciously, recognizing its limitations, while acknowledging the value of understanding perceptions of individuals in senior positions within each national policy community.

As in previous waves of the survey, in each region, a target of 40 respondents was set with a balanced quota of responses across various stakeholder categories. Similar to previous years, India is the exception, where the total number of interviews was increased to 80 to reflect the difference in the size of the policy community, while maintaining consistency with the sample sizes in other countries.

Despite varying degrees of difficulty in the data collection process, balanced quotas in most countries were achieved. Notable challenges were encountered in reaching elected government officials in Rwanda and non-elected government officials in Tanzania despite multiple attempts and an extension of fieldwork. To maintain a balance between countries, respondents in other stakeholder groups were oversampled to make up for these differences.

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METHODOLOGY

The Policy Community Survey was conducted in three regions throughout 2018. The exact dates are listed below. The countries involved in the study were all part of TTI at the time of the survey.

Fieldwork Dates
By Region, 2018

Africa	Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda	September 26th, 2017 – February 12th, 2018
Latin America	Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru	December 17th, 2017 – June 5th, 2018
South Asia	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	December 17th, 2017 – February 12th, 2018

Methodology

	Africa	Latin America	South Asia
Total	344	304	252
Online	125	82	39
Offline	219	222	213
Telephone	162	94	213
Face-to-face	57	128	N/A

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Respondents were identified for the study by both TTI and GlobeScan. Stakeholders were selected based on their role as active members of the national policy community, meaning that they develop or influence national government policy.

Respondents were grouped into the following stakeholder categories:

- **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, and who are knowledgeable about national policy issues.
- **Multilateral/bilateral organization:** Senior staff from organizations run by foreign governments either individually (bilateral, e.g., DFID, USAID, etc.), or as a group (multilateral, e.g., UN agencies, World Bank, etc.).

- **Private sector:** Senior staff working at national and multinational companies.
- **Research/Academia:** Senior staff at universities, colleges, research institutes, and/or think tanks.
- **Trade unions:** Senior representatives of national trade unions.

Throughout the report, government officials are referred to as Government–elected and Government–non-elected. Which category government stakeholders belong to is determined by their answer to a question within the survey.

The trade union stakeholder group only applies to Latin America.

The survey was conducted using online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews. In all regions, stakeholders were invited to participate online via an email invitation. Shortly thereafter, follow-ups were made to schedule telephone or face-to-face interviews where necessary for respondents who did not complete the survey online. The table below outlines the number of interviews completed within each region through both online and offline methodologies.

Stakeholder Group Sample Size

Number of Interviews, by Region, 2018

	Africa	Latin America	South Asia
Total	344	304	252
Elected government	37	32	35
Non-elected government	46	30	38
Media	37	34	32
Multilateral/bilateral	27	33	30
NGO	60	47	41
Private sector	59	42	36
Research/academia	78	52	40
Trade union	N/A	34	N/A

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Notes to Readers

Throughout the questionnaire, select definitions were given to respondents in order to guide their interpretation of a question's wording.

Quality of research is defined as being evidence-based, robust and rigorous; relevant and up-to-date; reputable and credible; and situated in relation to existing research literature and findings, nationally and internationally.

Research-based evidence is defined as findings or results from research that can help inform decision making.

All figures in the charts and tables in this report are expressed as percentages, unless otherwise stated. Total percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding. Likewise, because of rounding, results expressed as aggregates (e.g., excellent + good) may differ slightly from a simple addition of data points shown in charts.

Throughout this report, we refer to the regions as Africa, Latin America, and South Asia. These region names are used as a short-hand, and findings should not be extended to the full region, but rather the region as defined by the countries involved with TTI Policy Community Survey.

Question numbers and letters found under each chart or table indicate which question was used in the questionnaire to build the chart or table. The full questionnaire can be found at the end of the report.

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Main Findings

PART I: INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR POLICY-MAKING

This section focuses on stakeholders' informational needs regarding policy development, the perceived ease of obtaining information relevant for policy-making, as well as preferred formats for receiving information. The frequency of use of policy briefs is also examined, relative to other information sources.

Information Needs

The types of information that members of the policy community desire have been fairly consistent over the past three waves of the study, with economic/fiscal issues continuing to rank among the highest in all three regions. Despite some consistency in the ranking of economic/fiscal issues, the addition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resulted in changes from previous waves, particularly in South Asia and Latin America. The SDGs are ranked as the most important policy information requirements in South Asia and the second most important in Latin America. The SDGs touch on a broad array of issues and are cross-cutting, which could be a potential explanation for why they are in high demand.

The consistent interest in economic and fiscal issues across all regions could be a reflection of the slow socioeconomic growth and financial challenges in these developing countries. The consistently low ranking of information on foreign affairs across all three regions further supports the hypothesis that there may be a prioritization of internal issues within these countries.

A notable change from previous waves of the study is that policy stakeholders appear to be more selective in their information needs, potentially suggesting a more focused approach in their work.

Across South Asia and Africa, media respondents have above-average interest in nearly all information topics, while in all three regions, private sector stakeholders are far more focused in their areas of interest (e.g., trade/industry, economic/fiscal issues).

Information Required for Your Work in Public Policy
% of Respondents, Combined Mentions, by Region, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011
Economic/fiscal issues	53	69	59	58	66	77	57	78	82
Education	50	61	54	47	60	64	53	69	78
Agriculture / food security	47	61	49	40	44	56	53	66	77
Poverty alleviation	44	65	62	50	63	78	57	83	86
SDGs**	42	-	-	50	-	-	62	-	-
Gender issues	41	48	40	43	43	49	54	76	72
Environment*	39	57	50	45	48	68	57	69	80
Trade/industry	39	52	46	37	45	58	44	61	71
Health care	36	52	41	34	43	55	49	64	72
Natural resources*	35	46	50	32	46	68	44	65	80
Human rights	34	49	39	44	48	56	44	62	68
Energy*	31	44	50	26	41	68	38	62	80
Foreign affairs	21	33	22	28	35	41	30	43	53

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (Africa *n*=72–182 in 2018, Latin America *n*=79–175 in 2018, South Asia *n*=72–182 in 2018)

*"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2011, but were segmented in 2013.
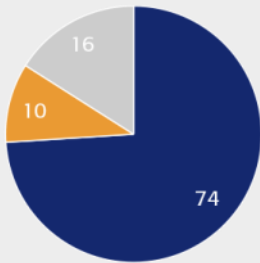
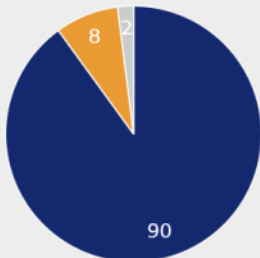**"Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Demand for Information on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
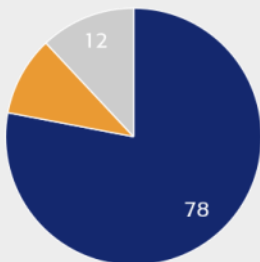2018

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Don't know

Africa Total

16
10
74

South Asia Total

8   2
90

Latin America Total

12
78

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Research

Through a new question introduced this year, respondents were asked whether they believe there is demand in their country for information on gender equality and women's empowerment. The vast majority of respondents across all three regions indicated that there is a strong demand for this type of research, particularly in South Asia. The suggested research topics of most interest to respondents were fairly consistent across the three regions with the most prominent topics centering on the financial empowerment and equality of women through career opportunities, property ownership, and equal compensation. Other frequently mentioned topics were access to education, eradication of domestic violence, the role and representation of women in politics, and access to health care.

The minority of respondents that did not see a need for gender research in their country offered the following reasons why: the topic is overdone, resources are scarce and there are more pressing social issues to address, it is not a prevalent issue in the country, women already have equal rights, and policy and action, rather than research, are needed to address gender equality.

"There is a lot of research which has been done on gender. Evidence is not a problem for gender, but rather action and policy."

*-Ethiopia,
Research/academia*

"The issue is that policy does not seem to be working for women's empowerment, so there is a need for research there."

*-Bangladesh,
Research/academia*

"In corporate governance, research should be undertaken to determine the role and contribution of either gender in both public and private sector."

*–Kenya
NGO*

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Access to Information

The ease of obtaining information related to policy-making remains moderate, with roughly one-third or more of stakeholders reporting easy access to policy information.

The ease of access to information has remained relatively stable overall in Latin America and South Asia, but increased slightly for most issues in Africa where it is now generally easier to obtain than in other regions.

Only on energy-related issues are respondents in Latin America much more likely than in 2013 to say that this information is easy to obtain. Meanwhile, the ease of obtaining information on gender issues has notably dropped in South Asia and Latin America relative to 2013.

Information on economic/fiscal issues is reported as easiest to obtain by respondents in Latin America, while information on the SDGs is reported as most accessible by respondents in Africa. In South Asia and Africa, respondents report significantly easier access to information on education than their counterparts in Latin America.

Information on natural resources and agriculture/food security are reported as being relatively difficult to obtain in both Africa and Latin America, while in South Asia information on foreign affairs is reported as most difficult to access.

"They should have the most agile and accessible information in terms of economic issues."

- Paraguay
Government-elected

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development
% of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Region, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011
Sustainable Development Goals**	55	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	38	NA	NA
Education	52	51	45	31	33	36	44	47	43
Gender issues	46	38	32	27	37	37	28	41	32
Poverty alleviation	45	37	32	33	33	43	40	47	31
Health care	44	40	38	24	34	37	39	28	19
Human rights	44	39	24	33	39	38	29	33	29
Economic/fiscal issues	43	37	41	47	47	47	40	48	30
Environment*	39	36	NA	28	29	28	33	26	32
Trade/industry	37	33	32	42	42	36	38	50	33
Agriculture / food security	33	25	NA	17	29	28	31	34	32
Energy*	33	35	28	43	32	32	36	30	20
Foreign affairs	33	39	34	35	31	27	26	36	28
Natural resources*	32	28	NA	23	22	28	29	25	32

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (Africa *n*=72–182 in 2018, Latin America *n*=79–175 in 2018, South Asia *n*=72–182 in 2018)
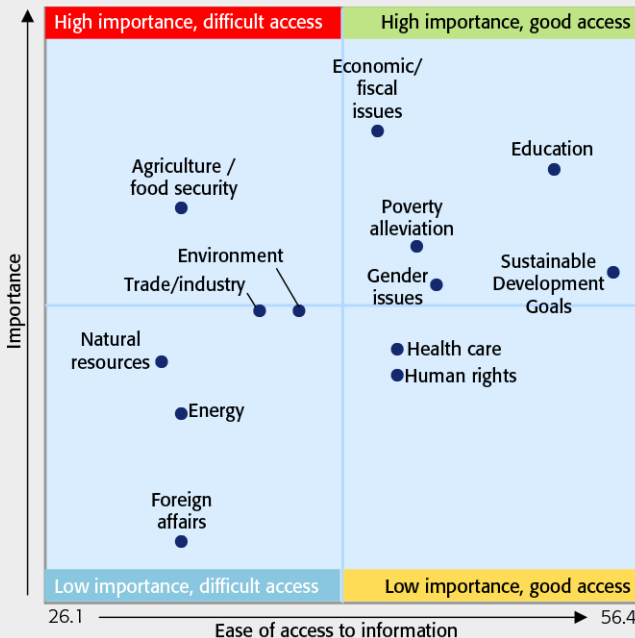
*"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2011, but were segmented in 2013.

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

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Importance vs Ease of Access to Information

Total Mentions vs Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5),

Africa

South Asia

Importance vs Ease of Access

The accompanying matrices demonstrate the importance of each specific topic area in comparison to how easy stakeholders say it is to access this information. Each quadrant of the matrix chart represents a different importance versus ease of access rating. Topic areas that fall in the top-right green quadrant are considered to be of importance to stakeholders and are also relatively easy to access. Topics in the top-left red quadrant are considered to be highly important, but difficult to access information on. The bottom-left blue quadrant contains topic areas that are of lower importance and are also difficult to access. Finally, topics in the bottom-right yellow quadrant are of low importance but considered easier to access information on.

The matrix for Africa suggests that most information topics that are important to stakeholders are also easily accessible. The main exception for this is agriculture/food security issues, where this information topic is very important to stakeholders but relatively more difficult to access information on. Ease of access to information on this topic has declined somewhat from 2013 to 2018.

In the South Asia matrix, there is also a correlation between accessibility and importance, aside from environment, agriculture/food security, and gender issues, which are relatively important to stakeholders, but less easy to access information on. Access to information on gender issues has declined significantly from 2013 to 2018.

"Conduct high quality research and disseminate the findings in multiple ways - focusing on making the research more accessible in terms of language, and increasing access to the information."

–Nepal
NGO

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Importance vs Ease of Access to Information
Total Mentions vs Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5)

Latin America

Importance (vertical axis) vs Ease of access to information (horizontal axis, 15.5 to 48.7)

Quadrants: High importance, difficult access | High importance, easy access | Low importance, difficult access | Low importance, easy access

Topics plotted: Economic/fiscal issues, Sustainable Development Goals, Poverty alleviation, Education, Environment, Human rights, Gender issues, Agriculture / food security, Trade/industry, Health care, Natural resources, Foreign affairs, Energy

Summary: Importance vs Ease of Access to Information
2018

	Africa	Latin America	South Asia
Agriculture/food security	Low importance, difficult access	Low importance, difficult access	High importance, difficult access
Economic/fiscal issues	High importance, good access	Low importance, difficult access	High importance, good access
Education	High importance, good access	High importance, difficult access	High importance, good access
Energy	Low importance, difficult access	Low importance, good access	Low importance, good access
Environment	High importance, difficult access	High importance, difficult access	High importance, difficult access
Foreign affairs	Low importance, good access	Low importance, good access	Low importance, difficult access
Gender issues	Low importance, good access	High importance, difficult access	High importance, difficult access
Health care	Low importance, good access	Low importance, difficult access	High importance, good access
Human rights	Low importance, good access	High importance, good access	Low importance, difficult access
Natural resources	Low importance, difficult access	Low importance, difficult access	Low importance, difficult access
Poverty alleviation	High importance, good access	High importance, good access	High importance, good access
Trade/industry	High importance, difficult access	Low importance, good access	Low importance, good access
SDGs	High importance, good access	High importance, good access	High importance, good access

Legend:
- ■ High importance, difficult access
- ■ High importance, good access
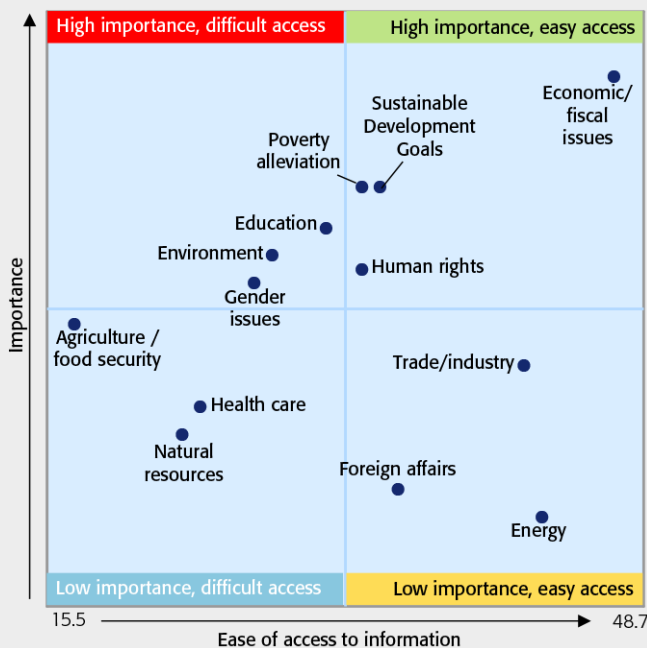- ■ Low importance, difficult access
- ■ Low importance, good access

The matrix for Latin America suggests that most of the topics that are important to stakeholders are also easily obtainable. However, information on education, environment, and gender issues are considered very important, yet are reportedly less easy to access information on. It is worth noting that ease of access of information on energy issues has significantly improved since 2013 despite a relatively low importance rating.

Improving the accessibility of information on key issues will require a solid understanding of the challenges that stakeholders face, particularly, focusing on the most important issues and creating easier access channels to information in these areas (gender issues, agriculture/food security, and environment).

The summary table shows the information context across the three regions. The placement of each topic area in the quadrants on the preceding matrices determines the colour of each cell in this table, allowing for comparison across regions. The cells that split between two different colours indicate that the specific topic area falls directly between or very close to two quadrants. This table helps to summarize the nuances of what stakeholders say is important to support their policy work, as well as the regional challenges stakeholders face in accessing information.

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Preferred Format for Receiving Information

Consistent with previous waves of this study, websites, email, and print are perceived as the most useful formats for receiving information for national policy development. However, across all three regions, perceived usefulness of these three formats has declined since 2013.

In contrast, interest in social media has increased across all three regions. This may be indicative of a downward trend for traditional formats in favour of a shift toward social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). The increase in perceived usefulness of social media is most apparent among respondents in Africa.

While websites are the most preferred format for receiving information in Africa and South Asia, email is selected significantly more often as the preferred format in Latin America than in the other two regions.

Across all three regions, blogs and radio are perceived as the least useful sources of information for national policy development.

"Have information available in all spaces either through newsletters or social media, press or radio and newspapers."

-Honduras
Trade Union

Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development
% of Total Respondents, Combined Mentions, by Region, 2013–2018

Africa

Format	2018	2013
Websites	70	82
Email	42	50
Print	42	58
Television	29	24
In person	28	30
Social media	25	9
Radio	15	15
Blogs	7	5

Latin America

Format	2018	2013
Websites	63	75
Email	72	79
Print	36	59
Television	9	13
In person	27	23
Social media	32	20
Radio	6	5
Blogs	7	7

South Asia

Format	2018	2013
Websites	67	75
Email	44	47
Print	52	60
Television	17	28
In person	25	38
Social media	30	25
Radio	8	8
Blogs	7	5

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Forms of Information Exchange

Across all regions, the information sources used by stakeholders when seeking information to increase their understanding of policy development are relatively consistent and balanced.

Despite considerable declines across all information sources throughout the three regions, the ranking of these sources has remained relatively unchanged from 2013. These declines likely indicate that stakeholders have become more selective in the sources of information they use.

Furthermore, publications and reports remain the most frequently used information source across the three regions to increase understanding for national policy development.
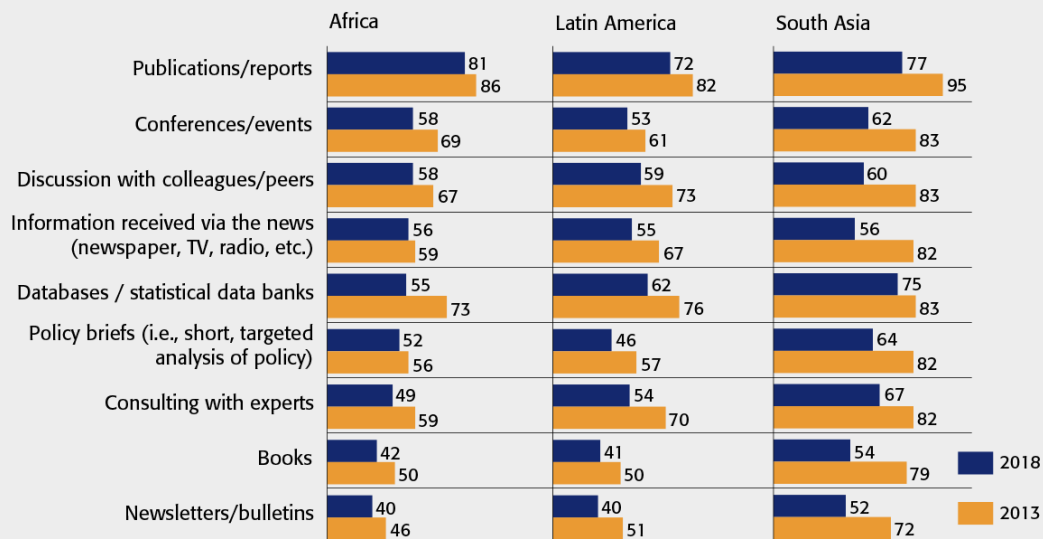
Among respondents in Latin America and South Asia, databases and statistical data banks remain the second most used information source. However, databases and statistical data banks have seen a significant drop in usage among African respondents.

Conferences and events, discussions with colleagues or peers, or information received via the news are used by slightly more than half of respondents in all regions.

While policy briefs are used far less frequently than publications and reports in Africa and Latin America, they are frequently used in South Asia. Consulting with experts is also reportedly much more common in South Asia than in Latin America and Africa. Stakeholders in South Asia tend to report that they use all information sources more often than their counterparts in Africa and Latin America.

Information Sources Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development
% of Total Respondents, Total Mentions, by Region, 2013–2018

	Africa 2018	Africa 2013	Latin America 2018	Latin America 2013	South Asia 2018	South Asia 2013
Publications/reports	81	86	72	82	77	95
Conferences/events	58	69	53	61	62	83
Discussion with colleagues/peers	58	67	59	73	60	83
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)	56	59	55	67	56	82
Databases / statistical data banks	55	73	62	76	75	83
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)	52	56	46	57	64	82
Consulting with experts	49	59	54	70	67	82
Books	42	50	41	50	54	79
Newsletters/bulletins	40	46	40	51	52	72

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PART 2: SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This section aims to understand which organizations respondents turn to when they need research-based evidence related to social and economic policies in their countries, as well as an assessment of the quality of information provided by each institution. This section also examines the overall credibility of national independent policy research institutes (a.k.a. "think tanks") in terms of the quality of information they provide relative to other institutions.

Sources of Information

Respondents were asked about the types of organizations they reach out to when they require research-based evidence related to social and economic policies.

As in previous waves of the study, the profile of national think tanks is strongest in South Asia and they are among the most frequently used sources of information. National think tanks are also utilized by just over half of respondents in Latin America, second only to relevant government ministries and agencies.

Meanwhile, in Africa, usage of national think tanks is somewhat lower and relatively unchanged from 2013. Lack of familiarity is the primary reason given by African respondents for not using national think tanks.

Government organizations remain a key source of research-based evidence across all regions and with a steady increase in usage among respondents since 2011.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence
% of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Region, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011
Relevant government ministries/agencies	60	59	53	57	54	48	66	59	56
Government-owned research institutes	50	49	37	52	49	47	60	54	46
International agencies	49	44	50	50	52	57	52	58	47
National independent policy research institutes*	41	42	36	55	52	55	60	66	60
International independent policy research institutes*	38	35	36	50	46	55	46	51	60
National university-based research institutes*	37	34	38	39	36	28	42	37	30
International university-based research institutes*	31	26	38	42	37	27	38	44	36
Local/national advocacy NGOs	31	36	30	39	35	35	29	39	33
Industry associations	28	28	16	25	22	26	25	20	27

*"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, 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.

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International agencies remain quite relevant for stakeholders across all regions. Meanwhile, industry associations and local or national advocacy NGOs are generally referred to the least when searching for evidence-based research, as in all previous waves of the study.

The table below shows the percentage of respondents, by stakeholder type, who report that they utilize national think tanks as a primary source. In Latin America and South Asia, media, multilateral/bilateral and research/academia stakeholders are most likely to turn to national

think tanks as a source of evidence-based research. In Africa, all stakeholder groups are most likely to turn to organizations other than national think tanks as a primary source.

Overall, the greatest opportunities for increasing usage are generally among both elected and non-elected government stakeholders and those from the private sector, across all three regions.

National Independent Policy Research Institutes Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

% of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Region and Stakeholder Type, 2018

	Africa	Latin America	South Asia
Elected government	27	41	54
Non-elected government	22	40	58
Media	51	71	66
Multilateral/bilateral	37	67	63
NGO	57	62	59
Private sector	31	38	56
Research/academia	53	75	68
Trade union	N/A	35	N/A

Stakeholder type using think tanks most often as primary source

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Reasons for Turning to Think Tanks

Stakeholders who turn to national think tanks as a primary source of research-based evidence do so for a variety of reasons. In Latin America and Africa, high quality of research is the top reason why stakeholders turn to national think tanks. However, quality of research is selected less often in Latin America and South Asia than in 2013.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in South Asia are more likely to turn to national think tanks due to the credibility of the organization. Note that credibility is a new metric that was added after fieldwork in Africa had been completed. As such, there is no data for this measure in Africa.

Across all three regions, the relevance of research to stakeholder needs is also commonly noted as a reason for turning to national think tanks for research-based evidence, although the percent selecting this reason has declined considerably across Africa and South Asia, perhaps an indication that the interests of stakeholders may be diverging somewhat from the outputs of national think tanks.

Similar to previous waves of this study, only a small minority of stakeholders say they turn to national think tanks due to the fact that they are the only organizations available to them or that they are familiar with. Personal contact also does not factor in much as a reason for stakeholders to turn to national think tanks.

Reasons for Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence
% of Respondents, by Region, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011
High quality of research	31	28	26	31	41	27	18	42	241
High quality of staff/researchers	24	16	10	7	23	23	8	10	10
Relevance of research to needs	24	45	33	25	27	27	28	34	31
Only type of organization available	7	1	10	7	0	13	3	5	10
Personal contact	7	0	2	2	4	13	3	7	5
Only type of organization that is familiar	2	6	3	4	1	3	0	2	0
Credibility	N/A	N/A	N/A	24	N/A	N/A	33	N/A	N/A

Subsample: Those who have used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (Africa *n*=58 for 2011, *n*=85 for 2013, *n*=54 for 2018; Latin America *n*=71 in 2011, *n*=66 in 2013, *n*=55 in 2018; South Asia *n*=39 for 2011, *n*=59 for 2013, *n*=39 for 2018.)

Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart. Credibility not included as a response option in Africa.

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Quality of Information

Stakeholders were asked to rate various information sources in terms of the quality of policy-related research they provide. International university-based research institutes have the highest quality ratings across all three regions, and are notably high in Latin America.

In Africa, international university-based research institutes have seen a significant improvement in quality ratings from previous waves, and now surpass national and international think tanks. International agencies and international think tanks are also rated highly across all three regions.

National think tanks are viewed as having the highest quality research among national sources. However, international think tanks are still ranked more highly for quality of research across all regions. Ratings of national think tanks have improved from 2013 in both Africa and Latin America, but have seen a significant decline in South Asia from 2013.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by...

% of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Region, 2011–2018

	Africa			Latin America			South Asia		
	2018	2013	2011	2018	2013	2011	2018	2013	2011
International university-based research institutes*	62	52	49	78	71	67	63	67	58
International agencies	60	57	61	64	59	70	53	58	58
International independent policy research institutes*	59	60	55	70	70	68	59	68	60
National independent policy research institutes*	54	52	55	62	58	68	57	68	60
National university-based research institutes*	54	49	49	48	41	32	49	41	40
Relevant government ministries/agencies	40	39	38	34	30	31	46	33	28
Government-owned research institutes	38	44	35	29	29	26	39	34	27
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	39	32	41	40	34	23	28	33
Industry associations	32	33	21	32	27	26	30	23	30

■ Top selection
■ Second selection

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (Africa 2011 *n*=18–93, total for 2013 *n*=22–73, total for 2018 *n*=18–73; Latin America *n*=210–262 in 2011, *n*=205–276 in 2013, *n*=225–283 in 2018. South Asia *n*=203–231 in 2011, *n*=203–234 in 2013, *n*=219–247 in 2018)
***"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability

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Generally, international organizations tend to have higher quality ratings than those that are local or national. In Africa, industry associations are viewed as having the lowest quality of research, while in Latin America, government-owned research institutes are viewed as having the lowest quality. Respondents in South Asia view local/national advocacy NGOs as having well below-average research quality and rank them lowest.

The chart below shows the percentage of respondents within specific stakeholder groups that view national think tanks as having high-quality research. Across all three regions, those in research or academia have the most positive perceptions of the quality of research of national think tanks, followed by those from media and NGOs. Note that trade unions were not included as a stakeholder group in Africa or South Asia.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by National Think Tanks

% of Respondents selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Region and Stakeholder Type, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	2011
Research/academic	65	58	62	75	57	80	71	69	62
Media	62	44	58	69	72	78	63	76	63
NGO	57	58	67	67	64	71	60	79	53
Government, non-elected	50	49	51	55	53	66	47	64	53
Private sector	45	51	45	52	45	73	49	48	65
Government, elected	42	55	42	61	60	60	53	71	53
Multilateral/bilateral	38	41	52	65	57	59	60	55	72
Trade Union	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	51	57	N/A	N/A	N/A

Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (Africa $n=24$–90 in 2011, $n=25$–84 in 2013, $n=24$–72 in 2018; Latin America $n=262$ in 2011, International think tanks $n=258$, National think tanks $n=266$ in 2013, International think tanks $n=261$, National think tanks $n=275$ in 2018; South Asia $n=229$ in 2011, $n=229$ in 2013, $n=241$ in 2018.)

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In Latin America, respondents across all stakeholder groups give higher quality ratings of national think tank research than their peers in Africa or South Asia. Among this group, those from trade unions view the quality of national think tanks most critically.

International think tanks generally receive higher quality ratings than national think tanks in Africa and Latin America. The main exception to this is among media respondents in both regions, who rate national think tank research quality more highly. In South Asia, national and international think tanks are viewed as much more on par in terms of research quality, particularly among NGO and research/academia respondents. Among government stakeholders, national think tanks actually outrank their international counterparts in South Asia.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by International Think Tanks
% of Respondents selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Region and Stakeholder Type, 2011–2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	% Total mentions 2011
Research/academic	71	71	62	81	66	80	70	70	62
NGO	65	48	67	71	72	71	62	73	53
Media	57	45	58	56	71	78	71	61	63
Government, elected	53	68	42	64	69	60	39	55	53
Government, non-elected	50	55	52	64	76	66	43	75	53
Private sector	50	66	44	73	67	73	67	54	65
Multilateral/bilateral	48	64	53	73	87	59	60	80	72
Trade Union	N/A	N/A	N/A	68	54	57	N/A	N/A	N/A

Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (Africa *n*=24–90 in 2011, *n*=25–84 in 2013, *n*=24–72 in 2018; Latin America *n*=262 in 2011, International think tanks *n*=258, National think tanks *n*=266 in 2013, International think tanks *n*=261, National think tanks *n*=275 in 2018; South Asia *n*=229 in 2011, *n*=229–234 in 2013, *n*=241–247 in 2018.)

Quality vs Usage

The accompanying matrices demonstrate respondents' perceptions of the quality of research from specific organization types in comparison to how frequently they turn to that source for information. Each quadrant of the matrix represents a different quality versus usage rating. Organization types that fall in the top-right green quadrant are perceived as having hig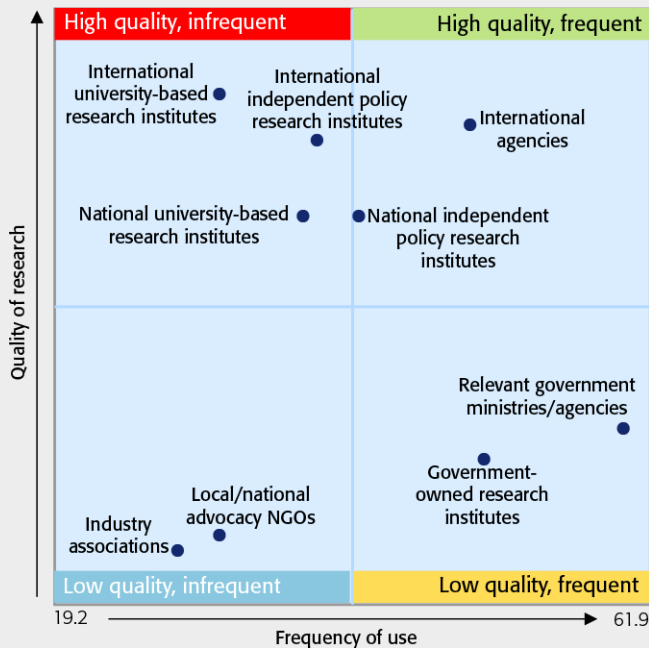h-quality research and are also used relatively frequently. Organization types in the top-left red quadrant are perceived as having high-quality research, but are not frequently used. The bottom-left blue quadrant contains organization types that are considered to have lower-quality research and are also not used frequently. Finally, organization types in the bottom-right yellow quadrant are of low quality but are used frequently.

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Quality vs Frequency of Use of Research
Percent of Respondents Selecting
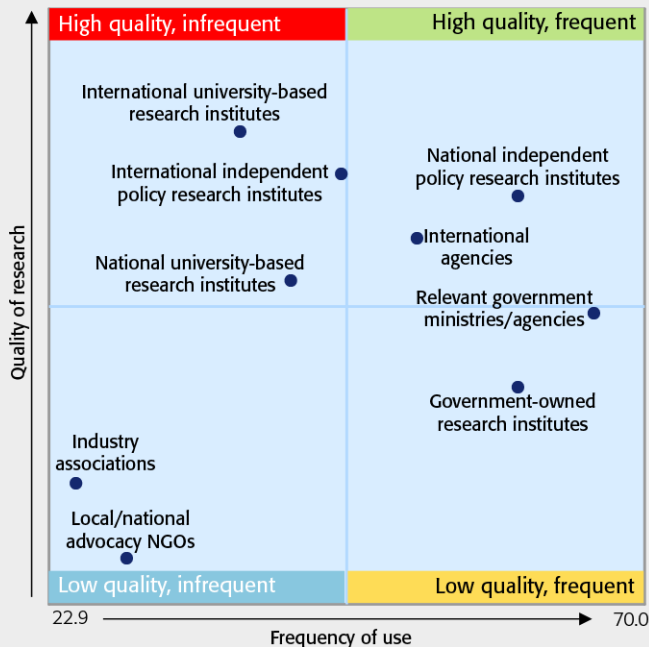"Excellent" (4+5) vs "Primary Source" (4+5)

Africa

High quality, infrequent	High quality, frequent

Quality of research

International university-based research institutes
International independent policy research institutes
International agencies
National university-based research institutes
National independent policy research institutes
Relevant government ministries/agencies
Government-owned research institutes
Local/national advocacy NGOs
Industry associations

Low quality, infrequent — Low quality, frequent

19.2 — Frequency of use — 61.9

South Asia

High quality, infrequent	High quality, frequent

Quality of research

International university-based research institutes
International independent policy research institutes
National independent policy research institutes
International agencies
National university-based research institutes
Relevant government ministries/agencies
Government-owned research institutes
Industry associations
Local/national advocacy NGOs

Low quality, infrequent — Low quality, frequent

22.9 — Frequency of use — 70.0

Across all three regions, the results are quite similar, particularly between Africa and South Asia. In these two regions, high quality organizations such as national think tanks and international agencies are frequently used. The exceptions to this are international think tanks and university-based research institutes (national and international), which are highly rated for quality, but used infrequently. Results are very similar in Latin America, aside from more frequent usage of international think tanks.

Although the perceived quality of government ministries/research institutes is fairly low across all regions, they are used quite frequently in the three regions which is likely due to the close proximity of such institutions to government stakeholders and close alignment with issues related to national policy development.

This preference for government ministries/research institute is especially the case in South Asia where national think tanks were the most-preferred institutions for stakeholders to turn to for information on social and economic policy in 2013; however, government organizations have now surpassed them as the top choice in 2018. Respondents in South Asia claim to turn to government institutions due to their credibility and relevance of research to needs, and in spite of comparatively low quality of research. This suggests that in some cases, stakeholders value alignment of research with particular needs over quality of research and this is further reinforced by the fact that international university-based research institutes are generally rated the highest in terms of quality of research, but are also among the least-used institution types by stakeholders.
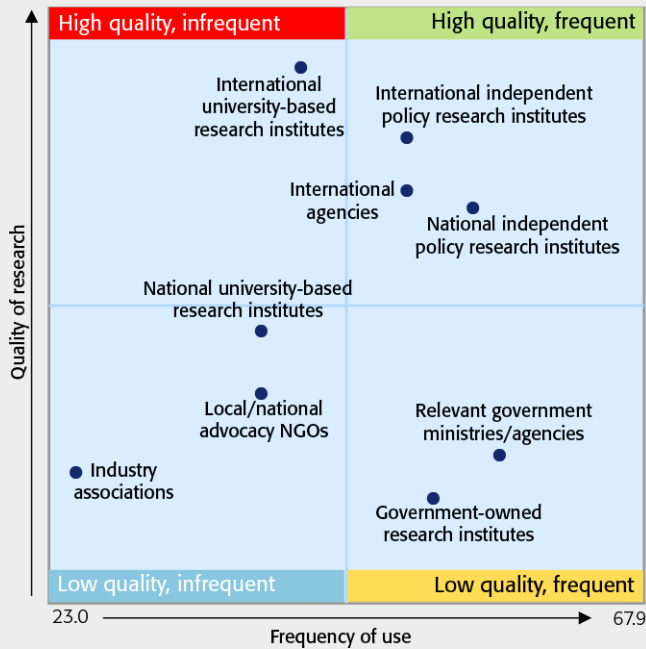
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Quality vs Frequency of Use of Research
Percent of Respondents Selecting
"Excellent" (4+5) vs "Primary Source" (4+5)

Latin America

These exceptions demonstrate that quality of research is not the only factor driving usage. Accessibility, awareness, and relevance of the research topics can also motivate more frequent usage and are important considerations in encouraging stakeholder use of think tanks.

"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."

– Ethiopia
Government, elected

Summary: Quality vs Frequency of Use of Organization
2018
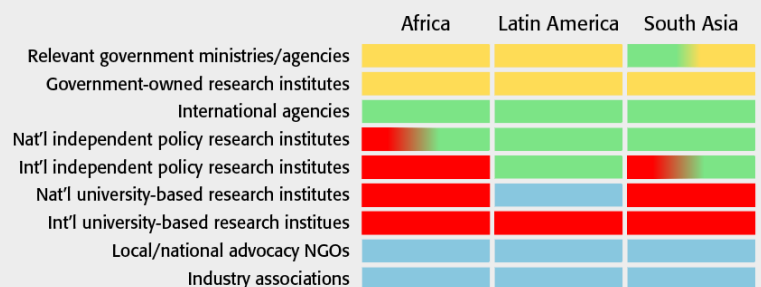
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PART 3: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

This section of the report explores stakeholder insights on how think tanks can improve their overall performance, specifically around delivering useful and relevant outputs to support public policy.

Improving the Performance of Think Tanks

When asked to rate the importance of specific factors that could boost the performance of think tanks, improved quality of research remains the most important factor across all three regions. An increased availability of trained/experienced staff is also highly important to stakeholders across the three regions.

Building up the internal capacity and performance of think tanks continues to be a top priority where improvements can be made. Clearly, stakeholders value quality first and foremost in their ratings of think tanks, with a desire for strong and reliable research as well as staff that are qualified.

Across all three regions, and particularly in Latin America, presenting findings in a more audience-friendly manner is very important to improving think tank performance. This indicates that there is a need, particularly in Latin America, for think tanks to present findings in a less complex and more easily understandable manner.

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks
% of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Region, 2018

	Africa	% Total mentions 2013	2011	Latin America	% Total mentions 2013	2011	South Asia	% Total mentions 2013	2011
Improved quality of research*	84	90	-	85	87	87	89	87	88
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	81	87	80	79	76	74	80	86	90
Greater awareness of their services	74	77	66	73	53	44	72	66	68
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings*	74	78	-	83	81	86	77	76	78
Diversified sources of funding*	72	63	-	70	70	75	72	63	72
Improved governance	70	71	72	59	54	46	78	76	75
More media coverage	67	60	57	61	61	57	58	63	58
Increased volume of research conducted	64	62	62	68	69	72	59	61	63
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	61	-	-	69	-	-	69	-	-
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	60	-	-	67	-	-	66	-	-

* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013

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Stakeholders were asked to offer unprompted advice for think tanks on how to better assist stakeholders in their work. Responses were quite similar to previous years and relatively consistent between regions.

Improvements to the communication of research findings is frequently mentioned as one way for think tanks to improve their performance. Respondents urge think tanks to ensure easier accessibility of research results through social media, websites, and public presentations and launches. Respondents also advise think tanks to make their results more understandable for a wider audience by limiting technical jargon.

Increasing collaboration between think tanks and other organizations is also frequently mentioned by stakeholders across all regions. Respondents in Africa and Latin America encourage think tanks to increase interactions and cooperation with international research institutes, government organizations, and NGOs. They advise that partnering with these types of organizations could drive tangible policy impacts. Those in South Asia suggest that focusing collaborations on local communities could improve understandings of local conditions while making research more relevant.

As in previous years, respondents continue to mention the importance of avoiding bias and remaining transparent. Stakeholders in Africa stress specific concerns about potential political bias in research and the importance of maintaining objectivity. Respondents in Latin America and South Asia suggest that think tanks should diversify sources of funding while avoiding private sector influence in order to mitigate potential bias. They also suggest increasing the transparency and continuity of research practices and funding sources. Respondents suggest that while having strong relationships with government is important in driving policy impacts, it is important to be entirely transparent about the nature of these relationships and limit political partisanship.

Finally, respondents across all regions highlight the importance of prioritizing issues that are relevant to local communities. Undertaking research which is of public interest while encouraging public involvement in the practice and dissemination of research is suggested. By conducting studies that are more relevant to the current issues of the country or local communities, research could be more beneficial in having real policy impacts. Undertaking primary, grassroots research could help to improve the relevance and accuracy of findings, while offering practical solutions.

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Verbatims

"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."
– Ethiopia, Research/academia

"To make research more participatory and focus on action research rather than theoretical."
– Nepal. NGO

"Ensure you always guard your independence and be as neutral as possible in researching."
– Peru, NGO

"They should be independent of all forms of political influence and interference."
– Ghana, Non-elected government

"Long-term engagement on particular issues, being flexible in approach, and engaging with multiple stakeholders to incorporate their concerns into proposal solutions or research."
– India, NGO

"It would be great if they could provide their reports and information in friendly formats. It is also important to diversify their sources of funding."
-Guatemala, Research/academia

"Greater political independence, greater rigor, better oral presentation/delivery of findings, better skill in designing and interpreting questionnaires and surveys."
– Rwanda, Private sector/Industry association

"Generate critical knowledge, participate in the construction of citizen agendas, promote strategic alliances with international research centers, deepen research based on a human rights approach, prioritize the analysis of the causes of social inequality that perpetuate poverty."
– Bolivia, NGO

"Greater relevance of the research topics and depth in the analysis carried out, continuous monitoring of the situation and articulation of the analysis with structural issues."
– El Salvador, Media

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

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire

Sc5t. Which of the following best describes your type of organization or sector:
  Government, Elected
  Government, Non-Elected
  Media
  Multilateral/Bilateral
  NGO
  Private Sector/industry association
  Research/Academia
  Trade Union (LATIN AMERICA ONLY)
  Other WRITE IN _____

A. Information and Policy Making

A2t. In your current direct or indirect involvement with national policy making processes, what types of information do you require? Information relating to….
Please select all that apply.

  Agriculture / food security
  Economic/fiscal/monetary issues
  Education
  Environment
  Foreign affairs
  Gender equality/women's empowerment
  Health care
  Human rights
  Poverty alleviation
  Trade/industry
  Natural resources
  Energy
  (NEW) Sustainable Development Goals
  Other, please specify: _____
  None

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A3t. How easy or difficult is it to obtain information to support policy development in each of the following areas currently? If you don't use a particular type of information, please let us know.
Please use a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is "very difficult" and 5 is "very easy." Select "I do not use this type of information" where applicable.

	1 Very difficult	2	3	4	5 Very easy	Don't know	I do not use this type of information
a. Agriculture food security							
b. Economic/fiscal/monetary issues							
c. Education							
d. Environment							
e. Foreign affairs							
f. Gender equality/women empowerment							
g. Health care							
h. Human rights							
i. Poverty alleviation							
j. Trade industry							
k. Natural resources							
l. Energy							
m. (NEW) Sustainable Development Goals							
n. Other, please specify:_____							

A4t. Which of the following information sources do you use to increase your understanding for national policy development? *Please select all that apply.*

Databases / statistical data banks
Publications/reports
Books
Newsletters/bulletins
Conferences/events
Consulting with experts
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)
Discussion with colleagues/peers
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)
Other, please specify:_____

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A5t. What format do you find most useful for receiving information for national policy development? *Please select up to three.*

> Websites
> Blogs
> Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
> Email
> Print
> In person (either face to face or by telephone)
> Television
> Radio
> Other, please specify:_____

B. Availability and use of research-based evidence in the national policy context

The next few questions are about "research-based evidence." Research-based evidence refers to findings or results from research that can help inform decision making.

B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence? *Please rate each of the following sources on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is "never use" and 5 is "one of your primary sources."*

Source	1 Never use	2	3	4	5 One of your primary sources
at. Government-owned research institutes					
bt. National university-based research institutes					
ct. International university-based research institutes					
d. National independent policy research institutes (think tanks)					
e. International independent policy research institutes (think tanks)					
ft. Relevant government ministries/agencies					
gt. International agencies					
ht. Local/national advocacy NGOs					
it. Industry associations					
jt. Other, please specify:_____					

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ASK FOR EACH SOURCE MARKED"5" in B1

B1b. *Why* do you turn to this particular organization most often?

Note: In several of the following questions, we refer to *quality of research,* which is understood here as being evidence-based, robust and rigorous; relevant and up-to-date; reputable and credible; and situated in relation to existing research literature and findings, nationally and internationally.

Source	Only type of organization available to you	Only type of organization you're familiar with	High quality of research	Relevance of research to your needs	High quality of staff/ researchers	Personal contact there	Credibility
at. Government-owned research institutes							
bt. National university-based research institutes							
ct. International university - based research institutes							
d. National independent policy research institutes (think tanks)							
e. International independent policy research institutes (think tanks)							
ft. Relevant government ministries/agencies							
gt. International agencies							
ht. Local/national advocacy NGOs							
it. Industry associations							
jt. Other, please specify:_____							

ASK IF "NEVER USE" FOR "NATIONAL INDEPENDENT POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTES" in B1

B1ct. Why is it that you **never** use national independent policy research institutes (think tanks) when you are looking for research-based evidence?

      Not familiar enough with any such institutes
      Research recommendations not relevant enough to your needs
      Quality of research does not meet your needs
      Meet your needs through other sources
      Research findings presented in ways that are not useful for your needs
      Other, please specify:_____

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B2t. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of the quality of research provided to work on policy issues in [YOUR COUNTRY]? *Please use a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is "poor" quality and 5 is "excellent" quality.*

	1 Poor	2	3	4	5 Excellent	Don't know
a. Government-owned research institutes						
b. National university-based research institutes						
c. International university-based research institutes						
d. National independent policy research institutes (think tanks)						
e. International independent policy research institutes (think tanks)						
f. Relevant government ministries/agencies						
g. International agencies						
h. Local/national advocacy NGOs						
i. Industry associations						
j. Other, please specify:_____						

C. The role and contribution of think tanks in the national policy context

C2t. How important are each of the following factors for improving the performance of independent policy research institutes (think tanks) in [YOUR COUNTRY]? *Please use a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is "not at all important" and 5 is "highly important."*

	1 Not at all important	2	3	4	5 Highly important	Don't know
a. Increased availability of trained/experienced staff						
b. Greater awareness of their services						
c. Increased volume of research conducted						
d. More media coverage						
e. Improved governance						
f. Diversified sources of funding						
g. Improved quality of research						
h. More audience-friendly presentation of research findings						
i. (NEW) Incorporate gender considerations in research						
j. (NEW) Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices (fair pay, equal treatment, etc.)						
k. Other, please specify:_____						

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C3t. What advice would you have for independent policy research institutes (think tanks) in [YOUR COUNTRY] so that they might better assist you in your work?

C5t. (NEW). In your country, is there a demand for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment?

C5at. If yes, what topics do you feel are of the most interest?

C5bt. If no, why is there no demand for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment in your country?

E. Respondent Profile
E1t. How long have you worked in your current position?

> Less than 1 year
> 1 to less than 2 years
> 2 to less than 3 years
> 3 to less than 5 years
> 5 to less than 10 years
> 10 to less than 15 years
> 15 to less than 20 years
> 20 years or more

E3 (NEW). Which of the following best describes your gender?

> Female
> Male
> Prefer not to answer

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