

Evidence-Based Policymaking
TICAD8 side event

25 August 2022 (Online conference)

SCIENCE TO POLICY. CHALLENGES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DRC

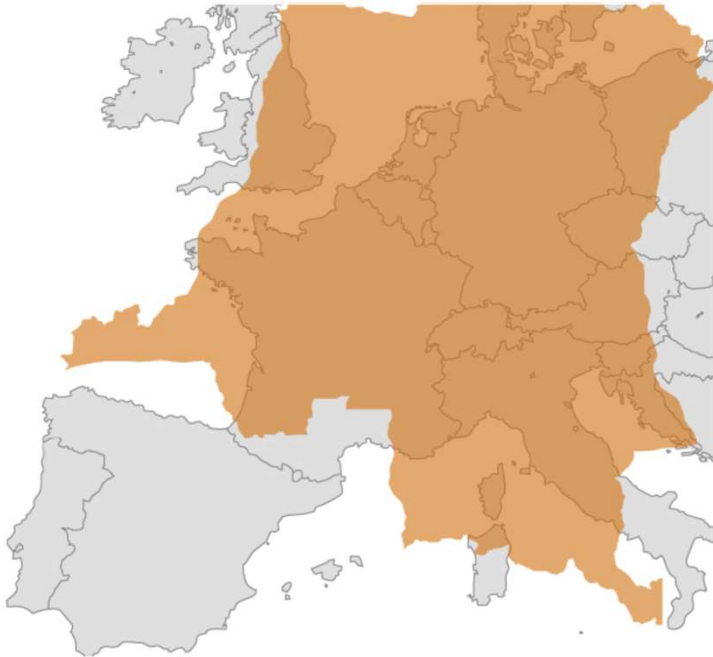
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Content

- A snapshot of the DRC
- Challenges in reflecting scientific evidence in actual policies in African development (especially in the context of DRC. e.g. institution/governance)
 - ▣ DRC: The paucity of data
 - ▣ DRC: Policymaking in a rent-seeking environment
- In relation to 1) above, what stakeholders (local policy makers, practitioners, researchers, external donors) should work on in the future

A snapshot of the DRC

Two thirds of western Europe (2,344,858 square km)



Low-income country

- Population (86.8 million in 2019, estimate) growing at 3.1%/year
- 26 provinces, incomplete decentralization setting
- GNI per capita, PPP (current international\$): 900 (2016)
- Poverty: 63,4% lived in extreme poverty in 2012, down from 71,3 in 2005.
- Prone to violent conflict: 140 armed groups in the Eastern provinces; 5.3 million IDPs (2021).

Bridging the knowing-doing gap. Challenges in the context of the DRC

Two main challenges

1) How do you use EBPM in a data-poor setting?

2) How do you bridge the knowing-doing gap where rent behavior is dominant s?

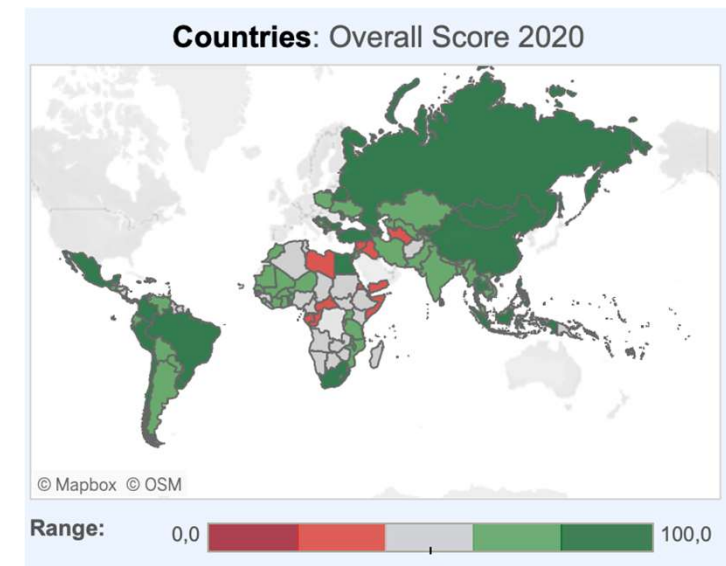
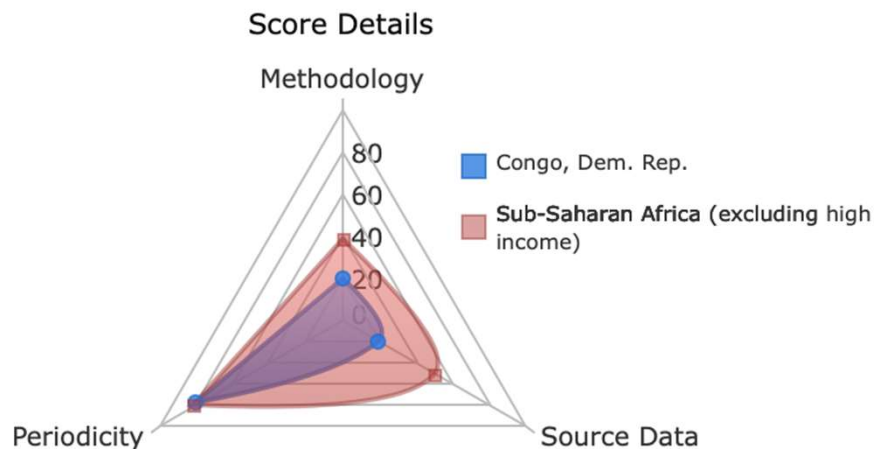
EBPM dwells on/in a few principles (Evidencecollaborative.org):

- « Build and compile rigourous evidence about what works including costs and benefits.
- Monitor program delivery ans use impact evaluation to measure program effectiveness.
- Use rigourous evidence to improve programs, scale what works, and redirect funds away from consistently ineffective programs.
- Encourage innovation ans test new approaches.”

DRC: The paucity of data (1)

□ The DRC's statistical is very weak.

- According to World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator, the DRC had an overall score₁ of 40.0, far below the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 57.14. the score has decreased from 56.7 in 2014.



DRC: The paucity of data (2)

- **The statistical infrastructures are lacking:**
 - No population and housing census has been undertaken since 1984.
 - No organized agricultural census since 1974.
 - The last business census dates back to 1970.
 - reliable vital registration system
- **The last statistical works are basically donor-driven and donor-funded:**
 - UNICEF: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (1995, 2001, 2005-2007, 2010, 2017-2018) → access to water, sanitation and hygiene, under-5 mortality, maternal and neonatal health, education, nutrition, birth registration
 - USAID, Demographic and Health Survey (2007, 2013-2014) → nutrition, malaria, wealth index, family planning, childhood mortality, gender, maternal mortality, etc.
 - Multiple donors, I23 survey (2005, 2012) → employment, informal sector, household consumption
- However, the lack of population, agricultural and business censuses and sample frames affects the accuracy of some indicators drawn from survey data.

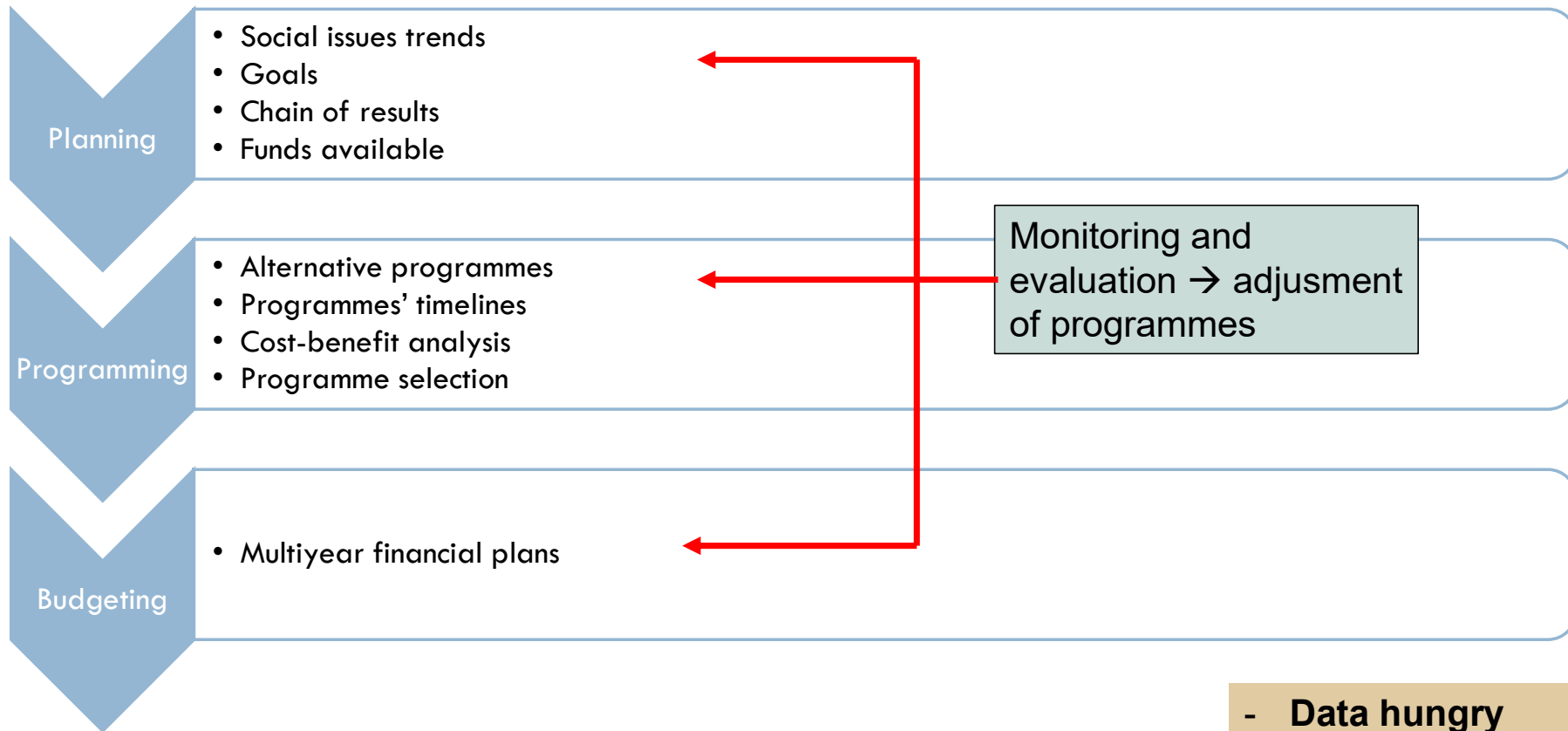
DRC: The paucity of data (3)

- **The Government of DRC had adopted a statistical capacity development strategy:**
 - Decree No. 09/45 of December 3, 2009 clarifies the attributions and organization of the National Statistical Institute (INS).
 - Decree No. 10/05 of February 11, 2010 defines the different bodies of the system and establishes a decentralized statistical system with INS as the central organ and sets up a National Statistical Council (*Conseil National de la Statistique*, CNS) as the coordinating body of the system with the INS support.
 - A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) was approved in August 2012.
- **“However, the Decrees creating the INS and organizing the NSS have not been followed by the appropriate implementation texts, and the NSDS is weakly implemented.” [World Bank]**

DRC: The paucity of data (4)

- Political commitment to data production is short-sighted and donor support is not sufficient to alter the situation.
 - ▣ Political actors supported data production while the country was seeking debt cancellation under the HIPC initiative.
 - ▣ Political commitment has vanished once the short-term goal was achieved
- Data production is also highly skewed for political purposes
 - ▣ For every election, the Electoral Commission spends around 400-600 million US\$ to update the electoral roll (2006, 2011, 2016, 2023)

DRC: Policy making in a rent-seeking environment (1)



The rational policy making model (Soguel, 2008)

- **Data hungry**
- **Pro-development**
- **Accountability**

DRC: Policy making in a rent-seeking environment (2)

- A rational policymaking model supposes:
 - ▣ Sharing and discussions on the policy issues among stakeholders
 - ▣ Consultative process during the drafting of the plan and programmes
- Such a model embodies accountability and transparency.
- Rent-seeking behavior is dominant in the DRC because of political volatility.
- Most policy is made with imperfect knowledge.; consultations are limited; interest groups have a free hand to hijack the process.
- Since March 2019:
 - ▣ *Programme des 100 jours (March 2019)*
 - ▣ *Plan National Stratégique de Développement 2019-2023 (December 2019)*
 - ▣ *Plan Multisectoriel d'urgence d'Atténuation des effets de la COVID-19 (June 2020)*
 - ▣ *Programme de Développement Local des 145 territoires (2022)*

Stakeholders' engagement in the future (1)

- The DRC has hosted one of the World Bank projects under the Statistics for Results Facility and the Catalytic Fund (SRF-CF).
- “In the **two conflict-ridden participating countries, Afghanistan and DRC, the projects failed to produce satisfactory results in accordance with the original plans** which were both very ambitious and complex. In these countries, the national statistical systems were very weak with the NSS institutions not assuming real **ownership** of the projects. Furthermore, political volatility, lack of internal security and absence of real government support thwarted implementation of both projects. Nevertheless, some positive impact has been felt in those countries.” [**Report on the final evaluation of the SRF-CF, December 2019**]

Stakeholders' engagement in the future (2)

- Researchers: more research is needed in fragile states where security concerns weaken the political system, thus enlarging the scale of rent-seeking behavior
- External donors: national ownership must be a condition for support
- Practitioners: much attention has to be given to consultations, public debates as a way of building accountability.

Thank you



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