



ARISE

African Research And Innovative
Initiative For Sickle Cell Education

POLICY MAKER ENGAGEMENT (Nigeria)

Presentation by Larai Diana Gwani

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 824021



WHO IS A POLICY MAKER?

Someone, especially in a Government or Political Party, who decides on new policies:

Source: Cambridge Dictionary



Nigeria Operates 3 Arms of Government

Executive

Legislature

Judiciary



Official Policymaker

- ✓ The official policymakers are those who possess legal authority to engage in the formulation of public policy.
- ✓ Those involved in this category are the Legislators, the Executive, and the Judiciary. Each of them performs policy-making responsibilities in a different way from the others.
- ✓ They are governmental actors who occupy formal public positions and political offices and serve as the actual policy makers.



Unofficial Policymakers

- ✓ They do not occupy formal public positions or political offices, they are not in government
- ✓ They harness their interests and demands, harmonise them and influence official policymakers to factor them into the policymaking process.
- ✓ These unofficial policy makers comprise interest groups, political parties, researchers, community stakeholders and individual citizens.



why the need to engage Policy makers?

- ✓ There is a gap between research and decision making that needs to be bridged
- ✓ Policy makers are rarely involved in research processes and as such policy challenges they face in Governance that would allow for timely and appropriate implementation of research findings are not considered
- ✓ Researchers on the other hand often produce scientific evidence that is not always tailor-made for application in different contexts.

Therefore

Policy Maker engagement is an important strategy of implementation science because by engaging with policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders, support service providers have the opportunity to influence the policy making process and ensure that the appropriate legislation and resources are available to deliver right services to those with needs.





ESSENTIAL TIPS!!!

- WHAT is your key message with relevance for policy?- ARISE its Newborn Screening and pathway to care
- WHY is this important for policy?- it will give every child born with SCD the opportunity to live a better life
- WHO has the power to make a difference?- The Governor, State Legislature, Commissioners, HODs, relevant MDAs
- WHEN to engage? NOW! ASAP! (They should support your grant application)
- WHERE to engage? PLEASE engage them in their offices (unless on a rare occasion), document the meeting by taking photos and reports
- HOW to engage? Advocacy visits, round table discussion, workshop, training (train-the-trainer)



RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- Root Engagement in relationship: lasting policy engagement is about relationship, map out stakeholders, begin outreach, become a familiar face (SCORE activities in Kaduna State)
- Schedule meetings and get prepared: leave a document with policy makers that provides an overview of your main points and has your contact information(souvenirs etc)
- Deliver your message in confidence: dont communicate to policy makers, communicate **with** them, Remember your key points
- Continue with your coversation, begin the follow up activities immediately, send a thank you letter to the policy makers you met with, identify other policy makers you want to contact
- Engage regularly: provide information, updates and feedback to the the policy makers office regularly.



Impact of positive & effective engagement with policy makers

- ✓ Engaging Policy makers in health research helps to co-produce knowledge that is relevant and useful to those implementing health decisions
- ✓ The appropriate legislation and resources are available to deliver right services to those with needs.
- ✓ Engaging policy makers in the beginning and throughout the research process may help establish research priorities and increase relevance of findings.
- ✓ It will facilitate the use of research in decision-making
- ✓ Funders are encouraging the engagement of policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in research.



- ✓ https://www.advocacyandcommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Five_Rules_for_Policymaker_Engagement.pdf
- ✓ <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-016-0209-1>
- ✓ <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/doing-engagement/understanding-audiences/policy-makers>
- ✓ https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/publications/alliancehpsr_irpguide.pdf?ua=1
- ✓ <https://www.longdom.org/articles/actors-in-decision-making-and-policy-process.pdf>



End

Thank you!!!





ARISE

African Research And Innovative
Initiative For Sickle Cell Education

This presentation reflects only the author(s)'s view and the EU Research Executive Agency (REA) is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 824021