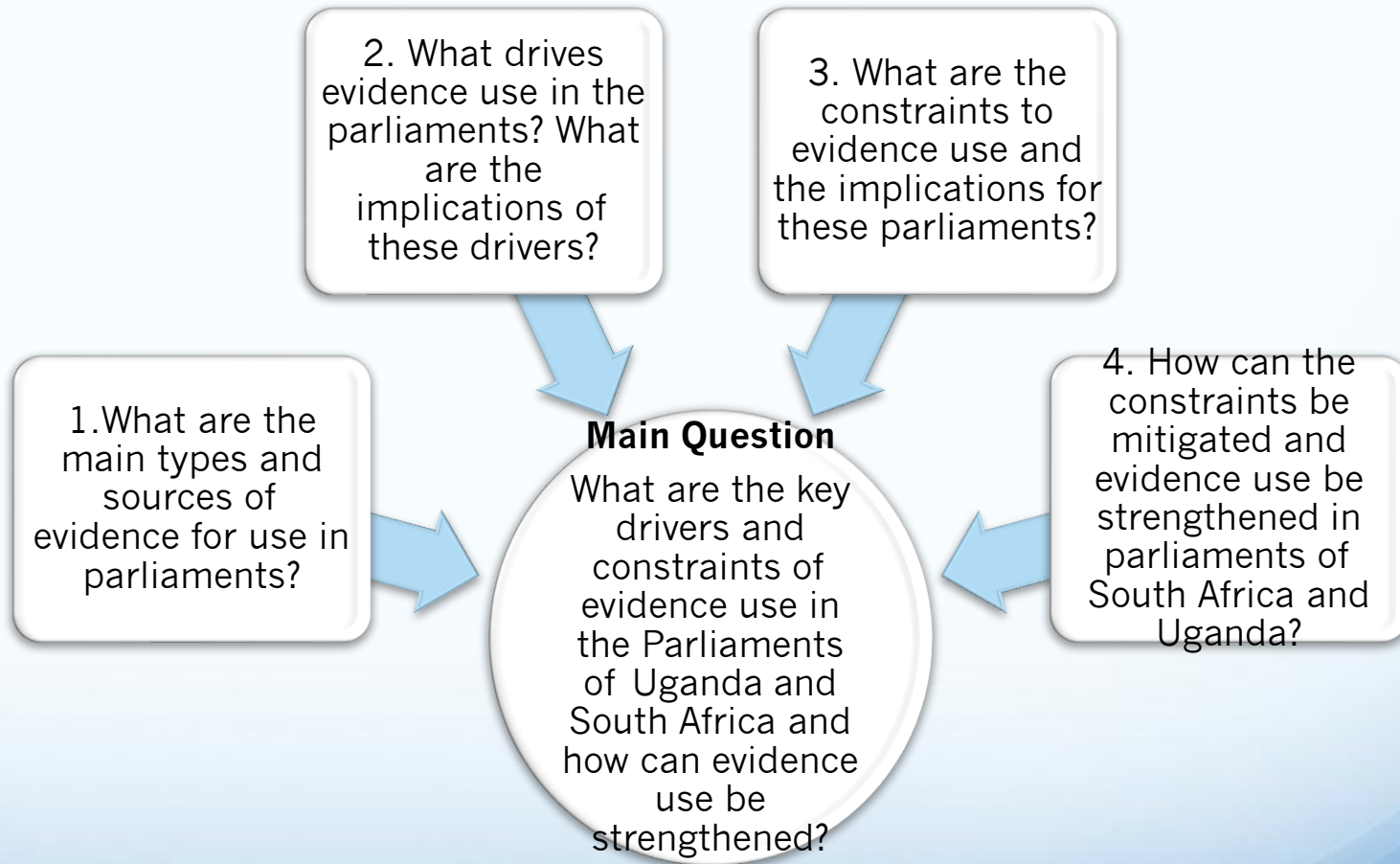


The purpose of the study is to examine drivers and constraints of evidence use in the Parliaments of Uganda and South Africa and propose how evidence use can be strengthened.



Key Findings

Research Question 1: What are the main types and sources of evidence for use in the parliaments?

Types of Evidence	<p>Research-based evidence where findings are arrived at scientific, independent, academic, rigorous, subject to validation and open to critique.</p> <p>Practical or ‘practice-informed’ evidence is derived directly from experience of practice in a particular field.</p> <p>Communal or Citizen knowledge evidence is driven from citizens, both as individuals and collectively, drawing on their daily lives; gained through direct experience</p>
Sources of evidence	<p>Internal sources: Technical departments; Committees of Parliament; Plenary debates; and Benchmarking and exchange learning visits.</p>
	<p>External sources: Government departments; Constituencies; Concerned citizens; Civil Society Organisations; and Internet searches</p>

Key Findings

Research Question 2: What drives evidence use in the parliaments?	
Institutional Level- Debate-specific factor; Discursive and cognitive factors; and Proximate, agency-oriented factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The nature of role ❖ The legal and regulatory framework ❖ Parliamentary evidence generation and use tools ❖ The nature of evidence ❖ Relevancy of evidence ❖ Availability of evidence ❖ Quality of the evidence ❖ Context sensitivity ❖ Media publicity and ❖ Institutional processes, structures and cultures
Individual Level	Skills, competences, attitudes and behaviours to use evidence

Key Findings

Research Question 3: What are the constraints to evidence use?

Institutional Level	Time constraints (accessing evidence and engaging with available evidence), Weak systems and processes for generation and use of evidence, Poor packaging and presentation of evidence, Conflict of interest, Limited availability of evidence, Information overload, Political constraints, evidence dissemination constraints,
Individual Level	Skills, competences, attitudes and behaviours to use evidence

Key Findings

Research Question 4: How can evidence use be strengthened in parliaments?

Improving the climate for evidence use	Safeguard neutrality of evidence, setting rules for relevant forms of evidence, reflecting on practical realities, context sensitivity and facilitating the freedom to act on the evidence.
Prioritizing and co-producing evidence	Strategic development planning to identify needs and prioritising evidence, co-producing with decision makers and facilitate ownership of evidence.
Packaging evidence for, and 'pushing' it to use	Make evidence available and understandable to decision makers (knowledge brokering), fact checking and quality assurance, multiplicity of evidence sources, targeted communication of evidence, embedding evidence in existent decision-support tools, build credibility and trust, context specific, timely and user friendly format and propose clear and actionable recommendations.
Facilitating 'pull' by decision makers	Set-up one-stop evidence for predictable availability, maintaining a rapid-evidence service for timely response to evidence requests, collaborations with evidence producers, capacity building and sharing of best practices.
Exchanging with decision makers	Convening dialogues and knowledge exchange programs, facilitating meaningful media engagement, collaborations with CSOs, identifying and equipping evidence champions and maintaining good relationships.

Lessons and conclusions

- The need for evidence in parliaments is unquestionable.
- Evidence use does not thrive in obscurity, but is rather influenced or determined by the interplay of internal and external context factors at individual, organisational and macro levels.
- For more effective use of evidence, promoters of evidence use in parliament need to gain in-depth understanding of the dynamics of decision-making process in the institutions of parliaments.
- Interventions should be focused at addressing these different levels to motivate, build capability and enhance opportunities for evidence use towards a wider system change.