



A Scoping Review of Medical Research Policy Implications in Equatorial Guinea: An African Perspective

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Published: 21 September 2008 | **Received:** 13 May 2008 | **Accepted:** 21 August 2008

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18530301](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18530301)

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Abstract

Medical research informs health policy and improves outcomes. In Equatorial Guinea, specific health challenges and an evolving research sector create a distinct context for examining how research influences national policy. Analysing this relationship is important for understanding research governance and health system development in Africa. This scoping review aimed to map and synthesise literature on the implications of medical research for health policy in Equatorial Guinea. Its objectives were to identify key themes, knowledge gaps, and documented impacts of research on national health policy formulation and implementation. A scoping review was conducted using established frameworks. A systematic search was performed across multiple electronic databases and grey literature sources. Included materials discussed medical research and its relation to health policy in Equatorial Guinea. Data were charted and analysed thematically. The review identified a limited but growing body of literature. A prominent theme was the disconnect between research activity, often influenced by international priorities, and national policy-making processes. Evidence suggested that research findings, particularly in infectious diseases, have had limited direct translation into formal national health strategies. Medical research in Equatorial Guinea has not been systematically harnessed to inform national health policy. The evidence indicates a need for more deliberate mechanisms to integrate research into the policy cycle to address local health priorities effectively. Key recommendations include establishing a national health research agenda aligned with local needs, strengthening institutional capacity for evidence synthesis, and fostering structured dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and communities to enhance research uptake. Health policy, research utilisation, knowledge translation, Equatorial Guinea, scoping review, Africa This review provides a foundational map of the literature on

medical research and health policy in Equatorial Guinea, highlighting critical gaps and offering directions for strengthening evidence-informed policy-making.

Keywords: *Medical research policy, Health policy, Sub-Saharan Africa, Knowledge translation, Research utilisation, Equatorial Guinea, Scoping review*

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