



# Policy Implications of Medical Research in Burundi: A Short Report for the African Context

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## Abstract

Medical research is crucial for developing context-specific health policies in Africa. In Burundi, a persistent gap exists between medical research evidence and its translation into national health policy and practice. This short report analyses the policy implications of medical research in Burundi. It examines pathways for research to influence health policy and identifies barriers to its utilisation. A narrative synthesis was conducted. This involved a qualitative review of relevant policy documents, research reports, and grey literature concerning medical research and health policy in Burundi. A dominant theme was the misalignment between research priorities and health system needs. Considerable clinical research focused on specialised care, while policymakers prioritised primary care and health system strengthening. Weak institutional mechanisms for knowledge translation were consistently identified as a major barrier. The translation of medical research into health policy in Burundi remains suboptimal. Strengthening the research-to-policy interface is necessary to ensure health investments yield maximum benefit and policies are grounded in robust local evidence. Establish a formal national forum for regular dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and implementers. Funders should mandate and support policy engagement plans within research grants. Research institutions should build capacity in policy communication and advocacy. Knowledge translation, health policy, research utilisation, Burundi, maternal health, implementation science. This report synthesises critical issues at the research-policy interface in Burundi, providing actionable insights for researchers, funders, and government bodies aiming to enhance the impact of medical research on population health.

**Keywords:** *Evidence-based policy, Knowledge translation, Health systems research, Sub-Saharan Africa, Implementation science, Health policy analysis, Research utilisation*

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