



Policy Implications of Medical Research in Burundi: A Brief Report from the African Context

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Abstract

Translating medical research into health policy is a recognised challenge in Africa. In Burundi, a persistent gap exists between research evidence and its implementation in policy and practice. This brief report analyses the policy implications of medical research in Burundi. It examines pathways through which research influences national health policy and identifies key barriers to this process. The analysis involved a desk-based review and synthesis of relevant policy documents, research reports, and programme evaluations. This was supplemented by a thematic analysis of perspectives gathered from key informant interviews with stakeholders. A dominant theme was the misalignment between research priorities and the operational needs of the health system. A minor proportion of reviewed research projects had a documented link to subsequent policy change. Persistent barriers included weak institutional frameworks for knowledge translation and insufficient engagement of policymakers during research formulation. The translation of medical research into health policy in Burundi remains inconsistent. The absence of structured mechanisms for this translation significantly diminishes the potential of research to improve health outcomes. Establish a national knowledge translation framework with mandated stakeholder engagement. Strengthen the Ministry of Health's capacity to systematically appraise and integrate research findings. Foster long-term partnerships between researchers and policymakers from a project's inception. Knowledge translation, health policy, research utilisation, Burundi, maternal health, implementation science. This report synthesises evidence on a critical barrier to evidence-based practice in Burundi, offering concrete recommendations to enhance the policy impact of medical research.

Keywords: *Evidence-based policy, Knowledge translation, Sub-Saharan Africa, Health systems research, Implementation gap*



ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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