A project co-funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Research Matters (RM) supports the effective exchange and translation of sound and innovative research findings among a wide range of research-users and decision makers. This newsletter is published semi-annually and contains updates about RM’s projects, activities and products; with a specific focus on a topic that we believe is of interest to our partners. This current issue concentrates on The Conference 2.0 (see reverse).

NEW INITIATIVES

Knowledge translation training opportunities: Insights from a global scoping study. RM commissioned a study of currently available knowledge translation and / or research communication training opportunities in post-secondary education curricula. The brief and inventory, led by the InSource research team, is intended to inform the development of KT course materials or programs for health research, policy and management degree programs in East Africa. It therefore considered key advantages and challenges associated with developing KT curricula in LMICs.

From Paper To Mike: An Analysis Of Health Systems Reporting In Uganda’s Print And Radio Media. A multidisciplinary team study led by Makerere University, is exploring coverage of health issues in the Ugandan media paying particular attention to the extent to which, and the mechanism/process through which, evidence generated through health research gets (or does not get) into the media.

RM has partnered with the I-K-Mediary network to create an open access web platform on Knowledge Brokering (KB) that will serve as portal for learning and sharing across the global KT/KB community. The interactive space will consolidate and disseminate relevant resources, knowledge and discussions on KB. Stay tuned for the launch!

PARTNER ACHIEVEMENTS

BBC World Service Trust’s Kimasomaso programme: Sound Evidence, Healthy Debates - promoting research evidence to influence health services and policy through media has produced 22 programmes to date. Go to the RM website to listen to the Swahili audio versions or to read the corresponding English transcripts. Issues range from health facilities in slums to governance of health systems in the East Africa region. The programmes have resulted in a surge of interest in health policy issues among youth, researchers and decision-makers alike!

Radio drama has served as a tool for empowering orphans and vulnerable children in Monkey Bay, Malawi. A Participatory communication project Akondeni (Love them), facilitated by RM’s partner EQUINET demonstrated how social media tools such as drama, when combined with ICTs such as radio, can reach a larger audience and assist in changes in behavior as well as attitudes. In the play Irene, an orphan who lives with her abusive aunt, perseveres despite her circumstances and avoids the lure and the perils of sex work unlike her peers. Access Akondeni on the RM website.
The Conference 2.0: Better presentations, better conferences

Conferences: Unparalleled moments to network, present, source some funding, solve problems, and soak up new knowledge. However, all too often, conferences pay little attention to their overall contribution to the field. Logistics become the most important feature and oftentimes the big picture and the main messages are lost: they’re neither delivered nor captured well.

The “next wave” of conferences aims to remedy that. The Conference 2.0 seeks to turn every conference into a dynamic learning environment, where dynamic oral and poster presentations flow into proceedings capturing strong, action-oriented messages. In this chapter we discuss practical ways to improve:

**Oral presentations** – making talks more memorable through the “Three-Messages Speech”. To keep the audience engaged, remember: *tell them, show them, remind them, and ask them*; rehearse; and use supporting technology responsibly. As with other KT tools, the audience’s experience is much more important than the presenter’s.

**Poster presentations** – choosing the right look and size to summarize results into captivating nuggets. A poster is an eye-catching presentation with a bonus: the bonus is a that you, the presenter is right there standing right next to your poster and holding forth on the compelling aspects of your work. Like other KT tools, a good poster must inspire an audience to want more information.

**Conference presentations** – streamlining and improving the conference’s final record or proceedings by employing two strategies: working with *rapporteurs* to help them identify and capture the key messages, and convincing session *chairs* to contribute to the rapporteurs’ work; and then using this material to create a *synthesis report* of select presentations, interviews, discussions, and workshops.

To learn more on Chapter II: The conference 2.0 and other KT Strategies visit the Knowledge Translation toolkit online - it's free!

[www.idrc.ca/rm_kt_toolkit](http://www.idrc.ca/rm_kt_toolkit)

Dec 2010: final revamped, revised and published version of the KT toolkit. Watch this space!