

Bespoke training and strategy support for evidence informed policy

Transform your organisation's use of evidence for policy and practice with tailored training and strategy support from the Institute of Development Studies

[**www.ids.ac.uk/learn**](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn)

Shaping policy with evidence for transformative change

There is increasing pressure on government officials, research programmes and NGOs to make better use of evidence to produce viable policy options. Influencing decision makers and contributing to policy formulation and implementation with research requires an explicit focus on power and politics – seeking ways to promote positive change in highly complex policy environments.

We help programme managers, policy advisors, evaluators, researchers and communications staff, gain the skills and competencies required to operate effectively at the interface between policy and research.

Through a tailored learning programme we work with you to explore what we mean by evidence, whose knowledge really counts and how your organisation can more effectively shape policy with research and learning.

“Being able to spend three days at IDS with a really fascinating group of other students (consultants, government officials, and fellow NGO staff) allowed me to learn and consider how evidence can better inform my work, thereby making me a stronger and more effective advocate in global policy spaces.”

Kathryn Tobin, Advocacy Coordinator, WaterAid

Why our clients choose us

We provide world-class research and learning to transform approaches to equitable and sustainable development that helps ensure better lives for everyone, everywhere.

IDS is ranked first in the world for development studies by the QS World University Rankings, together with the University of Sussex. We are also ranked best international development policy think tank.

Our policy and evidence learning programmes are delivered by leading practitioners and researchers who have extensive experience of working at the policy-evidence interface in advocacy, policy and communications roles. They create interactive and supportive learning environments, which are shaped by participants needs and designed to promote mutual learning and exchange.

We have a strong track record in enabling government ministries, development agencies and research programmes to design achievable influencing plans, to review and communicate research, and to assess impact pathways. IDS leads numerous global research and policy programmes on themes such as: agriculture, conflict, health, governance, inequalities, nutrition, sustainability, participation and urbanisation. Drawing from this cross-sector, interdisciplinary work enables us to support the delivery of rigorous, compelling, evidence-based policy offers and effective impact evaluation in a range of policy contexts.

We have delivered learning programmes on policy engagement to university faculties, research organisations and NGOs in South Asia, Africa, Eastern and Central Europe and the UK. Previous clients include: BBC Media Action, Department for International Development, UK; Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria; International Indigenous Women’s Forum; International Growth Centre, Irish Aid; Macedonian Center for International Cooperation; Ministry of Education, Jordan; Prosperity Fund Better Health Programme, Mexico; Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology; University of Sussex; UN Women; Water Aid.

Tailored learning based on your needs

We recognise that the needs of every organisation is different. To tailor your learning effectively, we work with you to conduct an initial needs assessment and co-develop a programme of activities with specific learning goals. This may involve conducting baseline research on key decision makers and staff who will participate in the learning programme.

Whatever your area of policy and socio-political context, our priority is to share learning and tools that can be adapted to the particular challenges you face. By way of example, some typical goals for participants include the ability to:

- Re-evaluate your organisation's or programme's use of evidence and theories of change.
- Adapt better to fast-changing policy demands and deploy new tools for understanding how change happens in a particular context.
- Systematically identify and appraise policy relevant evidence.
- Frame research for policy and practice and develop compelling evidence informed policy offers.

After your training programme, as part of an ongoing partnership we can provide further strategic support including reviews of relevant evidence, capacity assessments, toolkits and guidance material, and analysis of evidence production and use.

Who is it for?

Our learning programmes are ideally suited to institutions or initiatives that have prioritised the use of evidence to support learning, policy formulation and implementation or are supporting others in these areas.

Whether your requirements relate to growing research capacity, building knowledge-based collaborations and networks, developing policy advocacy strategies or enhancing impact evaluation, we can help.

Location

We can host learning programmes at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, or in your own facilities. We can also coordinate virtual learning programmes.

Find out more

The cost will be dependent on the location of your learning programme and the numbers of participants. Call us today on +44 01273 915832 to discuss your requirements or email L.Plati@ids.ac.uk

Our vision is of equal and sustainable societies, locally and globally, where everyone can live secure, fulfilling lives free from poverty and injustice.

“The course strengthened my understanding of the link between evidence and the politics of influencing social change in a complex world.”

**Aileen Patricia O’Donovan,
Deputy Head of Development, Irish Aid Ethiopia**

Institute of Development Studies
Library Road, Brighton BN1 9RE UK

E ids@ids.ac.uk
T+44 (0)1273 606261
W www.ids.ac.uk/learn

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