VISITS TO POLICY AGENCIES (RPS3F)

Module
From Research to Policy

Format
Field Trip/Site Visit

Purpose
This activity contributes to the module learning objectives by giving participants an opportunity to interact with a policy agency and individuals who have used research in policy decisions.

Time Required
• 1-3 hrs.

Activity Description
Visits to policy agencies. Examples of policy agencies to visit include:
• A Ministry, such as Ministry of Health, Planning, or Gender/Women’s Affairs.
• A standing Parliamentary Committee on health or a similar issue, or a visit from a representative from such a committee.
• A parastatal agency such as the Kenya National Council on Population and Development.
• A local office of an international donor or actor, such as USAID, UNFPA, or the World Bank.

Training implementers and partners should draw on their connections to arrange a visit with one or more representatives from a policy agency. Participants often appreciate the opportunity to visit a different location and, depending on the level of prestige of the policy agency, see their actual offices. So when possible, arrange the visit at the policy agency, but if that is impractical you can invite the representatives to the training site.

Goals of the visit include to:
• Learn how the policy agency uses research.
• Learn how policy decisions are made.

Ask the representative(s) of the policy agency to prepare a short presentation that introduces the agency and includes how policy decisions are made and how research can influence policy decisions. In advance, ask the representatives for a bio and for an example of a recent policy document that was informed by research.
Ensure that the visit will allow ample time for questions and discussion among the group. A visit of one to two hours is usually appropriate.

**Key Learning Concept(s)**
- Role of the given agency in developing and implementing policy and in using research
- Opportunity to interact with and ask questions of representatives of the agency

**Materials Needed**
Conference room large enough to hold the group; if you will be bringing the group to a different location, ensure that you have a reliable plan for transportation and allow sufficient time.

**Required Preparation**
- Bios about speakers and background materials about the agency, if possible
- A timely policy document from the agency that was informed by research, if possible