

Pathways to Influence

Building stronger pathways from research to policy and practice



REGION

Africa and Asia

PARTNER

Global Parenting Initiative (GPI)

YEAR

2022–23

PROGRAMME

Research Uptake Accompaniment

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Global Parenting Initiative brings together research teams generating evidence on scalable, evidence-informed parenting interventions across the Global South.

A year-long **research uptake accompaniment programme** was designed to help participating teams move beyond end-of-study dissemination and think strategically about how evidence could influence policy and practice, developing plans grounded in their research, audiences, contexts and pathways to influence.

PROJECT GOAL

To strengthen research teams' capacity to plan for and support the use of evidence in policy and practice.

Embedding research uptake throughout the research lifecycle, rather than treating it as something that begins once findings are available.

6

progressive learning sessions

11

research teams supported to complete uptake plans

2022–2023

accompaniment programme delivered across Africa and Asia

What we did



Built a Progressive Learning Journey

A six-part learning series guided teams step by step from foundational research uptake concepts through stakeholder analysis, message development, identifying appropriate products and activities, workplanning and monitoring.



Connected Learning Directly to Real Research

Rather than stand-alone training, teams worked on their own research uptake plans throughout the programme. Practical exercises, structured templates and dedicated working time turned concepts into decisions about audiences, messages, activities and responsibilities.



Provided Tailored Mentorship

Project-specific mentorship gave teams space to examine their plans in greater depth, refine their thinking and work through challenges unique to their studies and contexts.



Created Space for Peer Learning

Researchers working across different countries and projects were brought together to exchange approaches, challenges and solutions, learning from one another's experience as much as from the facilitator.



Strengthened Researcher-Practitioner Connections

The accompaniment created deliberate space to explore how stronger relationships between researchers and practitioners can support the movement of evidence into policy and practice.

WHAT THE ACCOMPANIMENT ACHIEVED

- Complete research uptake plans (11 teams)
- Supporting workplans with clear timelines
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Stronger strategic thinking about reach
- Plans grounded in each team's own research
- Increased capacity to plan for uptake
- Delivered across Africa and Asia

WHAT THIS MEANT FOR THE TEAMS

The programme strengthened participating teams' understanding of research uptake and supported them to translate that understanding into practical, project-specific strategies. It also helped teams think more strategically about how their research could reach and influence the people able to use it.

A LESSON WE CARRY FORWARD

Research uptake should be designed into the research journey, not added at the end.

Evidence is more likely to influence policy and practice when researchers begin early by asking who needs this knowledge, what they need from it and who can influence its use. Research uptake is therefore more than communicating findings: it requires deliberate attention to **capability, relationships, engagement and the pathways through which evidence can travel into action.**