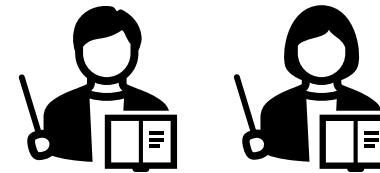# Policy engagement toolkit

August 2024

IGC Model

The International Growth Centre (IGC) works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research.

Resident Country Offices
across Africa, South Asia and the Middle East

International Network of Researchers

IGC generates research for policy

- IGC's core mission is to support data-driven policymaking via robust, relevant research

- **Policy relevance of all proposed research is assessed in detail**, and factors heavily on whether a proposal is successful

- Relevance is assessed first and foremost by IGC Country Teams, made up of in-country policy and research experts

- We assess the extent to which policy engagement has been factored into research design, implementation and intended impact, including:
  - The extent to which the project is demand-led, demand-informed or supply-driven
  - The extent and ways policy stakeholders have been involved in project design
  - Whether relevant policy stakeholders have been clearly identified
  - If realistic plans are in place to engage relevant stakeholders with project findings

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How IGC supports policy engagement

- **Resident Country Teams** – Country Director, Lead Academics, Country Economists

- **Thematic Initiative Teams** – Heads of Initiatives, Lead Academics, Policy Economists: support for thematic policy partners, also in non-resident countries

- **Proposal development** – Country Teams are well placed to assist on building proposals with best likelihood for success

- **Access to data** – by leveraging existing relationships, Country Teams can facilitate access to important data sets for research

- **Stakeholder engagement** – Teams can help identify and connect research teams with relevant policy counterparts

- **Planning and supporting dissemination** – through in-depth knowledge and extensive networks, IGC can support building the most effective project dissemination plan; country teams also support efforts to organise dissemination workshops/ events and IGC can support with funding towards this.

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Pathways to policy influence

- IGC sees **pathways to policy influence** as the following:
  - *National strategy influencing and agenda setting*: Engaging with high-level stakeholders to influence strategic priorities and agendas based on frontier knowledge.

  - *Informing policies or programmes*: Assisting decision-makers in making evidence-informed choices and crafting effective policies that address critical issues.

  - *Promoting technological and process innovation*: Facilitating and promoting the adoption of innovative technologies and processes, helping integrate cutting-edge solutions into policy and practice.

  - *Catalysing conversations and promoting new thinking*: Empowering stakeholders to better address challenges, often by providing training, resources, and support tailored to specific needs aimed at enhancing the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of individuals and institutions.

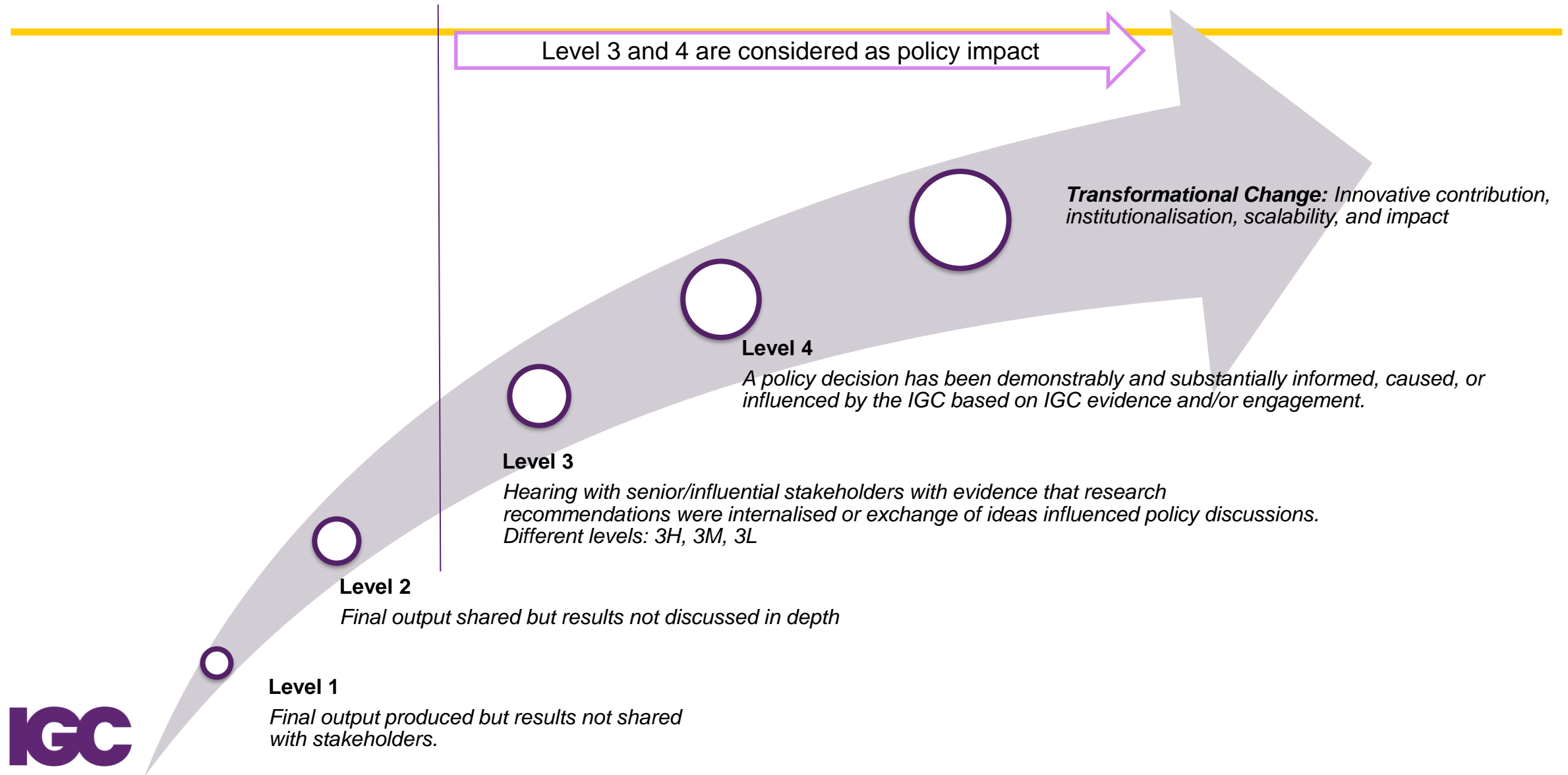**IGC**

Reporting on policy influence

- Policy stakeholders can be a **government (local/ regional/ national), any private sector partner, international organisations, NGOs or civil society organisations**, amongst others.

- Capturing and assessing policy engagements and outcomes is a core aspect of IGC project monitoring, and reporting – we do this through various project documents that we ask PIs to submit to us, such as: *Project Influence Plan, Progress Report, Project Influence Report* etc., along with associated **evidence of policy engagement**.

- **We validate and triangulate claims to policy impact** by collecting a range of evidence from various stakeholders, including from resident IGC country teams.

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Drivers of policy impact

- **Collaboration / co-generation**
  - **Co-generated research from the design stage** supports effective collaboration and increases policy relevance of research
  - **Iterate on key policy questions**
  - Commitment and support from key **'policy champions'**

- **Policy relevant interim outputs**
  - Dissemination does not necessarily need to happen at the end of the project. Strong engagement throughout the project cycle, that allows for dissemination of interim results, it's the most efficient way of engaging with stakeholders

- **Different types of dissemination**
  - Closed door events + larger events
  - Independent meetings with key stakeholders

- **Engaging with all relevant stakeholders**
  - Collaborating with and disseminating to all relevant stakeholders, including 'other' non-government stakeholders, such as NGOs, international organisations etc.

- **Innovative research**
  - **Testing new policy interventions:** 70% of the IGC's top-5 economics journal publications are associated with policy decision

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Impact scale at the IGC

Level 3 and 4 are considered as policy impact

Transformational Change: *Innovative contribution, institutionalisation, scalability, and impact*

Level 4

A policy decision has been demonstrably and substantially informed, caused, or influenced by the IGC based on IGC evidence and/or engagement.

Level 3

Hearing with senior/influential stakeholders with evidence that research recommendations were internalised or exchange of ideas influenced policy discussions.
Different levels: 3H, 3M, 3L

Level 2

Final output shared but results not discussed in depth

Level 1

Final output produced but results not shared with stakeholders.

Evidencing policy impact – what can be submitted?

- Email chains between policymakers and country teams/researchers
- Official minutes recorded by government/policy actors
- Progress Reports, Policy Influence Reports (or other such relevant outputs)
- Public statements or reports
- Policy documents (private and public)
- National plan and internal strategy documents
- Testimonials
- Interviews with policymakers
- Letters of support/ thanks
- Comments or edits provided on documents
- Engagement on the development of new research

*This is not an exhaustive list, but only indicative of what are some of the most common and impact-driven examples of documents

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Working in partnership in a virtuous cycle

We believe that research can have the most lasting impact on policy when it is **developed in partnership with policymakers**. We work based on **two-way dialogue and mutual respect**.
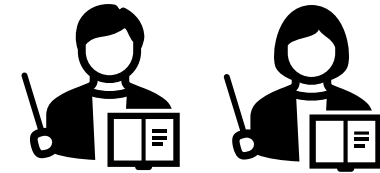
Resident Country Offices
across Africa, South Asia and the Middle East

International Network of Researchers
from top universities across the world

Collaborative idea generation **focusing scientific advancement on key growth challenges** *in developing countries.*

Long-term policy partnerships:
- Build trust, understanding of context and information exchange
- Enable understanding of policy agenda and reform opportunities
- Support policymaker-researcher dialogue
- Promote responsiveness to policy demands
- Promote evidence-based policy-making
- Facilitate taking solutions to scale

Policy-driven research generation:
- Acts as learning accelerator for policy makers, providing:
- Robust evidence on what works and what doesn't, promoting more effective, lower cost policies, and
- New conceptual frameworks, reframing policy challenges and enabling innovative new policy options.
- Advances the frontier of knowledge, supporting policy innovation globally

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