SCHEMATICS OF UTAFITI SERA

UTAFITI SERA

1. Key Stakeholders:

Research Organizations, Think Tanks, External Organizations, Central and Local Government, Media, Policy Makers, CBOs, NGOs and Interest Groups.

2. Mapping & Synthesising Evidence
- New Research Evidence on policy problem
- Synthesis of existing research evidence

3. Packaging of Research Evidence
- Policy briefs
- Infographics
- Video documentary
- Newspaper

4. Communication Channels
- Policy Debate
- Meetings
- Forums
- Advocacy/Campaigns
- Social Media

Short Route

Long Route

5. Outcomes
- New Policies
- National debate
- Program Design
- Implementation changes

Policy Influencers/ Champions

As a '**process**' *Utafiti Sera* involves sequences of activities that enable the building of a community of interests and practice from where existing and new ideas and evidence flow from members of the community resulting in collective action and interventions to improve policy design and implementation. As a '**place**' *Utafiti Sera* provides a space for key stakeholders with interest, power, capacity and motivation to act in diverse ways to ensure that research evidence becomes available and are used to make informed policy decisions and practices.

As a '**forum**', it provides a non-partisan platform for knowledge engagement, 'outreach' and 'in-reach' by different members of the community irrespective of theoretical and ideological differences, in order to build bridges and work together to establish common ground for the pursuit of agreed upon goals. As a '**vehicle**', Utafiti Sera constitutes motor and pathways, transmission belts or/and channels for shared knowledge (common areas on which there are agreements and consensus), and experiences to enhance policy uptake.

In short, *Utafiti Sera* is a phenomenon whose form is determined by the specific conjuncture or/and context in which it is expressed or put in place. It has no permanent form except that of community formation or action of a collective of researchers and policy actors in the pursuit of policy uptake.

Utafiti Sera at national, local and regional levels is an innovative mechanism to inform and positively advocate, proffer and contribute to appropriate and relevant policies and programmes that address inclusive development and the wellbeing of citizens through research evidence for

policy. Given that policy formation is always and often a dynamic work in progress, there are other possible routes.

Where circumstances permit such as the presence of most of the actors and conditions, *Utafiti Sera* may take what can be termed a shorter route towards ensuring policy uptake. In contexts that require more preliminary work of bringing the different players and actors together, facilitating contacts, networks and identifying interests; it is more of what can be termed a longer route of communication, building bridges, working out advocacy plans, facilitating ownership, and identifying and mobilizing collective and individual champions. This involves a more detailed set of incremental activities. There are therefore different time frames, starting points and steps in making *Utafiti Sera* work.

The scheme above depicts possible short and long routes that PASGR intends to pursue. *Utafiti Sera* begins with building a community or an imaginary house (a space) where all stakeholders converge for building consensus.

With the support of Dutch Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development (INCLUDE), PASGR has started operationalising the concept of *Utafiti Sera* in Kenya on social protection and employment creation and in Nigeria and Kenya on employment creation. PASGR has also registered *Utafiti Sera.*