The art and science of using evidence in LMICs

14 OCTOBER 2019,
WHAT WORKS GLOBAL SUMMIT 2019, MEXICO CITY
LAURENZ LANGER & PROMISE NDUKU
The why: lots of activities and evidence on EIPM in LMICs—little cross-learning, synthesis, and transfer of practice

- Proliferation of practice of EIPM in LMICs
- Proliferation of research (incl evaluation) on EIPM too

But often:
- Based on single cases / contexts
- Sectoral and geographical silos
- Knowledge organized within professions and entities

As a result, little shared practices and approaches despite shared problems reoccurring contextual issues.
What we are trying do about it?

To systematically collate, organise, and synthesise the existing knowledge on EIPM in order to develop *evidence-informed* guidelines for strengthening evidence-use in LMICs.

- **Evidence map** of empirical evidence on interventions to support EIPM in LMICs
- **6 rapid evidence synthesis** on different EIPM interventions
- **Evidence-informed guidelines** on supporting EIPM
- **Piloting of guidelines in 4 contexts**

How can the evidence-base on EIPM in LMICs be used to inform improved practical guidance for policy-makers that supports strengthened individual and institutionalised evidence-use?

Which interventions are effective in supporting EIPM and in what contexts?

What is the size and nature of the existing evidence-base on EIPM in LMICs?
What’s different? Methods innovation in translating and synthesising evidence on EIPM in LMICs

**Innovation in translating evidence on EIPM**
- 3-step sequencing approach to developing evidence-informed guidelines
  - Beyond small n (cases, studies)
  - More transparent
  - Unpacking evidence chain and transferability

**Innovation in synthesizing evidence on EIPM**
- Much broader EM not focused on gaps but on areas for rapid synthesis (context of timeliness & large exclusion of local evidence)
- Joining the science and art of using evidence
How this fits within the wider CEIDL agenda?

CEDIL: Evidence translation gaps / Enhancing the use and usefulness of evaluation findings / Promote the uptake and use of evidence from impact evaluations and evidence synthesis

Arts & Science of Using Evidence firmly focused on the demand-side of EIPM. It starts with the evidence user.

In this, we are hoping to contribute:

1. Process innovation—with EIPM as a process advancing
2. Practical tools to guide this process innovation
   ◦ Evidence Map
   ◦ Evidence-informed Guidelines
3. An approach to rapid and responsive evidence synthesis
The who?

Africa Centre for Evidence Team supported by:

• Beryl Leach, 3ie, supporting Guideline Development and Research Uptake,
• Birte Snilstveit, 3ie, supporting Evidence mapping and Synthesis,
• Harsha Dayal, ACE Affiliate, supporting Guideline Development and Research Uptake,
• Prof David Gough, UCL EPPI Centre, supporting conceptual and theoretical framing throughout.

Piloting of guidelines will be supported by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in South Africa, the African Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES) in Uganda, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), and EVIPNet Burkina Faso.
Thank you

Laurenz Langer
Africa Centre for Evidence
University of Johannesburg

llanger@uj.ac.za | @laurentz_ml| www.africacentreforevidence.org