About This Guide

WHO WHO

The Global Health Network

Published on: Feb 23, 2022

URL: https://tghncollections.pubpub.org/pub/eh82fd41

Who is this document for?

All WHO staff, Member States and partner organizations

This document is meant to provide guidance to all staff of the World Health Organization (WHO), of Member States and in partner organizations who need to create, commission, fund, broker or apply evidence. This process is composed of two distinct but interacting components [1]:

• **evidence creation**, represented as a funnel, moving from an overwhelming number of primary studies or data of variable quality towards a more concise, clear and user-friendly packaging of the research evidence (such as in guidelines, evidence briefs for policy [EBPs], and health technology assessments [HTAs]); and

• **evidence application**, represented through the policy/action cycle, outlining the steps needed for evidence to be applied in policy or practice.

This guidance, and associated repository of tools, provides WHO staff and partners with a set of methods and tools for evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) across the clinical (or practice), public health and health system fields. It does not replace existing WHO methods and tools but brings them together in one place and shows how the different processes fit together and complement each other. Decision trees are also being developed to complement the guide and repository to support the user in applying EIDM.

Why should you use this document?

For a systematic and transparent process of using the best available research evidence in your work

As an evidence-based Organization, we need to apply rigorous systematic and transparent methods for the creation and application of research evidence in our day-to-day work, whether developing policy options, formulating new programmes or providing technical assistance to Member States. WHO, as part of its Global Programme of Work (GPW)13, is also committed to turning the knowledge that it produces into action to deliver the "Triple Billion" targets: a billion more people with universal health coverage (UHC), a billion more people protected from health emergencies, and a billion more people with better health and wellbeing [2]. By applying reliable and consistent approaches to EIDM, the Organization will strengthen its unique role as a credible knowledge producer, user and broker, and optimize its own processes and performance.

WHO will be successful in driving a measurable improvement in the health of people only if the different areas within the Organization and at country level operate in a more aligned and synergistic manner to make the best use of resources and capacities. Through such an organizational shift, our capacity will be leveraged to accelerate the achievement of WHO's Triple Billion targets and the SDGs.

What are the objectives of the guide?

To guide and support you in optimizing your use of evidence

1. to guide you in using research evidence in your day-to-day work;

2. to guide you in the process of supporting Member States to use research evidence;

3. to establish closer collaboration across the different workstreams of the evidence ecosystem.

What do we wish to see as outcomes?

To see changes at three levels

1. The work of WHO is systematically and transparently informed by the best available evidence and an evidence culture is enhanced.

2. WHO goes beyond developing global evidence products to support Member States in the adaptation and adoption of evidence in a way that contributes to its scaling up and impact.

3. The actors of the evidence ecosystem, within the Organization and at country level, operate in a more aligned and synergistic manner to make better use of resources and capacities.
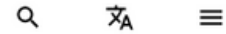
How should this document be used?

This guidance allows for a flexible approach that is suited to all types of EIDM and implementation processes. It applies to both policy and practice decisions in the clinical, public health or health system fields. The document shows you where to get advice and help – whether an EBP is being developed, a formal guideline adaptation/adoption process is being set up, or an individual staff member or partner has been tasked with developing the evidence base to underpin advocacy on specific health issues.

The EIDM-repository: tailored tools at your fingertips

Accompanying this guidance and facilitating access to key EIDM and knowledge translation (KT) resources, an online repository of EIDM tools and resources used by WHO and with Member States is available online.

The repository can be navigated and explored along the policy/action cycle or using the advance search functionality, and tools can filtered by document type, language and publication date.

Policy dialogue preparation and facilitation checklist

EIDM > Communicate and Engage > Policy Dialogue

WHO launched the Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) as a response to the World Health Assembly resolution WHA58.34 in 2005 to build knowledge translation (KT) capacity of Member States. EVIPNet Europe was launched in October 2012 under the umbrella of the European Health Information Initiative, supporting the implementation of the European policy framework Health 2020 and the Action Plan to strengthen the use of evidence, information and research for policy-making in the WHO European Region 2016–2020. EVIPNet has been implementing policy dialogues (PDs) as key KT instruments for evidence-informed policy-making (EIP). These PDs are typically informed by an evidence brief for policy (EBP). EBPs and PDs are examples of tools used to improve the contextualization and utilization of evidence within policy-making.

Evidence briefs for policy (also known as policy briefs) provide direct support to policy-making by packaging the research evidence in a way that it is accessible, relevant, easy to use and applicable at the local level. They start with the priority policy issue (not the research evidence). Thereafter, they use the best available evidence to clarify the problem and its causes, and identify and frame policy options to address the problem. They often feature issues related to governance, financing and delivery, along with important implementation considerations.

WHO Team EURO
Update 09.07.2021
Reference WHO/WHE/2021.07
Copyright CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

Direct Download
Website
Related tools

Topic area
Communicate & Engage
Education / training   Policy dialogue
Active dissemination / comm.

Document type
Technical document

Evidence type
Secondary   Tertiary

Tools included in the repository were identified and mapped using a wide consultative process with technical units and rigorous rating against inclusion and prioritization criteria. The repository is updated regularly.

> [Start exploring the world of WHO's EIDM tools](#) (to be activated shortly)

Where to start

This Guide offers multiple access points to tried and tested tools and vetted approaches for facilitating EIDM in WHO and with Member States. Readers looking for a comprehensive background to EIDM will benefit from starting with Chapter 1 "What is EIDM and why is the use of research evidence important?" before advancing to Chapter 2. Chapter 2 "The evidence ecosystem" includes a comprehensive description of the evidence ecosystem framework, including its underlying principles and cross-cutting approaches. Readers just looking for a quick overview of the framework are referred to Fig. 2.2. More advanced users wishing to directly access EIDM tools can do so by going directly to Chapter 3 "The EIDM treasure box: tools, evidence types, evidence sources and key forms of collaboration", or by accessing the online repository. The organization of the tools in Chapter 3 and in the repository is guided by Fig. 2.2.

Where to find help

The Evidence to Policy and Impact Unit in the Research for Health Department/Science Division aims to promote WHO's science and evidence-based mandate by (i) systematical y and transparently developing policies, tools and interventions based on the best available research evidence; and (i) jointly with the regional offices, working to strengthen and institutionalize countries' capacity to systematical y and transparently use sound research evidence in decision-making. For questions and comments on this guidance document and the repository of tools, please contact EIDM@who.int.

For further information and assistance with the specific tools included in this document, you will find contact details for the responsible technical units in the repository.

References

- Graham ID, Logan J, Harrison MB, Straus SE, Tetroe J,

  Caswell W, et al. Lost in knowledge translation: time

  for a map? J Contin Educ Health Prof. 2006;26(1):13–

  24.

  ↩

- Resolution WHA71.1. WHO's Thirteenth General

  Programme of Work (GPW13). Approved by the

  Seventy-first World Health Assembly, 21–26 May

  2018. WHO/PRP/18.1. Geneva: World Health

  Organization; 2019.

  ↩