

2013

# Using evidence-based recommendations for guidance, guidelines and scale-up strategies

Ian Askew  
*Population Council*

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## Recommended Citation

Askew, Ian. 2013. "Using evidence-based recommendations for guidance, guidelines and scale-up strategies," presentation at the Second Consultation on Developing Standards for Identifying Evidence Based Practices in Reproductive Health, Croydon, UK.

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*Second Consultation on Developing Standards for Identifying Evidence Based Practices in Reproductive Health*

Croydon, UK, September 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2013

# Framing evidence for developing recommendations

*“A global health evidence framework [is] one which uses multiple domains to arrive at a summary judgment of the evidence for community or population health interventions or programs”*

Luoto et al, 2013

# Why use a framework?

- Systematic and rigorous
- Transparent procedures
- Summary judgment
- Rating across multiple domains
  - Quality, quantity, relevance, consistency, context....
- Focus on evidence of effectiveness of an intervention
  - Other attributes?
  - Types of intervention?

# Multiple frameworks – multiple judgments?

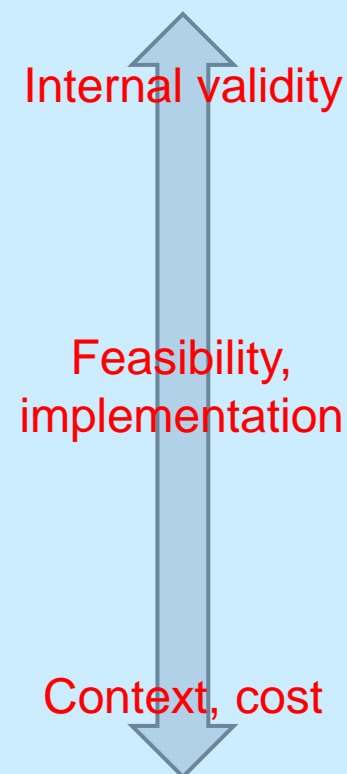
- Compared 3 interventions
  - Household water chlorination to prevent diarrhea
  - PMTCT of HIV
  - CHWs to reduce childhood morbidity
- Applied six evidence frameworks
- Comparison of summary judgments after rating the evidence
  - ⇒ Variability in grades assigned, sometimes by two or more categories

# Why the differences?

- Which domains included and how rated:
  - Classifying strength of evidence
  - Magnitude of benefits vs. harms
  - Consideration of context
  - Implementation procedures
  - Feasibility
  - Costs
  - Sustainability
- Inter-rater reliability

# Types of evidence summaries and relevance of domains

- Efficacy of an intervention in meeting health needs of the individual / couple
  - Service delivery guidelines
- Effectiveness of delivering interventions at the population level
  - Delivery programming guidance
- Sustainability at national / programme level
  - Systems strengthening and scale-up / mainstreaming



# Interventions, evidence frameworks and recommendations

- Classifying and comparing interventions; asking the right research questions
  - Intervention characteristics?
  - Population needs?
- Systematic – rigorous – realist review process?
- Grading / rating the evidence according to which domains; weighting the domains?
- Determining a summary judgment
- Preparing and communicating a practice recommendation

⇒ **One or multiple frameworks? Or none?**



# Using evidence for practice recommendations: Who uses which framework? Or procedure?

- Globally
  - Norm-setting bodies: WHO, FIGO, UNFPA
  - Large donors: DFID, USAID, BMGF
  - Large INGOs: IPPF, MSI, PSI
- Nationally
  - MOH (with support from....???)
  - Professional associations
  - Medical training institutions