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

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Second Consultation on Developing Standards for Identifying Evidence Based Practices in Reproductive Health
Croydon, UK, September 18th – 19th 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