

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

Ian Askew

Population Council

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?

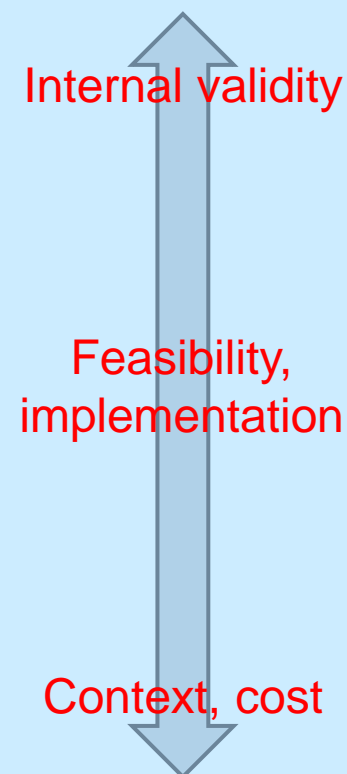
- Compared 3 interventions
 - Household water chlorination to prevent diarrhea
 - PMTCT of HIV
 - CHWs to reduce childhood morbidity
- Applied six evidence frameworks
- Comparison of summary judgments after rating the evidence
 - ⇒ Variability in grades assigned, sometimes by two or more categories

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