RESEARCH UTILIZATION APPROACHES IN THE EVIDENCE PROJECT

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Evidence Project IUSSP Side Event

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Why do you Conduct Research?

- To increase an existing evidence base
- To build evidence in an emerging area
- To support a policy or program change
- To determine if existing programming is working
- To provide local context to global or national level research
Do Decision Makers Use Evidence?

- Evidence that goes against existing programming can be threatening
- Local evidence is important for decision-makers
- Donor priorities can influence what evidence is considered
Methods for Increasing Evidence Use

- Build cultures of evidence use
  - Building relationships between researchers and decisionmakers
  - Using intermediaries (champions) between researchers and decision-makers
  - Better packaging and communication of findings
- Ground research in an understanding of the health system
- Build research utilization into study protocols
“Compelling presentation, Busby, but you forgot to tell us why we should care about the mating habits of the Asian dragon fish.”
That's an interesting question. Certainly, precise determination of current temporal state is of utmost practical importance. While it is not possible to provide definite answers within the present context, future work will...

Ya mean you don't know the time?
Standards of Evidence Meeting

The Consumer Perspective:
A Consultation with Senior Health Officials from Developing Countries on Standards of Evidence for Reproductive and Maternal Health Care

APRIL 2016
Evidence RU Process: Study Design Phase

Research Process

1. Define research questions
2. Develop protocol
3. Finalize protocol & tools
4. Identify key stakeholders
5. Develop initial RU plan
6. Engage key stakeholders

Research Utilization Process
Engaging Key Stakeholders

Initial TAC meeting for Ethiopia ASRH Study
Developing a RU Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EVIDENCE PROJECT IS PRIORITY AREAS</th>
<th>KEY PROBLEM/ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED</th>
<th>KEY OUTCOMES</th>
<th>HOW THE EVIDENCE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ADDRESSING THE ISSUE</th>
<th>CURRENT STATUS OF ACTIVITY OR UTILIZATION RESULT(S)</th>
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| EXPANDING METHOD ACCESS AND CHOICE THROUGH TASK SHIFTING | ▪ Policies in most countries prevent pharmacies and drug shops from selling or administering injectable contraceptives. ▪ Changing policies requires use of evidence that these providers can safely deliver high quality counseling and services as well as training of these new cadres of injectable contraceptive providers. | ▪ Policy governing scope of practice (SOP) for drug shops expanded to include sale and administration of injectable contraceptives ▪ Training package developed, approved by the MOH, and adopted by partners to support scale up of pharmacist/drug shop provision of injectables in Nigeria | **Nigeria**
  a) Convene meetings with the government, implementing partners, the pharmacy association, PMV Association, and other stakeholders to discuss the evidence base (existing and emerging findings) and develop recommendations regarding PMV provision of injectable contraception.  
  b) Work with other partners to advocate process for policy change to allow provision of injectables by PMVs, including engaging champions and state-level advocates/stakeholders (e.g., members of the study supervisory monitoring teams).  
  c) Support the FMOH, State Ministries of Health, NAPPMED, and implementing partners (i.e. SHOPS Plus project, Society for Family Health, DKT, and others) to adapt training materials for PMV provision of injectables and introduce and scale up PMV training within their programs. | **Nigeria**
  ▪ Based on Phase one progress, received Mission buy-in to expand study into Phase 2 in the remaining four geopolitical zones for national representation of results which will aid in advocacy for national policy change.  
  ▪ Planning follow-on activities with Phase 1 PMVs to determine potential scale-up needs in areas such as refresher training, data collection and reporting, and supportive supervision/monitoring  
  ▪ Continuous stakeholder updates, including federal and state Ministry of Health officials, at venues such as the RH Technical Working Group, National FP Conference, and others. |

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Evidence RU Process: Implementation Phase

Research Process

Collect Data

Analyze Data

Engage local stakeholders in data collection

Research Utilization Process
Evidence RU Process: Implementation Phase

Research Process

- Collect Data
- Analyze Data

Engage *local* stakeholders in data collection

Engage *local* stakeholders in interpreting findings and developing recommendations

Research Utilization Process
Evidence RU Process: RU Phase

Research Process

STUDY DESIGN

IMPLEMENTATION

Dissemination meeting

Refine research utilization strategy

Support research utilization

Operationalize plan to:
- Convene stakeholders meetings
- Work with champions to influence key decision makers
- Develop advocacy materials
- Build knowledge translation partnerships
- Provide TA to inform program change
THANK YOU

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The Evidence Project seeks to expand access to high quality family planning/reproductive health services worldwide through implementation science, including the strategic generation, translation, and use of new and existing evidence. The project is led by the Population Council in partnership with the INDEPTH Network, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, PATH, and the Population Reference Bureau.