

Integrating evidence

UJ-BCURE



Funded by



How is this relevant to you?

USE THIS SLIDE TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELEVANCE OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING TO YOUR AUDIENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS SPECIFIC WORKSHOP

Introduction to BCURE

- BCURE = Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence
- A three year programme of work funded by UK's Department of International Development (DFID)
- Focuses on increasing the use of research in decision-making through capacity-building
- Investment is mostly in the decision-makers
- Focus is on supporting governments through civil society capacity building rather than research

Exercise: What is evidence?

- Participant sharing – What is evidence in your world?
 - Each participant shares with their neighbour what they understand by evidence (could be data, information, numbers, policies, qualitative, quantitative, etc.)
 - A handful of participants are asked to share with the wider group (continue until a wide variety has been shared)
- Trainers sharing – What is evidence in our world?
 - We also have different backgrounds
 - Rigorous research evidence such as systematic reviews
 - First finding, appraising, and using what has been done before commissioning new research
 - Using the best, rigorously applied methods to address the question

A cycle of EIDM

- Implementation / action

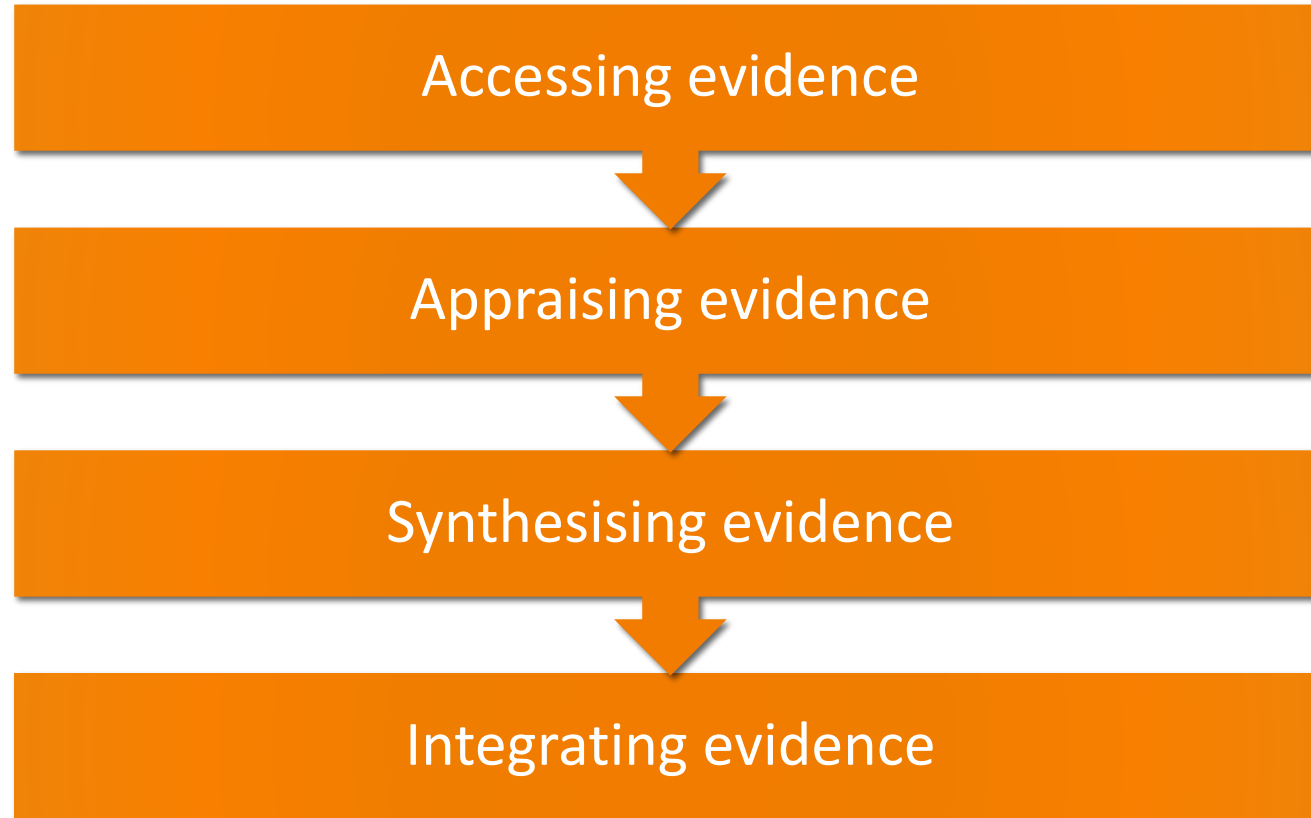
- Monitoring, evaluation, and research



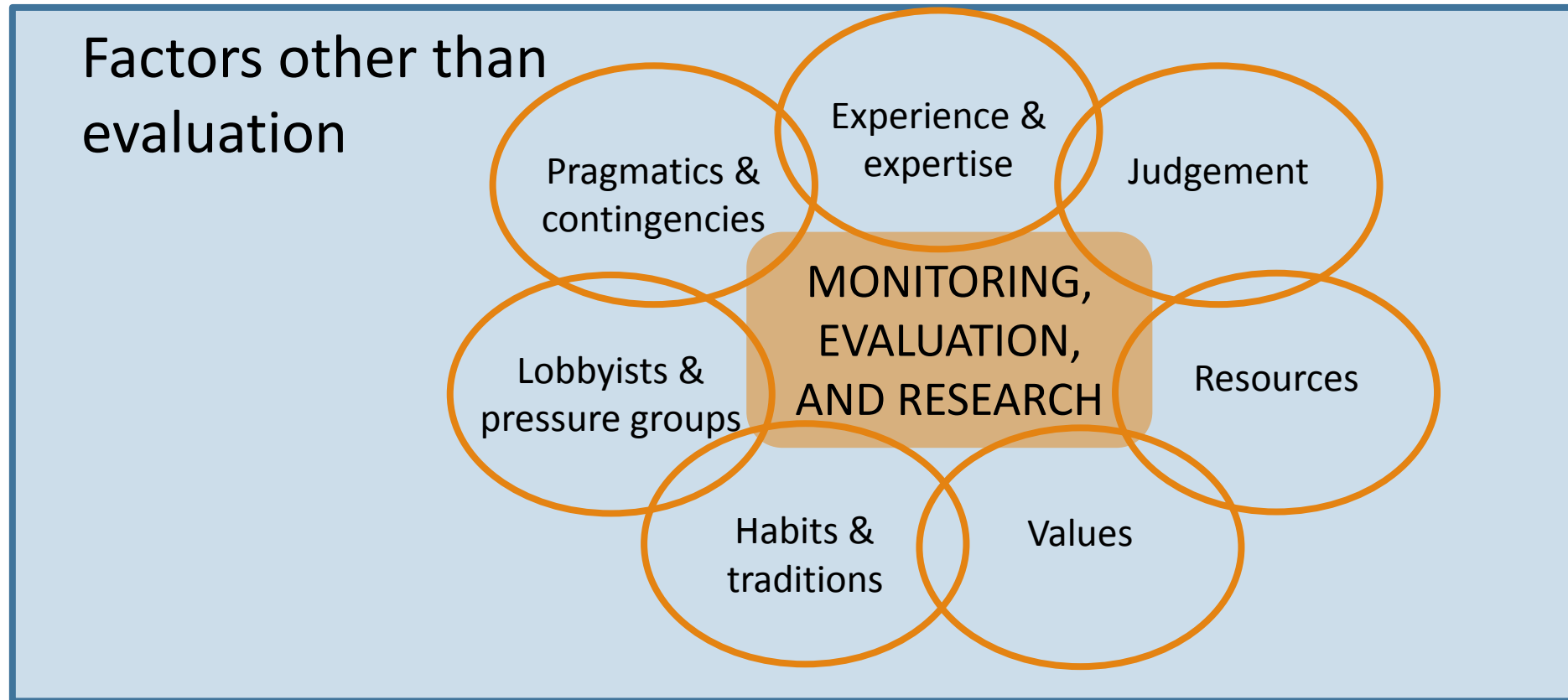
- Evidence-informed decision-making

- Reviewing the evidence

Steps towards EIDM



Other decision-making factors (1)



Graphic adapted from http://www.columbia.edu/cu/musher/Website/Website/EBP_OnlineTraining_Mod1.htm. Original source Davies, P. "Policy Evaluation in the United Kingdom" (<http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/docs/Korea%20%5BRead-Only%5D.pdf>)

Other decision-making factors (2)

- Factors influencing the use of EIDM:
 - The importance of leadership and support from senior management
 - Organisational culture that has high-level support
 - Staff training and development
 - Increasing knowledge and experience of the research process
 - ‘Champions’ who support EIDM
 - Integration of EIDM in job descriptions
 - Share learnings with peers as part of job description

Other decision-making factors (3)

- Evidence may confirm or refute assumptions
- Evidence is often not the only factor that impacts on decision-making
- It can be a challenge to balance the weight of different influences on a decision (reputation, history, social norms, research evidence, etc.)
- It is important to acknowledge what other factors play a role and what their level of importance is

Balancing the different factors

- Be explicit initially about what your 'success criteria' are for the decision
- Specify in advance what is most important to you
- Rank the information you have according to those priorities

Dealing with contradictory information

- After having appraised the evidence, there might be:
 - A clear path forward – evidence that seems more rigorous and appropriate
 - Not enough information to inform a decision
 - Contradictory evidence
- Are extra steps required?
 - Wider / extended search for more evidence
 - Public consultation and / or consultation with colleagues
 - Further research / a reference group during research design

Discussion: Making a decision in the absence of clear evidence

- Share examples of decisions you have been involved in where you wish you had more evidence (or clearer evidence)
 - How did you deal with the lack of evidence?
 - What strategies might you use to minimise any risk associated with making decisions in the absence of clear evidence?

Communicating the logic behind the decision

- Clearly communicate how the decision was made
 - This ensures transparency
 - Documenting the process and evidence is important ‘institutional memory’ for those seeking information in future
- Publicise the evidence used

Implications for other work

- What implications do the evidence and decisions have for future / other work?
 - Need for more or better evidence from particular sources?
 - Need for additional research and funding?
 - Does the evidence need to be presented to peers or other interested stakeholders?
 - Are new approaches or training required to implement the decisions?
 - When will the decision be reviewed?
 - What information and processes will be necessary to review the decision?
 - Who needs to be involved?

Next steps in EIDM

- How do you plan to continue using evidence-informed decision-making?
 - Who will be responsible for this?
 - Can it be integrated into day-to-day work? If so, how?

Contact details

Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (UJ-BCURE) and the Africa Evidence Network

Tel: +27 (0) 11 559 1909

Fax: +27 (0) 11 559 1734

Website: www.africaevidencenetwork.org

Twitter: @Africa_Evidence

Presenter:

Email:

Useful Resources

- Options for Action: Strategy on Health Policy and Systems Research. Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (WHO). http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_optionsforaction_strategyhpsr.pdf
- How to successfully implement evidence-based social programmes: a brief overview for policy makers and programme providers. Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy. <http://coalition4evidence.org>
- Communicating research for evidence-based policy-making: a practical guide for researchers in socio-economic sciences and humanities. On Think Tanks. <http://onthinktanks.org/>
- Evidence based policy making challenges, methods, and innovations in assessing policy influence. Overseas Development Institute. <http://www.odi.org/opinion/6885-evidence-based-policymaking-challenges-methods-innovations-assessing-policy-influence>

References

1. Graphic from

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/musher/Website/Website/EBP_OnlineTraining_Mod1.htm.

Original source Davies, P. “Policy Evaluation in the United Kingdom”

(<http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/docs/Korea%20%5BRead-Only%5D.pdf>)

Citation

This presentation should be cited as:

UJ-BCURE (2014, Sept) *Integrating evidence*. University of Johannesburg. Published via the Africa Evidence Network. www.africaevidencenetwork.org/

We welcome feedback on this presentation. Please email any comments to: cfar@uj.ac.za

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>.

