

## 2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

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### Abstract Information

**Abstract Title:**

EVIPNet: evidence-informed policies to improve health in Low and Middle Income Countries

**Format:**

Paper

**Themes:**

public health and social welfare in low and middle income countries

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**Abstract:**

Policy and decision making in public health can be a risky undertaking, as policies developed and implemented by governments affect large populations. Studies have shown that policies influenced by sound scientific evidence and best practices can significantly improve public health outcomes. When it comes to low-and middle-income countries, the stakes are even higher. The allocation of scarce resources has equity, efficacy and efficiency implications. If decision-makers ignore evidence on the root causes and solutions of problems, they risk wasting precious resources and, most of all, failing to improve the health situation, with sharp consequences for the poorest. Improving health services – and coordinating decisions with other sectors – requires innovative thinking that address the production, accessibility, communication and uptake of research results. The emerging field of Knowledge Translation (KT) emphasizes different modes of producing knowledge and new means of engaging decision makers and civil society in research processes, creating evidence-informed policy options and policy-informed research. The literature on KT identifies four different models of KT: • “push mechanisms”: researchers synthesizing evidence for policy (e.g. policy briefs and contextualized systematic review summaries); • “pull mechanisms”: decision-makers capacity to use research and evidence; • “exchange efforts”: bringing researchers, decision-makers, other research users together; • “integrated efforts”: the three models interact through the Knowledge Translation Platforms EVIPNet is dedicated to exploring these models in Africa, Asia and Latin America , while appreciating the diversity of national contexts. EVIPNet is a World Health Organization supported programme that promotes partnerships at the country level between government policymakers, researchers, and civil society. It is the backbone of a global network, exchanging best practices, useful tools, and core strategies for promoting the systematic use of research evidence in policymaking. EVIPNet activities include choosing a priority topic and producing a contextualized policy option summary based on systematic reviews and other high quality evidence, while learning together by doing, to better working together in implementing policies. EVIPNet country teams convene a national policy dialogue for each policy brief, with government officials and other key stakeholders to discuss how to better address the priority issue. A key input to is the information about on-the-ground realities and constraints, values, interest group dynamics, tacit knowledge, best practices, the input of different sectors, and potential institutional constraints and facilitators. A 5-year monitoring and evaluation process helps identify best practices and the efficacy of innovative methodologies applied by EVIPNet country teams.

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