Global Commission on Evidence
to Address Societal Challenges

Global Evidence Commission update 2024

Building momentum in strengthening domestic evidence-support systems, enhancing the global evidence architecture, and putting evidence at the centre of everyday life

Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges

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Introduction

The Global Evidence Commission began in April 2021 as a grassroots effort to improve the use of research evidence, both in routine times and in future global crises. Two years have passed since the January 2022 publication of its foundational report, which provided the context, concepts, tools and shared vocabulary for work in this area (in six chapters) and the recommendations of our commissioners (in a seventh chapter). The report, each chapter and each of 52 sections are freely downloadable in seven languages, as is the executive summary. One year has passed since the January 2023 publication of Update 2023, which provided the frameworks to underpin action on three implementation priorities that cover 20 of the Global Evidence Commission's 24 recommendations (see the mapping of priorities to recommendations in Update 2023). Update 2024, like its predecessor, is available in many languages.

We believe that momentum is building for a step-change improvement in how we use evidence to address societal challenges. Some of the highlights that stand apart are the pilots of ultra-rapid evidence support and the identification of 'fertile ground where we need to plant more seeds' in the 12 countries participating in rapid evidence-support system assessments; the growing demand for an evolving suite of artificial intelligence-enabled living evidence syntheses and the identification of 'first movers' and visible champions among private and public funders; and organizations coming together to learn more about ways to put evidence at the centre of everyday life.

We continue to focus on three implementation priorities,

Formalize and strengthen domestic evidence-support systems

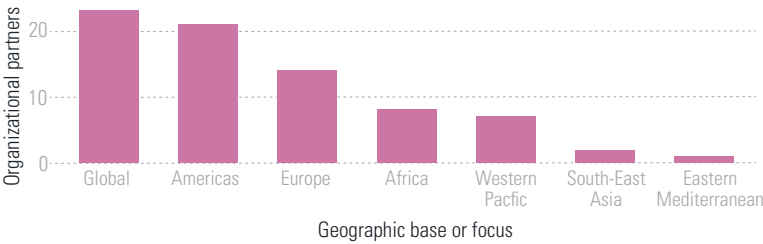Enhance and leverage the global evidence architecture

Put evidence at the centre of everyday life

Our Implementation Council is now 76 organizational partners strong, and drawn from 18 countries in every part of the world and from many global and regional bodies. Partners include evidence users like the new international francophone network building capacity for science advice (Réseau francophone international en conseil scientifique), evidence intermediaries like Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa and Instituto Veredas in Brazil, evidence producers like the Campbell Collaboration and the new Alliance for Living Evidence, and hybrid entities like the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition.

76
organizational partners

Including:
- Africa Evidence Network
- Alliance for Living Evidence
- Campbell Collaboration
- Cochrane
- Effective-Basic Services (eBASE) Africa
- EPPI-Centre
- Global SDG Synthesis Coalition
- Guidelines International Network
- Instituto Veredas
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
- Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz)
- Pan-African Collective for Evidence
- Réseau francophone international en conseil scientifique
- Sense About Science
- UK Health Security Agency
- UNICEF

18
countries

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Lebanon
- Norway
- Pakistan
- South Africa
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- United States

Not counting the countries where regional and global bodies are based

Implementation council members

Organizational partners vs Geographic base or focus

- Organizational partners (n = 76)
- Citizen partners (n = 10)

Membership growth over 2023

We describe in each of the next three sections the many signs that momentum is building, with one section for each implementation priority. Over the coming year, we expect key organizational partners will take up – and lead – each of the three implementation priorities. The Global Evidence Commission was always envisioned as a time-limited body that articulates a vision, builds consensus around roadmaps to achieve key parts of the vision, and then identifies and supports the organizations best positioned to lead the next steps.

We describe in a penultimate section five events taking place in 2024 where we foresee breakthroughs happening. We encourage you to plan to participate in these and other key events and to contribute to the breakthroughs that we so clearly need.

In appendix 1 we acknowledge the many groups that have contributed to building the momentum captured in Update 2024 and that will be key to achieving breakthroughs in the coming year.

Formalize and strengthen domestic evidence-support systems

The evidence-support system in a given jurisdiction (country, state/province or city), or for a sector within a jurisdiction, should reliably get whatever forms of evidence are needed to answer a given question into the hands of those who need it, when they need it, with any required caveats about its currency (or recency), quality and local applicability. More formally it is a set of structures and processes focused on contextualizing *existing* evidence – in any of its eight forms – for advisory and decision-making processes and for learning and improvement platforms in timely, demand-driven, and equity-sensitive ways, as well as building *new* evidence to inform future decision-making and improvement efforts. It includes the environment for evidence use (enablers, culture and capacity), interface mechanisms (evidence-demand prioritization and evidence-supply coordination), and timely demand-driven evidence-support units that cover all eight forms of evidence and that leverage living evidence syntheses and other global public goods produced through the global evidence architecture.


We see **six signs of building momentum** with the Global Evidence Commission's first implementation priority.

1a We have entered an era of fast-moving **'polycrises' and** rapidly developing **artificial intelligence** (AI), and there is growing recognition that robust evidence-support mechanisms will be needed now more than ever. A polycrisis may include climate disruption, infection outbreak, mass migration, war spillover, and an election-targeting disinformation campaign. The mechanisms addressing a polycrisis need to be agile, 'localized,' and equity-centered. AI can be thought of as computers that imitate human intelligence to perform tasks and that can improve as they collect information. Such computers need to be 'trained' on datasets that contain the best available evidence from a diverse array of groups and contexts.

1b Pilots of **ultra-rapid evidence support and a 'general contractor' model** are increasing in number, showing immediate impacts, demonstrating value for money, and contributing over time to building demand for many types of evidence products and processes. Old approaches to informing decision-makers moved too slowly and often presented a single form of evidence, such as data analytics or behavioural/implementation research, as a panacea. An ultra-rapid evidence support unit identifies, quality assesses and maps the existing domestic (or local) and global evidence, in their many forms, typically within days or at most weeks. ACRES (the Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis) pioneered such a service – with a primary focus on the global evidence – 15 years ago in Uganda, and since then units have emerged in many countries and continued to advance the timeliness, user-centredness and rigour of the methods. The possible ingredients in timely, demand-driven, equity-sensitive evidence products are captured in the figure below. Two tools – a set of 'prompts' and a more specific 'matching' tool – can help put the right ingredients together for a given question. The 'general contractor' or 'builder' brings in the right evidence 'trades' to build out new evidence – data analytics, modeling, evaluation, behavioural/implementation research, and qualitative insights – and puts this local evidence alongside the global evidence (ideally drawn from living evidence syntheses) over weeks and months. Many teams have learned that they can incrementally add the required skills to those in which some 'trades,' like evaluators and behavioural/ implementation scientists (and people like librarians), already excel. They have also learned that they need to pilot, learn and improve to get to the point where it makes sense to start to talk about 'institutionalizing' these evidence-support mechanisms as the new normal.
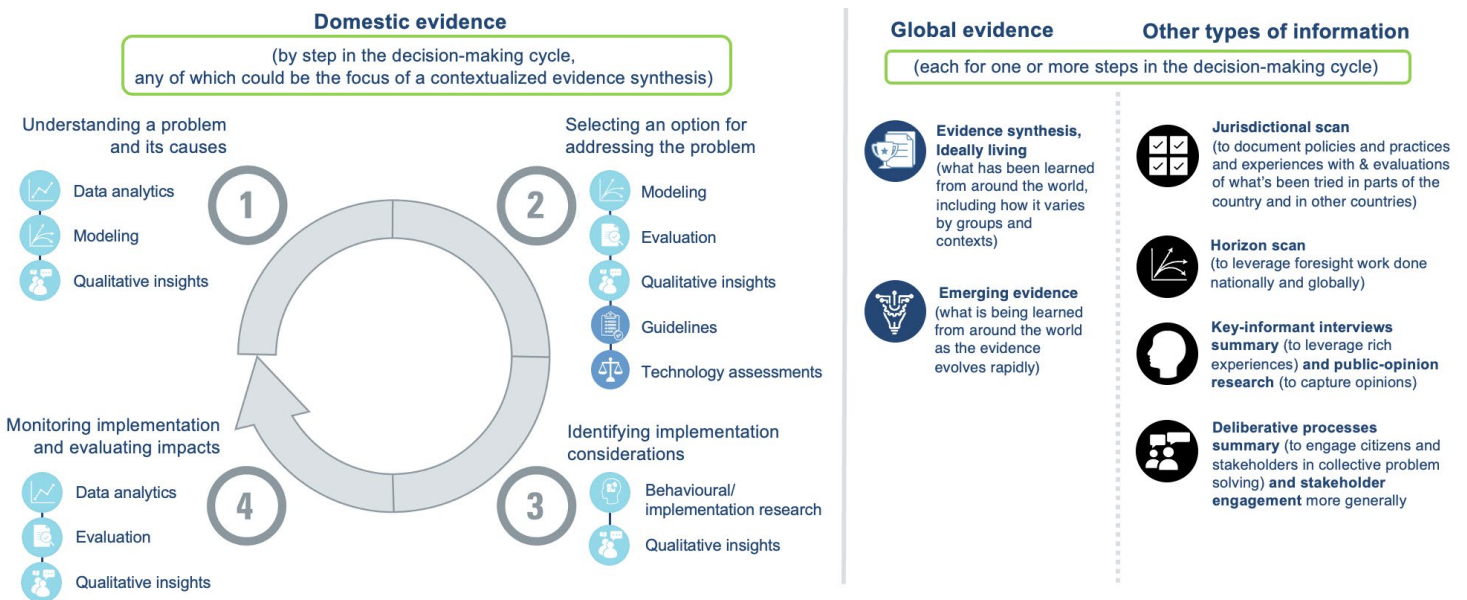
1c Evidence-support mechanisms are increasingly being **aligned both 'up' to advisory and decision-making processes and 'out' to learning and improvement platforms**. Evidence support is needed to inform both the 'big bang' decisions by government policymakers and system leaders, and the thousand-and-one smaller decisions made by organizational, professional and citizen leaders that determine whether improvements for the better happen 'on the ground.' Central agencies (like cabinet offices and treasuries), line departments (like public safety and social services) and legislatures all need access to timely, demand-driven evidence support. This is particularly the case for accountability and challenge functions like independent evaluation offices in each of these parts of government. Argentina is home to the newest example of a legislature, in this case for the autonomous city of Buenos Aires, investing in a dedicated evidence-support mechanism. Learning and improvement platforms also need evidence support. Many questions arise when developing the recommendations (or guidelines) that will be the focus of learning and improvement cycles. Many questions also arise when using data-feedback loops and other approaches to support, say, support the implementation of the Teaching and Learning Toolkit among teachers, school leaders, parents and others in England, or the implementation of a health-system transformation at the state level in India.

1d **Cross-country evidence-support collaborations** are emerging in key sectors such as education, international development, and public security. In the education sector, organizations in eight countries – Australia, Cameroon, Chile, England, Jordan, New Zealand, The Netherlands, and Spain – and one sub-national region (Belgium's Flanders) have created the Evidence for Education Network to support one another in improving education equity in their respective school systems. In the international-development sector, six organizations – two development banks (German and Inter-American), two development agencies (Norway's Norad and U.S.'s Millenium Challenge Corporation), one government department supporting international development (U.K.'s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, or FCDO), and one producer and synthesizer of development evidence (3ie) – have signed the 'global evidence commitment,' a joint statement on strengthening the culture of evidence use. In sectors that touch on domestic security, defence and Veterans, organizations in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.S. and U.K. (and sometimes other countries) have started to build up and align their respective evidence-support mechanisms. Much more needs to be done to identify, support and make connections among evidence 'champions' and 'change agents,' including those working at local, national, regional and global levels.

1e **Collaborations across forms of evidence** are also accelerating or emerging alongside the collaborations that have existed for some time, such as the long-standing partnerships among evidence synthesis, technology assessment and guideline groups in the health sector. One example of an accelerating collaboration is between evaluation and evidence synthesis, which has been 'baked in' from the beginning to the What Works Centres in the U.K. and to 3ie in the international-development sector, and which is now being emphasized by the independent evaluation offices in the UN system (which we return to in the next section). Many more types of collaborations are needed, both ones involving other forms of evidence (e.g., data analytics and behavioural science) and ones involving other roles (e.g., science advisors).

1f Rapid evidence-support system assessments (RESSAs) are pointing us towards the **fertile ground where we need to 'plant more seeds.'** Many of the Global Evidence Commission-supported RESSAs have noted similar findings, including the importance of central agencies in giving coherence to an evidence agenda, isolated examples of excellence and of well-positioned units that could easily become excellent, the largely overlooked opportunities within legislative branches and with executive-branch challenge functions, and the largely overlooked opportunities to complement in-house government data with evidence from outside government and from other countries. Some member of the RESSA Country Leads Group – Canada, China and Ireland – are now piloting a more detailed set of criteria to assess the enablers, culture and capacity on the demand side, interface mechanisms, and timely, demand-driven evidence support mechanisms (i.e., the three 'layers' in the first visual in this section), as well as how evidence synthesis is used in the production of other forms of evidence. These criteria may be used to pilot an expanded version of the Global Evaluation Initiative's monitoring and evaluation system assessment (or MESA) tool.

A recap of the signs of building momentum with implementation priority 1: Formalize and strengthen domestic evidence-support systems

1a Era of fast-moving '**polycrises**' and rapidly developing AI mean evidence support is needed now more than ever

1b **Pilots** of ultra-rapid evidence support and a 'general contractor' model are demonstrating value for money and building demand

1c Evidence-support mechanisms increasingly **aligned** both 'up' to advisory and decision-making processes and 'out' to learning and improvement platforms

1d **Cross-country** evidence-support collaborations are emerging in key sectors like education, development and health

1e Collaborations **across forms of evidence** are also emerging, such as with evaluation and evidence syntheses

1f Rapid evidence-support system assessments are pointing us towards the **fertile ground** where we need to 'plant more seeds'

Enhance and leverage the global evidence architecture

The global evidence architecture should reliably ensure that what we have learned from around the world, including how it varies by groups and contexts, is freely available to all those who need it, both those who can use the insights directly (e.g., government policymakers and professional leaders) and those whose job it is to put this global evidence alongside the many needed forms of domestic (or local) evidence (i.e., evidence-support units). More formally it is a set of global public goods that should be produced once and used many times around the globe. Our primary focus is on living evidence syntheses, which are summaries of the best available evidence addressing a given question that are updated as the context, issue and evidence evolve. Their production is enabled through a number of workflow processes (e.g., quality assurance) and longer-term developmental processes (e.g., capacity building), undertaken by diverse teams of people, and increasingly supported by technology and AI. Living evidence syntheses are a game-changer for the domestic-evidence support unit we described in the previous section – units charged with reliably getting whatever forms of evidence are needed to answer a given question into the hands of those who need it, when they need it, with any required caveats about its currency (or recency), quality and local applicability.
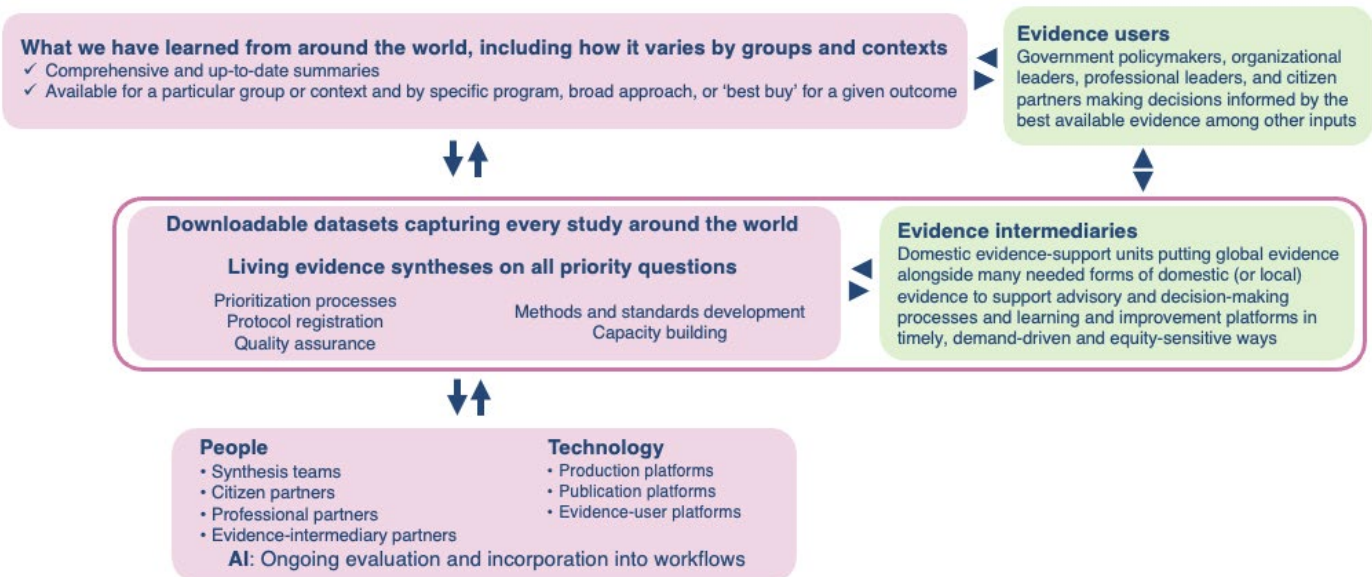
We see **six signs of building momentum** with the Global Evidence Commission's second implementation priority.

2a We have two coalescing sources of **cross-sectoral demand for an evolving suite of living evidence syntheses** (LESs): 1) the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition that is focused on supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and 2) a four-country commission that is focused on addressing shared domestic policy priorities. The vision for the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition is that one year out it will have identified accelerator actions for each of five SDG 'pillars' (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership), three years out it will be supporting a suite of (say) 100 LESs addressing all of the 'big questions' key to SDG attainment, and six years out it will have contributed to putting in place the conditions for the evidence-driven achievement of global goals (e.g., SDGs 2.0), with evaluation and evidence synthesis much more front and centre in those efforts (alongside other forms of evidence like data analytics and behavioural/implementation research). The vision for the commission is that four countries are collectively supporting a suite of (say again) 100 LESs addressing all of the 'big questions' key to domestic policy priorities, and that the pool of countries becomes larger and more diverse over time. The SDG and four-country initiatives share a need for capability building and some topic overlap (e.g., climate action, youth employment, and mis/disinformation). Complementing this cross-sectoral demand, we also see growing sector-specific demand for LESs, sometimes channeled through evidence intermediaries like the Education Endowment Foundation with its Teaching and Learning Toolkit and like the World Health Organization with its living health guidelines.

2b We have two emerging large-scale, **cross-sectoral suppliers of LESs**: 1) the Campbell Collaboration, which is building on its legacy as a supporter of a scientific community with methods and standards development, capacity building, and quality assurance and pursuing a new focus on delivering [faster, cheaper, more useful evidence synthesis](#); and 2) the Alliance for Living Evidence (or Alive) as a 'deal-maker in a marketplace' that brings together those with shared evidence needs (and reduces their evidence-acquisitions costs) and those who can efficiently deliver a high-quality product at the right time. These initiatives share a commitment to one or more of giving more 'power' to users (for priorities, standards and renewals), to equitably distributing synthesis capacity across the globe, and to meeting the needs of domestic evidence-support units aligned to advisory and decision-making processes and to learning and improvement platforms. Complementing this cross-sectoral supply, we also see a growing sector-specific supply of LESs, for example with Cochrane developing a scientific strategy and using the health-related SDGs as one key prioritization input. One paradox amidst these exciting new developments is that some players essential to the future LES landscape, such as Evidence Aid and PROSPERO, are 'running out of runway' (i.e., finding it difficult to secure sustained funding).

2c We are very well positioned for a dramatic improvement in how we leverage **technology** to make global evidence – what we have learned from around the world and how it varies by groups and contexts – much more compelling to users **on the 'evidence-demand' side**. For example, it is now within reach for decision-makers and evidence intermediaries to have access to comprehensive and up-to-date data – both findings and quality assessments – from every education-related study (first with evaluations and later with other forms of evidence) that is currently available globally and to have access to these data for each new study as it is published. It is also within reach for them to access the data in whatever way they want it for a particular group (e.g., disadvantaged students) or context (e.g., primary schools in Africa). A decision-maker may want to know about: 1) a specific program they have heard about, such as 'World of Words' (as the U.S. Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse provides); 2) a broad approach that a teachers' group has suggested changing, such as feedback, peer tutoring, and homework (as the Teaching and Learning Toolkit provides with its focus on 'mid-range theory'); or 3) 'best buys' to achieve a given type of educational attainment (or other outcome) that their ministerial mandate letter will hold them accountable for.

2d We are also very well positioned for a dramatic improvement in how we leverage **technology** to improve efficiency and equity and to reduce research waste **on the 'evidence supply' side**. AI can simultaneously increase a search's scope (by using OpenAlex rather than traditional bibliographic databases) and reduce the assessment burden both at the start and as often as updates are required (by rank-ordering documents by likelihood of inclusion). Evaluation frameworks are now being developed for other steps in the evidence-synthesis process so that additional workflows can be improved as accuracy surpasses a threshold and when risk of discrimination (or other biases) can be shown to be very low. Technology platforms (and satellite-based internet providers) can allow for the work to be done anywhere in the world. These platforms can also allow for funders to confirm where there are gaps in either primary research or in the available evidence syntheses, and to target their resources to fill these gaps (rather than add more to the large and growing volume of research waste).

2e We have identified potential **'first movers' and visible champions** among private and public funders. The first movers can show the way towards a future where funders agree: 1) where we next most need an evolving suite of living suite of LESs (after we get traction with the SDGs and first round of shared domestic policy priorities); 2) what topics they will individually cover; 3) what pieces of the infrastructure they will cover (e.g., technology platform and AI enhancements); and 4) what common standards they will require. The visible champions can push for agenda items at funder meetings and push for dedicated meetings on high-priority issues like consolidating thinking further on some of the above issues or on complementary issues such as living guidelines.

2f We are starting to see **'ways in' to initiatives focused on other aspects of using evidence** to address societal challenges. The evidence-focused 'Réseau francophone international en conseil scientifique' (RFICS) can hopefully open doors to more rigorous discussions about evidence use in legislative evidence-support services and among other initiatives focused on strengthening national advisory and decision-making processes, such as the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, Parliamentarians for Global Action, and Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE). The independent evaluation offices in the 45 UN agencies – once evaluation-focused and now increasingly also evidence synthesis-attuned – can, through the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition, hopefully open doors to evidence discussions in other parts of the UN's quintet of change (data analytics and behavioural/implementation research), to other centres of gravity for different forms of evidence (e.g., statistical offices), and to advisory and decision-making processes (e.g., developing country cooperation frameworks) and to learning and improvement platforms across the UN system. The Global Evaluation Initiative and its regional Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEARs) can do the same at the country level.

A recap of the signs of building momentum with implementation priority 2: Enhance and leverage the global evidence architecture

2a Coalescing sources of **cross-sectoral demand** for an evolving suite of living evidence syntheses, or LESs, in the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition and a four-country commission

2b Emerging large-scale, **cross-sectoral suppliers** of LESs in the Campbell Collaboration and Alive

2c Well positioned to leverage **technology** to make global evidence much more compelling **on the 'demand side'** (comprehensive and up-to-date; accessible by group or context and by intervention, approach or 'best buy')

2d Well positioned to leverage **technology** to improve efficiency and equity and to reduce research waste **on the 'evidence supply' side**

2e Identified **'first movers' and visible champions** among private and public funders

2f Starting to see **'ways in' to initiatives focused on other aspects of using evidence** to address societal challenges (e.g., 'Réseau francophone international en conseil scientifique' (RFICS); UN independent evaluation offices through the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition)

Put evidence at the centre of everyday life

Every day, citizens make many decisions where evidence could be helpful. Putting evidence at the centre of everyday life can include:

▸ fact-checking, training in critical thinking, investigative journalism and other approaches to help citizens judge what others are claiming

▸ evidence portals, decision aids, and other approaches to make evidence available to citizens when they are making choices

▸ citizen-partnered research, citizen-driven research prioritization, and other approaches to engage citizens in asking questions and answering them, either with new research or with existing evidence

▸ effective 'nudge' strategies, social-media algorithms and other approaches to make evidence-based choices the default or easy option

▸ 'putting citizens in the driver's seat,' or at least on a tandem bike, for big system transformations like in education or health.

| Help citizens judge what others are claiming | Make evidence available to citizens when they are making general choices | Engage citizens in asking questions and answering them | Make evidence-based choices the default or easy option | Give citizens a bigger role in system transformations |

Developing trust relationships among citizens, evidence producers, and evidence intermediaries
Addressing equity, diversity, and inclusion

We see **four signs of building momentum** with the Global Evidence Commission's third implementation priority.

3a Partners are coming together to **learn from one another**. Cochrane (the world's largest producer of evidence syntheses and home to the Cochrane Consumer Network), the World Health Organization's Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), and the Global Evidence Commission launched a global webinar series bringing together citizen leaders and leaders of citizen-serving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to learn more about the ways to put evidence at the centre of everyday life. The webinar series will continue to showcase effective structures and processes — such as citizen panels and co-design labs — that support citizens to have a voice at decision-making tables so they can better hold leaders to account for achieving system transformations. In future, the series will draw attention to two cross-cutting themes: developing trusting relationships among citizens, evidence producers, and evidence intermediaries; and addressing equity, diversity and inclusion. It will also co-create space among evidence users, intermediaries and producers for discussions about Indigenous rights and ways of knowing (building on the section of our 2022 report that was prepared by a young Indigenous leader from the Brazilian Amazon) and where there may be synergy with efforts to put evidence at the centre of everyday life.

3b We see greater acknowledgement that citizens are inundated with information and misinformation — and that this is happening alongside sophisticated efforts to intentionally mislead the public (disinformation) — and more commitment to finding effective ways to **counter mis/disinformation**. Strong evidence-support systems in every country and an enhanced global evidence architecture can underpin such efforts. We also need living evidence syntheses about addressing information, several of which will soon come online, and we need governments and public interest-minded organizations to act on the insights from these syntheses.

3c We also see **more appreciation for the strong headwinds** we face in putting evidence at the centre of everyday life **and for the need to 'lock' arms** to make progress against these headwinds. The headwinds include:

- fora and networks do not yet exist for this broad area of focus, which also has a great deal of context specificity (while there are niche communities, such as fact-checking networks, they are not knit effectively into a broader community focused on this implementation priority)
- many small-scale/niche practices and innovations exist, often led by 'evidence people' and requiring citizens to know about and go to evidence sites (similarly, there are efforts led by 'information people' that would benefit from a greater injection of best evidence, particularly, citizen-backed evidence production)
- well-intentioned focus on equity, diversity and inclusion challenges, but paralysis over how to address it and these challenges threaten to stifle real progress
- rapidly growing 'competition' from generative AI
- as noted, lots of noise with the 'infodemic' and lots of misinformation.

3d We see greater recognition that no single organization can lead this work and that we need to use a **collective-impact orientation** to achieve equitable impacts 'on the ground.' For our part, leadership is necessarily from behind, giving autonomy to the citizen-serving organizations and citizen leaders doing the work, while providing effective guidance and support throughout the process. We remain convinced that citizen-engaged evidence production and support is a critical ingredient for putting evidence at the centre of everyday life, and we will continue to advocate for this in everything we do. The Global Evidence Commission's Citizen Leadership Group remains committed to:

- identifying promising practices and innovations, especially among
  - citizen-governed and citizen-serving NGOs
  - social movements, citizen coalitions and citizen partnerships seeking to drive change
  - local governments seeking to engage citizens and communities in local change initiatives

- documenting the supporting evidence, exemplar initiatives, and opportunities for improvement
- raising awareness about the practices/innovations and improvement, implementation and scale-up considerations
- highlighting key implementation and scale-up considerations for promising practices and innovations.

A recap of the signs of building momentum with implementation priority 3: Put evidence at the centre of everyday life

3a Partners are coming together to **learn from one another** (e.g., Cochrane- GCESC-WHO EVIPNet webinar series; space is being co-created for discussions about Indigenous rights and ways of knowing)

3b Greater acknowledgement that citizens are inundated with information, misinformation and disinformation, and more commitment to finding effective ways to **counter mis/disinformation**

3c More appreciation for the **strong headwinds and** for the **need to 'lock arms'** to make progress against these headwinds

3d Greater recognition that we need to use a **collective-impact orientation**

Contributing to breakthroughs

Last year (2023) demonstrated to us the transformative potential of coming together with the goal of engineering a step-change improvement in how we use evidence to address societal challenges. Having laid some of the groundwork in September meetings organized alongside the Cochrane Colloquium, October witnessed a series of breakthrough meetings at the Banbury Center, the What Works Global Summit, and the United Nations Development Program that helped to set the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition on to the new path described earlier in this update.

We foresee additional breakthroughs happening in events being planned for 2024. Two events will provide an opportunity to engage with the evidence-demand side (with top government officials) and with key evidence intermediaries (specifically science advisors):
- Summit of the Future, New York (23-24 September 2024), where we encourage you to support the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition's efforts to put evaluation and evidence synthesis much more central in guiding SDG acceleration actions
- International Network for Government Science Advice, Kigali (1-2 May 2024), where we encourage you to call for science-advisory mechanisms to give greater attention to the systematic and transparent use of evidence as we called for in the Global Evidence Commission report.

Three events will provide an opportunity to build bridges on the evidence-supply side:
- What Works Climate Solutions Summit, Berlin (9-12 June 2024), where we encourage you to nudge the climate community to embrace living evidence synthesis as a powerful complement to modeling as a form of evidence in which they have excelled for so long
- Global Evidence Summit, Prague (10-13 September 2024), where we encourage you to broaden the conversation beyond evidence synthesis and guidelines to the many forms of domestic (or local) evidence that need to be put alongside global evidence through domestic evidence-support mechanisms aligned to advisory and decision-making processes and to learning and improvement platforms
- National Evaluation Capacities Conference, location to be confirmed (28 October - 1 November 2024), where we encourage you to help national evaluators to add evidence synthesis to their toolkit, to see themselves as part of a broader evidence-support system (not just an evaluation sub-system), and to more closely align to advisory and decision-making processes and to learning and improvement platforms.

We are also aware that exploratory conversations are underway for a breakthrough meeting on living evidence syntheses (including their production, communication and use) and another one on funding for an evolving suite of living evidence syntheses. If a funding breakthrough has not yet happened by the latter part of the year, the second International Transforming Evidence Network Conference, Cape Town (19-21 November 2024), may provide an additional opportunity.

We encourage you to:
- participate in these events and to contribute to these breakthroughs
- bring the messages from the Global Evidence Commission to events that may focus on specific sectors (like education, health and international development) or specific forms of evidence (such as the UN World Data Forum)
- let us know about events where you can foresee breakthrough opportunities, particularly for implementation priority 1 (especially events focused on learning and improvement platforms) and priority 3 (especially events that focus on citizen leaders and the leaders of citizen-serving NGOs and how they can be better supported with the best available evidence).

Breakthroughs happen when enough well-positioned individuals choose to put some of their political and social capital on the line. Please consider being one of those people.

A recap of the timeline of 2024 breakthrough events

Conclusion

The Global Evidence Commission's secretariat and Implementation Council remain keen to work with any groups interested in contributing to our three implementation priorities.

▸ Formalize and strengthen domestic evidence-support systems → conduct or participate in a rapid evidence-support system assessment for your country and find ways to 'plant seeds in fertile ground,' which includes piloting ultra-rapid evidence support and the 'general contractor' model

▸ Enhance and leverage the global evidence architecture → encourage funders– both in your own country and those operating globally – to be part of the solution and encourage impact-oriented evidence producers – especially those producing global public goods like living evidence syntheses – to work in more coordinated ways and to build connections to domestic evidence-support mechanisms

▸ Put evidence at the centre of everyday life → support citizen-serving NGOs and citizen leaders to take action in your country.

The secretariat and Implementation Council also welcome expressions of interest from any groups interested in complementing what we are doing – with the three implementation priorities or with recommendations that do not fall within these current priorities, particularly the one calling for a resolution by multilateral organizations [3] and a second calling for a landmark report by at least one of them [4]).

Finally, to achieve the level of impact we aspire to globally, we need to evolve the Global Evidence Commission approach and start handing over responsibility from the secretariat to a broad range of partners around the world so that we can collectively work on achieving our three implementation priorities.

If you are interested in working with us, please email us at evidencecommission@mcmaster.ca.

Appendix 1

The Global Evidence Commission is currently supporting three groups that are involved in addressing its three implementation priorities:
- Implementation Council, which focuses on all three implementation priorities
- Rapid Evidence-Support System Assessment (RESSA) Country Leads Group, which focuses on priority 1: formalizing and strengthening domestic evidence-support systems
- Citizen Leadership Group, which focuses on priority 3: putting evidence at the centre of everyday life.

Additional details about these groups are available on the Global Evidence Commission website.

The Global Evidence Commission works alongside other groups whose goals are aligned with one or more of the implementation priorities:
- Global SDG Synthesis Coalition
- four-country commission
- Cochrane and the World Health Organization (WHO) Evidence-Informed Policy Networks (EVIPNet) through joint Cochrane-GCESC-WHO EVIPNet calls.

The secretariat continues to engage other groups as needed, including:
- funders that are interested in supporting the global evidence architecture
- commissioners
- collaboration centres, including:
  - for Arabic, the Knowledge to Policy Center, American University of Beirut
  - for Chinese, Center for Evidence-Based Social Science, Lanzhou University
  - for French, the McMaster Health Forum
  - for Portuguese, Fiocruz Brasilia
  - for Spanish, the Unit for Evidence and Deliberation for Decision Making in the Faculty of Medicine, Universidad de Antioquia.