



Worlds of policy and research interacting to produce evidence

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Acknowledgements

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- reflections on working with DFID since 2010

How systematic reviews differ

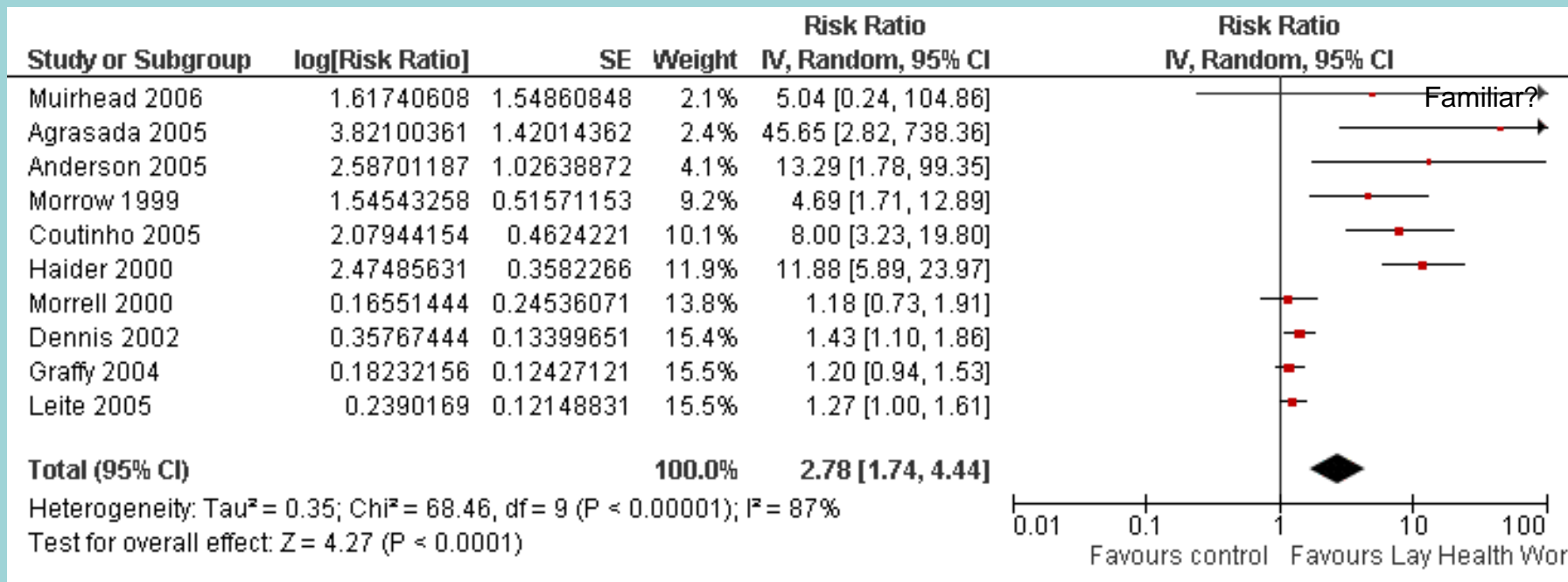
- Aggregating evidence to test hypotheses
- Configuring research to develop theory
- Development reviews doing both
- Reviews as public goods or tailored to context
- and questions about how they are used?

Aggregating or configuring

Research findings for development

Aggregating evidence...

For testing a hypothesis... and greater precision:
 A statistical meta-analysis
 Impact of lay health workers on exclusive breastfeeding



Configuring evidence

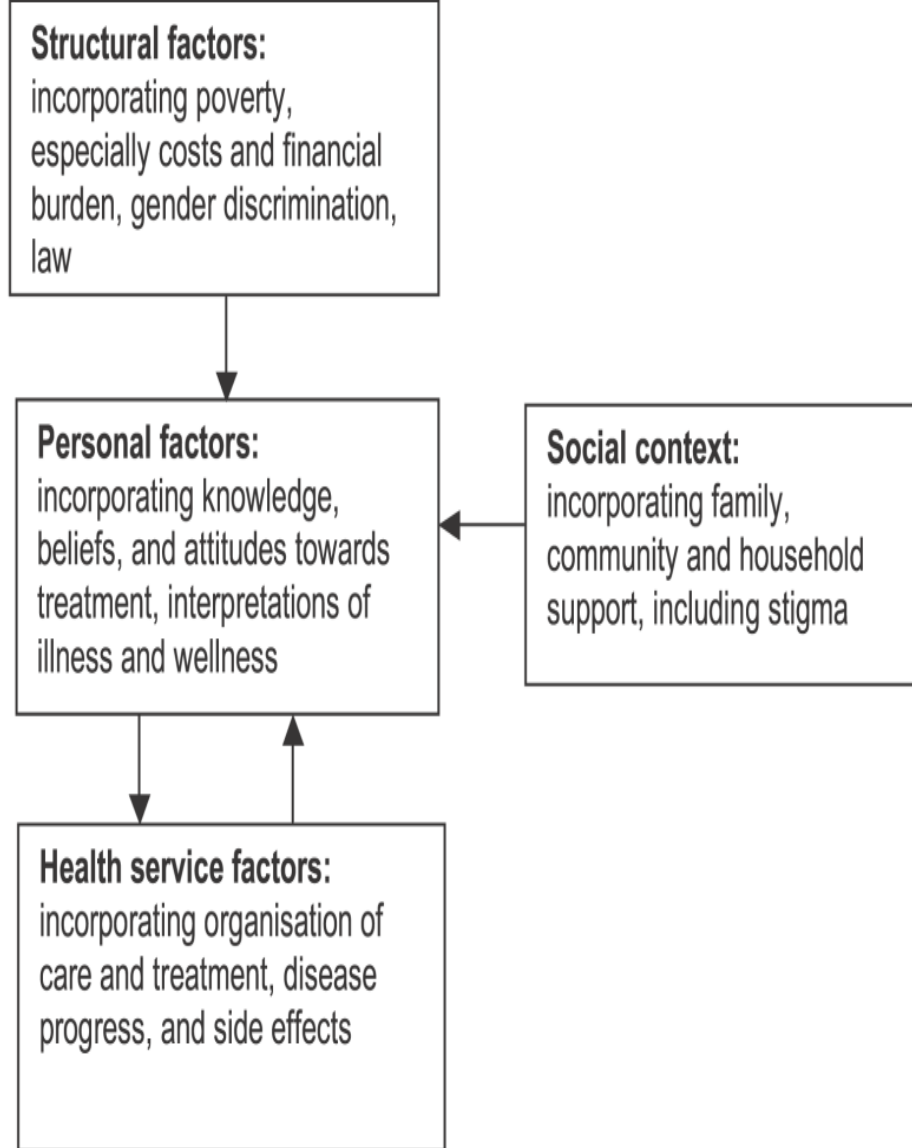
For building theory...

and greater understanding

A meta-ethnography:

Factors influencing adherence to TB treatment

Lewin et al Lay health workers in primary and community health care for maternal and child health and the management of infectious diseases. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2010, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004015.



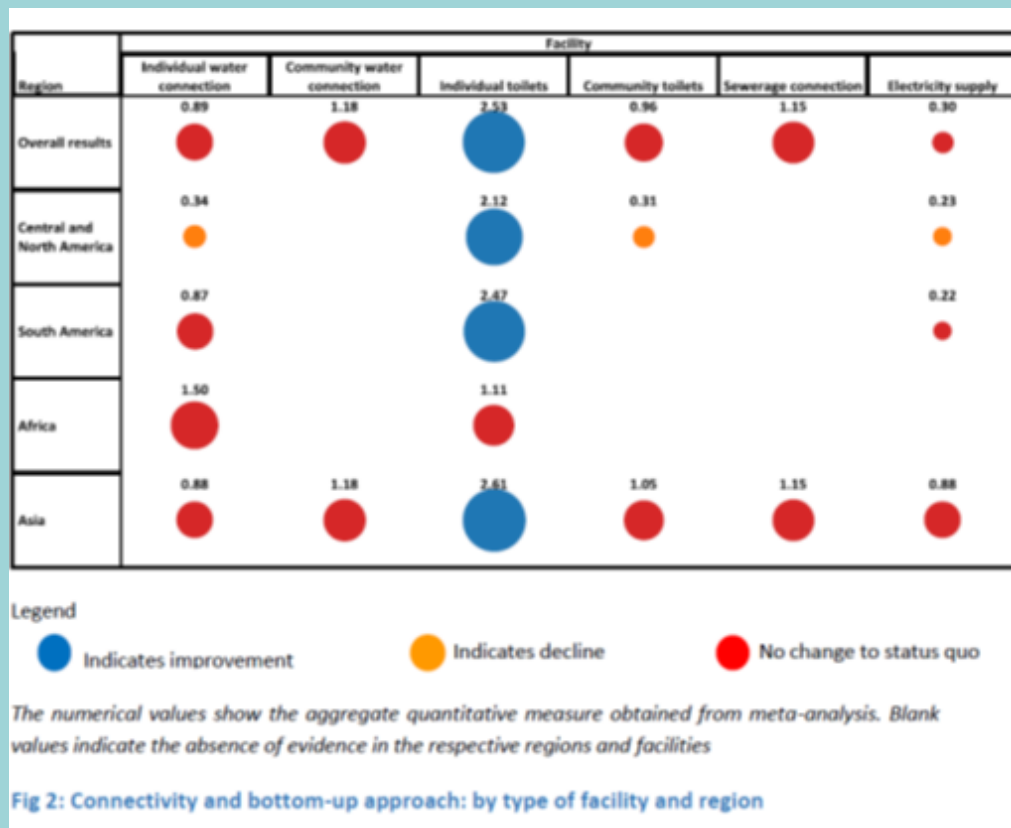
Note:

↓ ↑ suggest a bi-directional relationship between factors. For example, health service interventions directed at patients are likely to influence patient adherence behaviour through the filter of "personal factors." Similarly, patients' interactions with health services are likely to be influenced by their knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about treatment as well as their interpretations of illness and wellness.

Aggregating & configuring evidence

For policy relevant development reviews

A mixed methods review:
 Access to water, sanitation and electricity services in low-income or informal settlements



Annamalai TR, Devkar G, Mahalingam A, Benjamin S, Rajan SC, Deep A (2016) *What is the evidence on top-down and bottom-up approaches in improving access to water, sanitation and electricity services in low-income or informal settlements?* London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London.

Questions?

What are broad development reviews *used* for?

- Effects of specific interventions? (study averages)
- Effects in specific contexts? (single studies)
- Understanding of how interventions (do not) work?
- Understanding of how context matters?

Public goods or local goods?

Systematic reviews for development

Reviews as public or local goods?

- **Public goods reviews:** Use global knowledge to inform local knowledge to maximise rigour of research for decisions
- **Tailored to context reviews:** Use local knowledge to shape global knowledge to maximise relevance of research to area of interest

Public goods reviews

Generalisable evidence for common problems

- Consensus on key concepts and priorities
 - Taxonomies and core outcome sets; priority setting
- Multi-stakeholder involvement
 - International ‘peer’ review
 - Advisory groups
- Emphasis on effectiveness
 - Clear methods guidance



Public goods* health reviews

- Vitamin A supplementation to prevent blindness due to childhood measles
- Condom effectiveness in reducing heterosexual HIV transmission
- Corticosteroids for treating nerve damage in leprosy
- Glasses, masks and respirators, hoods, clothing and shoes or boots to protect health care workers from viral or bacterial infections

Public goods* development reviews

- Vocational and business training programmes on women's income, working conditions, societal worth, and economic empowerment
- Agricultural input subsidies on agricultural productivity and beneficiary incomes and welfare
- Promoting sanitation and hygiene behaviour change in communities in low- and middle income countries

*The Campbell Library

Public goods reviews

Typically

- Narrow-ish questions
- Populations, interventions, outcomes defined in advance
- Emphasis on effectiveness, and a quality threshold

Tailored to context reviews

Responsive to local need

- To inform specific immediate problems
 - Framed by funders’/ policy teams’ interests
- Local stakeholder involvement
 - Advisory groups
 - Knowledge broker support
- Emphasis on context
 - Variety of methods to suit purposes of reviews



DFID policy makers' questions

- What policies and interventions have been strongly associated with changes in in-country income inequality?
- What policies and interventions have been strongly associated with the translation of growth into reductions in income poverty?
- What is the evidence supporting the technology selection for low-volume, rural roads in low-income countries and what evidence is there to support the sustainability of different rural road technologies?
- Under what conditions do inspection, monitoring and assessment improve system efficiency, service delivery and learning outcomes? [3 questions]

Policy makers' questions

Typically

- Open questions (What interventions...?)
- Multi-dimensional questions
- Complex outcomes (resilience, inequality, sustainability)
- Sometimes, scaling up questions

Reviews not just testing hypotheses, but ALSO seeking to understand complex issues & variation

Evidence products for development

Implications for relevance and use

Human settlements evidence map

Outcomes

Human Settlements Medium Term Strategic Framework

Policies/ interventions
Human Settlements White paper

		Constitutional Right to Housing				Functional Residential Property Market				Good Governance							
		Improved/Quality Living Conditions				Growth & Distribution of Value in the Property Market		Participation by Low/Middle Income	Poverty Reduction	Procedural Justice	Fiscal Sustainability	Town and Land Use Planning				Inter-Governmental Relations	
		Shelter/Houses	Municipal/Basic Services	Sustainable development	Other	Access	Affordability	Housing Assets Affordability	Integrated Settlements	Community Participation	Revenue for Municipalities	Legal By-Laws, Town Planning, Town Tenure and Building Regulations	Town/urban planning	land tenure	Building regulation	Sectoral Integration (National, Provincial & Local)	National/Provincial / Local
Financial	Demand Side Subsidies	•				•	•	•									
	Supply-Side Subsidies	•	•			•	•	•	•	•						•	
	Housing Grants	•	•			•		•								•	
	Capital Subsidies	•	•			•	•	•	•	•						•	
	Development Finance	Loans	•	•			•		•								
		Guarantees															
	Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer	Conditional	•	•													
Supplementary																	
	Non-Conditional																
Non-Financial	Regulation	•	•			•	•	•	•	•							
	Policy & Legislation	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•					•	

41 Supporting Evidence

Title	Author
Public Housing for Whom? Experiences in an Era of Mature Neo-Liberalism: The Netherlands and Amsterdam	Musterd, S.
Waiting for the State: a Politics of Housing in South Africa	Oldfield, S. & Greyling, S.
Horizontal Coordination, Government Performance and National Planning: The Possibilities and Limits of the South African State	Kraak, A.
South African Housing Policy over Two Decades: 1994 – 2014	Huchzermeyer & Karam
The impact of globalisation on the composition of government expenditures: Evidence from panel data	Dreher, A. et al



What do we know from living and working here?

Local knowledge: Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa

What do we know from studies globally?

Africa Centre for Evidence
University of Johannesburg

Public goods reviews: Use global knowledge to inform local knowledge to maximise rigour of research for decisions

Tailored to context reviews: Use local knowledge to shape global knowledge to maximise relevance of research to area of interest



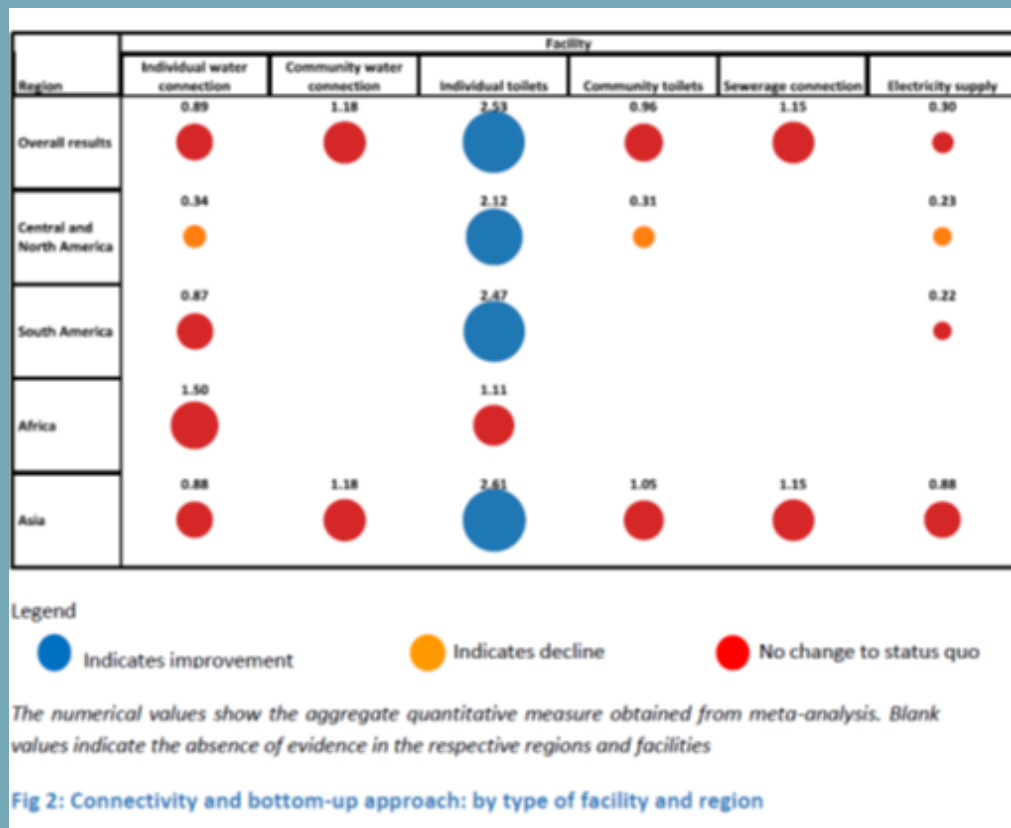
Questions?

Is this map a global good or a local good?

Is it valuable for....

- South Africa?
- Countries like South Africa? With similar...
 - Socio-economic indicators?
 - Physical geography?
 - Policy priorities?
- Is being informed by South African policy makers sufficient for a global good?

Access to water, sanitation and electricity services in low-income or informal settlements

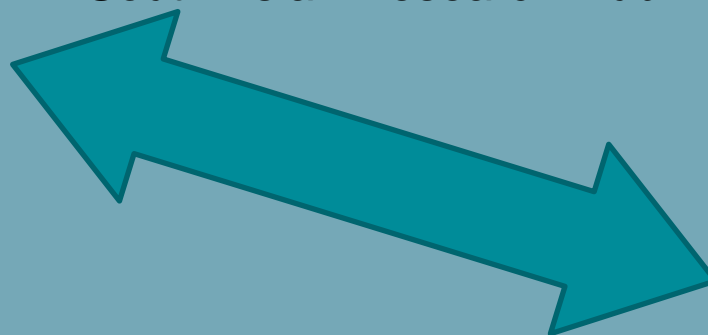


Annamalai TR, Devkar G, Mahalingam A, Benjamin S, Rajan SC, Deep A (2016) *What is the evidence on top-down and bottom-up approaches in improving access to water, sanitation and electricity services in low-income or informal settlements?* London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London.



What do we know from living and working here?

Local knowledge: Corporation of Chennai; Chennai City Connect (urban stakeholders outside government; IL&FS an Indian infrastructure development and finance company; DFID South Asian Research Hub



What do we know from studies globally?

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India

Public goods reviews: Use global knowledge to inform local knowledge to maximise rigour of research for decisions

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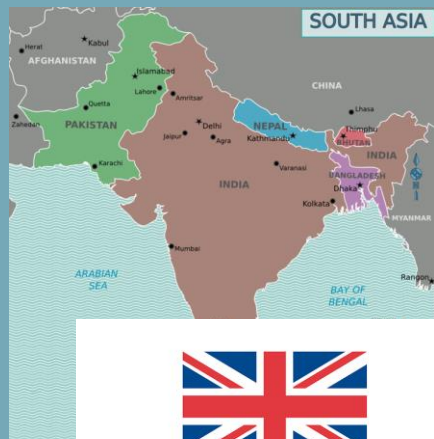


Questions?

Is this review a global good or a local good?

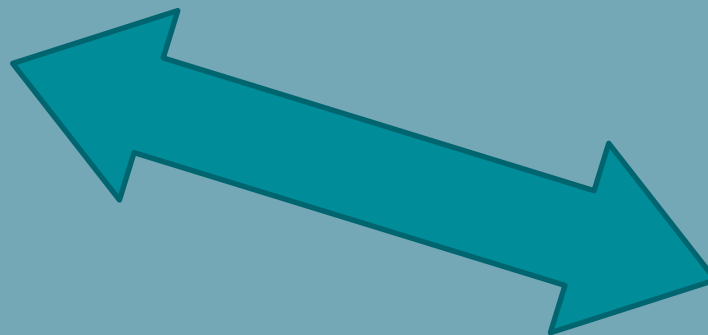
Is it valuable for....

- South Asia? Countries in South Asia
- Countries like South Asia? With similar...
 - Socio-economic indicators?
 - Physical geography?
 - Policy priorities?
- Is being informed by South Asian stakeholders sufficient for a global good?



What do we know from living and working here?

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Questions?

Is 'local knowledge' defined by geography or organisations?

Is this review valuable for....

- DFID South Asia Research Hub? Elsewhere?
- Organisations like DFID and other Advisory Group members? Similar ...
 - International donors (but not iNGOs)?
 - City Corporations?
 - Urban stakeholders outside government?
- Is being informed by these stakeholders sufficient for a global good?

Conclusions

Systematic reviews...

- Typically aggregate evidence to test hypotheses or configure evidence to develop theory
- Development reviews often **broad and doing both**
- *Does this make a difference to how they are used?*
- Typically are public goods or tailored to context
- Are development reviews **merging the two?**
- *Does this make a difference to how they are used?*

References

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- Oliver S, Dickson K (2016) Policy-relevant systematic reviews to strengthen health systems: models and mechanisms to support their production. *Evidence and Policy*. 12 (2) 235-259
- Oliver S, Bangpan M, Dickson K. (2018) Producing policy relevant systematic reviews: navigating the policy-research interface. *Evidence and Policy*. 14 (2), 197-220
- Oliver S, Gough D, Copestake J, Thomas J (2018) Approaches to evidence synthesis in international development: a research agenda, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 10:3, 305-326
- Oliver S, Roche C, Stewart R, Bangpan M, Dickson K, Pells K, Cartwright N, Gough D, Hargreaves J (2018) Stakeholder engagement for development impact evaluation and evidence synthesis. Centre for Excellence for Development Impact and Learning (CEDIL), London

Thank you

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