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**Beyond the PDF: How to incorporate learning and adaptation throughout the program lifecycle**

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**Objectives/aims**

All too often research findings fail to make it “beyond the PDF” and inform practice throughout the program lifecycle. In this panel, we discuss ways to work with programs to support ongoing learning and adaptation – from funders looking to monitor and iteratively adapt their innovation strategy to implementers testing new interventions before scale up. Our goal is to share ideas and foster discussion on ways to make research actionable for practitioners. We do this by sharing lessons from our approach to adaptive learning and how the evidence we generated did (or did not) influence practice.

**Methods**

We first introduce projects that each highlight a different feature of how we work to ensure findings inform practice:

1. Using monitoring systems to (re)design an educational mobile app in India – Christina Synowiec

2. Implementing an adaptive strategy evaluation of a nutrition-focused challenge fund – Kathleen Bombell

3. Embedding MEL support for a low-fee network of schools in Sierra Leone – Luke Heinkel

4. Qualitative process tracing to interpret the results of a randomized evaluation of a citizen engagement program to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes – Jean Arkedis

Discussion will focus on attendees’ reactions to how can these approaches be used in their work.

**Main findings**

We expect the following key results:

1. Attendees have a space to reflect on how evidence does (and does not) inform practice in their work
2. Attendees learn specific approaches to incorporating learning and adaptation into implementation – including smart use of monitoring systems for decision-making, lean testing, explicit “pause and reflect” opportunities, and strategically embedding study coordinators
3. Attendees have a space to reflect on how these features do (or don’t) apply to their work
4. Panelists receive questions and ideas that can inform how we adapt and improve our approach