Developing evidence maps to identify equity issues

Session 2: Mapping health equity

A day with Equity Methods Group

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Use of EGMs: a strategic approach to building evidence architecture

- We get evidence into use by making evidence-based decision-making products (the top three layers of the pyramid)
- But the top won’t stay up without a solid base
- Evidence maps survey the base of the pyramid, determining the strength of the foundations for producing top-level evidence products
- So EGMs not usually an end in themselves

Source: H White, 2019
Interventions for reducing violence against children: An evidence and gap map in low and middle-income countries

Some form of violence affects more than 1 in 2 children in the world every year. This document provides an overview of the evidence available and identifies gaps in the evidence base on interventions to reduce violence against children in LMICs. Complementing the @EvidenceMap and @EvidenceMapM, this report builds on the research conducted for the @EvidenceMap. The report examines evidence and identifies gaps in effective interventions to prevent, reduce, and respond to violence against children in LMICs. The findings provide guidance to policymakers and practitioners on the most effective strategies to address violence against children, as well as informing research and practice about gaps in evidence for different strategies.

Source: https://www.unicef-irc.org/evidence-gap-map-violence-against-children/

campbellcollaboration.org UNICEF Innocenti
The EGM framework

**Primary Dimensions**
The row and column headings and sub-headings
These are usually
Interventions (row headings)
Outcomes (column headings)

**Secondary Dimensions**
Study design
Date of publication
Country and region
Population sub groups e.g.
Women
Children
People with disabilities
Low income groups
Humanitarian settings
Equity considerations in evidence mapping

- Equity-sensitive EGMs identify to what extent current research incorporates equity
- We aim to extract data on the extent to which EGMs provide evidence relating to equity groups as listed below
  - Age-children and elderly
  - Disability
  - Income groups
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Religion
  - Land ownership
  - Rural/conflict-affected population
Equity considerations in evidence mapping

A map is considered equity-sensitive if:

- They are designed to include interventions that target vulnerable group or aim to reduce inequalities
- They assess impact on a disadvantages group by analysing outcome specific to vulnerable population
Equity considerations in mapping

• Set the inclusion and exclusion criteria to assess categories of disadvantage (e.g. socioeconomic status, sex, race/ethnicity, elements of PROGRESS-PLUS)

• Develop equity-focused search strategy: search should include databases, terms, and concepts relevant for the equity question under consideration

• Develop a standardized data extraction tool, to code studies for the countries where they were conducted, the interventions/outcomes studied, their analysis methods, and their attention to equity.

• Have equity filters for presentation of the map.
Search term selection

• The idea is to make your searches sensitive and equity focused

• ((social* or disadvantage or excluded or gradient* socio-economic status” or “women* socioeconomic status” or “female* socio-economic status” or socioeconomic status” or “mother* socioeconomic status” or “maternal socioeconomic status” or “social class” or SES))

• Specific terms related to vulnerable population or poverty

• Different variants of equity* or inequity* or disparity* or equality
Inclusion criteria

- Include studies of interventions which report characteristics of the participants in terms of at least one socio-demographic variable (sex, race or ethnicity), socio-economic status (occupation, educational level or income), religion, place of residence or area-level index of deprivation.

- Age should also be included as a socio-demographic factor if the intervention targeted vulnerable age groups (adolescents or young adults)
Examples

A majority of maps consider equity in two ways:

1. Maps studies of effects with an explicit equity focus on a specific dimension of inequity such as in disadvantaged population(s)
   • Example: EGM on Interventions for people with disabilities in LMICs

2. Maps studies of effects not explicitly aimed reducing inequity but presents data disaggregated by gender and disability.
   • Example: Mega map on child well being, violence against children
Disability Evidence and Gap Map

- It maps the effectiveness studies (systematic reviews and impact evaluations) on interventions to improve the well-being of people with disabilities in LMICs.

- Population: We included traditionally, underrepresented groups such as women, children in care, conflict settings, migrant and people belonging to ethnic minorities are relevant with respect to disabilities.

- As these population characteristics may heighten vulnerability in the face of vulnerability and may have higher prevalence of disability.
Disability Evidence and Gap Map

- The 2020 update identified 108 additional studies the map now contains 274 studies, of these 110 are reviews and 164 impact evaluations.
Present and analyze population equity gaps

The CEDIL-3ie Map of Maps and its children

Map of maps
- Access to justice
- Transport
- Maps
- Reviews

Source: Presentation by Howard White 2019
Centre for homelessness impact

Followed by:
- Campbell Reviews by QUB
- Accommodation-based interventions
- Discharge
- Access to health services

The reviews are based on studies in the map... no search needed and partially coded

Short run: Summaries from studies in the map

NICE Guidance

Source: Presentation by Howard White 2019
Mega Map on child well-being in LMICs


• The evidence is structured by intervention categories, such as health and nutrition, and outcome domains, such as morbidity.
Studies with explicit equity focus

• Snap-shot from Mega map that shows 22 systematic reviews and seven EGMs with explicit equity focus.

• Very little evidence of what works in terms of equitable interventions to target children who are socially discriminated against, marginalized and excluded e.g disability, ethnicity, race, caste, indigenous children

This map shows the coverage of 475 systematic reviews and 25 Evidence and Gap Maps (EGMs) and 9 COVID-19-Specific Rapid Reviews.
Child category filters

Age categories

- Neonate
- Infants 1 month-2 years
- Young child 2-6
- Child 6-12
- Adolescent 13-18.

Orphans
- Children with disabilities
- Children belonging to ethnic minorities
- Child sex workers
- Malnourished children
- Child brides
- Isolated children/street child
- Children with HIV/AIDS
Mega map on child well-being

Violence against children EGM
Conclusion

• Consideration of gender and equity remains relatively limited, especially for systematic reviews in these sectors.

• The evidence and gap maps help identify gaps in targeting these populations can guide users to available relevant evidence with an ‘equity focus’ to inform intervention and design and implementation.

• The value of additional impact evaluations and systematic reviews will increase if we use gender-responsive and equity focused research and measuring direct and differential effects on them would be important for meeting global agendas.
Thank you