

Investigating the impact of systematic reviews funded by DFID

Prof Sandy Oliver, Dr Kusha Anand and Dr Mukdarut Bangpan

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Summary

The production and use of systematic reviews for international development began to grow at the beginning of the 21st Century. The Department for International Development (DFID) introduced a broad programme of systematic reviews in 2010. This study traces the impact of these systematic reviews both in the academic research literature and beyond academia, by looking at use within government and other organisations (for example through inclusion in documents, research repositories and decisions beyond academia).

I. Methods

Academic impact occurs when authors transform their review report into an academic manuscript for publication by their host institutions or academic journals, or when the review report or their subsequent academic publication is cited by other academic authors. Wider impact occurs when the report or subsequent academic publication is cited in a report beyond academia, made available in a repository for widespread use, or used to inform a decision or action.

Evidence of systematic reviews being used was sought from four main sources: Google Scholar to identify academic impact; Google to identify evidence of these reports being cited in documents beyond academia; specialist systematic review repositories (3ie database of systematic reviews,¹ Social Systems Evidence,² Evidence AID,³ Campbell-UNICEF Mega-Map⁴); and Development Tracker⁵ to identify DFID's use of systematic reviews.

We adopted a framework analysis approach for the study, which involved: identifying and familiarising ourselves with data indicating the use of systematic reviews from this programme; taking the Valuing the Use of Evidence framework that had been developed by DFID's Evidence into Action team as an initial structure for analysis; and coding the systematic reviews according to this framework. This framework distinguishes between **transparent use of evidence** where there is increased understanding and transparent use of (bodies of) evidence by policymakers; **embedded use of evidence** where no direct action is taken as a result of the evidence, but use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture; and **instrumental use of evidence** where knowledge from robust evidence is being used directly to inform a policy or programme.

During the process of analysis, we refined the Valuing the Use of Evidence framework to enable its application to a product-focused analysis.⁶ This included: adding a dimension of knowledge accessibility; refining scales for scope, depth and sustainability of impact; and adapting the framework for use beyond government.

We then designed charts to map the data against the three types of research use; and interpreted the findings in light of three different academic models of research use (the linear knowledge-driven model; the relationship model; and the systems model). DFID staff from the Evidence into Action team and the South Asia Research Hub were involved throughout.

¹ <https://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/publications/systematic-reviews>

² <https://www.socialsystemsevidence.org/>

³ <https://evidenceaid.org/>

⁴ <https://www.unicef-irc.org/megamap/>

⁵ <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/>

⁶ A product focused analysis starts with the research outputs/products and investigates whether they were considered during any decision making. This is distinct from a user focused analysis which would start with the decisions and decision makers and investigate whether they were informed by the research. Collecting information from users (as is implied by DFID's original framework) allows a detailed insider description of how the evidence was used; whereas a document analysis as done in this study requires more interpretation by the analyst.

II. Findings

This programme published 86 systematic reviews spanning a broad range of policy sectors between 2010 and 2019. The sectors which had the most systematic reviews undertaken (education, business and economics, and health) correspond with those academic disciplines with a long tradition in research synthesis.

Most reviews addressed questions of effects or impact of intervention (71), but other reviews investigating associations between exposure and outcomes (10), views or experiences (2), theoretical models (2) or scaling up of interventions (1). Synthesis methods were chosen to suit the types of questions and available data. Most were mixed methods reviews (47). Others were quantitative syntheses alone (26), qualitative synthesis alone (3), or realist synthesis (2). Most were reviews of primary studies (79), some were systematic reviews of systematic reviews (7) and one was an evidence map with no appraisal or in-depth synthesis of findings (1).

Because the intention was for this programme of reviews to be relevant to DFID's work, authors were encouraged to invite policy makers and other stakeholders with knowledge relevant to the review topic to guide the production process. Policy input into the reviews was underreported by review authors. Policy input was explicitly reported in over half the reviews (Table 3). Basic reporting listed names or roles of stakeholders involved (45 reviews). Some authors reported the methods they used to invite policy input (32 reviews) and others reported the contribution made in response to these invitations (22 reviews).

Impact of policy relevant systematic reviews

This study explored the impact of the systematic reviews produced by this programme in relation to both different users and types of use (transparent; embedded and instrumental).

Types of user

The programme as a whole had an observable impact on the academic literature, and on stakeholders beyond academia.

Academic impact: The greatest impact was found within academia. Most reviews appeared in the academic literature, either as academic papers (20) or as citations in academic papers by other authors (60). There were examples of the academic literature having drawn on reviews produced by this programme for their substantive findings, and on some for methodological debate. Two systematic reviews also appeared in reading lists for higher education courses, indicating they are embedded in training the next generation of development professionals.

Wider impact (beyond academia): Impact beyond academia was also identified, although fewer reviews were found to have been used. Twenty-one systematic reviews have informed specific decisions or policies, one informed new procedures for embedding evidence in decision making, 19 appeared in existing procedures for decision making, 25 were cited to enhance understanding in non-academic documents, and 21 appeared in portals, maps or databases to enhance knowledge accessibility.

Governments made use of 20 reviews, and other stakeholders (including DFID, a wide range of multilateral donors and other NGOs) used 37 reviews. Two systematic reviews were used by DFID policy staff directly involved in their production (termed 'local' use). This range of users confirm that DFID systematic reviews are largely achieving the programme goal of being 'public goods'.

No impact was found beyond academia for 39 of the reviews. For 16 of these we found no impact at all, and these were mainly recent publications.

Types of impact

We found the reviews have been used in a wide variety of ways. For example, the academic literature has drawn on some systematic reviews for their substantive findings, and on others for methodological debate. Beyond academia, systematic reviews were cited in specialist knowledge repositories (enhancing the accessibility of their findings) and have been cited by organisations to share new understanding, stimulate thinking and debate, encourage use of evidence or advocate change.

More in-depth analysis of the ways in which the systematic reviews have been used (identified through mini case studies) found that examples of research use could be very small, such as a small contribution to a business plan, or substantial, such as informing development of major initiatives or to facilitate debate. This review also found that systematic reviews were often cited alongside other evidence.

Transparent use of evidence (enhancing accessibility): Some transparent uses of evidence do not enhance understanding, rather they make the evidence more readily accessible by uploading it into a searchable repository. Nineteen systematic reviews produced by this programme were found cited in specialist knowledge repositories (including ELDIS and the GSDRC Knowledge Services portal). However, in most cases it is not clear, even when accessibility has been enhanced, to what extent the systematic reviews in these repositories (or summaries of their findings) have been accessed, read or used and therefore it is not possible to assess the extent to which they have enhanced understanding or informed specific decisions.

Transparent (enhancing understanding): The most widely reported use of systematic reviews was transparent use for enhancing understanding. Twenty-five examples of transparent use of systematic reviews to enhance understanding were identified. These included examples of organisations using the reviews from this programme to proactively share new understanding arising from their own work (World Bank, FAO, UNDP, and International Commission for AID impact); to purposely stimulate thinking and debate (UNICEF, UNDP); to advocate for change (World Development Movement); to inform an international political forum (G20 Leaders); or encourage use of evidence (Population Council).

Embedded use of evidence: One systematic review investigated the effects of interventions to improve the uptake of evidence from health research into policy in low and middle-income countries informed the development of a culture for using evidence at the Population Council; consequently it illustrated evidence *becoming* embedded in *new* procedures.

Three organisations incorporated a total of 19 other systematic reviews into *existing* procedures. Only 11 of these subsequently led to instrumental impact, and two of these were also used transparently for enhancing understanding. These 11 illustrated systematic reviews *being* embedded in *existing* procedures for developing evidence-informed guidance at the World Health Organization, and into *existing* templates for business cases at DFID. The WHO example was a systematic review about adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies being cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health. The six systematic reviews cited in DFID business cases were variously used to justify the need for intervention (3); demonstrate why/whether the intervention is expected to work (3) and assess the strength of available evidence (2). These examples of systematic reviews having an impact on DFID business cases show that DFID is going beyond basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of 'what works' and has also explicitly based some decisions on evidence of why there is a need for intervention, why intervention is expected to work, how an intervention works and whether the evidence is strong, medium or limited. Four systematic reviews were cited in

evidence briefs for UNICEF policy (instrumental use) after being collated in an evidence Mega-Map of systematic reviews (transparent use for enhancing accessibility). Eight additional systematic reviews also appeared in the Mega-Map but were not cited in policy documents so had no instrumental impact as a result. Thus, these systematic reviews appeared *embedded in existing procedures*, without direct action/decisions being taken.

Instrumental use of evidence: This involves evidence informing specific policy decisions. It is apparent when evidence is cited in documents informing policy decisions. Twenty-one systematic reviews produced by this programme led to examples of instrumental use of evidence, whereby the reviews were used to inform a policy/programming decision within DFID and/or other organisations. This includes instrumental use of systematic reviews from this programme in six DFID business cases, and eight organisations other than DFID (including the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, NORAD and the US Government) using a total of 12 systematic reviews for instrumental purposes.

Timescales and sustainability of impact

Five systematic reviews first appeared in the literature beyond academia in the year of publication, but more appeared in the following few years, with some appearing for the first time seven years after publication.

Immediate impact, within the same year, beyond academia was possible when (a) reviews were quickly re-packaged by organisations with a mission to collate evidence and make evidence readily available; (b) reviews were used 'locally' by stakeholders involved in the review production; or (c) reviews were the focus of a development controversy and therefore quickly attracted attention. Later impact suggests the systematic review reports had a long shelf-life or were 'sustainable'.

The different uses of these 47 reviews were either one-off (14), prolonged through recurrent discussions (15) or sustained by changes being incorporated into policy, regulation or law, missions or declarations (22). Therefore, not only could some reports sustain their value (paragraph above), but some of the changes they influenced were also sustainable.

Models of research use

Three different models can be used to explain how use of research beyond academia is achieved. The traditional **linear model of knowledge transfer** sees academic knowledge being transferred from researchers to policy and practice for wider use and depends on sound science being clearly communicated. The **relationship model** focuses on the interactions between the researchers and people using the knowledge. The **dynamic systems model** recognises that what research is conducted and how, is influenced by the context in which potential users work and apply the findings. According to this systems model, the effective production and use of evidence is dependent on a number of interrelated factors—including the **capacity** of individuals, teams, institutions and a global support system to use the research: **demand** for reviews by governments, donors and NGOs and **the knowledge management infrastructure** to provide access to the reviews.

Learning from the linear model of knowledge exchange: In order to explore the extent to which evidence use of the systematic reviews followed the linear model of knowledge transfer and research uptake, we explored whether there was any association between the clarity of conclusions and subsequent impact of systematic reviews. When reviews reported specific implications for policy and listed them clearly, fewer were seen having conceptual impact for enhancing understanding, and more were having an instrumental impact in decision making. There was no difference in knowledge accessibility or research being embedded in procedures for developing policy, nor any difference in impact overall. When reviews reported research recommendations clearly, more of

them were seen having impact beyond academia overall, and more were seen enhancing understanding beyond academia, or having instrumental impact in decision making. No difference in impact was seen for knowledge accessibility.

Learning from the relationship model of knowledge exchange: To explore whether the use of systematic reviews found was in line with this two-way relationship model we compared the impact of reviews that did or did not report policy input into shaping them. When reviews reported policy input into their preparation, more of them had impact beyond academia, more were included in resources to enhance knowledge accessibility, and more were embedded into procedures or resources for decision making. However, there was little or no difference in the instrumental use. In contrast, there was no difference in academic impact whether or not reviews reported policy input into their preparation.

Learning from the systems model: To explore whether the use of systematic reviews was in line with this model we explored the systems DFID has in place to support the use of evidence. We found DFID is investing in: individual staff within the department (time and skills); systematic review teams (guidance and support); the department's institutional capacity (resources, templates, procedures and senior support); and the wider system (publishing systematic reviews on R4D to make them widely accessible; and keeping abreast of systematic review methodology and preparing further guidance). Less attention was paid to the skills required to help change happen; in this case, knowledge brokering skills to help systematic reviews become more policy-relevant, and to help decisions become better informed by systematic reviews. However, since 2010 DFID has increased investment in embedded evidence and evaluation advisors who often play a brokering role, and dedicated teams (such as the geographic research hubs and Evidence into Action) have been established to strengthen links between evidence and decision makers. Similarly, although DFID accepted the recommendation from an earlier evaluation of this programme to complement publication on R4D with developing and coordinating systematic repositories or portals, access routes remain fragmented.

Adaptations applied to the Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence to allow product focused review

One goal of the review was to explore how the Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence could be developed to consider systematic reviews. During the course of this review the framework was amended to allow a documentary analysis that included government and non-government organisations. The original framework did not recognise the potential for the transparent use of evidence without necessarily enhancing understanding. This would have excluded a wide range of citations of the systematic reviews (including those in searchable databases). The framework was therefore revised to distinguish between these two situations. Scales for assessing depth and sustainability also needed refining to specify more precisely the meaning of depth of impact and the meaning of sustainability. A scale was also added for the new category of transparent use for knowledge accessibility.

In applying the framework, we also found that the different types of research use identified were not always easily distinguishable, and the different types of impact are not mutually exclusive (i.e. a single systematic review may have been used in multiple or overlapping ways). For example, transparent use of a review, for enhancing understanding, may also be instrumental use if that enhanced understanding informs a business case or other policy decision. Use embedded in normal procedures for considering evidence in decision making may also be a step towards instrumental impact.

Strengths and limitations of the study

This study investigated whether and how systematic reviews commissioned by DFID have an impact on academia and more widely. It was informed by relevant theories of how research is used and an existing framework developed within DFID for valuing use of evidence. It also benefitted from critical questions posed by DFID staff who brought direct experience of commissioning systematic reviews and working with policy teams. As a result it offers an audit of the impact of this programme of systematic reviews and learning about how to assess impact, and about factors that influence impact.

This study drew solely on information available in the public domain. As such caution needs to be taken regarding the accuracy of the data reported. It is possible the figures reported may underestimate the impact of these systematic reviews on the basis that some information about their usage is not readily available (i.e. not all organisations cite the evidence they use to inform decisions or publicly report changes in their internal processes or the evidence used to inform these). Conversely, where examples of evidence use have been found, the impact of a single systematic review may have been overestimated. For example, the degree of influence may have been very small compared to other factors considered during decision making; an issue that cannot be readily seen from documents alone.

The study explored the pathway whereby academic publications lead to wider impact by giving systematic reviews a higher profile; raising their quality through the peer review system; and thereby also raising their credibility. However, it is not possible to draw conclusions about whether academic publication is associated with impact outside of academia, as exploration of this relationship is confounded by the fact that data about impact is better curated for academic papers which are published with a DOI number (which can be used to track the attention the paper receives online). This means the results may overestimate the impact of this type of publication.

The findings suggest an association between the clarity with which implications for policy and recommendations of research are reported and the subsequent impact. For all these findings, it is important to remember that evidence of association is insufficient to conclude that greater policy input or clearer reporting *causes* greater impact.

Finally, this analysis rests on systematic reviews appearing in knowledge management resources and in discussion and policy documents. We found only one example where impact in the wider world could be traced to changes in people's lives that might ultimately alleviate poverty

III. Conclusions

This programme published 86 systematic reviews spanning a broad range of policy sectors between 2010 and 2019. The programme as a whole had an observable impact on both the academic literature, and on stakeholders beyond academia.

The first or primary goal of the programme was to build support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making. Twenty-one systematic reviews produced by this programme led to examples of instrumental use of evidence, whereby the reviews were used to inform a policy/programming decision within DFID and or other organisations. Although there are no before-and-after data to show whether this constitutes an increase, our analysis has revealed that where support from policy teams was acknowledged in reports, systematic reviews were more likely to be cited to inform policy decisions. As such, this goal can be seen to have been achieved.

The second goal was to support the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods. This was achieved by systematic review reports being made publicly available on R4D and some of them also appearing as papers in academic journals. Their value as public goods is apparent

from many of them being used to inform decisions by international organisations. Support for the production of these public goods was through funding of research teams, provision of methodological support, and time devoted by DFID policy teams and knowledge brokering skills of the programme lead.

The third goal of making it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy by using systematic reviews was achieved by: (a) making systematic review reports publicly available; (b) preparation of executive summaries by review teams; and (c) a How To Note offering guidance for incorporating evidence into DFID business plans.

Whether the last, ultimate goal of increasing value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works has been achieved is unclear because there is no before-and-after data. However, we found some DFID decisions have been informed by evidence of why intervention is needed, why intervention is expected to work, how well specific interventions work and whether the evidence is strong, medium or limited.

IV. Recommendations

Bearing in mind the findings of this study, recommendations from an independent evaluation of the programme, and the wider literature, we make the following recommendations.

Strengthening clarity and relevance of reports for policy: As those systematic reviews that clearly drew out implications for policy were the same reviews that had greater impact beyond academia, we recommend greater effort be invested to explicitly carve out policy implications from the study findings at appropriate points in the report. Similarly, as reviews explicitly reporting policy input into their preparation also had greater impact beyond academia, we recommend that this activity and its reporting is seen as a priority when commissioning systematic reviews. Reporting of policy inputs could be mandated as ‘best practice’ in report preparation and discussion encouraged between policy teams and research teams.

Both clarity and relevance may be enhanced by report templates having prompts for drawing out implications for policy and recommendations for research. In addition to templates to support review teams’ thinking, we recommend that they work particularly closely with policy teams when translating policy interests into answerable questions, and when drawing out the implications for policy and recommendations for research. This requires greater knowledge brokering skills amongst policy teams and research teams, not only amongst staff with a knowledge broker title, to accommodate large numbers of systematic reviews. The aim of these skills is to achieve collective, creative thinking to identify and shape policy relevant questions and draw out policy relevant implications and research recommendations.

Encouraging a broader understanding of systematic reviews and their methods: As most systematic reviews in this programme included mixed research methods, and DFID has already accepted a commitment to keep abreast of methodological advances, both review teams and policy teams need to appreciate the diverse methods of research synthesis and how to choose between them.

A broader understanding of systematic reviewing also extends the concept from a technical enterprise to a social one. It combines both the technical aspects of framing a clear and manageable question with the interpersonal communication between researchers and research users. The technical enterprise involves drawing on firm methodological foundations to ensure confidence in how findings are derived. The social enterprise involves maximising what can be learnt from a body of literature by drawing on multiple stakeholders, using methods to support collaborative working. DFID’s Centre for Excellence in Development Impact and Learning has already commissioned

guidance for engaging stakeholders with systematic reviews and impact evaluations. We recommend that the importance of this aspect of the work is routinely emphasised and guidance signposted alongside any mention of the technical aspects of systematic review methods.

Enhancing searching effectiveness and efficiency: Given the breadth of DFID's interest in development across policy sectors, and the fragmentation of studies across multiple repositories for systematic reviews or primary studies across this scope, we recommend searching 3ie's portal for systematic reviews and impact evaluations, and keeping abreast of developing methods for searching Microsoft Academic² to identify primary studies of various designs and systematic reviews wherever they are published online. This is a novel approach to efficient searching for academic research.³

Tracking the impact of systematic reviews: An earlier evaluation of the programme recommended that use of systematic review evidence, notably in business cases and policy submissions, be systematically monitored. However, DFID's Research for Development portal does not have the necessary functionality to search business cases for the reviews they cite. We recommend developing greater searching functionality in R4D to identify where evidence has been used in business cases, and other relevant project documentation like Annual Reviews and business case addendums, and in subsequent project reports to justify or redirect policy initiatives.

A complementary approach is to encourage publication of DFID funded systematic reviews in academic journals where papers are published online with a digital object identifier (DOI). This unique alphanumeric string, assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the internet, can be used in combination with an Altmetric system that tracks the paper's impact on social media, traditional media, blogs and online reference managers.

Revising the framework for assessing the value of use of evidence: developed by DFID's Evidence into Action team. We recommend incorporating the amendments made during this project to make it applicable inside and outside of government. The scale for assessing sustainability needs further refinement to distinguish how long individual systematic reviews continue to be useful from how long the ensuing changes are maintained.

² <https://academic.microsoft.com/home>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr8JICdNqR0>

1 Background

In 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) initiated a series of systematic review projects 'to increase DFID and other international development policy makers and practitioners' capacity for evidence informed policy making through the production of systematic reviews'.⁴ This report assesses the impact of systematic reviews arising from this initiative.

1.1 Policy relevant evidence products

Systematic reviews in international development are relatively recent, with almost none available in 2000 and only 100 or so a decade later (Hansen and Trifkovic, 2013). It was in 2010 when the DFID Systematic Review component of the Policy Relevant Evidence Products (PREP) programme was set up. A 2018 annual review describes the original intention to:

pilot the application of the systematic review method to areas of international development policy. Systematic reviews use a rigorous method to comprehensively search and summarise the content and quality of the literature on a particular topic. The programme aims to provide high quality and policy relevant systematic reviews in areas where there is greatest demand. It has pioneered the use of this approach to synthesis, improving clarity about what we know and where significant evidence gaps remain. (DFID 2018)

The goals were to:

- build support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making
- support the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods
- make it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy by using systematic reviews
- increase the value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works (Evidence into Action Team, 2015).

Assessing progress towards these goals requires an analysis of: *whether* systematic reviews are created and disseminated as public goods (second goal); *whether* these systematic reviews make it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy (third goal); *whether* the contribution of systematic reviews to a rigorous understanding of what works (fourth goal) leads to policy decisions offering better value for money; and *what support* is in place for creating and disseminating systematic reviews (second goal) and for using systematic reviews for evidence-informed decision making.

This report therefore focuses on how efforts to achieve the second goal (the PREP programme commissioning research teams and methodological support teams to produce systematic reviews and then making them publicly available on the Research for Development website) link with the first and third goals (making evidence informed decisions or developing evidence informed policy). It also focuses on whether decisions are based on a rigorous understanding of what works (fourth goal) but does not focus on the value for money for policy, which would require a far more extensive analysis than is possible within the time available.

By early 2012, this programme had commissioned 68 systematic reviews: 45 during a round 1 call in early 2010; 15 in a round 2 joint call with AusAID and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) in early 2011; and others on an ad hoc basis (Rose and Battock, 2012). For Round 1,

⁴ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-201642>

DFID contracted three established review facilities as Support Groups to provide methodological support to the review teams and quality assure the reports. These were 3ie, Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE) and Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre). Two other review facilities were added in this role for Round 2: Meta-Analysis of Economics Research Network, and Campbell Collaboration. Following recommendations of the early programme review (Rose and Battock, 2012), Rounds 3 and 4 addressed fewer questions, had larger budgets for each review and, especially for Round 4, included more effort to identify and develop suitable systematic review questions before a call for proposals.

More recently, a programme of systematic reviews has also been led by the South Asia Research Hub (SARH). DFID SARH began with a call in 2014 for two systematic reviews on microfinance (one reviewing effectiveness data and the other reviewing qualitative data, both emphasising the relevance to South Asia). This was followed by a larger programme of 15 evidence products (nine were systematic reviews; six were systematic reviews of systematic reviews – also called ‘evidence summaries’), with one call in 2015 and another in 2016. These systematic reviews addressed questions initiated by DFID country offices in South Asia, and refined in discussion with the contracted Support Group.

Now that the PREP systematic review programme has now concluded, this short report is for DFID’s internal purposes. It seeks to explore whether and how DFID and other organisations have indeed made use of these systematic reviews, and for what purposes. The remainder of this section summarises what is known about using research evidence. It summarises how research is used for different purposes, and different models for achieving use of research, before stating the research questions.

1.2 Transparent use for enhancing understanding

A second transparent use of evidence involves citing evidence when seeking to build increased understanding, where understanding is either enhanced in terms of the depth of understanding, or the numbers of people reached with new understanding. Appendix 5 lists 25 examples of transparent use of systematic reviews in work that seeks to enhance understanding.

One systematic review (Holmes et al. 2013) appears in the reference list of a DFID commissioned needs assessment ‘for improved access to finance and advisory support and/or business skills development, for SMEs in Afghanistan’. As it is not linked to any particular statement its transparent use is noted, but not interpreted as instrumental for decision making. The remaining examples are of transparent use of evidence by organisations beyond DFID.

GSDRC Knowledge Services provide topic guides *on request* which ‘aim to provide a clear, concise and objective report on findings from rigorous research on critical areas of development policy. They highlight the key debates and evidence on the topic of focus, including on approaches and lessons, and are used to strengthen the systematic use of learning and evidence by DFID staff and partners working on policy and programming. They are produced in close collaboration with international experts and with practitioners in DFID.’⁵ The work they do for DFID is published as part of the DFID’s ‘Knowledge for Development’ (K4D) programme while their work for other clients is published under the GSDRC name. Two further reviews were cited in topic guides prepared by GSDRC Knowledge Services in response to evidence requests by other clients. A summary of a systematic review on school voucher programmes (Morgan et al. 2013) was included in a Topic Guide about vouchers. A

⁵ <https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/>

summary of a systematic review on improving teacher attendance (Guerrero et al. 2012) was included in a Topic Guide about service delivery.

Sharing new understanding: A systematic review on conditional cash transfer (Kabeer et al. 2012) was cited in a World Bank policy working paper in a series that encourages the exchange of ideas about development issues. Another World Bank policy research working paper (2016) cited Barakat et al. (2012) when discussing multi-donor trust funds. Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2016) cited a systematic review on agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children (Masset et al. 2011) in a book written for a variety of audiences, including policy-makers, programme planners and implementers and the private sector. The United Nations Development Programme (2012) cited Hanna et al. (2011) when investigating women's perceptions and lived experiences of corruption in developing countries. The same systematic review was cited by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (2014) as evidence of DFID's approach to anti-corruption and its impact on the poor. The Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank cited Hagen-Zanker et al's systematic review on Employment Guarantee Schemes and Cash Transfers (2011) when highlighting the implications that political, institutional, and fiscal aspects have for program choice and design. These single outputs offer the potential for widespread dissemination over the short term.

One way to disseminate new understandings from DFID funded systematic reviews was through rapid or widespread publication or their inclusion in annotated bibliographies that were made publicly available:

- **Plan International** (2018) cited a systematic review on inspection, monitoring and assessment in learning (Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016) in its annotated bibliography that aimed “to understand more thoroughly the various aspects of inclusive, quality education—such as participation of family, communities, and civil society in guaranteeing access to equitable and inclusive education and ensuring gender transformative education in and around schools—to inform the development of a comprehensive theoretical framework for Plan International's work in this area” (Plan-international, 2018. p3).
- **Wikigender** is a global online collaborative platform linking policymakers and experts from both developed and developing countries to find solutions to advance gender equality. It provides a centralised space for knowledge exchange on key emerging issues, with a strong focus on the SDGs, and in particular on SDG 5. This cites Morgan et al's (2012) review on eliminating school user fees in low-income developing countries.

Stimulating thinking and debate: Some organisations made transparent use of systematic reviews explicitly to stimulate or influence thinking and debate.

- A UNICEF Innocenti Working Paper citing Doocy and Tappis (2016) which reviewed cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies was published rapidly, explicitly to encourage discussion of methods and findings with the wider research and practitioner communities.
- UNICEF (2018) cited Westhorp et al. (2014) on community accountability, empowerment and education in one of ten think pieces by leading research practitioners to stimulate debate around significant educational challenges facing the Eastern and Southern Africa region. ODI (2014) aimed to revitalise a debate about the global water crisis, and in doing so

cited the systematic evidence map by Hepworth et al. (2013) on institutional mechanisms for water resources management in developing countries.

- The United Nations Development Programme (2017) drew on the same systematic review by Doocy and Tappis (2006) mentioned above when initiating conference discussions on the role of evaluation in the SDGs, taking into account the perspectives of both governments, and professional development evaluators.

Rather than raising issues in an open manner to stimulate debate, another approach was to seek to influence debate, by encouraging a particular way of thinking, such as by an advocacy organisation. An example of influencing debate was from the World Development Movement (2014), a UK based, anti-poverty campaigning organisation, which cited a systematic review on agricultural trade liberalisation and food security (McCorrison et al. 2013).

Also explicitly political was an OECD issues paper presented to the G20 leaders which examined the impact of corrupt practices and anti-corruption policies on economic growth and development. This paper drew on the systematic review by Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) on economic growth impacts of corruption.

Encouraging use of evidence: The Population Council (2015), as part of its Evidence Project, cited a systematic review on uptake of evidence from health research (Clar et al. 2011) to answer questions about when, what types and how evidence is used in decision making related to family planning.

Summary: 25 examples of transparent use of systematic reviews to enhance understanding were identified – this included examples of organisations using the reviews to: proactively share new understanding arising from their own work (the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Independent Commission for Aid Impact); purposely stimulate thinking and debate (UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme); advocate change (World Development Movement); inform an international political forum (G20 leaders); or encourage use of evidence (Population Council).

1.3 Engaging with and using research for policy making

Research can be used by drawing on empirical evidence providing ‘facts’ to inform a decision, or by drawing on new ideas or ways of understanding or framing a problem or a potential solution. This distinction was described as ‘knowledge driven’ or ‘problem solving’ for the former, and ‘enlightenment’ for the latter (Weiss 1979). The extensive literature that has appeared since has been combined with findings from interviews with policy makers to develop a self-assessing tool based on engagement activities, types of research use, and barriers to use (Makkar et al. 2016). The learning from this work, including newer terminology, is summarised here.

Engaging with research includes: searching for it, finding different types of research, appraising its relevance and quality, generating new research and engaging with researchers. However, policy makers face a range of barriers. Individual barriers include lack of skills or not valuing research use. External barriers include: stakeholder positions opposing the recommendations from research; insufficient time; little relevant quality research; recommendations not actionable or feasible in the context of interest; and research not presented in a form to suit policy makers. Organisational barriers included: the lack of systems, resources or processes to use research when developing policy; and lack of a culture conducive to using research for policy. Despite these barriers, research can be used in different ways for different purposes. Makkar et al. (2016) recognised three different

purposes: for informing specific decisions (instrumental use); for enhancing understanding (conceptual use) and to support an argument (tactical use) (Box 1).

Box 1: Types of research use (adapted from Makkar et al. 2016)

Instrumental research use:

- Research informed the decision to focus on/prioritise this particular policy issue AND/OR the decision/course of action (e.g. strategies, recommendations) relating to the policy issues:
 - This research influence was direct
 - This research influence supplemented other evidence
 - This research evidence was vague/negligible relative to other evidence
- The policy makers make direct reference to the research that influenced decisions surrounding the current policy

Conceptual research use

- Research improved:
 - General background understanding of the issue
 - Understanding of the current policy context, including key issues and priorities for action
 - Understanding and appreciation of the value of research in policymaking
 - Knowledge and skills in research and/or policy, thus contributing to one's professional development
 - Understanding of alternative perspectives and/or strategies to target the problem in question
 - Core understanding of the policy issues

Tactical research use

- Research was used to:
 - Inform stakeholders about key issues relating to the issues
 - Support, legitimate, confirm or justify, a predetermined decision
 - Provide hard evidence to persuade stakeholders to support or act upon an existing decision or view
- This tactical use was directed at:
 - Targeted stakeholders
 - Peripheral stakeholders

Imposed research use

- Research was used because:
 - It was mandated by the organisation
 - It was expected or regarded as best practice by the organisation
 - It was encouraged by the organisation

Makkar et al. (2016) also noted that use of research may be mandated, encouraged or recognised as best practice within an organisation.

DFID has developed a similar framework by drawing on existing literature and their experience of Building Capacity for Use of Research Evidence (BCURE) across twelve countries.⁶ Their Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence (Appendix 1) categorises evidence use into transparent use (having an impact on understanding, akin to conceptual use in Makkar et al's framework), embedded use

⁶ <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/how-is-evidence-actually-used-in-policy-making-a-new-framework-from-a-global-dfid-programme/>

(having an impact on processes, systems and working culture for using evidence), and instrumental use (having a direct impact on informing policy). DFID's framework does not explicitly recognise tactical use of research. 'Imposed use' recognised by Makkar et al. is analogous to research findings being incorporated into existing processes, systems or working culture, rather than changing processes, systems or working culture for using evidence.

These distinctions of what research is used for (to inform specific decisions, enhance understanding, support an existing decision, or just because using research is encouraged or required) does not explain *how* research is used. For this we turn to three models of research use.

1.4 Models of Research Use

Three different models explain how use of research is achieved: the linear model of knowledge transfer or research uptake processes; the relationship model that focuses on the interactions among people using the knowledge; and the dynamic systems model in which processes and relationships between producers and users of knowledge are embedded in and shaped by structures and capacities (Best and Holmes 2010).

The traditional linear knowledge transfer model sees academic knowledge being transferred from researchers to policy and practice for wider use. It depends on sound science being clearly communicated.

In the relationship model of knowledge into action, knowledge is drawn from researchers generating empirical research and academic theory, and from potential users of research in policy, practice and community networks; and whether or how it is used depends on effective relationships and processes.

Systems thinking underpins a knowledge exchange model, whereby research is conducted within and influenced by its context of subsequent use and guided by potential users of the findings (Gibbons et al. 1994; Nowotny et al. 2001; Greenhalgh et al. 2016). This is commonly known as 'mode 2' research. This interplay between research and research use is recognised when assessing capacity for research (Cooke 2005), and assessing capacity for systematic reviews (Oliver et al. 2015), which have a particular role in providing readers with ready access to the findings of multiple studies. The production and use of systematic reviews rests on the capacity of individuals, teams, institutions and a global support system (Oliver et al. 2015). Elements of that global support system particularly relevant to this research include: demand for reviews by governments, donors and NGOs; knowledge management infrastructure providing access via searchable databases; and open access publishing.

Linear, relationship and systems models are not alternatives to choose between. Rather the terms portray different generations of understanding how knowledge is used for decision making. The linear model is useful but insufficient. The relationship model presents an important new dimension of understanding knowledge use; instead of replacing the linear model it makes use of it within an understanding of the importance of relationships. Similarly systems models do not replace the other models, but place them both within a larger, more complex system.

1.5 Research questions

As DFID's systematic review programme drew to a close an opportunity arose to assess it in terms of how the reviews have been used. This involves exploring its academic use, its use beyond academia, and to explore the factors associated with these uses with a rapid piece of desk research. The primary questions addressed by this report are therefore:

1. To what extent have products from DFID's systematic review programme been used in academia?

2. To what extent have products from DFID's systematic review programme been used in embedded processes and for conceptual or instrumental impact beyond academia?
3. What factors are associated with these uses?

As DFID's Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence (Appendix 1) is explicitly user-focused rather than product-focused there is a supplementary question to ask about the feasibility of assessing the value of evidence use from documentary analysis alone. The methodological question addressed is therefore:

4. How can DFID's Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence be developed to assess the value of evidence use by focusing on systematic review reports?

2 Methods

This review sought to identify evidence of the use or impact of systematic reviews commissioned by DFID. A systematic review may have an impact in academia or in wider society. Academic impact occurs when authors transform their review report into an academic manuscript for publication by their host institutions or academic journals, or when the review report or their subsequent academic publication is cited by other academic authors. Wider impact occurs when the report or subsequent academic publication is cited in a report beyond academia, made available in a repository for widespread use, or used to inform a decision or action.

Evidence of systematic reviews being used was sought from four main sources:

1. Searches of Google Scholar were undertaken to identify citations in academic outputs, and impact reported as number of citations (see Appendix 3).
2. Searches of Google were undertaken to identify evidence of these reports being cited in documents beyond academia. Some systematic reviews resulted in journal articles with a digital object identifier (DOI), a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the internet. In these cases we applied the Altmetric system that tracks the attention that research outputs such as scholarly articles and datasets receive online. The Altmetric system pulls data from:
 - a. Social media like Twitter and Facebook
 - b. Traditional media – both mainstream (The Guardian, New York Times) and field specific (New Scientist, Bird Watching). Many non-English language titles are covered.
 - c. Blogs - both major organisations (Cancer Research UK) and individual researchers.
 - d. Online reference managers such as Mendeley
3. Specialist systematic review repositories (3ie database of systematic reviews, Social Systems Evidence, Evidence AID, Campbell-UNICEF Mega-Map)
4. A key source of evidence of impact is Development Tracker (DevTracker). The Development Tracker allows searches to identify detailed information on international development projects funded by the UK Government. It is built using open data published by UK Government and partners, using the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\) standard](#), and managed by DFID. The IATI standard is an international standard for international development data and allows ready comparison of information from different donors. To search DevTracker we used a Google search and included the DevTracker URL as a term in the search string.

We adopted a framework analysis approach for the study (Ritchie and Spencer 1994; Ritchie et al. 2014.), which involved: identifying and familiarising ourselves with data indicating the use of systematic reviews from this programme; selecting DFID's Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence (see Appendix 1) as an initial structure for analysis; coding the systematic reviews according to this framework and, during the process, refining the framework to suit its application to a product-focused analysis.

Thus analysis began by categorising all systematic reviews generated by this programme according to the three different types of evidence use (transparent, embedded and instrumental) as recognised by DFID's Valuing the Use of Evidence framework. In line with the methods of framework analysis, the framework was refined during the study to better suit the evidence available, resulting in the following definitions:

- **Transparent use: Increased understanding and transparent use of (bodies of) evidence** by policymakers (DFID used 'transparent' to mean cited without further evidence of embedding or instrumental use). In this report we distinguish two types of transparent use, where research contributes to:
 - **Enhanced understanding:** citing evidence when building knowledge about a topic (e.g. pulling together related knowledge on a topic), sharing knowledge about a topic (e.g. explaining in a blog or a report in language that can be understood by a wide audience), or prompting debate on a topic (e.g. debate within or across organisations, or within a field generally)
 - **Enhanced knowledge accessibility:** including evidence in an access to knowledge tool system (e.g. evidence gap map, searchable database or portal), but without evidence of how the accessed evidence is subsequently used
- **Embedded use:** Use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture, but direct action beyond establishing such processes is *not necessarily* taken as a result of the evidence (i.e. a systematic review leads to new processes that involve using evidence).
- **Instrumental use:** Knowledge from robust **evidence is used directly to inform policy** or programme.

Each type of use was further categorised according to a three point scale assessing the scope, depth and sustainability the impact(s) identified.

Again, the existing DFID Framework was found to require a number of refinements to be relevant to coding the use the systematics reviews produced by this programme – these amendments included:

- Dividing the 'transparent use of evidence' into two sub categories – considering transparent use for **enhancing knowledge accessibility** and transparent conceptual use for **enhancing understanding**;
- Expanding the definition of scales for depth of impact to be more explicit about what was meant by small, medium and large changes and one-off, prolonged and long-lasting impact;
- Adapting the framework to be applicable to evidence use outside of Government.

Table 1 sets out the revised categories within the assessment framework. Further details about how the framework was refined, and limitations identified as part of this process are explored in Section 7.

Having completed the coding, charts to map the data against the three types of research use were designed; and findings interpreted in light of different models of research use (a linear knowledge-

driven model; a relationship model; and a systems model). The data were managed using EPPI-Reviewer software to maintain its integrity and allow updating if required.

DFID staff from the Evidence into Action team and the South Asia Research Hub, the teams that commissioned the programme of systematic reviews, were involved throughout the production of this report. They provided the initial framework for assessing value of evidence use and were invited to comment on the draft coding scheme developed from this framework (Appendix 2). They reviewed successive drafts of the report, challenged interpretations of the findings, and posed hypotheses about factors that may influence use of the systematic reviews; these hypotheses were explored with additional analyses. As findings emerged, discussions prompted development of the report from a rapid audit of whether systematic reviews have been used beyond DFID to a theoretically informed study of how systematic reviews have been used.

The findings of the analysis are reported in terms of the policy relevance of the systematic reviews published (section 3), a summary of the overall impact (section 4), mini case studies of impact (section 5), how impact was achieved beyond academia (section 6), and how the framework needed amending to analyse a product focused assessment of impact instead of a user focused assessment of impact. The report ends with a discussion of the strengths and limitations of the findings, and how they relate to the wider literature, before offering conclusions and recommendations.

Table 1: Impact assessment tool

Score		Governmental impact	Non-governmental impact
Transparent use for enhancing understanding			
Scope	+	Impact on individual policy makers/ad hoc team(s) of policy makers	Impact on individual/single team of decision makers/practitioners
	++	Impact on individual government department	Impact on individual NGO (e.g. Practical Action, local NGO in developing country)
	+++	Impact across government departments	Impact across iNGOs, NGO consortia, federations, clusters or networks (e.g. WHO, United Nations, Red Cross & Red Crescent, Oxfam, UNICEF)
Depth	+	Small change in procedures or resources	Small change in procedures or resources
	++	Change in structure; or evidence of uptake of change	Change in structure; or evidence of uptake of change
	+++	Major change in structures; or change made routine	Major change in structures; or change made routine
Sustain-ability	+	One discussion event/one discussion document	One discussion event/one discussion document
	++	Regular discussions (e.g. Task Force established); Repeated events/sequence of documents	Regular discussions (e.g. Task Force established); Repeated events/sequence of documents
	+++	Change incorporated into policy, regulation, law	Change incorporated into policy, targets, mission, declaration (e.g. Paris Declaration, SDGs)
Transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility			
Scope	+	Access to knowledge tool/repository for use by individual policy makers/ad hoc team(s) of policy makers	Access to knowledge tool/repository for use by individual/single team of decision makers/practitioners
	++	Access to knowledge tool for use by individual government department	Access to knowledge tool/repository for use by individual NGO (e.g. Practical Action, local NGO in developing country)
	+++	Access to knowledge tool for use across government departments (e.g. evidence-gap map, annotated bibliography)	Access to knowledge tool/repository publicly accessible e.g. evidence-gap map, annotated bibliography)
Depth	+	Document available in knowledge repository	Document available in knowledge repository
	++	Document complemented by summary to make more accessible	Document complemented by summary to make more accessible
	+++	Document cited in summary that relates it to other relevant documents	Document cited in summary that relates it to other relevant documents
Sustain-ability	+	A document may be publicly accessible at no cost (+) – one-off	A document may be publicly accessible at no cost (+) – one-off
	++	[no intermediate score]	[no intermediate score]
	+++	A document may be publicly accessible in a searchable database available in the longer term (+++).	A document may be publicly accessible in a searchable database available in the longer term (+++).

Score		Governmental impact	Non-governmental impact
Embedded / capacity building: strengthens individuals, teams, organisations, systems			
Scope	+	Impact on individual policy makers/ad hoc team(s) of policy makers	Impact on individual or ad hoc teams of policy makers/practitioners
	++	Impact on individual government department	Impact on individual NGO (e.g. Practical Action, local NGOs in developing countries)
	+++	Impact across government departments	Impact across iNGOs, NGO consortia, federations, or networks (e.g. WHO, United Nations, Red Cross & Red Crescent, Oxfam)
Depth	+	Small change in procedures or resources	Small change in procedures or resources
	++	Change in structure; or evidence of uptake of change	Change in structure; or evidence of uptake of change
	+++	Major change in structures; or change made routine	Major change in structures; or change made routine
Sustain-ability	+	One event/one document	One event/one document
	++	Repeated events/sequence of documents	Repeated events/sequence of documents
	+++	Change incorporated into policy, regulation, law, long-term budget, source of evidence	Change incorporated into policy, targets, mission, declaration, long-term budget, source of evidence (e.g. Paris Declaration, SDGs)
Instrumental: influences specific decision(s) or recommendation(s)			
Scope	+	Impact on individual policy makers/ad hoc team(s) of policy makers	Impact on individual/single team of decision makers/practitioners
	++	Impact on individual government departments	Impact on individual NGO (e.g. Practical Action, local NGO in developing countries)
	+++	Impact across government departments	Impact across iNGOs, NGO consortia, federations, or networks (e.g. WHO, United Nations, Red Cross & Red Crescent, Oxfam)
Depth	+	Small impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. effective programme)	Small impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. effective programme)
	++	Medium impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. scaled up effective programme)	Medium impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. scaled up effective programme)
	+++	Substantial impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. effective structural change)	Substantial impact on cause or consequence of poverty (e.g. effective structural change)
Sustain-ability	+	One-off: one event/one document	One-off: one event/one document
	++	Repeated events/sequence of documents	Repeated events/sequence of documents
	+++	Long lasting: change incorporated into policy, regulation, law, (inter)national guideline	Long lasting: change incorporated into policy, targets, mission, declaration, (inter)national (e.g. Paris Declaration, SDGs)

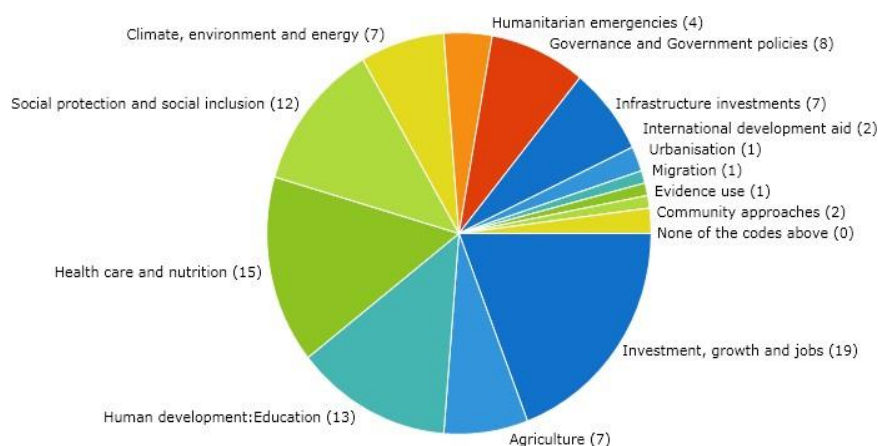
3 Findings: Policy relevance of systematic reviews

This section describes the systematic reviews published from this programme and how they were related to policy areas.

This programme published 86 systematic reviews between 2010 and 2019, 69 commissioned by DFID’s Evidence into Action team and 17 by DFID’s South Asia Research Hub (see the Reference list of systematic reviews published).

These systematic reviews addressed questions relating to various policy sectors (Figure 1). The four sectors which had the most systematic reviews undertaken (investment, growth and jobs; human development: Education; health care and nutrition; social protection and social inclusion) correspond with academic disciplines with a long tradition in research synthesis: education research; business and economics; and health (Sheble 2017).

Figure 1: Policy sectors addressed by systematic reviews



All these reviews were systematic. Table 2 describes the primary focus and the methods employed for each evidence product. Most reviews addressed questions of effects or impact (71), but some tested associations or correlations (10). Nevertheless, most reviews incorporated qualitative and quantitative evidence (mixed methods, 47). Fewer analysed quantitative evidence alone (26). A few were syntheses of qualitative evidence (3), or intervention models (2). Two were realist syntheses. The reviews commissioned by DFID SARH also addressed how the findings suited the South Asian context (a contextual analysis).

Whatever method was employed, most products (78) synthesised the findings of primary studies. Seven others systematically reviewed systematic reviews to produce evidence summaries (Menon et al. 2018; Annamalai et al. 2017; Ilavarasan et al. 2017; Nair et al. 2017; Nidhi et al. 2017; Pilkington et al. 2017; MacKenzie et al. 2013); and one was a systematic evidence map (Hepworth et al. 2013) which describes the focus of studies but does not present the findings.

Table 2: Type of Evidence Product

Primary focus	
Effectiveness/impact	71
Associations/correlations	10
Views or experiences	2
Models	2
Scaling up	1
Methods	
Mixed methods review	47
Quantitative evidence synthesis	26
Qualitative evidence synthesis	3
Realist synthesis	2
Depth of synthesis	
Primary study findings	79
Evidence summary/review of reviews	7
Systematic evidence map	1

Because the intention was for this programme of reviews to be relevant to DFID's work, authors were encouraged to invite DFID policy teams and other stakeholders with knowledge relevant to the review topic to guide the production process. Policy input was explicitly reported in over half the reviews (Table 3). Basic reporting listed names or roles of stakeholders involved (45 reviews). Some authors reported the methods they used to invite policy input (32 reviews) and others reported the contribution made in response to these invitations (22 reviews).

Table 3: Policy input acknowledged in report

Policy input acknowledged in report	Number of reviews	
Explicitly reported	49	(57%)
Names/roles acknowledged	45	(52%)
Input methods reported	32	(37%)
Contribution reported	22	(26%)
Not explicitly reported	37	(43%)
Total number of reviews	86	(100%)

Over the lifespan of the programme DFID increased its emphasis on the input from policy makers. However, this was not necessarily reflected by the authors of systematic reviews in their reports. The policy input reported in systematic reviews published each year varied from none to all, with no pattern apparent over time (Table 4).

Table 4: Systematic reviews reporting policy input

Policy input reported	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Yes	2 100%	11 58%	11 59%	5 33%	2 66%	1 50%	6 54%	8 61%	3 100%	0 0%
Names/roles acknowledged	2	9	10	5	2	1	6	8	2	0
Input methods reported	2	7	6	4	2	0	3	5	3	0
Contribution reported	1	5	3	3	1	0	3	4	2	0
Policy input not reported	0	8	6	10	1	1	5	5	0	1
Total reviews published	2	19	17	15	3	2	11	13	3	1

Contributions were usually described in general terms, such as identifying studies or interpreting the findings. Occasionally very specific ideas offered by stakeholders were reported.

3.1 Summary of policy relevance

This programme published 86 systematic reviews spanning a broad range of policy sectors between 2010 and 2019. The four sectors which had the most systematic reviews undertaken (investment, growth and jobs; human development: education; health care and nutrition; social protection and social inclusion) correspond with academic disciplines with a long tradition in research synthesis: education research; business and economics; and health (Sheble 2017). Most of them were quantitative syntheses of primary studies addressing questions of effects, but other types of questions were addressed by other synthesis methods.

Despite DFID's efforts to support discussion between policy teams and research teams, any policy input was only explicitly reported in 57%; names or roles of individuals explicitly providing policy input was reported in about half; about a third reported the methods of engagement; and about a quarter provided further details about the nature of the policy contribution.

The next section considers the impact of these systematic reviews within and beyond academia.

4 Findings: Impact of systematic reviews

The programme as a whole had an observable impact on the academic literature, and on stakeholders beyond academia (Table 5). A substantial number of reviews appeared in the academic literature, either as journal articles (20), or as citations in academic outputs by other authors (60).

Impact beyond academia was also identified. Twenty-one systematic reviews informed specific decisions or policies, 25 were cited transparently in non-academic documents to enhance understanding, and 21 were used transparently to enhance knowledge access. One systematic review informed a system to embed evidence in decision making processes.

Table 5: Systematic reviews having impact

Type of Impact	Number of reviews (% of 86)	
Impact within academia, e.g.:	70	(81%)
Published as academic output (by academic institution or publisher)	20	(23%)
Cited by other academic authors	60	(69%)
Academic output cited by other academic authors	13	(15%)
No academic impact found	16	(19%)
....Cited in academic reading list	3	(3%)
Impact beyond academia, e.g.:	47	(55%)
Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility	21	(24%)
Transparent use for enhancing understanding	25	(29%)
Embedded impact	1	(1%)
Instrumental use	21	(24%)
None found	39	(45%)
No impact found within or beyond academia	15	(17%)
Total	86	(100%)

In terms of sustainability, each use of a review was defined as prolonged (13), long-lasting (30) or both (5) rather than being used by a one-off event or document (14). However, of the 14 systematic reviews noted as having one-off impact, four also had long-lasting impact when their evidence was incorporated into a series of discussion events or a sustainable knowledge management system:

- A review on cash based approaches in humanitarian emergencies (Doocy and Tappis 2016) was seen to have long-lasting impact by informing discussion facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) on the role of evaluation in the SDGs and at two parallel conferences followed by conference proceedings and book to maintain debate (van den Berg et al. 2017). The following year it showed short term impact when it was cited in a working paper about school feeding and general food distribution that was published rapidly to encourage discussion of research methods and findings (Aurino et al. 2018), although there was no clear link between the two publications.
- A review on inspection, monitoring and assessment in learning (Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016) was included in an annotated bibliography on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Plan-

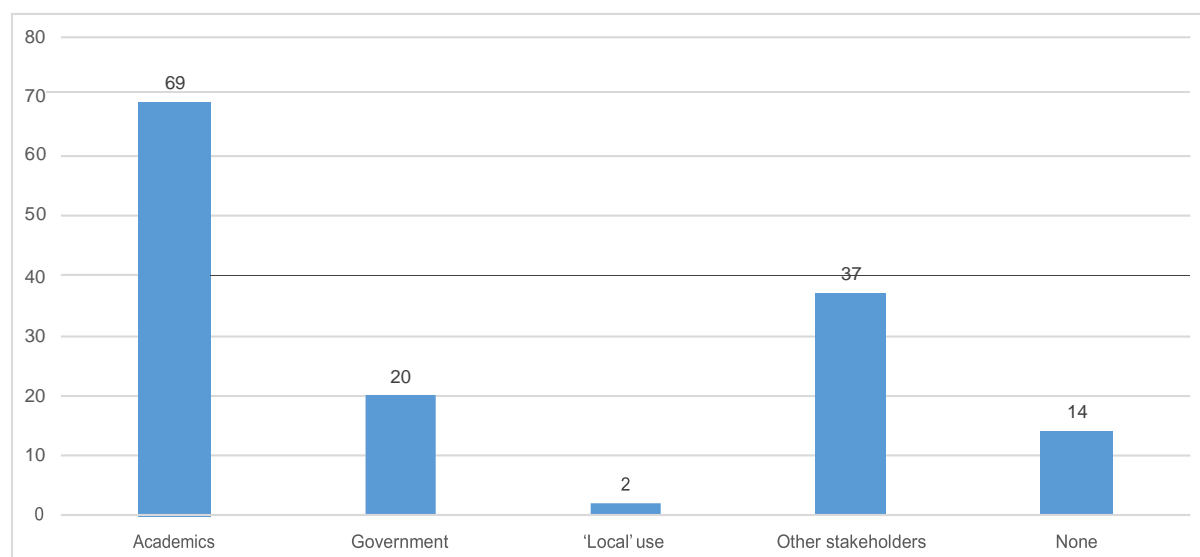
international 2018), which was then in turn uploaded onto three searchable databases: ALNAP’s HELP library;⁷ Relief Web;⁸ and Early Childhood Blogs.⁹

- Similarly, a review on teacher attendance (Guerrero et al. 2012) was included in an annotated bibliography (Mcloughlin and Scott 2014), noted as a one-off impact; and independently included as one of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map, a long-lasting knowledge translation impact.
- A review on agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children (Masset et al. 2011) was included in a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2016); and independently included as one of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map, a long-lasting knowledge translation impact (FAO 2016).

A total of 13 reviews showed prolonged use through regular discussions, such as by a task force, repeated events or a sequence of documents. Whereas long-lasting use of 30 reviews was recognised by changes being incorporated into policy, regulation or law, missions or declarations. No impact was found for 39 systematic reviews beyond academia, and of these 15 had no impact in academia either, and these were mainly only recently published.

The type of impact is mirrored in the figures for types of stakeholders using reviews (Figure 2). As mentioned above, most systematic reviews were used by academics citing reviews in their own academic outputs (60). Governments made use of 20 reviews, and other stakeholders (including NGOs) used 37 reviews. Two systematic reviews were used by stakeholders (DFID policy staff) directly involved in their production (termed ‘local’ use). This range of users confirm that DFID systematic reviews are largely achieving the second programme goal of being ‘public goods’.

Figure 2: Systematic reviews used by different stakeholders



The impact of the programme as a whole beyond academia varied across policy sectors (Table 6). The policy sectors that both commissioned most reviews and led to most impact were: Human development (education); Health Care and Nutrition; and Social Protection and Social Inclusion. Fewer systematic reviews were commissioned about agriculture than other thematic areas, they

⁷ <https://tec.alnap.org/help-library/inclusive-quality-education-an-annotated-bibliography>

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/inclusive-quality-education-annotated-bibliography>

⁹ <https://ppp420demo.wordpress.com/>

nevertheless resulted in similar number of impacts. Conversely, more systematic reviews were commissioned about investment, growth and jobs policy sector, and were cited by academic authors most often (data not shown), but we found fewer examples of instrumental and embedded impact.

Table 6: Types of impact of systematic on policy sectors

	Policy sector													
	Investment, growth and jobs	Agriculture	Human development: Education	Health care and nutrition	Social protection and social inclusion	Climate, environment and energy	Humanitarian emergencies	Governance and Government policies	Infrastructure investments	International development aid	Urbanisation	Migration	Evidence use	Community approaches
Types of impact	Number of reviews													
Impact beyond academia	8	6	10	9	9	4	1	3	4	1	0	1	1	1
....Transparent: knowledge accessibility	2	2	8	5	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Transparent: understanding	6	3	6	2	5	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	1
Embedded impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Instrumental use	3	3	4	3	5	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
No impact beyond academia	11	1	3	6	3	3	3	5	3	1	1	0	0	1
Impact within Academia	15	7	11	14	11	7	3	5	6	2	0	0	1	1
No academic impact	4	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total number of reviews	19	7	13	15	12	7	4	8	7	2	1	1	1	2

Table 7 illustrates the programme focusing predominantly on questions of effects of impact. These systematic reviews were also more likely to make an impact beyond academia than systematic reviews focusing primarily on other types of questions.

Table 7: Focus of synthesis questions and impact beyond academia

Focus of synthesis questions	Impact/effects	Associations/ correlations	Experiences/ views	Models	Scaling up	Total
Any impact beyond academia	43	4	0	0	0	
Transparent: knowledge accessibility	21 (30%)	0 (0%)	0	0	0	21
Transparent: understanding	23 (32%)	2 (20%)	0	0	0	25
Embedded impact	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0	0	0	1
Instrumental use	19 (27%)	2 (20%)	0	0	0	21
No societal impact	28 (39%)	6 (60%)	3 (100%)	2 (100%)	1 (100%)	38
Total	71	10	3	2	1	

Table 8 shows that over half the programme was systematic reviews of mixed methods, and a third was systematic reviews of quantitative studies alone. Both types of reviews had an impact beyond academia. Reviews including mixed study methods tended to be more often incorporated into knowledge accessibility resources.

Table 8: Type of synthesis and impact beyond academia

Focus of synthesis methods	Mixed studies	Quantitative studies	Qualitative studies	Studies of models	Realist synthesis	Total reviews
Any impact beyond academia	30	15	0	0	2	47
Transparent: knowledge accessibility	15 (32%)	5 (19%)	0	0	2	21
Transparent: understanding	14 (30%)	9 (35%)	0	0	2	25
Embedded impact	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0	0	0	1
Instrumental use	14 (30%)	7 (27%)	0	0	0	21
No societal impact	17 (36%)	11 (42%)	3	2	0	39
Total	47	26	3	2	2	86

Reviews first appeared in the non-academic literature in 2012 (Stewart et al. 2010, 2012; Hanna et al. 2011), at a time when large numbers were being produced (Table 9). Some systematic reviews first appeared in the literature beyond academia in the year of publication, but more appeared in the following few years, with some appearing for the first time seven years after publication (Table 10). For some reviews it is not clear when they first appeared in academia. This is because they were included in reading lists for academic courses (Coast 2018, Menon 2018) or in databases (Meyer et al. 2011, Montagu et al. 2011, Yoong et al. 2012), without it being clear the date they were first included.

There was a similar delay for all three types of non-academic impact. A large number of reviews appeared beyond academia for the first time in 2018. This was the publication year the Campbell Collaboration-UNICEF Mega-Map which included 12 of the systematic reviews from this programme.

Table 9: First appearance beyond academia

Year of first use:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Not known
Any impact beyond academia	0	0	3	4	6	6	5	7	18	0	6
Transparent: knowledge accessibility	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	2	7	0	6
Transparent: understanding	0	0	1	4	6	4	3	5	7	0	2
Embedded impact	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Instrumental use	0	0	3	1	1	3	2	3	11	0	0
Number reviews published	2	19	17	15	3	2	11	13	3	1	6

Table 10: Years from publication to first appearance beyond academia

Years to first use:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not known
Any impact beyond academia	5	9	9	6	6	5	5	3	0	0	6
Transparent: knowledge accessibility	2	2	4	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
Transparent: understanding	1	8	6	4	4	3	2	1	0	0	2
Embedded impact	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Instrumental use	2	1	4	4	3	3	4	2	0	0	0

Immediate appearance in the literature beyond academia (within a year of publication) might be explained by:

Reviews being re-packaged by organisations with a mission to collate evidence and make it readily available. Examples include appearance in a blog or news page. For instance, the Sanitation Updates blog¹⁰ copied a review summary from the EPPI-Centre website and included a link to the full report (Annamalai et al. 2016).

Reviews being used ‘locally’, in other words having stakeholders involved in the review also making use of the review. For instance, a systematic review on technology selection for low-volume, rural roads (Burrow et al. 2016) was cited in a business case about ‘Applied Research in High Volume Transport (HVT)’ even before the review was published. This was possible because one of the DFID advisors for this systematic review was a member of DFID’s Research Growth Team, which submitted the business case. Also, the DFID project Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition (MQSUN, 202674 – 101) invested a small sum (£6,181.60) towards the preparation of a systematic review on complementary feeding (Lassi et al. 2013) and convened a Nutrition Hub Meeting to discuss it.

Reviews reporting controversial findings. The publication of a systematic review concluding that microfinance had negative impacts as well as positive impacts (Stewart et al. 2010) was quick to attract media attention critical of microfinance. A second systematic review confirmed the findings (Stewart et al. 2012). Both reviews led to policy change by NORAD in Norway and changed priorities for the Anglican Communion in Africa in 2012. Further details are provided by the public version of an impact case study submitted to the Research Excellence Framework by University College London in 2014 (see Box 2).

Box 2: Systematic reviewing: building capacity for better-informed policy-making

A DFID-funded systematic review by Ruth Stewart and colleagues from the University of Johannesburg was the first major study to cast doubt on the benefits of microfinance for the very poor in the developing world (Stewart et al. 2010). Researchers concluded that these small-loan aid projects make some people poorer. Microfinance also harmed some children’s education (particularly girls) because parents re-prioritised spending and could not pay school charges. The 2010 study and the 2012 follow-up sparked debate and helped bring a more questioning approach to microfinance to the international development community.

Policy change in Norway: The research contributed to the 2012 decision of the country’s aid agency Norad to stop funding most new microfinance institutions, after more than a decade as a key donor. The decision followed a TV exposé by a Danish journalist, to which Stewart contributed. In its response, Norad stated it was “well aware of the new research in the microfinance area, including the systematic reviews”. The *Anglican Communion* asked Stewart to contribute to its Economic Empowerment Workshop in Nairobi in 2012. Priorities agreed included “development of new products and services that can provide access to finance for the most poor” and better financial literacy education.

Professional and public engagement: Impact was heightened by an intensive programme of meetings, briefings and colloquia in 2011-12, including with Comic Relief, FSA, World Bank, Cochrane Colloquium, the South African government and the House of Commons Microfinance All Party Parliamentary Group.

¹⁰ <https://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/page/79/?iframe=true&preview=true%2F%3Fcat%3D4355992>

There were 15 reviews where no impact was found. Two were very recent publications (Peters et al. 2019; Kumar et al. 2018). Ten others were published in 2017 (Ali et al. 2017; Annamalai et al. 2017; Ghose et al. 2017; Hossain et al. 2017; Ilavarasan et al. 2017; Nair et al. 2017a; Nair et al. 2017b; Nair et al. 2017c; Nidhi et al. 2017; Pilkington et al. 2017). Two others were published earlier (Aslam et al. 2016; Anderson et al. 2016a; Ugur et al. 2013).

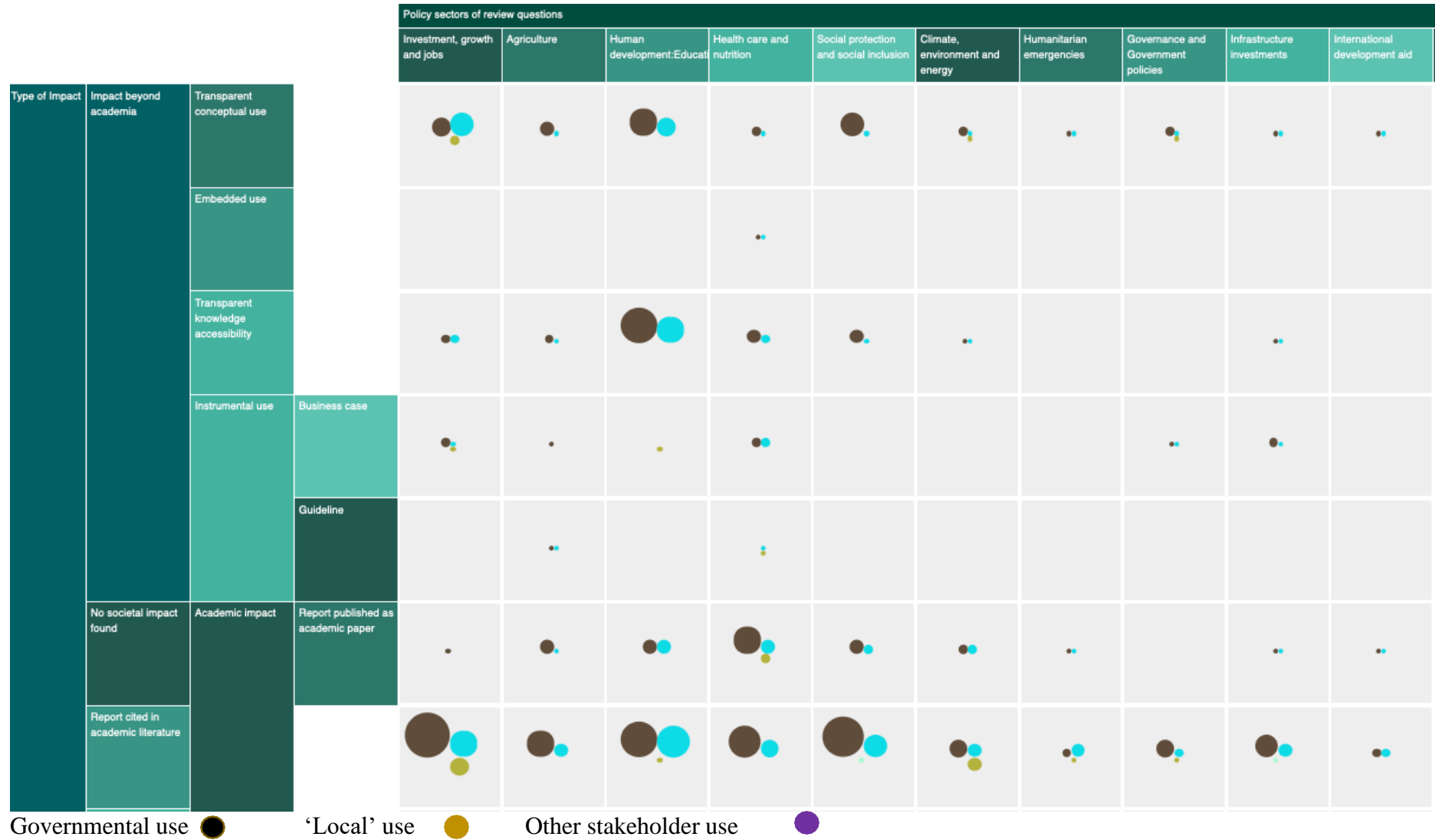
There were 24 additional reviews that, although appearing in the academic literature as academic outputs or citations, could not be found having an impact beyond academia (Table 11).

Table 11: Reviews appearing in academic outputs, but not wider literature

Year published	Authors
2010	Condon and Stern 2010
2011	Cirera et al. 2011; Hayman et al. 2011; Johnson et al. 2011; Geldof et al. 2011; Nataraj et al. 2011; Bruno and Campos 2011; Tripney et al. 2011
2012	Bumann et al. 2012; Pande et al. 2012; Posthumus et al. 2012) Thillairajan et al. 2012; Watson et al. 2012
2013	Leonard et al. 2013; MacKenzie et al. 2013; Miller et al. 2013; Tusting 2013
2014	Barakat et al. 2014
2016	Anderson et al. 2016b; Gopaldaswamy et al. 2016; Peters et al. 2016
2017	Hossain et al. 2017; Obuku et al. 2017
2018	Langer et al. 2018
2019	Peters et al. 2019

The interactive map accompanying this report illustrates the impact, described in the tables and text above, of the 86 systematic reviews commissioned across policy sectors by providing a visual overview of their use by government and other stakeholders. Figure 3 offers a static snapshot of the map.

Figure 3: Type of impact across various policy sectors (snap shot of evidence map)



4.1 Summary of overall impact

Most reviews have appeared in the academic literature, either as academic outputs (20) or as citations in academic outputs (60). Fewer have been used beyond academia: 21 have informed specific decisions or policies, one informed the development of procedures for using evidence, 25 were cited to enhance understanding in non-academic documents, and 20 appeared in portals, maps or databases to enhance knowledge accessibility. Use of these reviews was either prolonged through recurrent discussions (13) or sustained even further by changes being incorporated into policy, regulation or law, missions or declarations (31) or both (5). Immediate impact beyond academia was possible when (a) reviews were re-packaged by organisations with a mission to collate evidence and make evidence readily available; (b) reviews were used 'locally' by stakeholders involved in the review production; or (c) reviews were the focus of a development controversy, and therefore quickly attracted attention. As already noted, no impact was found beyond academia for 39 studies. For 15 of these we found no impact, and these were mainly recent publications. Consequently, this programme of systematic reviews has achieved its goal of producing systematic reviews as 'public goods' for use beyond DFID (the second goal of the programme).

The rest of this section describes the different types of impact in more detail and factors affecting impact.

4.2 Academic use

DFID published completed systematic reviews on its website, Research for Development Outputs.¹¹

Some systematic reviews were also published by the organisations that offered methodological support. This includes the 3ie website, the EPPI-Centre website and Environmental Evidence, the journal that publishes the systematic reviews of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence. Some systematic review authors also published their work in academic journals, usually in a shorter format. Appendix 3 lists the academic papers published following systematic reviews, and the academic citations of both the original review reports and subsequent journal publications as calculated by Google Scholar. 'Google Scholar [supports searches] for scholarly literature... across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.'¹²

Of the 86 systematic reviews, 59 (69%) were cited in academic outputs. However there was a wide range in the number of times each review was cited: 27 were cited 1-10 times; 33 were cited 11-100 times; 5 were cited over 100 times. The most frequently cited reports were about microfinance (Stewart et al. 2010, 2012; Duvendack et al. 2011), economic resource transfers to women versus men (Yoong et al. 2012), and the impact of agricultural interventions on the nutritional status of children (Masset et al. 2011). Systematic reviews that were translated into journal articles attracted further citations of the journal article. Two systematic reviews (Leonard et al. 2013; Tusting et al. 2013) were only published in academic journals, and both were well cited (31 and 108 times).

Some of the citations were about the substantive topic. For instance microfinance, which was a topic that attracted some controversy, was the focus of three of the five reviews cited more than 100 times. Some citations of the systematic reviews were about the application of systematic review methodology to international development. Several of the early systematic reviews were cited in a special edition of the Journal of Development Effectiveness in 2013. For instance, Waddington et al. (2012) cited four reviews from this programme to illustrate a toolkit for doing a good systematic

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/dfid-research-outputs>

¹² <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/about.html>

review of effects in international development (Cirera et al. 2011; Duvendack et al. 2011; Masset 2012; Stewart et al. 2010). In the same issue Mallet et al. (2012) cited Duvendack et al. (2011), Hagen-Zanker et al. (2011) and Holmes et al. (2012) when considering benefits and challenges of using systematic reviews in international development research.

Higher education: Two systematic reviews are included in reading lists for higher education courses and thereby embedded in training the next generation of development professionals. These include reviews on:

- Nutrition interventions (Menon et al. 2018) as optional reading for a course on Critical Issues in Global Health at Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of Northern California, USA.
- Models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes (Coast et al. (2012) is in reading lists for higher education courses in the UK (at London School of Economics, City University and University of Southampton).

University reading lists come with encouragement from lecturers and the motivation of assignments, and are embedded in a curriculum. This has required greater thought from the lecturer and encourages greater thought by the students compared with the passive dissemination of reports or annotated bibliographies.

Summary: The impact most frequently identified from this programme of systematic reviews was on the academic research literature, with some systematic reviews being cited over 100 times, and a few not being cited at all. These reviews were cited either for their contributions to knowledge about substantive issues or for adding to the methodological literature. Much less often identified was citation of systematic reviews in academic teaching programmes.

4.3 Transparent use for enhancing accessibility

Some transparent uses of evidence do not enhance understanding but make the evidence more readily accessible by uploading it into a searchable repository. Often it is not clear, even when accessibility has been enhanced, to what extent the systematic reviews in these repositories (or summaries of their findings) have been accessed, read or used and therefore it is not possible to assess the extent to which they have enhanced understanding or informed specific decisions. Examples of open access knowledge resources incorporating systematic reviews include:

- **Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega-Map** of 302 systematic reviews included 12 from this programme (Carr-hill et al. 2015; Westhorp et al. 2014; Kingdon et al. 2013; Morgan et al. 2012; Carr et al. 2012; Coast et al. 2012; Dickson et al. 2012; Kabeer et al. 2012; Guerrero et al. 2012; Yoong et al. 2012; Hussein et al. 2011; Masset et al. 2011).
- **GSDRC Knowledge Services:** Two systematic reviews were described in standalone summaries in a document library prepared by GSDRC Knowledge Services: one on vouchers for health goods and services (Meyer et al. 2011); another on employment creation, stability and poverty reduction in fragile states (Holmes et al. 2013). Two other systematic reviews on school voucher programmes (Morgan et al. 2013) and teacher attendance (Guerrero et al. 2012) were cited in annotated bibliographies. All these were made available through a searchable database.
- **ELDIS** provides free access to relevant, up-to-date and diverse research on international development issues, including two reviews from this programme. One comparing economic resource transfers to women and men (Yoong et al. 2012). The other addressing private

versus public strategies for health service provision for improving health outcomes in resource-limited settings (Montagu et al. 2011).

- **INCLUDE**, a Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Practices summarised and provided a link to one systematic review on land property rights (Lawry et al. 2014), and another on economic resource transfers to women (Yoong et al. 2012).
- **The Africa Portal**, a research repository and an expert analysis hub on African affairs, summarises and signposts a report¹³ which cited Carr-Hill et al. (2015) arguing that school-based decision making reforms appear to be less effective in disadvantaged communities, particularly if parents and community members have low levels of education and low status relative to school personnel (p.8). This is also an example of transparent use for enhancing understanding.
- **Namati**, which is building a global movement of grassroots legal advocates who give people the power to understand, use, and shape the law, summarises and links to a review on land property rights (Lawry et al. 2014).¹⁴
- **The Clean Cooking Alliance** produces a range of high quality resources including: research reports, market assessments, customer segmentation and adoption studies, issue briefs, and fact sheets – on various aspects of the clean cooking sector. They link to a discussion brief by the Stockholm Environment Institute about the uptake of cookstoves that cites the review by Puzzolo et al. (2013).
- **Sanitation updates** is a searchable news and opinion blog maintained by IRC and USAID's Water Team set up to promote the 2008 International Year of Sanitation. It published a blog with a link to a systematic review on access to water, sanitation and electricity (Annamalai et al. 2016).
- **Plan International** cited a systematic review about school inspections (Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016) in an annotated bibliography which was subsequently uploaded into searchable databases by other NGOs (ALNAP, HELP Library, Relief Web and Early Childhood Blogs).
- **Wikigender**, a global online collaborative platform for knowledge exchange, cited a systematic review on eliminating school user fees (Morgan et al. 2012).
- **HRH Global Resource Centre** included in a searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews the link to the full report of a systematic review about private versus public strategies for health service provision (Montagu et al. 2011).

Summary: 19 systematic reviews were found cited in specialist knowledge repositories that focused on: international development (ELDIS); responding to requests for evidence (GSDRC Knowledge Services); a geographical region (the Africa Portal); particular types of knowledge users (Namati); or particular goals (Campbell-UNICEF child welfare megamap; The Clean Cooking Alliance; Sanitation Updates; Wikigender).

4.4 Embedding use of evidence

In its *user-focused* framework for valuing the use of evidence, DFID defined embedded use of evidence as 'no direct action is taken as a result of evidence, but use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture'. The examples DFID used to illustrate the

¹³ <https://www.africaportal.org/publications/examining-nigerias-learning-crisis-can-communities-be-mobilized-to-take-action/>

¹⁴ <https://namati.org/resources/the-impact-of-land-property-rights-interventions-on-investment-and-agricultural-productivity-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review/>

framework related to national governments establishing new processes to ensure evidence was considered as part of standard procedures (See Annex 1).

In this *product-focused* project, we identified one example of a systematic review about the use of evidence that informed the development of standard procedures for using evidence.

4.4.1 Developing new processes to embed evidence in decision making

Clar et al. (2011) systematically reviewed the effects of interventions to improve the uptake of evidence from health research into policy in low and middle-income countries. These findings subsequently informed the development of a culture for using evidence for the Population Council's Evidence Project.

The Evidence Project is for strengthening family planning and reproductive health programs through implementation science¹⁵. This project is:

'led by the Population Council in partnership with INDEPTH Network, International Planned Parenthood Federation, PATH, Population Reference Bureau, and the project's University Resource Network, the five-year project (2013–2018) is investigating which strategies work best in improving, expanding, and sustaining family planning services. It is also evaluating how to implement and scale up those strategies. Critical to the Evidence Project is translating this knowledge and working with stakeholders to apply the evidence and to build capacity in using implementation science to improve policies, programs, and practices.'

Hardee et al. (2015) cited (Clar et al. 2011) when identifying:

'five promising interventions that can increase the likelihood that decision-makers will include evidence among the factors that guide and influence their decisions...'

However, from Clar et al (2011) and other research, the Population Council recognised how decision making is influenced by relationships and power dynamics between decision makers, researchers, implementers and other stakeholders. Nevertheless, the Population Council anticipated that:

'This line of inquiry will enhance [the Population Council's Evidence Project] efforts to increase the "space" that research evidence holds, among other legitimate evidence and factors, in the policy, program and practice decision making process.' (p15)

Thus, not only has the Population Council used evidence, but it has drawn on evidence about how to do so (Clar et al. 2011), so that use of evidence is embedded in the organisation.

However, although this example reported an anticipated a change in culture for using evidence, no detail was provided about changes actually made in processes, systems or working culture. More can be learnt about possible changes from other examples whereby systematic reviews receive attention as part of existing procedures or systems. Although these do not meet the definition of embedded use as evidence *becoming* embedded in processes, systems and working culture, they do align with evidence *being* so embedded. We therefore consider them together in this section for the learning they offer about evidence being embedded. We consider them elsewhere in other sections where one or more of them offers learning about transparent use for knowledge management, for transparent use for understanding or for instrumental use.

¹⁵ <http://evidenceproject.popcouncil.org/about/overview/>

4.4.2 Using existing processes that embed evidence in decision making

We identified 19 systematic reviews being incorporated into *existing* standardised procedures.¹⁶ Eleven led to instrumental impact (also considered in section 4.6). Four of these were cited in a knowledge management resource (UNICEF's Mega-Map) that led to instrumental impact (also considered in section 4.3). An additional eight appeared in the same resource (used transparently for better knowledge accessibility) but were not seen being used for instrumental impact (also considered in section 4.3). Closer inspection found three systematic reviews were also used transparently to enhance understanding (also considered in section 4.4). Examples of evidence *being* embedded were found in three organisations:

DFID: We found six systematic reviews from this programme (Burrow et al. 2016; Ugur and Dasgupta 2011; Acharya et al. 2012; Hawkes and Ugur 2012; Knox et al. 2013; Willey et al. 2013) each cited in a DFID business cases. Five of these business cases were prepared using a template that encouraged explicit references to evidence. More details are given in a case study in section 6.5. Closer inspection of how systematic reviews were used in business cases (section 5.5) revealed two of these also being used transparently to enhance understanding (Acharya et al. 2012; Hawkes and Ugur 2012).

World Health Organization: A systematic review about adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies was cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health (WHO 2018). These guidelines were developed according to the procedures and methods described in the WHO handbook for guideline development (WHO 2014).

UNICEF: Four systematic reviews were found cited in research briefs informing two areas of UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, and were therefore examples of instrumental use of research (Dickson et al. 2012; Kabeer et al. 2012; Birdthistle et al. 2011; Gupta et al. 2015). Two of these systematic reviews (Dickson et al. 2012; Kabeer et al. 2012) and ten others were found in the Campbell Collaboration-UNICEF Mega-Map, which was used to prepare a series of five of these research briefs. One of these systematic reviews (Westhorp et al. 2014) was also used transparently to enhance understanding by stimulating debate about community accountability, empowerment and education (Section 4.4).

Summary: We found one systematic review informing the development of processes to embed evidence in decision making, but with no details provided. We found a further 19 systematic reviews incorporated into existing procedures. Eleven of these led to instrumental impact, and three of these were also cited transparently to enhance understanding. The standardised procedures included DFID's template for business cases, UNICEF's Mega-Map for enhancing access to knowledge, and WHO's guideline development process.

4.5 Instrumental impact

Instrumental use of evidence involves evidence informing specific policy decisions. It is apparent when evidence is cited in documents informing policy decisions. Twenty one systematic reviews led to examples of instrumental use of evidence.

¹⁶ Twenty-three systematic reviews also appear in the database underpinning the International Rescue Committee's Evidence and Outcomes Framework (<https://www.rescue.org/resource/outcomes-and-evidence-framework>) but this information was provided by International Rescue Committee as individual systematic reviews could not be identified by the usual Google searches.

Instrumental use of evidence within DFID: These included nine examples of evidence being used within DFID programmes. Six of these systematic reviews supported business cases for policy intervention or research (Burrow et al. 2016; Ugur and Dasgupta 2011; Acharya et al. 2012; Hawkes and Ugur 2012; Knox et al. 2013; Willey et al. 2013). Two other examples are of systematic reviews being cited in reviews of DFID programmes: DFID's Legal Assistance for Economic Reform Programme (Laser) (Aboal et al. 2012); and how DFID works with multilateral agencies to achieve impact (Barakat et al. 2012). The last example is a semi-systematic review aiming to understand Payments-by-Results mechanisms in developing countries (Duvendack 2017), which cites a systematic review of models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes for poor people in urban areas (Duvendack et al. 2011); DFID has added a formal response to this evidence.

Instrumental use of evidence beyond DFID: We found eight organisations other than DFID using a total of 12 systematic reviews for instrumental purposes:

1. the World Bank for incorporating evidence into their investments in schools and learning (Carr-Hill et al. 2015);
2. UNICEF when drawing on evidence to inform its Strategic Plan 2018–2021 for achieving the goal that Every Child Lives in a Clean and Safe Environment (Gupta et al. 2015; Dickson et al. 2012; Birdthistle et al. 2011) and for achieving the goal that every child has an equitable chance in life (Kabeer et al. 2012);
3. the World Health Organization when developing guidelines on sanitation and health (Hulland et al. 2015);
4. World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean proposing priority areas of action and strategic interventions (Dangour et al. 2013);
5. NORAD and the African Anglican Community when changing their policy and priorities, respectively, on microfinance (Stewart et al. 2011, 2012);
6. the Results for Development Institute when assessing the potential for output-based aid in education (Kabeer et al. 2012);
7. UNESCO in 2015 for identifying four strategies to provide the best teachers to reach all children with a good quality education (Kingdon et al. 2013);
8. The US Government has developed 18 technical guidance documents for implementing its Global Food Security Strategy. A systematic review on land rights (Lawry et al. 2014) is included in evidence that introduces and justifies guidance developed in 2018¹⁷ for designing activities for land and marine tenure and natural resource governance regarding rights and responsibilities.

Instrumental use achieved through the use of standardised procedures: Half the systematic reviews contributing to instrumental impact (11) did so by being incorporated into the standardised procedures of three organisations:

- **DFID:** We found six systematic reviews from this programme (Burrow et al. 2016; Ugur and Dasgupta 2011; Acharya et al. 2012; Hawkes and Ugur 2012; Knox et al. 2013; Willey et al. 2013) each cited in DFID business cases. Knox et al. (2013) was cited in two business cases, one for a development programme and one for a research programme. Six of these business cases were prepared using a template that encouraged explicit references to evidence. More details are given in a case study in section 6.5.

¹⁷ https://www.feedthefuture.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Final_Land-Marine-and-Resource-Tenure-2019-0228.pdf

- **World Health Organization:** A systematic review about adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies was cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health (WHO 2018). These guidelines were developed according to the procedures and methods described in the WHO handbook for guideline development (WHO 2014).
- **UNICEF:** Four systematic reviews were found cited in research briefs informing two areas of UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2018–2021, and were therefore examples of instrumental use of research (Dickson et al. 2012; Kabeer et al. 2012; Birdthistle et al. 2011; Gupta et al. 2015). These systematic reviews and eight others were found in the Campbell Collaboration-UNICEF Mega-Map was used to prepare a series of five of these research briefs.

These eleven systematic reviews that achieved impact as part of procedures already established for embedding evidence in decision making in three organisations. DFID encourages use of evidence in its processes for preparing business cases. The World Health Organization has formal guidance for using evidence when developing guidance. UNICEF has developed an evidence map to inform its policy development.

In each case, systematic reviews from this programme were only one piece of evidence used to inform a policy decision. The possible influence of single pieces of evidence is considered on the section on findings of mini case studies below.

Summary: Twenty one systematic reviews produced by this programme led to examples of instrumental use of evidence, whereby the reviews were used to inform a policy/programming decision within DFID and/or other organisations. This includes instrumental use of systematic reviews from this programme in six DFID business cases; and 11 examples of impact being achieved through standardised procedures for informing decisions.

4.6 Summary of different types of impact

The systematic reviews produced by the programme have been used in a wide variety of ways. For example, the academic literature has drawn on some systematic reviews for their substantive findings, and on others for methodological debate. Beyond academia, systematic reviews were cited in specialist knowledge repositories (enhancing the accessibility of their findings). Reviews have also been cited by organisations to share new understanding, stimulate thinking and debate, encourage use of evidence or advocate policy change.

5 Findings: Impact of systematic reviews – comparative mini case studies

So far, we have shown that systematic reviews from this programme are being used to increase understanding by policy makers, to embed evidence in new or existing processes and systems, and to directly inform policies or programmes. Here we compare mini case studies to illustrate how evidence from systematic reviews is being used for these different purposes, both by DFID and other stakeholders.

Some organisations, such as UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee, and some approaches such as evidence-informed guidelines and DFID business cases, offered particularly strong examples of impact.

5.1 Transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility: in DFID

All but two of the systematic reviews (Leonard et al. 2013; Tusting et al. 2013) are published in Research for Development (R4D), which makes the outputs of DFID research publicly available. Publication of systematic reviews on R4D meets our definition of transparent use for enhancing accessibility, however we have limited our quantitative analysis of transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility (see Section 4.3) to organisations other than DFID.

Searching R4D currently identifies 137 systematic reviews (some from other DFID programmes). Some systematic reviews from this programme are also published on the websites of the Review Facilities that provided methodological support, and some were further developed for publication in academic journals, R4D provides the only (almost) complete set of outputs from the programme. Publication on R4D offers the first opportunity for systematic reviews to be identified and used for policy decisions, debates and academic scholarship.

R4D can be searched for DFID funded reports according to: short free text phrase; country of evidence; type of document (e.g. systematic review, literature review, research paper); theme (matching the sectors listed in this report); and date (published before or after a specific date).

5.2 Transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility: research repositories

In addition to R4D, these systematic reviews appear on a number of other repositories. The most well-established repositories focus on health systematic reviews: the Cochrane Library,¹⁸ Evidence AID¹⁹ and Epistemonikos.²⁰ Repositories reaching beyond health are the 3ie Review Repository²¹ and the newest relevant research repository, Social Systems Evidence, which is still in beta version.²²

Some of repositories, like R4D, can be searched for primary studies or systematic reviews (the Cochrane Library, Epistemonikos); or special collections/themes/sector (Evidence AID; 3ie Review Repository), and geographical region (3ie Review Repository, Social Systems Evidence). Epistemonikos and Social Systems Evidence offer an additional feature of listing primary studies that are cited within the systematic reviews. Epistemonikos is also exceptional in presenting evidence in nine different languages (Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese).

¹⁸ www.cochranelibrary.com

¹⁹ <http://www.evidenceaid.org>

²⁰ <https://www.epistemonikos.org/>

²¹ <https://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/systematic-review-repository>

²² <https://www.socialsystemsevidence.org/?lang=en>

Lastly, both UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee make their evidence gap maps publicly available.

5.3 Transparent use for enhancing understanding: in DFID

The most widely reported use of systematic reviews was transparent use for enhancing understanding (25 reviews).

One example of this, as mentioned in section 2.4, was a DFID business case for 'Making Country Health Systems Stronger', which included a section on understanding gender and equity, cited Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem, specifically that '[w]omen are also less likely than their male counterparts to be in formal employment they are less likely to benefit from social insurance schemes providing them with health cover.'

A less clear example is a DFID commissioned needs assessment 'for improved access to finance and advisory support and/or business skills development, for SMEs in Afghanistan' (Coffey 2014) which listed two systematic reviews without linking them to a specific statement. This means it is unclear whether or how they have informed a decision or action, so their transparent use is noted and the assumption made that they contributed to understanding.

5.4 Transparent use for enhancing understanding: international debate about the SDGs

The Independent Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) initiated discussion on the role of evaluation in the SDGs immediately after these goals were approved.

'They organized two conferences that took place in parallel, with joint keynote addresses and special sessions: one from the perspective of governments, the other from the perspective of the professional development evaluator. These conferences took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2015. They ended with the Bangkok Declaration on National Evaluation Capacity for the SDGs, which was subsequently included in the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016–2020. While conference proceedings were published in 2016, IDEAS and UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office also approached the most innovative and forward-thinking contributors to the conference to update their insights for a book, which provides a stimulating array of subjects.' (van den Berg et al. 2017; page ix).

The book, produced to maintain debate, cited the review by Doocy and Tappis (2016) on cash transfer in humanitarian emergencies.

5.5 Embedded use: in DFID

None of the systematic reviews informed the development of processes, systems or a culture in DFID for supporting use of evidence for decision making (embedded impact). However, we found evidence of systematic reviews being incorporated into existing DFID processes that ultimately led to instrumental use of evidence in business cases.

We found six DFID business cases citing systematic reviews from this programme. Five were prepared using a DFID template that appeared to be used with a degree of flexibility. DFID's How To Note on 'Writing a Business Case' (2011), which includes a section on 'Use of Evidence in the Business Case', implies that use of evidence is embedded in the procedures for writing a business case. Dated August 2011, this note was published before most of the systematic reviews in the programme, and before any of the examples of impact identified.

The How To Note describes evidence as playing:

‘a critical role in three parts of the Business Case: in the Strategic Case – justifying the need for the intervention; in the Appraisal Case – demonstrating why the intervention will work; and in the Management Case – understanding how well the intervention is working. Strengthening the use of evidence in decision making is one of the key aims of the Business Case.’ (DFID How To Note 2011; p3)

The Note offers clear step-by-step procedures that start with:

‘(a) develop[ing] options by considering the evidence of the different ways in which the outcome and impact could be achieved; (b) assess[ing] the strength of the evidence of impact for each of the feasible options; and... (c) carry[ing] out an appraisal [of] costs and benefits of each feasible option and identify the preferred option...’ (ibid., p9)

Guidance is given for assessing available evidence as strong, medium or limited; where an example of strong evidence is ‘conclusions on evidence of impact from a well conducted systematic review’ (ibid., p12). This guidance includes the template for a table to ‘rate the quality of evidence for each option as either Strong, Medium or Limited’ (ibid., p14).

The business cases citing systematic reviews from this programme align well with this guidance.

Examples using evidence to justify *need for intervention* are:

- DFID business case for ‘Making Country Health Systems Stronger’ included a section on understanding gender and equity, citing Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem (transparent use of enhancing understanding);
- DFID’s business case about ‘Applied Research in High Volume Transport’ named an ongoing review (Burrow et al. 2016);
- Although not using DFID’s template for a business case, the DFID/FCO plans for Phase 2 (2016/17 – 2020/21) of the Good Governance Fund: a Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Programme Document, cited Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) for their conclusion that ‘corruption has a negative direct and indirect effect on per-capita income growth. In addition, they found that, indirectly, corruption is associated with lower investment and human capital’.

Examples using evidence to demonstrate *why the intervention is expected to work* (transparent use for enhancing understanding) are:

- DFID’s business case for the Technical Assistance collaboration on Skill Development for joint prosperity cites Hawkes and Ugur (2012) to justify the statement that education provides workers and entrepreneurs with the cognitive and technical skills they require to implement tasks effectively and efficiently and raises their ability to access and absorb new information.

Examples using evidence to understand *whether or how well an intervention works* are:

- DFID’s business case for ‘Health Transitions – To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique’ cited Willey et al. (2013) to claim that interventions focused on decision making in the health sector resulted in more consistent improvement on quality of care, equity, coverage and access than those using technical guidance alone.

- DFID's business case for 'Feeder Roads construction, Operation and Maintenance to connect Agriculture to Business (FROMA2B) Programme' cited Knox et al. (2013) to claim that 'the majority of evidence relating to road investments on agricultural productivity is positive, particularly in relation to GDP gains and poverty reduction'.

Examples explicitly using one of the systematic reviews *to assess the evidence* as strong, medium or limited are:

- DFID's business case for 'Health Transitions – To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique' cites Willey et al. (2013) to indicate a strong 'evidence rating' for the approach proposed.

Examples using the *table template* to present the strength of evidence are:

- DFID's business case for 'Feeder Roads construction, Operation and Maintenance to connect Agriculture to Business (FROMA2B) Programme' which cited Knox et al. (2013) included an Evidence Rating table that rated the evidence for three options.
- DFID's business case for 'Health Transitions – To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique' extended the table template to include explanatory text in which it cites Willey et al. (2013) to indicate a strong 'evidence rating' for the approach proposed.

These examples of systematic reviews having an impact on DFID business cases show that DFID is going beyond basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of 'what works' (see fourth goal of the programme). DFID has also explicitly based some decisions on evidence of why there is a need for intervention, why intervention is expected to work, how an intervention works and whether the evidence is strong, medium or limited.

5.6 Embedded use: Evidence gap maps and debate facilitated by UNICEF

Only one systematic review was found to inform the development of processes for embedding evidence in decision making, and this was beyond DFID (see section 4.5). Nevertheless, other organisations have developed such processes, and have incorporated systematic reviews from this programme as their processes have become established. The consequence is systematic reviews being used instrumentally for policy decisions.

Searching for systematic review citations found examples cited in Evidence and Gap Maps Research Briefs describing UNICEF's strategic plan in areas 4 and 5. UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Goal Area 4: Every Child Lives in a Clean and Safe Environment. One systematic review, about regulatory and road engineering interventions (Gupta et al. 2015) was cited for Goal Area 4. Three further systematic reviews, about economic assets for girls (Dickson et al. 2012), conditional cash transfer (Kabeer et al. 2012), and separate toilets for girls at school (Birdthistle et al. 2011), were cited for Goal Area 5. The purpose of each research brief was to identify:

- Areas in which there is ample evidence to guide policy and practice, and so to encourage policy makers and practitioners to use the map as a way to access rigorous studies of effectiveness;
- Gaps in the evidence base, and so encourage research commissioners to commission studies to fill these evidence gaps.

These research briefs are two of a 'series of five briefs which provide an overview of available evidence shown in the Campbell Collaboration-UNICEF Mega-Map on the effectiveness of interventions to improve child welfare in low- and middle-income countries. The Mega-Map

presents 302 systematic reviews and 16 evidence and gap maps, organised into six intervention categories and six outcome domains. Embedded in this map are the four systematic reviews cited in the Evidence and Gap Map Research Briefs mentioned above, and a further eight systematic reviews from DFID's programme:

1. School-based decision making on educational outcome (Carr-hills et al. 2015)
2. Community accountability, empowerment and education outcomes (Westthorp et al. 2014)
3. School voucher programmes (Morgan et al. 2013)
4. Increasing salaries on improving the performance of public servants (Carr et al. 2012)
5. Models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes (Coast et al. 2012)
6. Access to economic assets for girls and young women (Dickson et al. 2012)
7. Access to economic assets for girls and young women (Dickson et al. 2012)
8. Conditional cash transfer (Kabeer et al. 2012)
9. Teacher attendance (Guerrero et al. 2012)
10. Economic resource transfers to women vs men (Yoong et al. 2012)
11. Reductions in maternal mortality (Hussein et al. 2011)
12. Agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children. (Masset et al. 2011)

The relationship between evidence and policy debates has been described as UNICEF:

collat[ing] evidence [in the form of systematic reviews and evidence gap maps] and map[ping] it against the [five goal areas of UNICEF's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan](#). The findings on the distribution of evidence across these Strategic Plan areas have fed into a series of [five research briefs](#), which provide user friendly and accessible overviews of: (1) the areas in which there is ample evidence to guide policy and practice, and to encourage policy makers and practitioners to use the map as a way to access rigorous studies of effectiveness; and (2) the gaps in the evidence base, to encourage research commissioners to commission studies to fill these evidence gaps.

The Mega-Map has also been used as a basis for discussion and coordination with other stakeholders and institutions interested in evidence informed decision making for children. The findings of the Mega-Map were used to guide a broader conversation on child well-being at the ['Evidence for Children' roundtable](#). As part of this roundtable, a community of practice was created to facilitate co-ordination between different agencies to fill the priority evidence gaps identified, and to ensure a more efficient use of resources to prevent the duplication of research efforts

(personal communication from Shivit Bakrania, a Knowledge Management Specialist (Consultant) at UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti).

5.7 Instrumental use: DFID business cases

We identified six systematic reviews being cited in DFID business cases (Burrow et al. 2016; Ugur and Dasgupta 2011; Acharya et al. 2012; Hawkes and Ugur 2012; Knox et al. 2013; Willey et al. 2013). Details for these cases appear in Appendix 3. They illustrate the following features of evidence use.

Each systematic review makes one of many contributions to an argument; sometimes a very specific piece of evidence, and sometimes a more general statement. For instance, a business case for

'Health Transitions – To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique' (2016/17) cited specific evidence from a review about the effectiveness of interventions to strengthen national health services (Willey et al. 2013). The business case cited this review when arguing that '*Investing in health policy translates to improved quality, equity and coverage of services ... A systematic review found that interventions focused on decision making in the health sector resulted in more consistent improvement on quality of care, equity, coverage and access than those using technical guidance alone*'. Moreover, the business case noted this evidence was 'strong'. The business case included plans for '£23.5 million for technical and financial support to strengthen the health system, which was expected to support *decision making* and management at the central level in the Ministry of Health and the delivery of services at the sub-national level in the provinces' [emphasis added]. This business case was subsequently approved the programme is currently in the implementation phase.²³

A more general contribution is made by a review on infrastructural investments (Knox et al. 2013). A business case for a road building programme noted that a 'recent systematic review funded by DFID noted that the majority of evidence relating to road investments on agricultural productivity is positive, particularly in relation to GDP gains and poverty reduction (Knox et al. 2013).' This supported the case for 'FROMA2B is a £50 million feeder roads programme that will build rural feeder roads and invest in state level capacity building and maintenance in South Sudan over a period of five years'.²⁴

Review findings included in a business case designed to influence a specific decision, is not necessarily evidence of 'what works'. Two business cases cited evidence about the source or consequences of a problem. The first is a business case for a skill development programme in India which cites a systematic review by Hawkes and Ugur (2012) for its strong evidence of an association between the cognitive skills of the population – rather than mere school attainment – are powerfully related to individual earnings and the distribution of income, and economic growth. The second is a business case about economic growth impacts of corruption. This business case cited Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) in the section listing evidence that points to wide ranging and diverse impacts of corruption. A third business case for 'Making Country Health Systems Stronger' included a section on understanding gender and equity, citing Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem.

Findings from systematic reviews did not necessarily drive new policy decisions. Some of them may have been used to support existing policy or political interest, although the timing of the decision and the availability of evidence prior to publication is not always clear. For instance, the review about technology selection for low-volume, rural roads (Burrow et al. 2016) was still ongoing when it was cited in a business case about 'Applied Research in High Volume Transport (HVT)'. Similarly, the business case for skill development in India prepared in 2018, citing Hawkes and Ugur (2012), was prepared with the intention of fulfilling Prime Minister Theresa May's commitment of £12m to support the Skill India Mission, made during her India visit in November 2016. As mentioned in section 3, it is not possible to discern from document analysis alone the balance between instrumental and tactical use of evidence in such decisions.

²³ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205074/documents>

²⁴ This business case was approved, however the programme was brought to a close in early 2015 as it was not able to deliver on key expected results, given the changed operational environment in South Sudan (on going conflict, large numbers of displaced people and high humanitarian need) and no longer offered the best value for money http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439776.odt

5.8 Instrumental use: World Health Organization Guidelines

The World Health Organization (WHO) employs standardised methods to prepare evidence informed guidelines that can be adapted and applied around the world (WHO 2014). This includes identifying and/or conducting systematic reviews to address key questions about policy or practice. WHO guidelines on sanitation and health include this recommendation: 'Demand and supply of sanitation facilities and services should be addressed concurrently to ensure toilet adoption and sustained use and enable scale' (p11). The rationale for this recommendation rests on two primary studies (one for understanding communities, and one for implementation) and two systematic reviews (one on Community-Led Total Sanitation; and one on adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies). This last review was funded by DFID. Its contribution to the guidelines is in the form of a very high level summary: 'Multiple psychosocial (norms and nurturing), non-modifiable (age and gender) and technology (cost, durability and maintenance) factors influence initial and sustained adoption of clean water and sanitation technologies (Hulland et al. 2015)'.

5.9 Summary learning from mini case studies

The ways and extent to which the systematic reviews from this programme have been used for each type of impact varied. Transparent use for enhancing understanding could be very small, such as a small contribution to a business plan, or substantial, such as a major initiative to facilitate debate. Systematic reviews could influence the development of new processes for embedding evidence into decision making, although more often systematic reviews were incorporated into existing processes for considering evidence in decision making, with templates to display evidence in a business plan, or evidence maps to inform broad areas of policy development. We found examples of where systematic reviews were used instrumentally to justify an argument or a general statement. However, in other instances findings from systematic reviews did not necessarily drive new policy decisions. Some of them were used to support existing policy or political interest.

6 Findings: Achieving impact beyond academia

How impact was achieved beyond academia was considered in terms of three models of research use: the linear model of knowledge transfer and research uptake; the relationship model; and the systems model.

6.1 Linear model of knowledge transfer and research uptake

In order to explore the extent to which evidence use of the systematic reviews followed the linear model of knowledge transfer and research uptake, we explored whether there was any association between the clarity of conclusions and subsequent impact of systematic reviews.

6.2 Clarity of policy implications or research recommendations and impact in academia

The clarity of policy implications was not associated with impact in academia (Table 12).

Table 12: Clarity of policy implications and subsequent academic impact

	Implications for policy (n and %)				Total reviews (a+b+c)
	(a) Absent	(b) Vague / discursive	(c) Specific and clearly listed	Mentioned in summary	
Report published as academic output	2 (17%)	8 (21%)	10 (29%)	11 (26%)	20
Report cited in academic literature	8 (67%)	28 (72%)	24 (69%)	29 (67%)	60
Paper cited in academic literature	0 (0%)	6 (15%)	7 (20%)	9 (21%)	13
Paper appears in academic reading list	0 (0%)	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	1 (2%)	2
No impact within academia	2 (17%)	7 (18%)	7 (20%)	10 (23%)	16
Total	12	39	35	43	86

In contrast, Table 13 shows that where research recommendations were specific and clearly listed, there were:

- more reports published as an academic paper
- more reports cited in other academic papers
- more subsequently published papers cited in other academic papers

Table 13: Clarity of research recommendations and subsequent academic impact

	Recommendations for research (n and %)			
	(a) Absent	(b) Vague / discursive	(c) Specific and clearly listed	Mentioned in summary
Report published as academic output	3 (3%)	5 (13%)	12 (33%)	9 (18%)
Report cited in academic literature	6 (67%)	23 (61%)	29 (81%)	34 (69%)
Paper cited in academic literature	2 (22%)	2 (5%)	9 (25%)	8 (19%)
Paper appears in academic reading list	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%) (3%)	1 (2%)
No impact within academia	0 (0%)	11 (3%) (18%)	4 (11%)	12 (28%)
Total	12	39	35	43

6.3 Clarity of policy implications and impact beyond academia

Twelve systematic reviews reported their findings without providing the ensuing implications for policy or practice. A further 39 provided implications that were vague or discursive, while 35 provided specific implications that were clearly listed. For instance, the systematic review that had the greatest academic impact (Duvendack et al. 2011) concluded from an analysis of comparison studies that ‘all impact evaluations of microfinance suffer from weak methodologies and inadequate data... thus the reliability of impact estimates are adversely affected’ and limited policy recommendations to more and better research addressing different models and flexible models of microfinance interventions. We found no examples of this review being used beyond academia. Similarly, a review of poor people’s access to formal banking services (Pande et al. 2012), which offered two pages of flowing text addressing implications for policy and practice, was well cited by academic studies but not elsewhere.

In contrast, a systematic review of land rights (Lawry et al. 2014) which mentioned implications for policy in the abstract and clearly listed them in the main text, was cited by the US Government to introduce and justify guidance for land and marine tenure and natural resource governance regarding rights and responsibilities.

These two examples suggest that clear implications for policy may not be required for subsequent use in the research literature, but an advantage for use beyond academia. An exception is another

review in the economics sector, of conditional cash transfer (Kabeer et al. 2012). This offered no policy implications in the abstract or the main text, yet has been cited in UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life. This exception may be explained by UNICEF collaborating with researchers within the Campbell Collaboration to develop a Mega-Map of evidence which in turn informed UNICEF’s strategic plan.

To investigate whether these examples are indicative of any underlying trend, we compared how reviews presented their implications for policy or practice, with where they showed evidence of impact, if any (Table 14). When reviews reported specific implications for policy and listed them clearly, there was little difference in their overall impact beyond academia but, proportionally, there were:

- fewer seen having transparent impact for enhancing understanding, and
- more seen having instrumental impact in decision making.

We conclude that clearly specified policy implications do not influence whether a systematic review is included in a knowledge repository for wide accessibility, or embedded in procedures for research use. However, a lack of clearly specified policy implications may reduce instrumental use for decision making while a more discursive approach allows transparent use for enhancing understanding.

Table 14: Clarity of policy implications and subsequent impact beyond academia

	Policy implications		
	Vague or discursive	Specific & clearly listed	Mentioned in summary
Impact beyond academia	21 (54%)	18 (51%)	20 (47%)
Transparent knowledge accessibility	9 (23%)	9 (20%)	10 (14%)
Transparent understanding	12 (31%)	7 (20%)	9 (21%)
Embedded impact	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Instrumental use	7 (18%)	11 (31%)	11 (26%)
No impact beyond academia	18 (46%)	17 (49%)	23 (53%)
Total reviews	39	35	43

6.4 Clarity of research recommendations and impact beyond academia

Nine systematic reviews offered no recommendations for research. A further 39 offered vague or discursive recommendations, while 36 clearly listed specific recommendations and 49 included research recommendations in the summary.

A systematic review about impact of aid on maternal and reproductive health (Hayman et al. 2011) was innovative in taking systematic review methodology into the literature about funding systems and Sustainable Development Goals. The learning resulting from this first attempt to make sense of this broad literature led to: high level recommendations about methodology (adopting a more

flexible approach than experimental designs in order to take into account contextual factors when assessing how aid works); reporting research (providing full information about the aid intervention); maternal and reproductive health (collecting robust baseline data and paying greater attention to social, political and economic factors, including gender politics and class, affecting maternal and reproductive health. The learning accrued from this literature, while not ready for making implications for policy, has offered important direction for taking forward this area of research generally. The report was translated into a paper for publication in a peer reviewed journal and this has been cited 17 times.

Another systematic review of a similar area, multi donor trust funds in improving aid effectiveness (Barakat et al. 2012) listed recommendations that were a little more specific about: 'the outcomes of MDTFs as a whole, rather than the progress of individual projects supported by trust fund... learning from best and worst practices'. These research recommendations were accompanied by policy implications about: realistic expectations of trust funds and taking context into account; structuring them around clearly defined and commonly-agreed upon goals and realistic assessments of organisational capacity. We found 21 academic citations, and use of the report by DFID, ODI and the World Bank to affirm or develop their own working arrangements. It is not possible to judge whether the greater use of this report beyond academia (compared to Hayman et al. 2011 above) is because the recommendations and policy implications were clearer, whether the literature is more advanced, or whether the topic was more of a priority to donors.

To investigate whether there is a general trend, Table 15 shows compares the clarity of communicating the research recommendations with use of the findings beyond academia. When reviews reported specific recommendations for research and listed them clearly, more reviews showed impact beyond academia, proportionally there were:

- fewer seen being used transparently to enhance understanding
- more seen having instrumental impact in decision making

No difference in impact was seen for knowledge accessibility.

The overall implication is that clear research recommendations are associated with greater impact beyond academia, particularly instrumental use, but not transparent use for access to knowledge.

Table 15: Clarity of research recommendations and subsequent impact beyond academia

Code	Research recommendations		
	Vague or discursive	Specific & clearly listed	Mentioned in summary
Impact beyond academia	19 (50%)	23 (64%)	25 (51%)
Transparent knowledge accessibility	9 (24%)	9 (25%)	13 (27%)
Transparent understanding	9(24%)	12 (33%)	12 (28%)
Embedded use	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Instrumental use	7 (18%)	12 (33%)	11 (22%)
No impact beyond academia	19 (50%)	13 (36%)	24 (49%)
Total reviews	38	36	49

Summary: decision making with clear implications for policy are not associated with academic impact. In contrast, clear recommendations for research are associated with the review being published as an academic paper, and both the original report and subsequent academic paper being cited in other academic papers.

Reviews with clear implications for policy were not more likely to show an impact beyond academia, but those that did were more likely to be used instrumentally than for understanding. Reviews with clear recommendations for research were more likely to show impact beyond academia, with instrumental use being higher than use for understanding.

6.5 Relationship model

As mentioned above (section 1.3), in the relationship model of knowledge into action, knowledge is drawn from researchers generating empirical research and academic theory, and from potential users of research in policy, practice and community networks; and whether or how it is used depends on effective relationships and processes. In this study, we envisage the relationship model as a mutual exchange of ideas, so that policy makers not only draw on research to inform their own work, but also that researchers draw on policy makers' interests to inform their research. This opens the possibility of policy input into research, making the findings more useful and more used.

To explore whether the use of systematic reviews found was in line with this two-way relationship model we compared the impact of reviews that did or did not report policy input into shaping them (Table 15).

When reviews reported policy input into their preparation, proportionally there were:

- more often having impact beyond academia overall
- more often included in resources to enhance knowledge accessibility

However, there was little or no difference in the instrumental use.

Table 15: Policy input and type of impact beyond academia

Type of impact	Any policy input reported		Policy input details reported				Total reviews
	Yes	No	Names/ roles	Input methods	Contributions	Methods or contributions	
Any impact beyond academia	29 (59%)	18 (49%)	26 (58%)	17 (53%)	11 (50%)	17 (53%)	47
Transparent knowledge accessibility	15 (29%)	6 (16%)	13 (27%)	8 (25%)	3 (14%)	8 (25%)	21
Transparent understanding	14 (29%)	11 (30%)	13 (29%)	9 (28%)	7 (32%)	9 (28%)	25
Embedded impact	1 (2%)	0	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1
Instrumental use	13 (26%)	8 (22%)	11 (24%)	8 (25%)	5 (23%)	8 (25%)	21
No impact beyond academia	20 (41%)	19 (51%)	19 (42%)	15 (47%)	11 (50%)	15 (47%)	39
Total reviews	49 (100%)	37 (100%)	45 (100%)	32 (100%)	22 (100%)	32 (100%)	86 (100%)

In contrast, there was no difference in academic impact whether or not reviews reported policy input into their preparation (Table 16).

Table 16: Policy input and type of impact in academia

Type of impact	Any policy input reported		Policy input details reported				Total reviews
	Yes	No	Names/ roles	Input methods	Contributions	Methods or contributions	
Academic impact	40 (78%)	30 (78%)	37 (80%)	26 (78%)	18 (77%)	26 (78%)	70 (81%)
Report published as academic output	11 (22%)	9 (24%)	10 (22%)	7 (22%)	6 (27%)	7 (22%)	20 (22%)
Report cited in academic literature	35 (71%)	25 (68%)	33 (73%)	24 (75%)	16 (73%)	24 (75%)	60 (67%)
Paper cited in academic literature	7 (14%)	6 (16%)	7 (16%)	6 (19%)	5 (23%)	6 (19%)	13 (15%)
Appears in academic reading list	2 (4%)		2 (4%)	2 (6%)	1 (5%)	2 (6%)	2 (2%)
Noacademic impact	9 (18%)	7 (19%)	8 (18%)	6 (19%)	4 (18%)	6 (19%)	16 (19%)
Total reviews	49 (100%)	37 (100%)	45 (100%)	32 (100%)	22 (100%)	32 (100%)	86 (100%)

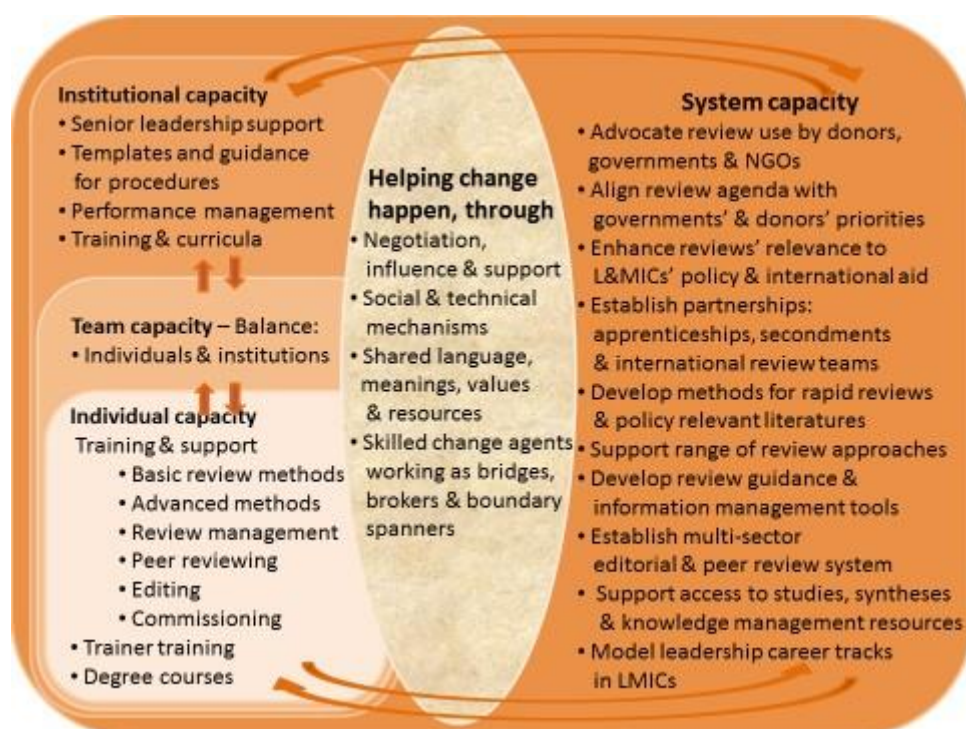
Summary: Policy input into review production may lead to greater use of reviews beyond academia, but not within academia.

6.6 Systems models

Systems models for use of research (Best and Holmes 2010) were introduced in Section 1.3 above. Systems thinking underpins a knowledge exchange model, whereby research is conducted within and influenced by its context of subsequent use and guided by potential users of the findings (Gibbons et al. 1994; Nowotny et al. 2001; Greenhalgh et al. 2016). This is commonly known as 'mode 2' research and has a scope much larger than the production system of systematic reviews alone. Systems thinking improves understanding of a system by foregrounding the goal of the system, then elaborating the elements of the system and their interconnections (Arnold and Wade 2015).

For this systematic review programme, four goals (see Section 1.1) focus clearly on both the production and use of systematic reviews to inform and thereby increase the value for money of DFID policy, while the elements include support mechanisms from the Evidence into Action team for two-way interconnections between research and policy teams, so that first policy teams can influence the focus of the research and the interpretation of the findings, and subsequently the research findings are sufficiently relevant to inform policy debates and decisions. Further elaboration of these elements and their interconnections comes from understanding this programme as an exercise in developing a system of sharing and assessing capacities for systematic reviews which rests on individuals interacting with their teams, their institutions and the wider global system for both the preparation and use of systematic reviews (Oliver et al. 2015), as illustrated in Figure 4. For instance, capable teams require capable individual members and institutions with the necessary resources, guidance and management to support the work; and teams need to be able to access, through their institutions or publicly available routes, knowledge management resources (e.g. bibliographic databases and journals), methods guidance and potential collaborators to establish teams that bring the required substantive and methodological expertise.

Figure 4: Framework for assessing systematic review capacity (adapted from Oliver et al. 2015)



The quantitative data available about systematic review citations collected for this study suit analyses in terms of linear or relationship models but offer little for analysing the added value of the system as a whole. For that task we turned to an independent review of the programme as a whole that was conducted in its third year (Rose and Battock 2012), and DFID's response to its recommendations a few months later (DFID 2013).

From these documents, investments in DFID are evident at different levels:

- **Individual capacity**, in particular: the programme lead, who is expected to bring research and knowledge brokering skills; and policy team leads, who are expected to commit to the systematic review throughout its production.
- **Team capacity** by signposting tools and guidance, and commissioning methodological support for each systematic review team.
- **Institutional capacity** by developing resources and procedures to make the work more efficient (e.g. templates for presenting systematic review questions, templates for laying out evidence in business cases, and incorporating systematic reviews into performance management); involvement of senior DFID staff in the promotion of the systematic reviews.
- **Global system capacity** by publishing systematic reviews on R4D to make them widely accessible; and keeping abreast of systematic review methodology and preparing further guidance.

Similarly, when commissioning systematic reviews, DFID assessed funding applications for the capacity of the individual applicants, the team as a whole, and their institution for supporting systematic reviews and accessing bibliographic databases and academic journals.

The design of this systematic review programme also well matches generic systems models for understanding knowledge and action, as depicted by the Best and Holmes in a blog based on their paper (Box 3).

Box 3: Systems models of knowledge and action (Best and Holmes 2012)²⁵

Knowledge cycle tightly woven within priorities, culture and context:

- Circular model with emphasis on the importance of relationships, linkages and exchange
- Explicit and tacit knowledge need to be integrated to inform decision making and policy
- Feedback loops essential
- Good when:
 - All stakeholders are active collaborators
 - Partnering organisations willing to invest time and resources
 - Knowledge exchange is a business strategy

This systems analysis of the programme therefore also focuses on (a) relationships, linkages and exchange of ideas to integrate explicit and tacit knowledge; (b) feedback loops between nested structures and activities; and (c) time and resources for, and evidence of, active collaboration for exchanging knowledge.

These documents reveal how DFID, as a user of systematic reviews to inform its work, makes fundamental investments in relationships, feedback loops, time and resources to produce systematic reviews. Box 4 illustrates the details of how the programme is aligned with a systems model of knowledge use.

Box 4: Recommendations accepted by DFID following an independent programme review¹ matched to Best and Holmes' (2012) elements of systems models of knowledge and action

¹ Numbers in brackets refer to the numbered recommendation from the independent programme review (Rose and Battock 2012), and DFID's response (DFID 2013).

(a) relationships, linkages and exchange of ideas to integrate explicit and tacit knowledge;

- A clear system for allocating review teams to free support from methodologists (4).
- A programme lead who combines research and knowledge broker skills, is kept in post throughout the production cycle (6), and their role clear to review teams (7).
- DFID keeping abreast of external work on methodology, commissioning additional work if necessary, and preparing further guidance, which should particularly be directed at the stage of question selection (10).
- Agreement over, and continuity of, the involvement of policy lead in each systematic review (19).

(b) feedback loops between different levels of capacity; and

- A two stage review process to first scope the availability of relevant literature before detailed analysis and synthesis (13).
- Greater care with question selection and assessing the capacity and capability of review teams (14).
- Communication and dissemination built into the Review Team contracts (15).
- Publication on R4D complemented by development and coordination of systematic review repositories/portals for better access (16,17).
- Structured monitoring of the use of systematic reviews, notably their use in business cases and policy submissions (18).

²⁵ <http://crfrblog.blogspot.com/2012/03/systems-thinking-knowledge-and-action.html>

(c) time and resources for, and evidence of, active collaboration for exchanging knowledge

- DFID's provision of guidance and a template for policy teams to frame questions for systematic reviews (1).
- Investment of time, notably by DFID leads, in developing and modifying questions to get them right before a call for proposals is made (2).
- DFID's signposting of tools and guidance available on producing Systematic Reviews, and how to access them, to the Review Teams (3).
- Realistic estimates of the time investment required by DFID leads and other stakeholders (5).
- DFID's increasing commitment of time by policy lead to the systematic review production if their question is selected (8).
- DFID including systematic review work in the 10% cadre time or generalists' objectives and reflected in Performance Management Forms (11).
- DFID ameliorating lack of capacity by staggering rounds of systematic review contracting (12).
- Preparation of Executive Summaries by review teams, and preparation of policy briefs by DFID policy teams (21).
- Improving value for money by using SRs only for suitable questions and by doing fewer of them and investing more per review (22)

6.7 Summary of how impact has been achieved

This programme is investing in the nested levels that support the production and use of systematic reviews, and in the interactions between these layers.

Learning from the linear model of knowledge exchange: When reviews reported specific implications for policy and listed them clearly, fewer were seen having transparent impact for enhancing understanding, and more were having instrumental impact in decision making. There was no difference in knowledge accessibility or research being embedded in procedures for developing policy, nor any difference in impact overall. When reviews reported research recommendations clearly, more of them were seen having impact beyond academia overall, and more were seen enhancing understanding beyond academia, or having instrumental impact in decision making. No difference in impact was seen for knowledge accessibility.

Learning from the relationship model of knowledge exchange: When reviews reported policy input into their preparation, more of them had impact beyond academia, more were included in resources to enhance knowledge accessibility, and more were embedded into procedures or resources for decision making. However, there was little or no difference in the instrumental use. In contrast, there was no difference in academic impact whether or not reviews reported policy input into their preparation.

Learning from the systems model: Comparing the study data with the systems model illustrated in Figure 4 makes clear where DFID's work has strengths and where it would benefit from further development. For instance, the response to Rose and Battock's (2012) recommendations makes clear that DFID is investing in: individual staff within the department (time and skills); systematic review teams (guidance and support); the department's institutional capacity (resources, procedures and senior support); and the wider system (publishing systematic reviews on R4D to make them widely accessible; and keeping abreast of systematic review methodology and preparing further guidance).

In contrast, Rose and Battock made no mention of the skills required to help change happen; in this case, to help systematic reviews become more policy-relevant, and to help decisions become better informed by systematic reviews. The knowledge broker skills noted as a requirement for the

programme lead alone seem very limited for supporting a programme of 86 systematic reviews over eight years given the importance of interaction between the review team and the policy team at three key stages in each systematic review: shaping the review questions, drawing out implications for policy, and making recommendations for further policy-relevant research. The lack of emphasis on these skills and where they can be best used may explain the limited acknowledgement of policy input in systematic review reports. Two years later, four years after the systematic review programme was initiated, DFID set up the EIA Team specifically to support two-way interconnections between research and policy teams, so that policy teams can influence the focus of the research and the interpretation of the findings, thereby making reports more relevant for informing policy debates and decisions.

Similarly, the importance of system capacity for knowledge management resources and access to primary studies, syntheses and bibliographic databases highlights the fragmented systems revealed by tracking citations in this study. Systematic reviews can be found in many disparate specialist sources but not a single comprehensive source spanning development sectors or including primary studies alongside systematic reviews. Comprehensive sources of systematic reviews are available in the health sector: about the effects of health care (The Cochrane Library) or wider questions (Epistemonikos and Health Systems Evidence). 3ie's Systematic Review repository includes systematic reviews on the effects of social and economic interventions in low- and middle-income countries (although other questions are also important in development). Although DFID accepted Rose and Battock's (2012) recommendation to complement publication on R4D with developing and coordinating systematic repositories or portals, access routes remain fragmented.

7 Findings: A product-focused framework for assessing research use

The initial framework for impact assessment (Appendix 1) needed adapting for this study in three ways: adding a dimension of knowledge accessibility; refining scales for depth and sustainability; and adapting the framework for use beyond government.

There are two fundamentally different approaches to investigating use of research. One approach is to start with the decisions and decision makers to investigate whether they are informed by research. The other is to start with the research and investigate whether it is considered during any decision making. Little information is publicly available about how DFID's original framework was developed but the examples it uses suggest that development took the first approach. In comparison, as an analysis of the products of a research programme, this study took the second. Collecting information from users (as is implied by DFID's original framework) allows a detailed insider description of how the evidence was used; whereas a document analysis as done in this study requires more interpretation by the analyst. For instance, if users consciously consider a piece of research, but then choose to ignore it when informing decisions, this use of research is invisible in a document analysis.

Conducting a document analysis to include use and impact of research beyond government, required early adaptation of the framework: (a) recognising transparent use for sharing knowledge without necessarily enhancing understanding; and (b) translating key concepts and scales to suit non-governmental organisations. Applying the refined framework encountered further challenges of: (c) distinguishing the impact of research on processes for using evidence from the use of existing processes to support the use of evidence; (d) distinguishing different types of use or acknowledging their simultaneous use. Each of these issues is addressed below.

7.1 A knowledge accessibility dimension

DFID's focus on 'transparent use' (meaning a systematic review was cited without further evidence of use to develop embedded processes or instrumental use) was applicable not only to a review being used to increase understanding, but also to any citation, many of which were found in searchable databases developed to serve readers in specialist areas. The framework was therefore amended to distinguish these situations by including a distinction between transparent use of evidence to enhance understanding and transparent use of evidence to enhance accessibility. A scale for assessing the depth of impact for transparent changes in knowledge accessibility was added (as set out in Table 1).

Not all examples of reports being cited were eligible as indicative of transparent evidence use. If a report was made publicly available, perhaps as a news item, but neither in a searchable database to enhance access nor interpreting the work to enhance understanding, it was not included as an example of using knowledge or having an impact.

7.2 Refined scales for depth and sustainability

For each type of evidence use, the scope, depth and sustainability of change was described by refining a scale of three levels provided by DFID. Refinements included specifying more precisely the meaning of depth of impact (+ small change in procedures or resources; ++ change in structure, or evidence of uptake, +++ major change in structures, or change in routine); and the meaning of sustainability (+ one discussion event/one discussion document; ++ regular discussions (e.g. +++ Task Force established), Repeated events/sequence of documents); and adding a scale for the depth of impact for transparent changes in knowledge accessibility (as set out in Table 1).

7.3 Adapted for use beyond government

With its definitions and measures of impact developed by DFID, the framework was found to describe use inside government better than use outside government. Adaptations were required to take account of wider impacts by translating the concepts to organisations outside government (e.g. NGOs) (See Table 1). To do this the three point scales for scope, depth and time/sustainability were listed in turn for different types of government impact (transparent understanding, transparent knowledge accessibility, embedded impact, and instrumental use) using the terms and definitions currently employed by DFID's Evidence into Action team. These lists form the left-hand side of Table 1.

The three point scale for scope, depth and time/sustainability for each type of impact were then translated to be applied outside to organisations other than government departments. These are presented in the right-hand side of Table 1. For instance, impact on an individual government department was considered equivalent in scale to impact on an individual NGO (e.g. Practical Action, local NGO in developing country). Impact on a larger scale, such as impact across government departments was considered equivalent to impact across an international NGO, NGO consortia, federations, clusters or networks (e.g. WHO, United Nations, Red Cross & Red Crescent, Oxfam, UNICEF). In terms of sustainability, long-lasting government change (+++), achieved through policy, regulation or law, was considered equivalent to long-lasting change in other organisations through policy, targets, missions or declarations (e.g. Paris Declaration, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). Other points on the sustainability scale (+, ++) designed for government were applicable without amendment to sustainability of change outside of government. Similarly, the whole scale for depth of change designed for government was applicable without amendment to the assessment of depth of change outside of government.

In the course of these amendments, other changes were made at DFID's request, to change 'reform' to 'action', and minor edits to aid flow of reading.

7.4 Adapting the framework for a product focused analysis

In applying the Value of Evidence Use Framework in a document analysis we found that the types of research use identified were not always easily distinguishable, and a single systematic review may have been used in multiple or overlapping ways.

Distinguishing different types of transparent use: When systematic reviews are included in searchable databases, sometimes the only text included is the title and abstract (e.g. NAMATI,²⁶ INCLUDE²⁷). On other occasions new text is provided either to make the findings more accessible (e.g. blogs such as Sanitation Updates²⁸), or to present them alongside the findings of other studies and thereby enhance understanding of a broader set of studies (e.g. GSDRC Topic Guides²⁹). Where no changes have been made to the text, or changes were only to make the findings more readable, inclusion in a searchable database was categorised as enhancing knowledge accessibility. Where changes involved setting the systematic review alongside other studies and drawing conclusions about the combined set, this research use was categorised as both enhancing knowledge accessibility and enhancing understanding.

²⁶ <https://namati.org/resources/the-impact-of-land-property-rights-interventions-on-investment-and-agricultural-productivity-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review/>

²⁷ <https://includeplatform.net/knowledge-portal/impact-economic-resource-transfers-women-versus-men-systematic-review/>

²⁸ <https://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/page/79/?iframe=true&preview=true%2F%3Fcat%3D4355992>

²⁹ <https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides>

Embedded use: distinguishing establishing *new* procedures from applying existing procedures. In its *user-focused* framework for valuing the use of evidence, DFID defined embedded use of evidence as ‘no direct action is taken as a result of evidence, but use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture’. DFID’s examples came from two programmes about research and policy linked to national governments. They illustrate instances of establishing procedures where none existed before. For instance, ‘Following approval of a new Cabinet Manual in Sierra Leone in 2015, the President insisted that all Cabinet memos be submitted using a new evidence-based template, which prompts Ministers to provide evidence in support of proposals’.

In this *product-focused* project, we encountered an example of a systematic review about the use of evidence (Clar et al. 2011) that informed the development of processes for using evidence (Population Council, 2015).

More common in this study is use of research not to establish *new procedures* to embed evidence in decision making, but being used transparently to enhance understanding, or instrumentally, as a consequence of being considered in the course of *existing procedures* that embed evidence in decision making. For instance, a review on adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies (Hulland et al. 2015) was cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health (World Health Organization 2018).

Twelve systematic reviews were considered in the course of UNICEF’s knowledge management processes for producing evidence-gap maps; but only four of these were subsequently used instrumentally in evidence briefs in UNICEF’s key strategy areas (see section on mini case studies below).

In this study we therefore distinguish embedded impact, which is in line with DFID’s definition of embedded use where ‘no direct action is taken as a result of the evidence, but use of evidence *becomes embedded* in processes, systems and working culture’. This is distinguished from embedded use where use of evidence is embedded in existing processes, systems and working culture, but direct action is *not necessarily* taken as a result of the evidence.

Transparent use for understanding and instrumental use for decisions: Some systematic reviews were used simultaneously in two ways: transparently for both enhancing understanding and instrumentally for making decisions. Makkar et al’s (2016) definition of instrumental use of research includes decisions about what to prioritise *and/or* the course of action to take. Where deciding priorities or a course of action depends upon understanding the problem or the potential solutions, there is no clear distinction between transparent use for understanding and instrumental use. Our document analysis found examples where a systematic review informed a decision precisely by offering understanding. For instance, the House of Commons International Development Select Committee in their report on Tackling Corruption Overseas (2015) drew on Hanna et al. (2011) for its definition of corruption. Also, a DFID business case for ‘Making Country Health Systems Stronger’, included a section on understanding gender and equity cited Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem, specifically that because ‘[w]omen are also less likely than their male counterparts to be in formal employment they are less likely to benefit from social insurance schemes providing them with health cover.’

Instrumental and transparent use for enhancing understanding, followed by transparent use for knowledge accessibility: An example of research use spanning these two categories is the GSDRC topics guides. These are commissioned by specific teams and may be used to enhance their own understanding or to inform specific decisions. They are subsequently incorporated into a searchable

database and made publicly available to make knowledge more accessible. They are categorised as both enhancing understanding and enhancing knowledge accessibility. In addition, some systematic reviews are summarised in a GSDRC document library independently of a Topic Guide; these are similarly categorised as enhancing knowledge accessibility and knowledge understanding because the summary of the systematic review has been adapted to suit a policy audience.

Distinguishing instrumental use from tactical use: Tactical research use is where research is used not to make a decision, but to report an issue, to support, legitimate, confirm or justify a predetermined decision, or persuade stakeholders to support or act upon an existing decision (Box 1). DFID's framework does not explicitly mention tactical use, but examples of tactical use may be encompassed by transparent use. Our experience in this study suggests that document analysis alone is probably insufficient to distinguish tactical use from instrumental use. For instance, a DFID business case addendum for skill development in India prepared in 2018, citing Hawkes and Ugur (2012), was prepared with the intention of fulfilling former Prime Minister Theresa May's commitment of £12m to support the Skill India Mission, made during her India visit in November 2016. It is not possible to judge from the documents identified whether that commitment was made with or without considering the available evidence, and whether the business case was developed for a decision about *whether* or *how* to support skill development in India. This is because evidence can sometimes become available for policy decisions before it is published. For instance, as mentioned above, DFID's business case about 'Applied Research in High Volume Transport' named a review that was still ongoing (Burrow et al. 2016). It is possible that the evidence was available early to inform the decision, rather than justify it in hindsight because one of the DFID advisors for this systematic review was a member of DFID's Research Growth Team which submitted the business case.

Use not publicly apparent: Three types of use are likely to be underreported in this study. First, examples of systematic reviews informing new procedures for embedding evidence may be underreported because formal processes for use of evidence, even if documented in the public domain, may not cite the evidence used to inform their development. Second, examples of systematic reviews populating knowledge management systems may have been missed if Google searches used in this study could not reach underpinning databases. Third, systematic reviews may be embedded academic teaching, but many such lists will be distributed to students out of the public domain.

In summary: the framework for assessing the value of use of evidence developed by DFID's Evidence into Action team requires amendments if it is for analysing data from evidence products used rather than data from decision makers, and if it is to be applied to organisations outside of government.

First, the category of transparent use, in a product focused framework, makes better sense if it is divided into transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility and transparent conceptual use for enhancing understanding.

Second, in DFID's framework, the scales for depth and sustainability were incomplete. The scale for depth of impact spanned small (+), medium (++) and large (+++) changes, without any indication of what small, medium or large might mean. Similarly, the time/sustainability scale spanned one-off (+), prolonged (+) and long-lasting (+++).

Third, the different uses were found not to be mutually exclusive. In applying the framework we found that the types of research use identified by a single systematic review may be difficult to distinguish. For instance, transparent use of a review for enhancing understanding, may also be

instrumental use if that enhanced understanding informs a business case or other policy decision. Use of evidence to inform the development of new processes for decision making (embedded use) is followed by use of research by following those processes. This latter research use that results from procedures that embed evidence may only become apparent in a document analysis when instrumental use is identified; other evidence may be considered when procedures are followed, but not necessarily cited in subsequent documents.

Even with these amendments challenges remain. Distinguishing transparent use for enhancing understanding from transparent use to enhance knowledge accessibility required subjective judgements about the degree of clarity and explanation added to any summary made available.

Lastly, information available in a document analysis may be insufficient to distinguish instrumental research use from tactical research use, where research is used not to make a decision, but to report an issue; support, legitimate, confirm or justify a predetermined decision; or persuade stakeholders to support or act upon an existing decision.

8 Discussion

This programme published 86 systematic reviews spanning a broad range of policy sectors between 2010 and 2019. In this section we summarise and discuss the impact we have seen these reviews having in academia and other organisations.

8.1 Summary of findings

The 86 systematic reviews published in this programme span a broad range of policy sectors between 2010 and 2019. The sectors which had the most systematic reviews undertaken (education, business and economics, and health) correspond with those academic disciplines with a long tradition in research synthesis. Most reviews addressed questions of effects or impact of intervention (71), but other reviews investigated associations between exposure and outcomes (10), views or experiences (2), theoretical models (2) or scaling up of interventions (1). Synthesis methods were chosen to suit the question and available data types of questions. Most were mixed methods reviews (47). Others were quantitative syntheses alone (26), qualitative synthesis alone (3), or realist synthesis (2). Most were reviews of primary studies (78), some were systematic reviews of systematic reviews (7) and one was an evidence map with no appraisal or in-depth synthesis of findings (1).

Because the intention was for this programme of reviews to be relevant to DFID's work, authors were encouraged to invite policy makers and other stakeholders with knowledge relevant to the review topic to guide the production process. Policy input was explicitly reported in over half the reviews (Table 3). Basic reporting listed names or roles of stakeholders involved (45 reviews). Some authors reported the methods they used to invite policy input (32 reviews) and others reported the contribution made in response to these invitations (22 reviews).

Impact of policy relevant systematic reviews: The four sectors which had the most systematic reviews undertaken correspond with academic disciplines with a long tradition in research synthesis: education research; business and economics; and health. Most of them were effectiveness reviews; occasionally other types of policy questions were addressed by other synthesis methods.

Policy input into the reviews was underreported by review authors. Nevertheless, this programme of systematic reviews has achieved its second goal of producing systematic reviews as 'public goods' for use beyond DFID. Most reviews have appeared in the academic literature, either as academic outputs (22) or as citations in academic outputs (57). Fewer reviews were found to have been used beyond academia: 21 have informed specific decisions or policies; 10 were considered as part of standardised procedures, such as for academic reading lists, or developing guidelines or business cases; 25 were cited to enhance understanding in non-academic documents; and 21 appeared in portals, maps or databases to enhance knowledge accessibility. No impact was found beyond academia for 39 of the reviews. For 15 of these we found no impact at all, and these were mainly recent publications.

Different types of impact: The academic literature has drawn on some systematic reviews for their substantive findings, and on some for methodological debate. Systematic reviews were cited in specialist knowledge repositories to enhance their accessibility. They were cited by organisations to share new understanding, stimulate thinking and debate, encourage use of evidence or advocate change. Special features of the ways in which the systematic reviews have been used (identified through mini case studies) found that transparent use for enhancing understanding could be very small, such as a small contribution to a business plan, or substantial, such as a informing development of major initiatives or to facilitate debate. Systematic reviews were used

instrumentally to justify an argument or a general statement. Findings from systematic reviews did not necessarily drive new policy decisions. Some of them were used to support existing policy or political interest. In evidence informed guidelines developed for global consideration, systematic reviews were cited alongside other evidence.

Timescales for impact: Some systematic reviews first appeared in the literature beyond academia in the year of publication, but more appeared in the following few years, with some appearing for the first time seven years after publication. Immediate impact, within the same year, beyond academia was possible when (a) reviews were quickly re-packaged by organisations with a mission to collate evidence and make evidence readily available; (b) reviews were used 'locally' by stakeholders involved in the review production; or (c) reviews were the focus of a development controversy and therefore quickly attracted attention. Later impact suggests the systematic review reports had a long shelf-life or were 'sustainable'.

The different uses of these 47 reviews were either one-off (14), prolonged through recurrent discussions (13) or sustained by changes being incorporated into policy, regulation or law, missions or declarations (21). Therefore, not only could some reports sustain their value (paragraph above), but some of the changes they influenced were also sustainable.

Learning from the linear model of knowledge exchange: When reviews reported specific implications for policy and listed them clearly, fewer were seen having transparent impact for enhancing understanding, and more were having instrumental impact in decision making. There was no difference in knowledge accessibility or any difference in impact overall. When reviews reported research recommendations clearly, more of them were published or cited subsequently in peer reviewed journals, and more were seen having instrumental impact in decision making. No difference in impact was seen for knowledge accessibility.

Learning from the relationship model of knowledge exchange: When reviews reported policy input into their preparation, more of them had impact beyond academia, more were included in resources to enhance knowledge accessibility, and more were embedded into procedures or resources for decision making. However, there was little or no difference in the instrumental use. In contrast, there was no difference in academic impact whether or not reviews reported policy input into their preparation.

Learning from the systems model: DFID is investing in: individual staff within the department (time and skills); systematic review teams (guidance and support); the department's institutional capacity (resources, templates, procedures and senior support); and the wider system (publishing systematic reviews on R4D to make them widely accessible; and keeping abreast of systematic review methodology and preparing further guidance). However, less attention has been paid to the skills required to help change happen; in this case, knowledge brokering skills to help systematic reviews become more policy-relevant, and to help decisions become better informed by systematic reviews. Similarly, although DFID accepted Rose and Battock's (2012) recommendation to complement publication on R4D with developing and coordinating systematic repositories or portals, access routes remain fragmented.

Achieving programme goals: The immediate goal of this programme was its second goal, to support the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods. This was achieved by systematic review reports being made public on R4D, and some of them also appeared as papers in academic journals. Their value as public goods is apparent from many of them being used to inform decisions by international organisations. Support for the production of these public goods was

through funding of research teams, provision of methodological support, and time devoted by DFID policy teams and the knowledge brokering skills of the programme lead.

The first or primary goal of the programme was to build support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making. Although there is no before-and-after data to show such an increase, our analysis has revealed that, where support from policy teams was acknowledged in reports, systematic reviews were more likely to be cited to inform policy decisions.

The third goal of making it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy by using systematic reviews was achieved by: (a) making systematic review reports publicly available; (b) preparation of executive summaries by review teams; and (c) a How To Note offering guidance for incorporating evidence into DFID business plans.

Whether the last goal of increasing value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works has been achieved is unclear because there is no before-and-after data. However, we found some DFID decisions have been informed by evidence of why intervention is needed, why intervention is expected to work, how well specific interventions work and whether the evidence is strong, medium or limited.

The framework for assessing the value of use of evidence developed by DFID's Evidence into Action team was inadequate for a document analysis that included government and non-government organisations. It does not distinguish two types of transparent use: use for enhancing understanding and use for enhancing accessibility. The scales for assessing depth and sustainability are incomplete. In a product focused framework, the different types of impact are not mutually exclusive. Conceptual use of a review, for enhancing understanding, may also be instrumental use if that enhanced understanding informs a business case or other policy decision. Use embedded in normal procedures for considering evidence in decision making may be a step towards instrumental impact. Tactical use of research has been overlooked, and may be indistinguishable from instrumental use in a document analysis.

8.2 Strengths and limitations of the study

This study investigated whether systematic reviews commissioned by DFID have an impact on academia and more widely. It also investigated factors that theories of how research is used suggest may influence that impact. It benefitted from critical questions posed by DFID staff who brought direct experience of commissioning systematic reviews and working with policy teams. As a result, it offers learning about how to assess impact, and factors that influence impact.

The framework for analysis: Analysis began with the Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence developed by DFID. This framework was expanded and refined to apply it to analyse use of research by organisations outside government (e.g. NGOs).

We encountered other limitations in applying the framework to a document analysis without further information from those directly involved about how systematic reviews were used. The framework used to describe impact required considerable interpretation to categorise different types of impact. Distinctions between instrumental, understanding and embedded are not clear cut. While a systematic review may inform policy debates and enhance understanding during those policy debates, documents do not make clear whether this is instrumental use or not.

The meaning of 'depth' when assessing changes in procedures or resources (small change) or structures as evidence of uptake of change, is more readily applied to instrumental use than transparent or embedded use.

Sustainability was also difficult to interpret when the only evidence available was about the decision, and not whether it was implemented. Some changes require a long-term investment before the desired outcome can be achieved (e.g. investing in education). Other changes may occur quickly but not be sustained.

Accuracy of estimating impact: It is likely that the figures reported underestimate the use of these systematic reviews for three reasons. First, searching for impact is not easy. Some organisations do not cite the evidence they use to inform policy/programme decisions, or citations may be unconventional, making electronic searching difficult. Second, this study offers examples of impact arising from use of systematic reviews, all drawn from the public domain. It therefore cannot estimate the scale of this impact overall because it may not be routine for organisations to publish significant changes in their internal processes or the evidence used to inform that. Third, some systematic reviews may have been considered during a decision making process, but their use in deciding not to follow a particular route was not documented. Conversely, the impact of systematic reviews may be overestimated because their degree of influence may have been very small compared to other factors considered during decision making; an issue that cannot be readily seen from the documents alone.

Examples of transparent use for enhancing knowledge accessibility were first identified through Google searches of the review titles. Then review titles in Evidence AID, 3ie's database and the Campbell-UNICEF Mega-Map were inspected to identify reviews from this programme. Social Systems Evidence was searched for development reviews. However, this approach did not work for the International Rescue Committee's Evidence and Outcomes Framework, so is unlikely to have identified all examples of publicly accessible repositories holding systematic reviews from this programme.

We investigated a linear pathway whereby academic publication leads to wider impact by: giving systematic reviews a higher profile; raising their quality through the peer review system; and thereby also raising their credibility. However, it is not possible to draw conclusions because the data about wider impact is better curated for academic papers which are published with a DOI³⁰ which facilitates links to wider impact automatically.

Association not causation: The findings recognise an association between impact beyond academia and the clarity of reporting implications for policy and recommendations of research. However, these associations do not offer evidence of clearer reporting causing greater impact.

Policy impact, not population impact: The examples of instrumental use of systematic reviews relate to policy decisions without considering whether those policy decisions lead to the ultimate desirable population outcomes, such as reduced poverty. This downstream impact was apparent in only one example where a systematic review of education, skills and economic growth (Hawkes and Ugur 2012) provided the leading piece of evidence to justify extending a 'skills for jobs' programme in India. Both the business case addendum in 2018 and the annual report, published on the Research for Development site, focus on the number of young people trained as a result of DFID intervention, both directly and indirectly.

³⁰ A digital object identifier (DOI) is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when your article is published and made available electronically.

8.3 Relating findings to the wider literature

Building on recommendations of earlier independent programme review: In their independent evaluation of the programme, Rose and Battock (2012) made a number of recommendations, which DFID accepted, that also find support from this study and elsewhere.

They recommended strengthening the relationship between the policy lead and the review team through greater continuity and the support of a knowledge broker. A systematic review cites studies of knowledge brokers working with stakeholders to translate practice, management or policy gaps into operationalisable research questions (Bornbaum et al. 2015).

Their recommendations for taking care with question selection and assessing the capacity and capability of review teams are supported by a study that interviewed systematic reviewers and policy makers (Oliver et al. 2017). Findings from this work suggest ways to overcome the disconnect that Rose and Battock (2012) saw between the research and policy communities. In particular:

No review methodology was found to be uniquely appropriate for policy-relevant systematic reviews. It was the mutual engagement across the research-policy interface that made the reviews policy-relevant. This involved thinking about the issues and seeing them from multiple viewpoints to identify and shape questions; this prompted implicit or explicit value-driven debates. The intellectual work to shape a policy-relevant systematic review is an iterative, collective endeavour that requires partners from either side of the policy-research interface to engage with the unfamiliar, listen, challenge and co-construct questions and answers (Oliver et al. 2017).

Rose and Battock also recommended that DFID keep abreast of external work on methodology. DFID's Centre for Excellence in Development Impact and Learning commissioned a paper on approaches to evidence synthesis in international development; the full paper, published on their website (Oliver et al. 2017) was followed by a shorter paper emphasising a methods research agenda (Oliver et al. 2018).

Conceptualising use of research and research impact: DFID's interest in how the research it commissions is used, and the difference it makes, complements a wider agenda for Higher Education in the UK (Table 17). DFID's choice of 'transparent use', being wider than the 'conceptual use', placed greater emphasis during data collection and analysis for this study on knowledge management systems than is apparent in the framework used by the UK's Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Conversely, while knowledge management is a crucial element for building the capacity of a research and research use system (Oliver et al. 2015), this is overlooked by the National Coordinating Council for Public Engagement (NCCPE). With funding from HEFCE to support universities to increase the quality and impact of their public engagement activity, NCCPE emphasises the skills of individuals and collaborative networks rather than knowledge infrastructure³¹.

³¹ <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/about-us/vision-mission-and-aims>

Table 17: Comparing DFID and UK Higher Education terms and definitions for research used and impact

	Academic use	Non-academic use			
		Transparent use		Embedded use	Instrumental use
DFID's definitions for how evidence is usedⁱ	--	Increased understanding by policymakers	Increased transparent use of (bodies of) evidence by policymakers	No direct action is taken as a result of the evidence, but use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture.	Knowledge from robust evidence is used directly to inform policy or programme.
Outcomes of evidence use in this report	Academic knowledge Academic teaching	Understanding of issues	Accessibility of knowledge	System for using evidence	Guidelines Business case Strategy/policy
Systematic review impact data in this report	Cited in journal article Cited in reading list	Cited in a document about a policy issue	Cited in a knowledge management system	Cited in a document informing processes for using evidence	Cited in a document informing policies or programmes
HEFCE terms for assessing impact	REF ⁱⁱ : research rigour, significance & reach TEF ⁱⁱⁱ : research-informed teaching.	Conceptual impact	Capacity building		Instrumental impact
NCCPE terms when analysing impact case studies	--	Conceptual impact <input type="checkbox"/> Changed understandings <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced learning and reflection <input type="checkbox"/> Increased empathy	Capacity building <input type="checkbox"/> Increased participation and progression <input type="checkbox"/> New skills <input type="checkbox"/> Changed behaviours <input type="checkbox"/> New or strengthened networks <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced well-being		Instrumental impact on <input type="checkbox"/> Standards/regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability regimes <input type="checkbox"/> Products and services <input type="checkbox"/> Policies <input type="checkbox"/> Planning processes <input type="checkbox"/> Public realm and environment

9 Conclusions

Systematic reviews in international development are relatively recent, with almost none available in 2000 and only 100 or so a decade later when the DFID Systematic Review component of the PREP programme was set up. Between 2010 and 2019 this programme published 86 systematic reviews spanning a broad range of policy sectors. Overall, the programme has been found to have an observable impact on both the academic literature, and on stakeholders beyond academia.

When it was established, the systematic review programme had four goals; (1) building support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making; (2) supporting the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods; (3) making it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy by using systematic reviews; and (4) to increase the value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works.

This study has explored how efforts to achieve the second goal (the PREP programme commissioning research teams and methodological support teams to produce systematic reviews and then making them publicly available on the Research for Development website) link with the first and third goals (making evidence informed decisions or developing evidence informed policy). It also focuses on whether decisions are based on a rigorous understanding of what works (the fourth goal) but does not focus on the value for money for policy, which would require a far more extensive analysis than is possible within the time available.

The first or primary goal of the programme was to **build support for the use of systematic reviews to increase evidence-informed decision making**. Twenty one systematic reviews produced by this programme led to examples of instrumental use of evidence, whereby the reviews were used to inform a policy/programming decision within DFID and or other organisations. Although there is no before-and-after data to show whether this constitutes an increase, our analysis has revealed that where support from policy teams was acknowledged in reports, systematic reviews were more likely to be cited to inform policy decisions. As such, this goal can be seen to have been achieved.

The second goal was to support **the creation and dissemination of systematic reviews as public goods**. This was achieved by systematic review reports being made publicly available on R4D and some of them also appearing as papers in academic journals. Their value as public goods is apparent from many of them being used to inform decisions by international organisations. Support for the production of these public goods was through funding of research teams, provision of methodological support, and time devoted by DFID policy teams and knowledge brokering skills of the programme lead.

The third goal of **making it easier for policy makers and practitioners to develop evidence informed policy** by using systematic reviews was achieved by: (a) making systematic review reports publicly available; (b) preparation of executive summaries by review teams; and (c) a How To Note offering guidance for incorporating evidence into DFID business plans.

Whether the last, ultimate, goal of **increasing value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works** has been achieved is unclear because there is no before-and-after data. However, we found some DFID decisions have been informed by evidence of why intervention is needed, why intervention is expected to work, how well specific interventions work and whether the evidence is strong, medium or limited.

10 Recommendations

Bearing in mind the findings of this study, recommendations by Rose and Battock (2012) from their independent evaluation of the programme, and the wider literature, we make the following recommendations.

Strengthening clarity and relevance of reports for policy: As those systematic reviews that clearly drew out implications for policy and recommendations for research were the same reviews that had greater impact beyond academia, we recommend greater effort be invested to explicitly carve out policy implications from the study findings at appropriate points in the report. Similarly, as reviews explicitly reporting policy input into their preparation also had greater impact beyond academia, we recommend that this activity and its reporting is seen as a priority when commissioning systematic reviews. Reporting of policy inputs could be mandated as 'best practice' in report preparation, with discussions between research teams and policy teams when setting the question, developing the conceptual framework and drawing out the implications of emerging findings.

Both clarity and relevance may be enhanced by report templates having prompts for drawing out implications for policy and recommendations for research. In addition to templates to support review teams' thinking, we recommend that they work particularly closely with policy teams when translating policy interests into answerable questions, and when drawing out the implications for policy and recommendations for research. This requires greater knowledge brokering skills amongst policy teams and research teams, not only amongst staff with a knowledge broker title. The aim of these skills is to achieve collective, creative thinking to identify and shape policy relevant questions and draw out policy relevant implications and research recommendations.

Encouraging a broader understanding of systematic reviews and their methods: As most systematic reviews in this programme included mixed research methods, and DFID has already accepted a commitment to keep abreast of methodological advances, both review teams and policy teams need to appreciate the diverse methods of research synthesis and how to choose between them (Gough et al. 2012, 2019; Oliver et al. 2017, 2018a).

A broader understanding of systematic reviewing also extends the concept from a technical enterprise to a social and technical one. It combines both the technical aspects of framing a clear and manageable question with the interpersonal communication between researchers and research users, including both academics and policy makers. The technical enterprise involves drawing on firm methodological foundations to ensure confidence in how findings are derived. The social enterprise involves maximising what can be learnt from a body of literature by drawing on multiple stakeholders using methods to support collaborative working (Oliver et al. 2018b). DFID's Centre for Excellence in Development Impact and Learning has already commissioned guidance for engaging stakeholders with systematic reviews and impact evaluations. We recommend that the importance of this aspect of the work is routinely emphasised and guidance signposted alongside any mention of the technical aspects of systematic review methods.

Enhancing knowledge infrastructure: To complement the investment in interpersonal skills and networks, which is currently seen across UK higher education, there is also a need to invest in the knowledge infrastructure to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of identifying systematic reviews and primary studies. Given the breadth of DFID's interest in development across policy sectors, and the fragmentation of studies across multiple repositories for systematic reviews or primary studies across this scope, we recommend drawing on 3ie's newly launched evidence hub for

systematic reviews and impact evaluations.³² In time, identifying other types of primary studies for mixed methods systematic reviews will be more feasible once ongoing research is further advanced for interrogating Microsoft Academic³³. This source will be more up-to-date than 3ie's evidence portal, but will not offer critically appraised content.³⁴

Tracking the impact of systematic reviews: Rose and Battock (2012) recommended that use of systematic review evidence, notably in business cases and policy submissions, be systematically monitored. However, DFID's Research for Development portal does not have the necessary functionality to search business cases for the reviews they cite. We recommend developing greater searching functionality in R4D to identify where evidence has been used in business cases, and in subsequent project reports to justify or redirect policy initiatives.

A complementary approach is to encourage publication of DFID funded systematic reviews in academic journals where papers are published online with a digital object identifier (DOI). This unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the internet, can be used in combination with an Altmetric system that tracks the papers' impact on social media, traditional media, blogs and online reference managers.

The framework for assessing the value of use of evidence developed by DFID's Evidence into Action team is insufficient if it is to be applied to the evidence products used rather than the evidence product users, and if it is to be applied to organisations outside of government. We recommend incorporating the amendments made during this project to make it more widely applicable. The scale for assessing sustainability needs further refinement to distinguish how long individual systematic reviews continue to be useful from how long the ensuing changes are maintained.

³² <https://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub>

³³ <https://academic.microsoft.com/home>

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr8JlCdNqR0>

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Appendix 1: Definitions and measures of impact

Evidence into Action Team Framework for Valuing the Use of Evidence

At DFID, VfM value for money (VfM) is approached using the 4E's: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. Effectiveness involves measuring *outcomes/impact*, however approaches or guidelines on applying this thinking to research use and Evidence into Action (EiA)³⁵ work more generally are lacking. A framework that could contain all potential impacts, such as the below, could be helpful in determining impact of EiA programmes, but could also be applied to determine where there is strong evidence to support DFID intervention and where there are gaps in our understanding. This is the team's Policy Evidence Mapping (PEM) work which connects research and policy. Led by the Evidence into Action team, it is a rigorous, adaptable process, tailored to the needs of the teams involved, and involves collaboration between policy and research colleagues across four stages: Understanding the problem, prioritization of research questions, designing and commissioning research, embedding into policy action. Having a common framework across projects could help streamline Logframe indicators, and case studies, as well as communications work.

Over the past years, DFID has worked on a number of internal and external papers on the impact of evidence more generally such as *The Value of Evaluation*³⁶, and *What is the evidence on the impact of research on international development?*³⁷. At the same time several academic papers have been published on the issue (see Stetler CB (2010)³⁸ and King's College London (2014)³⁹, among others⁴⁰).

The objective of this work is to bring together these sources in a framework that is applicable to EiA work. As opposed to most of the cited literature, the EiA framework specifically focuses on the various different ways in which the *use* of evidence in policymaking generates value, so it is user- and not product-focused, meaning it doesn't capture all of the value aspects of a *product-* focused approach. However, non-use related value aspects (eg. contributing to the global public good, accountability focus for evaluations etc.) are relevant for Evaluation Department and other RED [Research and Evidence Division] teams, and could be integrated below.

*Please see link for the *From Poverty To Power (FP2P)* blog [here](#).

³⁵ FCDO's Evidence into Action (EiA) team is a team within FCDO's Evidence and Capability Department

³⁶ Barr J, Rinnert D, Lloyd R, Dunne D, Henttinen A. (2016) *The Value of Evaluation: Tools for Budgeting and Valuing Evaluations*. Itad and DFID.

³⁷ DFID (2014) *What is the Evidence on the Impact of Research on International Development?*, DFID Paper

³⁸ Stetler CB (2010). Chapter 3: Stetler Model. In J. Rycroft-Malone & T. Bucknall (Eds.), *Models and frameworks for implementing evidence-based practice: Linking evidence to action*. Evidence-based Practice Series. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.

³⁹ *The Nature Scale and Impact of Research Beneficiaries* (2014) King's College London <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policy-institute/publications/Analysis-of-REF-impact.pdf>

⁴⁰ Picciotto, R (1999) *Towards an Economics of Evaluation*. *Evaluation*, Vol 5(1): 7–22.

Shah NB et al. (2015) *Evaluations with impact. Decision-focused impact evaluation as a practical policymaking tool*. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

Measuring Effectiveness: The Value of the Use of Evidence in Policymaking⁴¹

	Transparent Use	Embedded Use	Instrumental Use
Description	Increased a) understanding and b) transparent use of (bodies of) evidence by policymakers.	No direct action is taken as a result of the evidence, but use of evidence becomes embedded in processes, systems and working culture.	Knowledge from robust evidence is used directly to inform policy or programme.
Examples	<p>Evidence Lessons for Latin America (ELLA): ELLA research on the need of pastoralists and the environmental sustainability of collective access rights was discussed and critically assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>Scope⁴²: ++ one government department</p> <p>Depth⁴³: + small change</p> <p>Sustainability⁴⁴: + one-off discussion</p> <p>PEM Example: DFID leads acknowledge evidence gaps in key policy documents; commitment has been made to address them in transparent manner.</p> <p>Scope: +++ inter government, policy teams and country offices</p> <p>Depth: +relatively small change in process</p> <p>Sustainability: +relatively small change in process</p>	<p>ELLA: Ministry of Agriculture sets up a task force to hold periodic meetings to discuss evidence on the upcoming land rights bill: specifically with regards to the debate on pastoral rights.</p> <p>Scope: ++ one government department</p> <p>Depth: ++ creation of a task force</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ task force meets periodically</p> <p>Building Capacity for Use of Evidence (BCURE): Following approval of a new Cabinet Manual in Sierra Leone in 2015, the President insisted that all Cabinet memos be submitted using a new evidence-based template, which prompts Ministers to provide evidence in support of proposals.</p> <p>Scope: +++ across government departments</p> <p>Depth: ++ updated memo template used</p> <p>Sustainability: ++evidence suggests this will be a prolonged change</p>	<p>ELLA: The research recommendations have been accommodated in the new land bill. Three ELLA awardees have been closely involved in implementation of the new law.</p> <p>Scope: +++ national level</p> <p>Depth: ++ size of pastoral population</p> <p>Sustainability: + one-off change</p> <p>BCURE: Harvard’s visualisation work with Punjab’s tax authority created a clear channel for the uptake of tax evidence and data that would have otherwise gone unused.</p> <p>Scope: ++ one state, local government body</p> <p>Depth: ++ Impact / size of effect on population reached</p> <p>Sustainability: + one-off change</p>

⁴¹ For the purpose of this framework evidence is understood as a rigorous (as per DFID quality standards) body of facts or information indicating whether or not a proposition or belief is true or valid. As such, evidence can include monitoring, evaluation, research, analysis of statistical datasets, political economy analysis and other forms of analysed data. These examples are hypothetical.

⁴² **Scope: The array of policymakers** (individuals / organisations / institutions) impacted by the reform – is it far reaching across actors in its effect? + individuals, ++departmental / +++cross government

⁴³ **Depth (Impact of Change):** How large is the effect size of the reform? Is it a substantial change in the way things were previously done? For transparent and embedded use this is not only about procedural changes but the uptake of the changes, for instrumental use we are more concerned with impact on reducing poverty + small change, ++medium, +++substantial

⁴⁴ **Time/Sustainability:** How long-lasting / sustainable is the change in the use of evidence? + one-off, ++ prolonged, +++ long-lasting

Appendix 2:

Initial coding scheme to analysis evidence products and impact

1. Bibliographic data: authors, title, webpage
2. Review facility support
 - a. EPPI-Centre
 - b. Cochrane
 - c. Campbell Collaboration
 - d. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence
 - e. MAER-Net
3. Hosted by public databases
 - a. 3ie database of systematic reviews
 - b. Health Systems Evidence
 - c. Social Systems Evidence
 - d. Campbell Library
 - e. Cochrane Library
 - f. Environmental Evidence
 - g. DFID Research for Development
 - h. EPPI-Centre
4. Original report complemented by subsequent journal article (yes/no)
5. Programme of work: DFID London; DFID South Asia Research Hub
6. Evidence product
 - a. Effectiveness review
 - b. Evidence summary/review of reviews
 - c. Qualitative evidence synthesis
7. Policy sectors of review questions
 - a. Investment, growth and jobs
 - i. Human capital and growth
 - ii. Trade and financial liberalisation
 - iii. Contract enforcement, property rights
 - iv. Foreign investment and technological innovation
 - v. Labour regulation
 - vi. Government policy and income
 - b. Agricultural productivity
 - c. Human development: Education
 - i. Teacher performance
 - ii. Toilets in schools
 - iii. Paying for education
 - iv. School accountability
 - v. Decentralising decision making to schools
 - d. Health care and nutrition
 - i. Health service delivery
 - ii. Socioeconomic status and disease
 - iii. Reproductive, maternal and neonatal healthcare
 - iv. Evidence-informed policy-making in health care
 - v. Nutrition

- e. Social protection and social inclusion
 - i. Cash transfers and Employment Guarantee Schemes
 - f. Climate, environment and energy
 - i. Climate change and effects
 - ii. Water resource management
 - iii. Energy technologies and services
 - g. Paris Principles and Aid Effectiveness
 - h. Humanitarian emergencies
 - i. Governance
 - i. Corruption and anti-corruption
 - ii. Non-State providers in post-conflict and fragile states in primary healthcare service delivery
 - j. Infrastructure investments
 - i. Services and utilities
 - ii. Rural roads
 - iii. Traffic
8. Policy input acknowledged in report (yes/no)
 9. Strength of evidence
 10. Geographic scope of evidence
 11. Type of impact
 - a. **Transparent use: Increased understanding and transparent use of (bodies of) evidence** by policymakers.
 - b. **Embedded impact:** No direct action is taken as a result of the evidence, but **use of evidence becomes embedded** in processes, systems and working culture.
 - c. **Instrumental use:** Knowledge from robust **evidence is used directly to inform policy** or programme.
 12. Scope and significance of impact
 - a. **Scope: The array of policymakers** (individuals/organisations/institutions) impacted by the reform - is it far reaching across actors in its effect? + individuals, ++ departmental / +++ cross government
 - b. **Local use:** directly linked to stakeholder engaged in review production
 - c. **Depth (Impact of Change):** How large is the effect size of the reform? Is it a substantial change in the way things were previously done? For transparent and embedded use this is not only about procedural changes but the uptake of the changes, for instrumental use we are more concerned with impact on reducing poverty + small change, ++ medium, +++ substantial
 - d. **Time/Sustainability:** How long-lasting / sustainable is the change in the use of evidence? + one-off, ++ prolonged, +++ long-lasting

Appendix 3: Systematic reviews cited in academia

Systematic reviews were cited in both academic research literature and academic teaching

Systematic reviews cited in academic research literature

(The colours in this table distinguish those reviews that were cited **over 100 times**, **11-100 times**, **1-10 times** and 0 times)

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Duvendack et al. (2011) What is the evidence of the impact of microfinance on the well-being of poor people?	395	None found	--	No data	No data
Stewart et al. (2010) What is the impact of microfinance on poor people? A systematic review of evidence from sub-Saharan Africa.	168	van Rooyen C, Stewart R, de Wet T (2012) The Impact of Microfinance in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review of the Evidence. World Development 40 (11) 2249-2262	302	PlumX Metrics: Citation Indexes = 131 (Scopus = 131; Crossref = 101) Captures = 767 (Readers on Mendeley = 566; Exports-Saves = 201; EBSCO = 201) Mentions = 4 (News Mentions = 4)	https://plu.mx/plum/a/?doi=10.1016/j.worlddev.2012.03.012&theme=plum-sciencedirect-theme&hideUsage=true

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Social Media = 45 (Shares, Likes & Comments/Facebook= 25; Tweets/Twitter = 20)	
Masset et al. (2011) What is the impact of agricultural interventions on the nutritional status of children?	143	Masset E, Haddad L, Cornelius A, Isaza-Castro J. (2012) Effectiveness of agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children: systematic review BMJ 344 :d8222	264	Data here: https://app.dimensions.ai/details/publication/pub.1039683595	No data
Yoong et al. (2012) The impact of economic resource transfers to women versus men: a systematic review. Technical report.	114	None found	--	No data	No data
Stewart et al(2012) Do micro-credit, micro-savings and micro-leasing serve as effective financial inclusion interventions enabling poor people, and especially women,	102	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
to engage in meaningful economic opportunities in low- and middle-income countries? A systematic review of the evidence.					
Cole et al. (2012) The effectiveness of index-based micro-insurance in helping smallholders manage weather-related risks.	85	None found	--	No data	No data
Ugur et al. (2011) Evidence on the economic growth impacts of corruption in low-income countries and beyond: a systematic review (2011)	73	None found	--	No data	No data
Birdthistle et al.(2011) What impact does the provision of separate	67	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
toilets for girls at schools have on their primary and secondary school enrolment, attendance and completion? A systematic review of the evidence (2011)					
Lawry et al. et al. (2014) The impact of land property rights interventions on investment and agricultural productivity in developing countries: a systematic review. Campbell Systematic Reviews 2014:1 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2014.1.	67	Lawry S, Samii C, Hall R, Leopold A, Hornby D, Mtero F (2017) The impact of land property rights interventions on investment and agricultural productivity in developing countries: a systematic review. Journal of Development Effectiveness , 9(1), 1-21 https://doi.org/10.1080/19439342.2016.1160947	42	Views = 1380 Citations: Crossref = 19 Web of Science = 15 Scopus = 21 Dimensions Badge: Total Citations = 42 Recent Citations = 37 Field Citation Ratio = 34.09	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19439342.2016.1160947#metrics-content This publication in Journal of Development Effectiveness has been cited 42 times. 88% of its citations have been received in the past two years, which is higher than you might expect, suggesting that it is currently receiving a lot of interest. Compared to other publications in the same field, this publication is extremely highly

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				<p>Altmetrics: Score = 30 Mentioned by: Blogs = 2 Policy sources = 2 Tweeters = 17 Readers on Mendeley = 247 Geographical breakdown: Italy = 18% (3 count) Myanmar = 6% (1 count) United Kingdom = 6% (1 count) Malawi = 6% (1 count) United States = 6% (1 count) South Africa = 6% (1 count) Unknown = 53% (9 count)</p>	<p>cited and has received approximately 34 times more citations than average. https://app.dimensions.ai/details/publication/pub.1022194384</p> <p>Altmetric In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric One of the highest-scoring outputs from this source (#10 of 173) High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (93rd percentile) High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (83rd percentile) https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/6609661</p>

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Demographic breakdown: Members of the public = 82% (14 count) Practitioners (doctors, other healthcare professionals) = 6% (1 count) Scientists = 6% (1 count) Science communicators (journalists, bloggers, editors) = 6% (1 count)	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19439342.2016.1160947#metrics-content
Puzzolo et al. (2013) Factors influencing the large-scale uptake by households of cleaner and more efficient household energy technologies	53	Stanistreet D, Puzzolo E, Bruce N, Pope D, Rehfuess E (2014) Factors Influencing Household Uptake of Improved Solid Fuel Stoves in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Qualitative Systematic Review. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2014, 11(8), 8228-8250; https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph110808228	28	Dimensions Badge: Citations = 28 Recent citations = 23 Field Citation Ratio = 5.21 Relative Citation Ratio = 1.23 Altmetrics:	Dimensions Badge: This publication has been cited 28 times. 82% of its citations have been received in the past two years, which is higher than you might expect, suggesting that it is currently receiving a lot of interest. Compared to other publications in the same field, this publication is extremely highly

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Score = 2 Tweepsters = 2 Readers on Mendeley = 85	cited and has received approximately 5.21 times more citations than average. https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1003940895 Altmetrics: Average Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age Average Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/2785038
Acharya et al. (2012) Impact of national health insurance for the poor and the informal sector in low- and middle-income	50	Acharya et al. (2013) The Impact of Health Insurance Schemes for the Informal Sector in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A	128		In the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
countries: a systematic review (2012)		Systematic Review. World Bank Research Observer 28 (2) 236-266			Good Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (78th percentile)
Pande et al. (2012) Does poor people's access to formal banking services raise their incomes?	49	None found	--	No data	No data
Kabeer et al. (2012) What are the economic impacts of conditional cash transfer programmes? A systematic review of the evidence.	48	Kabeer N & Waddington H (2015) Economic impacts of conditional cash transfer programmes: a systematic review and meta-analysis, Journal of Development Effectiveness, 7:3, 290-303, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2015.1068833	15	Views=856 Dimensions: Citations: Crossref = 15 Web of Science = 13 Scopus = 16	Dimensions: This publication in Journal of Development Effectiveness has been cited 15 times. 80% of its citations have been received in the past two years, which is higher than you might expect, suggesting that it is currently receiving a lot of interest. Compared to other publications in the same field, this publication is extremely highly cited and has received

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Altmeteric: News outlet= 1 Blog = 1 Tweeter = 1 Readers on Mendeley = 14	approximately 6.71 times more citations than average. https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1031296327 Altmeterics: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19439342.2015.1068833#metrics-content
Watson et al. (2012) What are the major barriers to increased use of modern energy services among the world's poorest people and are interventions to overcome these effective?	43	None found	--	No Data	No data
Westhorp et al. (2014) Enhancing community	43	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
accountability, empowerment and education outcomes in low and middle-income countries: A realist review					
Hagen-Zanker et al. (2012) Systematic Review of the Impact of Employment Guarantee Schemes and Cash Transfers on the Poor	40	None found	--	No data	No data
Knox et al. (2011) What are the projected impacts of climate change on food crop productivity in Africa and South Asia	40	None found	--	No data	No data
Meyer et al. (2011) The impact of vouchers on the use	39	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
and quality of health goods and services in developing countries: A systematic review					
Montagu et al. (2011) Private versus public strategies for health service provision for improving health outcomes in resource-limited settings	37	None found	--	No data	No data
Dangour et al. (2013) Can nutrition be promoted through agriculture-led food price policies? A systematic review.	34	Dangour AD, Hawkesworth S, Shankar B, et al. (2013) Can nutrition be promoted through agriculture-led food price policies? A systematic review BMJ Open 3:e002937. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2013-002937	34	No data	No data
Hanna et al. 2011 The effectiveness of anti-corruption policy: what has worked, what hasn't, and what we don't know	34	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Condon and Stern (2010) The effectiveness of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in increasing trade from least developed countries: a systematic review	30	None found	--	No data	No data
Geldof et al. (2011) What are the key lessons of ICT4D partnerships for poverty reduction?	30	None found	--	No data	No data
Guerrero et al. (2012) What works to improve teacher attendance in developing countries? A systematic review (2012)	28	None found	--	No data	No data
McCorrison et al. (2013) What is the Evidence	26	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
of the Impact of Agricultural Trade Liberalisation on Food Security in Developing Countries? A Systematic Review					
Hulland et al. (2015) What factors affect sustained adoption of safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies? A systematic review of literature.	25	Martin NA, Hulland KRS, Dreibelbis R, Sultana F, Winch PJ (2018) Sustained adoption of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions: systematic review. Tropical Medicine & International Health 23 (2) https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13011	2	Dimensions badge: Citations = 2 Recent Citations = 2 Altmetrics: Score = 10 Tweeters = 12 Facebook page = 1 Readers on Mendeley = 53 Geographical breakdown United States = 25% (3 count)	Dimensions Badge: This publication in Tropical Medicine & International Health has been cited two times. It is too early to compare the number of citations this publication has received so far to other publications in the same field. Dimensions can usually start to do this two years after publication. https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1092829913 Altmetrics:

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Bangladesh = 17% (2 count) United Kingdom = 17% (2 count) Netherlands = 8% (1 count) India = 8% (1 count) Demographic breakdown Members of the public=8 Practitioners (doctors, other healthcare professionals) =3 Scientists = 1	In the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (83rd percentile) High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (90th percentile) https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/29242083
Barakat et al. (2012) What is the track record of multi donor trust funds in improving aid effectiveness? An assessment of the available evidence.	21	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Cirera et al. (2011) What is the evidence of the impact of tariff reductions on employment and fiscal revenue in developing countries?	19	None found	--	No data	No data
Johnson et al. (2011) What is the evidence that scarcity and shocks in freshwater resources cause conflict instead of promoting collaboration?	15	None found	--	No data	No data
Morgan et al. (2013) A systematic review of the evidence of the impact of school voucher programmes in developing countries.	14	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Posthumus et al. (2012) A systematic review on the impacts of capacity strengthening of agricultural research systems for development and the conditions of success.	14	None found	--	No data	No data
Eddy-Spicer et al. (2015) Under what conditions do inspection, monitoring and assessment improve system efficiency, service delivery and learning outcomes for the poorest and most marginalised? A realist synthesis of school accountability in low- and middle-income countries.	12	Ehren M, Eddy-Spicer D, Bangpan M, Reid R (2017) School inspections in low- and middle-income countries: Explaining impact and mechanisms of impact, Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education, 47:4, 468-482, DOI: 10.1080/03057925.2016.1239188	3	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Holmes et al. (2013) What is the evidence on the impact of employment creation on stability and poverty reduction in fragile states: A systematic review	12	None found	--	No data	No data
Kingdon et al. (2013) Are contract teachers and para-teachers a cost-effective intervention to address teacher shortage and improve learning outcomes?	12	None found	--	No data	No data
Carr et al. (2011) What is the evidence of the impact of increasing salaries on improving the performance of public servants, including teachers, doctors/nurses, and	11	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
mid-level occupations, in low- and middle-income countries: Is it time to give pay a chance? (2011)					
Dickson and Bangpan (2012) Providing access to economic assets for girls and young women in low-and-lower middle income countries: a systematic review of the evidence.	11	None found	--		
Knox et al. 2013 <u>What is the impact of infrastructural investments in roads, electricity and irrigation on agricultural productivity? 2013. CEE Review 11-007. Collaboration for</u>	11	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
<u>Environmental Evidence</u>					
Tripney et al. (2011) The impact of post-abortion care family planning counselling and services in low-income countries: a systematic review of the evidence (2011)	11	Tripney J, Kwan, Schucan Bird K, (2013) Postabortion family planning counselling and services for women in low-income countries: a systematic review. 87 (1) 17–25	38	<p>Dimensions Badge: Citations = 26 Recent Citations = 12 Field Citation Ratio = 4.16 Relative Citation Ratio = 2.09</p> <p>Altmetrics: Score = 7 Policy source = 1 Tweeters = 3 Google User = 1 Readers on Mendeley = 80</p> <p>Geographical breakdown</p>	<p>Dimensions Badge: This publication in Contraception has been cited 26 times. 46% of its citations have been received in the past two years, which is higher than you might expect, suggesting that it is currently receiving a lot of interest.</p> <p>Compared to other publications in the same field, and has received approximately 4.16 times more citations than average.</p> <p>https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1016327331</p> <p>Altmetrics: In the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric</p>

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				United Kingdom = 33% (1 count) South Africa = 33% (1 count) Demographic breakdown: Practitioners (doctors, other healthcare professionals) = 33% (1 count) Scientists = 33% (1 count) Members of the public = 33% (1 count)	High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (81st percentile) Above-average Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (62nd percentile) https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/1186635
MacKenzie et al. (2013) What is the impact of contraceptive methods and mixes of contraceptive methods on contraceptive prevalence, unmet need for family planning, and	10	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
unwanted and unintended pregnancies? An overview of systematic reviews					
Obuku et al. (2017) Working with non-state providers in post-conflict and fragile states in primary healthcare service delivery: a systematic review.	10	None found	--	No data	No data
Coast et al. (2012) What are the effects of different models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes for poor people in urban areas in low income and lower middle income countries?	9	None found	--		

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Hine et al. (2016) Does the extension of the rural road network have a positive impact on poverty reduction and resilience for the rural areas served? If so how, and if not why not? A systematic review	8	None found	--	No data	No data
Willey et al. (2013) Effectiveness of interventions to strengthen national health service delivery on coverage, access, quality and equity in the use of health services in low and lower middle income countries (2013)	8	None found	--	No data	No data
Carr-Hill et al. (2015) The effects of school-based decision making on educational	7	Carr-Hill R, Rolleston C, Schendel R, Waddington H (2018) The effectiveness of school-based decision making in improving	4	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
outcomes in low- and middle-income contexts: a systematic review		educational outcomes: a systematic review. Journal of Development Effectiveness 10: (1) https://doi.org/10.1080/19439342.2018.1440250			
Clar et al. (2011) What are the effects of interventions to improve the uptake of evidence from health research into policy in low and middle-income countries?	7	None found	--	No data	No data
Nataraj et al. (2011) What is the impact of labour market regulation on employment in LICs? How does it vary by gender?	7	None found	--	Paper statistics: Downloads = 61 Rank = 344,560 Abstract Views = 441 PlumX Metrics Usage = 502	https://plu.mx/ssrn/a/?ssrn_id=2127434

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Captures = 17 Mendeley = 17 readers	
Bumann et al. (2011) Foreign direct investment and economic performance: A systematic review of the evidence uncovers a new paradox	6	None found	--	No data	No data
Hepworth et al. (2013) What factors determine the performance of institutional mechanisms for water resources management in developing countries in terms of delivering pro-poor outcomes, and supporting sustainable economic growth	6	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Hussein et al. (2011) What kinds of policy and programme interventions contribute to reductions in maternal mortality? The effectiveness of primary level referral systems for emergency maternity care in developing countries	6	None found	--	No data	No data
Miller et al. (2013) What is the evidence for glacial shrinkage across the Himalayas?	6	None found	--	No data	No data
Annamalai et al. (2016) What is the evidence on top-down and bottom-up approaches in improving access to water, sanitation and	5	Narayanan et al. (2017) Delivering basic infrastructure services to the urban poor: a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of bottom-up approaches. Utilities Policy 44: 50-62	4	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
electricity services in low-income or informal settlements?					
Hayman et al. (2011) The impact of aid on maternal and reproductive health: a systematic review to evaluate the effect of aid on the outcomes of Millenium Development Goal 5	5	TaylorEM, HaymanR, CrawfordF, Jeffery P, Smith J (2013) The Impact of Official Development Aid on Maternal and Reproductive Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review. PLoS ONE 8(2): e56271. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0056271	17	No data	No data
Morgan et al. (2012) A systematic review of the evidence of the impact of eliminating school user fees in low-income developing countries.	5	MORGAN, Claire; PETROSINO, Anthony; FRONIUS, Trevor. Eliminating School Fees in Low-Income Countries: A Systematic Review. Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation, [S.l.], v. 10, n. 23, p. 26-43	7	No data	No data
Barakat et al. (2014) The evidence for the sustainable scale-up of low-cost private	4	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
schools in South West Asia.					
Gopaldaswamy et al. (2016) Systematic review of quantitative evidence on the impact of microfinance on the poor in South Asia	4	None found	--	No data	No data
Gupta et al. (2015) Regulatory and road engineering interventions for preventing road traffic injuries and fatalities among vulnerable (non-motorised and motorised two-wheel) road users in low- and middle-income countries. A systematic review.	4	None found	--	No data	No data
Peters et al. (2016) People's views and	4	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
experiences of participating in microfinance interventions: A systematic review of qualitative evidence.					
Anderson et al. (2016b) What policies and interventions have been strongly associated with changes in in country income inequality?	3	None found	--	No data	No data
Anderson et al. (2016a) What policies and interventions have been strongly associated with the translation of growth into reductions in income poverty?	3	None found	--	Dimensions Badge: Total Citations = 2 Recent Citations = 2 Field Citation Ratio = 0.88 Altmetric: Altmetric Score = 1	Dimensions Badge: This publication in Journal of Development Effectiveness has been cited two times. 100% of its citations have been received in the past two years. This publication has received about as many citations as you might expect, compared to the citation

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Tweeter = 1 Mendeley=8	performance of other publications in the same field. https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1016055004 Altmetric: https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/4809401
Burrow (2016) 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? A systematic review.	3	Burrow MPN, Evdorides H, Ghataora GS, Robert P, Martin SS (2016) The evidence for rural road technology in low-income countries. Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Transport 169 (TR6) 366–377 http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jtran.15.00089	0	Dimensions Badge: Citations= 1 Field Citation Ratio = 0.33 Altmetrics: Twitter = 1 Readers on Mendeley = 15 Demographic breakdown:	Dimensions Badge: This publication in Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Transport has been cited once. This publication has received 33% of the citations you might expect to receive, considering the citation performance of other publications in the same field.

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
				Student>Master = 33% (5 count) Unspecified = 20% (3 count) Student>Postgraduate = 7% (1 count) Student>PhD Student = 7% (1 count) Readers by discipline Engineering = 40% (6 count) Computer Science = 7% (1 count) Neuroscience = 7% (1 count)	https://badge.dimensions.ai/details/id/pub.1068234749 Altmetrics: https://dimensions.altmetric.com/details/37224035
Aboal et al. 2012 A systematic review on the evidence of the impact on investment rates of changes in the enforcement of contracts	2	Aboal D, Noya N, Rius A (2014) Contract Enforcement and Investment: A Systematic Review of the Evidence. World Development, 64, 322-338. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X14001612	20	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Hawkes and Ugur (2012) Evidence on the relationship between education, skills and economic growth in low-income countries: a systematic review.	2	None found	--	No data	No data
Thillairajan et al. (2012) Impact of changes in the transparency of infrastructure procurement and delivery on infrastructure access, costs, efficiency, price and quality: a systematic review of the evidence in developing countries.	1	None found	--		
Hossain et al. (2017) What is the impact of urbanisation on risk of, and vulnerability	1	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
to, natural disasters? What are the effective approaches for reducing exposure of urban population to disaster risks?					
Ali et al. (2017) Systematic review of different models and approaches of non-state justice systems in South Asia and its complementarity with the state justice delivery systems	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Annamalai et al. (2017) How effective are interventions which seek to improve access and quality of civic infrastructure and services? What are the key characteristics of	0	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
successful interventions?					
Aslam et al (2016) Reforms to Increase Teacher Effectiveness in Developing Countries.	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Babu et al. (2017) Effects of interventions and approaches for enhancing poverty reduction and development benefits of 'within country migration' in South Asia	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Ghose et al. (2017) Natural resource revenue management in low- and middle-income countries experiencing politically fragile	0	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
conditions: A systematic review					
Hossain et al. (2017) What is the impact of approaches for addressing insecurity or violence arising from urbanisation?	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Ilavarasan et al. (2017) Employment Outcomes of Skills Training in South Asian Countries: An Evidence Summary	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Kumar et al. (2016) Effectiveness of Market-led Development Approaches in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Langer et al. (2018) A systematic review of	3	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
the effectiveness and design features of interventions supporting women's participation in wage labour in higher-growth and/or male-dominated sectors in Low- and Middle-income Countries					
Lassi et al. (2013) Systematic Review of Complementary Feeding Strategies amongst Children Less than Two Years of Age	0	Lassi ZS, Das JK, Zahid G, Imdad A, Bhutta Z (2013) Impact of education and provision of complementary feeding on growth and morbidity in children less than 2 years of age in developing countries: a systematic review BMC Public Health 13 (Suppl 3) :S13 https://bmcpublikealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-13-S3-S13	123		In the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (81st percentile) Good Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (72nd percentile)
Menon et al. (2018) Effectiveness of	0	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
nutrition interventions in low and middle income countries: An evidence summary					
Nair et al. (2017) Public Works Programmes: How effective are Public Works Programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries? A Systematic Review	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Nair et al. (2017) 'Gender-responsive policing' initiatives designed to enhance confidence, satisfaction in policing services and reduce risk of violence against women in low and middle income	0	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
countries - A systematic review					
Nair et al. (2017) Effectiveness of Behaviour Change Communication interventions in improving the delivery of health messages for ante-natal care in limited literacy settings: An evidence summary.	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Peters et al. (2019) Qualitative evidence on barriers to and facilitators of women's participation in higher or growing productivity and male-dominated labour market sectors in low- and middle-income countries	0	None found	--	No data	No data

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Pilkington et al. (2018) The effectiveness of community engagement and participation approaches in low and middle income countries: a review of systematic reviews with particular reference to the countries of South Asia	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Ugur et al. (2013) What is the impact of higher rates of innovation (measured by faster TFP growth, product innovation, process innovation, and imports of technology) on employment in LICs? How does this vary by gender?	0	None found	--		

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
Doocy S, Tappis H (2016) Cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies: a systematic review. A 3ie report	0	Doocy S, Tappis H (2017) Cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies: a systematic review. Campbell Systematic Reviews 2017:17 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2017.17	20	No data	No data
Nidhi Srivastava et al. (2016) Effects of Various Disaster Management Approaches: An Evidence	0	None found	--	No data	No data
Leonard et al. (2013) Institutional Solutions to the Asymmetric Information Problem in Health and Development Services for the Poor	0	Leonard DK, Bloom G, Hansen K, O'Farrell J, Spicer N (2013) Institutional Solutions to the Asymmetric Information Problem in Health and Development Services for the Poor. World Development 48 71-87	31		Good Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (71st percentile) Average Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source
Tusting et al. (2013) Socioeconomic development as an	--	Tusting LS, Willey B, Lucas H, Thompson J, Kafy HT, Smith R, and Lindsay SW (2013) Socioeconomic	108		In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

Author (year) Report Title	Google Scholar citations	Journal article	Google Scholar citations	Publication Metrics: Dimensions Badge/Altmetrics/PlumXMetrics	Impact Evidence Details
intervention against malaria: a systematic review and meta-analysis		development as an intervention against malaria: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet 382, 963–72			<p>High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (98th percentile)</p> <p>High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (92nd percentile)</p>

Systematic reviews cited in academic teaching

<p>Menon et al. 2018</p> <p>Nutrition interventions</p>	<p>School of Public Health, University of North Carolina</p>	<p>Education reading list. This review is optional reading for PUBH 711: Critical Issues in Global Health at Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of Northern California, USA-</p> <p>Scope: + Impact on single undergraduate course</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ One document used annually. anticipated impact is one-off through individual students</p>	<p>Evidence used: whole systematic review.</p> <p>How evidence was used: embedded in a higher education – accredited course where it appears on a reading list</p>	<p>Evidence: Menon K, Puthussery S, Ravalia A, Panchal P, Rana R, Mistry S, Tseng P, Bhandol J, Mavalankar D (2018) Effectiveness of nutrition interventions in low and middle income countries: An evidence summary. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London. ISBN: 978-1-907345-90-6</p>
<p>Coast et al. 2012</p> <p>Models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes</p>	<p>LSE Research Online, City Research Online, University of Southampton</p>	<p>Education reading list.</p> <p>Scope: + Impact on research courses</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ One document used annually</p>	<p>Evidence used: citation</p> <p>How evidence was used: This review is optional reading for LSE Research Online, United Kingdom, City Research Online, University of Southampton</p>	<p>http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/17371/ https://eprints.soton.ac.uk/view/divisions/a2d0aabf-254c-48b5-b5b3-e240322d4f89/2012.creators_name.html</p>

Appendix 5: Systematic reviews used transparently for better knowledge accessibility

[Systematic reviews are listed in chronological order (most recent first), and then alphabetically by first author within the two subsections of enhancing accessibility or enhancing understanding of]

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
<p>Annamalai et al. 2016</p> <p>Access to water, sanitation and electricity services</p>	<p>IRC (was International Reference Centre for water supply) and USAID's water team. Water AID international</p>	<p>Uploaded on 'Sanitation Updates' blog</p> <p>Scope: +</p> <p>Depth: +++</p> <p>Sustainability: +++ Searchable blog</p> <p>Tweeted the report</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary from EPPI-Centre website and link to full report.</p> <p>How evidence was used: This news and opinion blog on sanitation is maintained by IRC and by USAID's Water Team.</p> <p>Regular contributors include the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP).</p> <p>Sanitation Updates was originally set up to promote the 2008 International Year of Sanitation and continues to provide news, information and resources in support of achieving the goal of sanitation for all.</p>	<p>Evidence: Annamalai TR, Devkar G, Mahalingam A, Benjamin S, Rajan SC, and 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: UCL EPPI-Centre</p> <p>Use: https://sanitationupdates.blog/?s=top-down</p>
<p>Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016</p> <p>Inspection, monitoring</p>	<p>Plan International</p>	<p>In a specialist database: Report was included in a bibliography which has been uploaded by other NGOs:</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p>	<p>Evidence: Eddy-Spicer D, Ehren M, Bangpan M, Khatwa M, Perrone F (2016) Under what conditions do inspection, monitoring and assessment improve system efficiency, service delivery and learning outcomes for the poorest</p>

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
and assessment in learning		ALNAP's HELP Library; Relief Web and Early Childhood Blogs Scope: ++ Depth: ++ Sustainability: +++	How evidence was used: included in searchable database with a link to the full review	and most marginalised? A realist synthesis of school accountability in low- and middle-income countries. EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Centre, UCL Institute of Education, University College London 369p Use: https://tec.alnap.org/help-library/inclusive-quality-education-an-annotated-bibliography https://reliefweb.int/report/world/inclusive-quality-education-annotated-bibliography https://ppp420demo.wordpress.com/
Carr-hill et al. 2015 School-based decision making on educational outcome	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Lawry et al. 2014 Land property rights	INCLUDE	In a specialist database: Available in INCLUDE: Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Practices. Scope: + individuals can draw on the portal Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear	Evidence used: Summary and whole document How evidence was used: INCLUDE promotes evidence-based policy making on inclusive development in Africa through research, knowledge sharing and policy dialogue	https://includeplatform.net/knowledge-portal/impact-land-property-rights-interventions-investment-agricultural-productivity-developing-countries-systematic-review/

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Sustainability: ++ searchable portal and data repository		
Lawry et al. 2014 land property rights	NAMATI	Cited by Namati in a searchable database Scope: + individuals can draw on the portal Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear Sustainability: ++ searchable portal and data repository	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: Namati, which is building a global movement of grassroots legal advocates who give people the power to understand, use, and shape the law. These advocates form a dynamic, creative frontline that can squeeze justice out of even broken systems.	https://namati.org/resources/the-impact-of-land-property-rights-interventions-on-investment-and-agricultural-productivity-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review/
Westhorp et al. 2014 Community accountability, empowerment and education outcomes	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Holmes et al. 2013 Employment creation, stability and poverty reduction in fragile states	GSDRC Knowledge services	In a specialist database: Summarised in GSDRC's document library Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: A collection of more than 4500 of the most credible publications available on governance, social development, conflict and humanitarian issues. Brief, policy-	https://gsdrc.org/document-library/what-is-the-evidence-on-the-impact-of-employment-creation-on-stability-and-poverty-reduction-in-fragile-states-a-systematic-review/

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: : ++ In a longstanding database	oriented summaries of each document are provided, plus links to the full text.	
Kingdon et al 2013 Contract teachers and para-teachers	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Morgan et al et al. 2013 School voucher programmes	GSDRC Knowledge services	In a specialist database: Cited in a GSDRC Topic Guide, which is an annotated bibliography Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: : ++ In a longstanding database	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: GSDRC Topic Guides aim to provide a clear, concise and objective report on findings from rigorous research on critical areas of development policy. Rather than provide policy guidance or recommendations, their purpose is to inform policymakers and practitioners of the key debates and evidence on the topic of focus, to support informed decision making.	https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/service-seidelivery/evidence/vouchers/

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Morgan et al 2013 School voucher programmes	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Carr et al 2012 Increasing salaries on improving the performance of public servants	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Coast et al 2012 Models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Dickson et al 2012 Access to economic assets for girls and young women	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Kabeer et al 2012 Conditional cash transfer	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Guerrero et al. 2012 Teacher attendance	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Guerrero et al. 2012 Teacher attendance	GSDRC Knowledge services	<p>In a specialist database: Cited in a GSDRC Topic Guide, which is an annotated bibliography</p> <p>Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: + One document available online</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: GSDRC Topic Guides aim to provide a clear, concise and objective report on findings from rigorous research on critical areas of development policy. Rather than provide policy guidance or recommendations, their purpose is to inform policymakers and practitioners of the key debates and evidence on the topic of focus, to support informed decision making.</p>	<p>Mcloughlin, C. and Scott Z (2014). Service delivery: Topic guide. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.</p> <p>https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/ServiceDelivery.pdf</p>
Morgan et al. 2012 Eliminating school user fees	WikiGender	<p>Enhancing understanding: Cited in a Wiki about Effective Interventions to Address the Impact of HIV on School-Age Girls, hosted by a specialist database.</p> <p>Scope: + Assume impact on single team who contributed to the Wiki; or impact on individual readers</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ In a longstanding database</p>	<p>Wikigender is a global online collaborative platform linking policymakers and experts from both developed and developing countries to find solutions to advance gender equality. It provides a centralised space for knowledge exchange on key emerging issues, with a strong focus on the SDGs, and in particular on SDG 5. Both English and French speakers worldwide can discuss current issues, relevant research and emerging trends on gender equality.</p>	<p>https://www.wikigender.org/wiki/effective-interventions-to-address-the-impact-of-hiv-on-school-age-girls/</p>

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Yoong et al. 2012 Economic resource transfers to women vs men	ELDIS	In a specialist database: Available at Eldis Scope: ++: Eldis provides free access to relevant, up-to-date and diverse research on international development issues. Depth: +: small change in resource. Sustainability ++: in a long standing database	Evidence used: Summary and whole document How evidence was used: uploaded to a searchable database	The impact of economic resource transfers to women versus men: a systematic review https://www.eldis.org/document/A65565
Yoong et al. 2012 Economic resource transfers to women vs men	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Yoong et al. 2012 Economic resource transfers to women vs men	INCLUDE	In a specialist database: Available in INCLUDE: Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Practices. Scope: + individuals can draw on the portal Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear	Evidence used: Summary and whole document How evidence was used: INCLUDE promotes evidence-based policy making on inclusive development in Africa through research, knowledge sharing and policy dialogue	https://includeplatform.net/knowledge-portal/impact-economic-resource-transfers-women-versus-men-systematic-review/

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Sustainability: ++ searchable portal and data repository		
Hussein et al. 2011 Reductions in maternal mortality	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Masset et al. 2011 Agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children.	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Meyer et al. (2011) The impact of vouchers on the use and quality of health goods and services	GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services	In a specialist database: Available in GSDRC Document Library Scope: ++: Influence organisation. Assume further impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers	Evidence used: Summary and whole document as a topic guide How evidence was used: A collection of more than 4500 of the most credible publications available on governance, social development, conflict and humanitarian issues. Brief, policy-	https://gsdrc.org/document-library/the-impact-of-vouchers-on-the-use-and-quality-of-health-goods-and-services-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review/

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Depth: +: small change in resource Sustainability ++: in a long standing database	oriented summaries of each document are provided, plus links to the full text.	
Montagu et al et al. (2011) Private versus public strategies for health service provision	HRH Global Resource Center	In a specialist database: Available in the HRH Global Resource Center Scope: ++: a global library of human resources for health (HRH) resources focused on developing countries. Depth: ++: small change in resource. Alongside the library is the HRH Global Resource Center's eLearning program which offers free courses developed by technical experts in the fields of HRH, health informatics, and health service delivery to build the capacity of country-based users in critical skills development. Sustainability ++: in a long standing database	Evidence used: Bibliographic details How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews with link to full report.	https://www.hrhresourcecenter.org/node/4444.html
Montagu et al. (2011) Private versus public strategies for	ELDIS	In a specialist database: Available at Eldis Scope: ++: Eldis provides free access to relevant, up-to-date and diverse research on international development issues.	Evidence used: Summary and whole document How evidence was used: Eldis (produced by Institute of Development Studies) provides free access (Open Licence) to relevant, up-to-date and	About: Eldis shares the best in global development research for policy and practice https://www.eldis.org/document/A62104

Transparent use for better knowledge accessibility				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
health service provision		<p>Depth: ++: small change in resource. Alongside the library is the HRH Global Resource Center's eLearning program (a global library of human resources for health (HRH) resources focused on developing countries) which offers free courses developed by technical experts in the fields of HRH, health informatics, and health service delivery to build the capacity of country-based users in critical skills development.</p> <p>Sustainability ++: in a long standing database</p>	diverse research on international development issues. Our database includes over 50,000 summaries and provides free links to full-text research and policy documents from over 8,000 publishers.	

Appendix 5: Systematic reviews used transparently for better understanding

[Systematic reviews are listed in chronological order (most recent first), and then alphabetically by first author]

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
<p>Babu et al. 2017</p> <p>Poverty reduction and development benefits of 'within country migration'</p>	<p>Indian national press 2017-18</p>	<p>This review has appeared in: DTNext (news website) 2017, and Financial Express 2017, Scope: + Indian readership Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear Sustainability: + individual reports</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of the study</p> <p>How evidence was used: to highlight the work of an Indian research team</p>	<p>Evidence: Babu MS, Gopalaswamy AK, Baskar V, Dash U (2017) Effects of interventions and approaches for enhancing poverty reduction and development benefits of 'within country migration' in South Asia. A systematic review. London: UCLEPPI-Centre.</p> <p>DTNext (news website) 2017, https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2017/12/20015243/1055914/IIT-study-on-internal-migration-complete.vpf?TId=112132&fromNewsdog=1&utm_source=NewsDog&utm_medium=referral Financial Express 2017, https://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/the-various-dimensions-of-migration/988540.</p>
<p>Anderson et al. 2016b</p> <p>Changes and Interventions-In-</p>	<p>International Rescue Committee 2017</p>	<p>NGO policy impact: Cited in Evidence based policy review Scope: ++: Impact is on the International Rescue Committee. Depth: ++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes Sustainability: +: one-off discussion document</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Findings show that there is evidence on fiscal policy (e.g. increases in infrastructure or other government spending) affecting poverty reduction, but there is a gap in evidence on the impact of labor market reforms, privatization, and land reforms' (p.4).</p>	<p>https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/1642/jordancompactevidencebasedpolicyreview-april2017final.pdf https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12058.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
country income inequality			How evidence is used: 'To determine whether we can expect to see outcomes—more job opportunities and rising incomes for vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians—as the Compact is implemented.' (page 1)	
Doocy and Tappis 2016 Cash based approaches in humanitarian emergencies	UNICEF 2018	Impact on individuals: Cited in an Innocenti Working Paper has been published without undergoing layout, copy-editing or proofreading. It is being released to rapidly share results of our work with the wider research and practitioner communities, and to encourage discussion of methods and findings. Scope: + Readers of single document Depth: + Unclear Sustainability: + One discussion document	Evidence used: 'Despite the critical role of social protection in conflict and emergencies, evidence on the impacts, particularly food-based programmes, on child education is remarkably thin (Buvinić, Das Gupta, and Shemyakina, 2014; Doocy and Tappis).' Recommendation: The educational implications of food assistance should be considered in planning humanitarian responses to bridge the gap between emergency assistance and development by promoting children's education. How evidence was used: 'This Innocenti Working Paper has been published without undergoing layout, copy-editing or proofreading. It is being released to rapidly share results of our work with the wider research and practitioner communities, and to encourage discussion of methods and findings.' (page 1)	Aurino E; Tranchant JP, Diallo AS, Gelli A (2018) School Feeding or General Food Distribution? Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Educational Impacts of Emergency Food Assistance during Conflict in Mali. UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti Working Paper WP-2018-04 https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/WP-2018-04.pdf

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
<p>Doocy and Tappis 2016</p> <p>Cash based approaches in humanitarian emergencies</p>	<p>United Nations Development Programme 2017</p>	<p>Impact on policy organisations: facilitating discussion on the role of evaluation in the SDGs.</p> <p>Scope: +++: United National Development Programme and International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) edited the book with contributors from multiple organisations</p> <p>Depth: +++: potential for change was profound, but discussion only just begun</p> <p>Sustainability: ++: Two parallel conferences followed by conference proceedings and book to maintain debate</p>	<p>Evidence used: Theory-based impact evaluations have been used across the development and humanitarian sectors to inform the effectiveness of programs. This includes investigating the best ways to deliver humanitarian assistance (e.g. Doocy and Tappis 2016; Puri et al. 2017). An example of this can be seen with Doocy and Tappis (2016), where the authors compared the effectiveness of cash transfers versus food transfers, versus in-kind transfers in humanitarian contexts.</p> <p>How evidence was used: 'The Independent Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) initiated discussion on the role of evaluation in the SDGs just a month after these goals were approved. They organized two conferences that took place in parallel, with joint keynote addresses and special sessions: one from the perspective of governments, the other from the perspective of the professional development evaluator. These conferences took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2015. They ended</p>	<p>van den Berg RD, Naidoo I, Tamondong SD, eds. (2017) Evaluation for Agenda 2030: Providing Evidence on Progress and Sustainability. Exeter, UK: IDEAS. https://ideas-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/IDEAS-web-REV_08Dec.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			with the Bangkok Declaration on National Evaluation Capacity for the SDGs, which was subsequently included in the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016–2020. While conference proceedings were published in 2016, IDEAS and UNDP’s Independent Evaluation Office also approached the most innovative and forward-thinking contributors to the conference to update their insights for this book, which provides a stimulating array of subjects.’ (p. ix)	
Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016 Inspection, monitoring and assessment in learning	Plan International 2018	Framing future work: Cited in annotated bibliography that aimed ‘to understand more thoroughly the various aspects of inclusive, quality education—such as participation of family, communities, and civil society in guaranteeing access to equitable and inclusive education and ensuring gender transformative education in and around schools—to inform the development of a comprehensive theoretical framework for Plan International’s work in this area’ (p3) Scope: ++ Impact on an individual NGO Depth: ++ Evidence of uptake of change by NGO	Evidence used: A summary of the study findings were included as reference material. How evidence was used: this study contributed answering the question ‘What is known about how public accountability measures improve provision of and experience of education for the most vulnerable and marginalized’. Specifically ‘that use of an education management information system (EMIS) for school development planning (SDP) could create ownership of local education issues and may lead to the improvement of primary school enrolment among minority girls. However, the results are suggestive and	Evidence: Eddy-Spicer D, Ehren M; Bangpan M, Khatwa M, Perrone F (2016) Under what conditions do inspection, monitoring and assessment improve system efficiency, service delivery and learning outcomes for the poorest and most marginalised? A realist synthesis of school accountability in low- and middle-income countries. EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Centre, UCL Institute of Education, University College London 369p Use: Plan International (2018) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Annotated Bibliography. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/glo-inclusive_quality_education_annotated_bibliography-final-io-eng-may18.pdf

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Sustainability: + One discussion document	require further research. (See Eddy-Spicer et al. 2016).	
Hine 2016	OECD	<p>In a government report:</p> <p>Scope: + individuals can draw on the portal</p> <p>Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear</p> <p>Sustainability: + searchable portal and data repository</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'In countries that still have under-developed road networks, such as Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania, investments in rural roads cause transport costs to decrease and traffic to increase, the result of which is a rise in the use of fertiliser and other inputs for agriculture, increased production, more work opportunities outside of agriculture, a rise in incomes and consumption, poverty reduction and better education and health care (Hine et al. 2015).'</p> <p>How evidence was used: 'This IOB study aims to bring the conclusions to the attention of a wider audience. The study identifies a number of policy priorities. First and foremost, these are priorities for the countries themselves, but they also provide guidance for donors who want to do something about the problems of poverty and inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa.'</p>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (2018) Transition and inclusive development in Sub-Saharan Africa An analysis of poverty and inequality in the context of transition. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB).
Carr-hill et al. 2015 School based	The Africa Portal	In a specialist database: Cited in a report accessible through the Africa Portal, a research repository and an expert analysis hub on African affairs.	Evidence used: 'ESSPIN's intervention was driven by the strong performance of SBMs in other African countries and the evidence on empowering SBMs and improved education outcomes. For	https://www.africaportal.org/publications/examining-nigerias-learning-crisis-can-communities-be-mobilized-to-take-action/

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
decision making		<p>Scope: + individuals can draw on the portal</p> <p>Depth: + specific use by individuals unclear</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ searchable portal and data repository</p>	instance, in a systematic review of 26 impact studies that covered 17 school-based management interventions, Carr-Hill et al. (2016) argue that school-based decision making reforms appear to be less effective in disadvantaged communities, particularly if parents and community members have low levels of education and low status relative to school personnel p.8).	
Westthorp et al. 2014 Community accountability, empowerment and education	UNICEF	<p>Stimulating debate: Cited in one of ten Think Pieces by leading research and practitioners to stimulate debate around significant educational challenges facing the Eastern and Southern Africa region.</p> <p>Scope: ++: Single organisation, while making evidence public in the hope it will be used by others</p> <p>Depth: ++: Evidence informing UNICEF</p> <p>Sustainability +: Single document</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'the evidence shows that most often the impact of these community accountability efforts is on intermediate outcomes like social capital and parental advocacy, not on learning.'(p2)</p> <p>How evidence was used: While the pieces are rooted in evidence, they are not research papers or evidence briefs, nor do they represent UNICEF policy. Rather, they are engaging pieces that aim to inspire fresh thinking to improve learning for all.</p>	<p>Westthorp G, Walker DW, Rogers P, Overbeeke N, Ball D, Brice G (2014) <i>Enhancing community accountability, empowerment and education outcomes in low and middle-income countries: a realist review</i>. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London. ISBN: 978-1-907345-72-2</p> <p>Dowd A, Pisani L, Dusabe C, Howell H (2018). UNICEF Think Piece Series: Parents and Caregivers. UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi</p>
Dangour et al. 2013 Promoting nutrition through agriculture-	World Bank 2018 (date only appears in document properties)	<p>Stimulate analysis: Cited in: All Hands On Deck: Reducing Stunting Through Multisectoral Efforts In Sub-Saharan Africa</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'In a review of the effects of agricultural development policies, including trade liberalization, on nutrition, Dangour et al. (2013) after exhaustive search criteria only find four studies which explore the relationship empirically, of which only one measures</p>	<p>Dangour AD, Hawkesworth S, Shankar B, Watson L, Srinivasan CS, Morgan EH, Haddad L, Waage J (2013) Can nutrition be promoted through agriculture-led food price policies? A systematic review. <i>BMJ Open</i> 3, e002937.</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
led food price policies		<p>Scope ++: Impact on an individual NGO</p> <p>Depth: + Evidence of uptake of change by NGO</p> <p>Sustainability: + One discussion document</p>	<p>undernutrition rates in children (in Andhra Pradesh in India).’ (p53)</p> <p>How evidence was used: ‘The findings of this regional report are intended to stimulate and provide a blueprint for further analytic work that is operationally useful for the design of more effective multisectoral sectoral interventions on stunting at the country level in SSA.’ (p. xi)</p>	<p>World Bank (2018) All hands on deck : reducing stunting through multisectoral efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa : Main report (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.</p> <p>http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/260571530132166786/Main-report</p>
Hepworth et al. 2013 Water resources management	ODI 2014	<p>Stimulating debate: This paper aims to revitalise a debate that was triggered by the powerful arguments of the 2006 Human Development Report (HDR) Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis.</p> <p>Scope: ++ Impact on an individual NGO</p> <p>Depth: ++ Evidence of uptake of change by NGO</p> <p>Sustainability: + One discussion document</p>	<p>Evidence used: ‘Proposition 4: water-resources management is an urgent priority – governments and donors need to reengage So, if we want to avoid water ‘capture and control’, and ensure that new demands can be met without compromising the entitlements of the poor, what tools do we have and what are the trade-offs? In most parts of world, water accounting and allocation systems are rudimentary at best, and certainly ill-equipped to deal with the stresses of climate, land and demographic change (ERD, 2011). And there remains precious little hard evidence on ‘what works’ as far as institutional arrangements for pro-poor water resources management are concerned (Hepworth et al. 2012).’</p>	<p>Calow R, Mason N (2014) The real water crisis: inequality in a fast changing world. ODI, London.</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			How evidence was used: The report aims to offer a strategic vision for supporting the scale-up of social safety nets to alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerability in Africa	
Holmes et al. (2013) Employment creation	DFID/Coffey 2014	Referenced in a report Scope +: Impact on an individual team Depth +++: focusing on micro, meso and macro options Sustainability +: One discussion document	Evidence used: citation How evidence was used: Listed in the references (but not linked to any particular statement) in a DFID commissioned needs assessment for improved access to finance and advisory support and/or business skills development, for SMEs in Afghanistan	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a089baed915d622c000387/61284-IDEVREAN-14001AF_FinalReport_Circulation.pdf
Holmes et al. 2013 Employment creation, stability and poverty reduction in fragile states	GSDRC Knowledge services	In a specialist database: Summarised in GSDRC's document library Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: ++ In a longstanding database	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: A collection of more than 4500 of the most credible publications available on governance, social development, conflict and humanitarian issues. Brief, policy-oriented summaries of each document are provided, plus links to the full text.	https://gsdrc.org/document-library/what-is-the-evidence-on-the-impact-of-employment-creation-on-stability-and-poverty-reduction-in-fragile-states-a-systematic-review/
Lassi et al. (2013) Complementary feeding		Informing DFID team: The DFID project Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition (MQSUN, 202674 – 101) invested a small sum (£6,181.60) towards the preparation of this systematic	Evidence used: summary of systematic review presented by senior author. How evidence was used: Senior author presented at two meetings of MQSUN. 'Through the nutrition hub meetings, MQSUN expects the capacity of the	Lassi ZS, Das JK, Zahid G, Imdad A, Bhutta ZA (2013) Impact of education and provision of complementary feeding on growth and morbidity in children less than two years of age in developing countries: a systematic review. BMC Public Health

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>review and convened a Nutrition Hub Meeting to discuss it.</p> <p>Scope: + Impact on an individual team Depth: + Evidence of uptake of change by team Sustainability: + One annual review of work by a single team (impact likely to be reduced by usual DFID staff turnover).</p>	<p>attending DFID advisers to be built through the presentations and discussions. MQSUN has started preparing discussion questions to facilitate fruitful conversation at the hub meetings. MQSUN is also encouraging DFID advisers to attend these hub meetings during the exit interviews. MQSUN plans to begin counting the attendance at the meetings to report on, however at this time we do not have this information.'</p>	<p>13(Suppl 3):S13 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/13/S3/S13.</p> <p>Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition (202674 – 101). Annual Review, December 2013.</p>
<p>McCorriston et al. (2013) Agricultural Trade Liberalisation on Food Security</p>	<p>World Development Movement 2014</p>	<p>Impact: Cited in report by 'a UK based, anti-poverty campaigning organisation. We lobby decision-makers, organise public campaigning and produce robust research to win change for the world's poorest people. We investigate, expose and challenge government policies and corporate actions that harm vulnerable communities and trap people in poverty. We work with allies in the global south to research and promote positive solutions to poverty'</p> <p>Scope: ++ impact on single advocacy organisation Depth: + advocating change</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'A recently published systematic review commissioned by DfID concluding that there is no consistent evidence as to whether trade liberalisation increases food security in developing countries' (page 18).</p> <p>How evidence was used: The report was accompanied by an advocacy organisation campaign.</p>	<p>https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/resources/carving_up_a_continent_report_web.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Sustainability: + a single document and advocacy		
Morgan et al. 2013 School voucher programmes	GSDRC Knowledge services	In a specialist database: Cited in a GSDRC Topic Guide, which is an annotated bibliography Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: : ++ In a longstanding database	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: GSDRC Topic Guides aim to provide a clear, concise and objective report on findings from rigorous research on critical areas of development policy. Rather than provide policy guidance or recommendations, their purpose is to inform policymakers and practitioners of the key debates and evidence on the topic of focus, to support informed decision making.	https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/service-seidelivery/evidence/vouchers/
Puzzolo et al. 2013 large-scale uptake of cleaner household energy technologies	Clean Cooking Alliance (2016)	Cited in a Discussion Brief by SEI (2016) on behaviour change approaches and techniques for boosting cookstove uptake. Scope: ++ Impact on Clean Cooking Alliance Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: : ++ In a longstanding database	Evidence used: The analysis builds on two recent comprehensive reviews published by Goodwin et al. (2014) and Puzzolo et al. (2014), and gives an update on evidence produced from 2014 to mid-2015. How evidence was used: The Alliance produces a range of high-quality resources including: research reports, market assessments, customer segmentation and adoption studies, issue briefs, and fact sheets – on various aspects of the clean cooking sector. We	SEI (2016) What boosts cookstove uptake? A review of behaviour change approaches and techniques. Discussion Brief https://www.cleancookingalliance.org/bin-ary-data/CMP_CATALOG/file/000/000/149-1.pdf

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			also feature selected reports and market studies produced by Alliance partners	
Kabeer et al. 2012 Conditional cash transfer	Results for Development Institute 2016	<p>Informing NGO policy: The Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA), a global partnership program administered by the World Bank, commissioned from Results for Development Institute (R4D) a scoping study on the potential for output-based aid (OBA) in education.</p> <p>Scope ++: The review informed the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA)</p> <p>Depth ++: Cash transfer programmes are effective...</p> <p>Sustainability ++: but may not be sustainable by host countries</p>	<p>Evidence used: Cited as a small contribution to the evidence about the effects of conditional cash transfer: 'A key advantage of CCTs is the stronger evidence behind their effectiveness. While evidence remains weak and practical examples limited for a number of RBF schemes, there is a large body of evidence related to CCTs and factors that contribute to their success (summarised in systematic reviews such as those by Fiszbein et al. 2009; Banerjee et al. 2013; Krishnaratne et al. 2013; DFID 2011; Kabeer et al. 2012).</p> <p>How evidence was used: This analysis of the education sector informs R4D's recommendations to GPOBA on what types of education programs (levels, sectors, interventions, etc.) OBA might be best suited to. (p15)</p>	<p>Results for Development Institute (2016) Paying for Performance: An Analysis of Output-Based Aid in Education. Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA). Washington.</p> <p>http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/685331467989443899/pdf/103572-WP-P150373-PUBLIC-Paying-for-Performance-An-Analysis-of-Output-Based-Aid-in-Education-R4D-Final.pdf</p>
Kabeer et al. (2012) Conditional Cash Transfer	World Bank 2017	<p>Enhanced understanding: Cited in World Bank policy working paper that is part of a larger effort by the World Bank to provide open access to its research and make a contribution to development policy discussions around the world.</p>	<p>Evidence used: There is a recent array of literature that aggregates evaluation findings, including the systematic reviews of specific interventions such as employment schemes and cash transfers (Bastagli et al. 2016; Hagen-Zanker, McCord, and Holmes 2011;</p>	<p>http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/436571511364314467/pdf/WPS8255.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>Scope: ++ Impact on World Bank</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: + One document available online</p>	<p>Kabeer, Piza, and Taylor 2012).</p> <p>How evidence was used: This was one of the studies used to ensuring that ‘our Africa-specific findings are compared with international benchmarks’.</p>	
<p>Morgan et al. 2012</p> <p>Eliminating school user fees</p>	WikiGender	<p>Enhancing understanding: Cited in a Wiki about Effective Interventions to Address the Impact of HIV on School-Age Girls, hosted by a specialist database.</p> <p>Scope: + Assume impact on single team who contributed to the Wiki; or impact on individual readers</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ In a longstanding database</p>	<p>Evidence used: ‘Eliminating all costs associated with schooling reduces the economic burden on poor families to send children to school. This is particularly important where parents have previously had to choose between their children: girls will more likely have the opportunity to go to school. [Morgan et al. 2012]’</p> <p>How evidence was used: Wikigender is a global online collaborative platform linking policymakers and experts from both developed and developing countries to find solutions to advance gender equality. It provides a centralised space for knowledge exchange on key emerging issues, with a strong focus on the SDGs, and in particular on SDG 5. Both English and French speakers worldwide can discuss current issues, relevant research and emerging trends on gender equality.</p>	<p>https://www.wikigender.org/wiki/effective-interventions-to-address-the-impact-of-hiv-on-school-age-girls/</p>
Barakat et al. 2012	ODI 2017	Cited in ODI report (2017)	Evidence used: ‘The sheer number of trust funds implies a multiplication of decision making venues that increases	Reinsberg B (2017) Five steps to smarter multi-bi aid: A new way forward for

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Multi donor trust funds		<p>Scope: +++ Understanding and recommendations are for donor organisations working together</p> <p>Depth: +++ Understanding and recommendations are for donor organisations working together</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ If recommendations put into practice they will inform organisational strategy</p>	<p>administrative costs while also straining the capacity of bilateral donors. Trust funds have also failed to deliver on their promise to reduce aid fragmentation for recipient countries (Barakat, 2009: 108; Woods, 2005: 394; Barakat et al. 2012: 2).’</p> <p>How evidence was used: ‘A five-step plan to improve multi-bi aid calls for better data-access and management; recovering the full economic cost of earmarking; fee structures for improving impact; stronger internal rules to curb fragmentation; and better country ownership and participation. These reforms can make multi-bi aid more effective and efficient while enhancing its legitimacy in the eyes of recipients.’ (p4) but there is no evidence of uptake in specific decisions.</p>	<p>earmarked finance. London: Overseas Development Institute.</p> <p>https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11497.pdf</p>
Barakat et al. 2012 Multi donor trust funds	World Bank 2016	<p>Cited in The World Bank policy research working paper (2016) on Poverty and Policy Selectivity of World Bank Trust Funds</p> <p>Scope: +++ the report and implications are for the World Bank, and how it works with other organisations</p>	<p>Evidence used: ‘While multi-donor trust funds could, theoretically, improve donor coordination prior to implementation, reducing excessive and harmful donor fragmentation in the field (Huq 2010, IEG 2011a: ix), its effects on donor harmonization seem ambiguous (IEG 2011a: 43, Barakat et al. 2012: 34f.)’</p>	<p>Eichenauer V, Knack S (2011) Poverty and Policy Selectivity of World Bank Trust Funds. Policy Research Working Paper 7731</p> <p>https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24648</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>Depth: +++ They relate to how donor organisations work together in Trust funds</p> <p>Sustainability: + This is a single document.</p>	<p>How was evidence used: It confirms (and offers reassurance of the) initial understanding and intentions: 'Overall, the evidence indicates that multi-bi funds administered by the World Bank do not undermine the International Development Association's allocation criteria.' (abstract)</p>	
<p>Cole et al. 2012</p> <p>Index-based micro-insurance</p>	<p>International Growth Centre 2013, World Bank 2017, ODI 2015, Business Environment Reform Facility 2017</p>	<p>Policy impact: Cited in Policy Brief, working paper, World Bank, ODI Financial Inclusion Policy Guide</p> <p>Scope: +++: Impact is on three organisations separately: World Bank, ODI Financial Inclusion Policy Guide, Business Environment Reform Facility</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Long-lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy</p>	<p>Evidence used: '...provision of rainfall insurance causes smallholder farmers in Andhra Pradesh to substitute high-return but high-risk cash crops for low-return low-risk staples, consistent with theoretical predictions. Smallholders in the treatment group had a 13% higher likelihood of making such a shift compared with the control group...' (p.2).</p> <p>'...suggests less than 1 per cent penetration. In many instances, low levels of demand undermine the long-term sustainability of agricultural insurance schemes..' (p.1)</p> <p>How evidence was used: To provide evidence of: outcomes of index-based agriculture micro-insurance (by World Bank); limited take-up owes to both limited supply and demand, with major problems being upfront costs and lack</p>	<p>Smith W, Scott L, Shepherd A (2015) Financial Inclusion Policy Guide: Enhanced Resilience through Savings and Insurance via Linkages and Digital Technology. Policy brief no.8. Chronic Poverty Advisory Network.</p> <p>World Bank: https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/system/files/05%20Finance_BMI_Agrilnsurance_June21.pdf</p> <p>Overseas Development Institute: https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9601.pdf</p> <p>Business Environment Reform Facility: http://www.businessenvironmentreform.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Sudan-Review-of-Business-Environment-Constraints-March-2017.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			of trust and understanding of insurance products (by ODI, and by Business Environment Reform Facility).	
Guerrero et al. 2012 Teacher attendance	GSDRC Knowledge services	<p>In a specialist database: Cited in a GSDRC Topic Guide, which is an annotated bibliography</p> <p>Scope: + Assume impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: + One document available online</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: GSDRC Topic Guides aim to provide a clear, concise and objective report on findings from rigorous research on critical areas of development policy. Rather than provide policy guidance or recommendations, their purpose is to inform policymakers and practitioners of the key debates and evidence on the topic of focus, to support informed decision making.</p>	<p>Mcloughlin C, Scott Z (2014) Service delivery: Topic guide. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.</p> <p>https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/ServiceDelivery.pdf</p>
Yoong et al. 2012 Economic resource transfers to women vs men	International Rescue Committee	<p>NGO Policy: International Rescue Committee</p> <p>Scope ++: a single organisation</p> <p>Depth ++: gender equality.</p> <p>Sustainability +++: supporting organisational strategic change</p>	<p>Evidence used: Cash relief can contribute to shifting women and girls' 'bargaining power' and improve their decision making and control over household resources, (Yoong et al. 2012)</p> <p>How evidence was used: IRC policy: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has made an organisational commitment in our global strategy, IRC 2020, to gender equality and to ensure our programs narrow the gap in outcomes between women and men,</p>	<p>International Rescue Committee (2017) Cash relief for women and girls. https://www.rescue-uk.org/sites/default/files/document/1413/cashreliefforwomenandgirlsircbriefingfinal1.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			girls and boys. Alongside this we have made a commitment to increasing the use of cash relief programs.	
Clar et al. 2011	Population Council 2015	<p>Informing the generation and use of evidence: cited in a paper which 'set out to answer when, what types and how evidence is used in decision making related to family planning.' It was prepared by 'The Evidence Project [which] uses implementation science – the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence – to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide. The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council in partnership with INDEPTH Network, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Management Sciences for Health, PATH, Population Reference Bureau, and a University Research Network.</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on multiple organisations: The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council in partnership with INDEPTH Network, International Planned Parenthood</p>	<p>Evidence used: Factors that contribute to or impede the use of evidence from research in decision making on policies, programs, and practices have changed little over time and are found throughout the policymaking literature and in the scale-up and family planning operations research literature (many authors and Clar et al. 2011).</p> <p>How evidence was used: 'there is cause for optimism on the use of research evidence in decision making. A number of promising interventions exist to increase how research evidence, vis a vis other factors, can inform decision making. Understanding the decision making environment could help make research more relevant to pressing issues faced by decision-makers, more timely related to planning cycles, and more feasible to be implemented within health or other relevant systems. Expecting policy or program change from single studies is mostly unrealistic, but examples from decades of family planning programming shown in this</p>	<p>Hardee K, Wright, Spicehandler J (2015) Family Planning Policy, Program, and Practice Decision making: The Role of Research Evidence and Other Factors, Working Paper. Washington, DC: Population Council, The Evidence Project.</p> <p>https://www.academia.edu/37575852/Family_Planning_Policy_Program_and_Practice_Decision-making_The_Role_of_Research_Evidence_and_Other_Factors</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>Federation, Management Sciences for Health, PATH, Population Reference Bureau, and a University Research Network.</p> <p>Depth: ++ The Evidence Project uses implementation science – the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence – to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide.</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ is part of the ongoing Evidence Project</p>	<p>paper illustrate the incremental influence of evidence from research on family planning policies and programs.</p>	
<p>Hagen-Zanker et al. 2011</p> <p>Employment Guarantee Schemes and Cash Transfers</p>	<p>Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank</p>	<p>Framing future work: Cited in 'Realizing the Full Potential of Social Safety Nets in Africa'. This series 'is designed specifically to provide practitioners, scholars, and students with the most up-to-date research results while highlighting the promise, challenges, and opportunities that exist on the continent' (p. v).</p> <p>This report first presents a snapshot of social safety nets in Africa and the mounting evidence for the effectiveness of these programs in promoting the well-being and productive inclusion of the poorest</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'There is also a recent array of literature that aggregates evaluation findings, including systematic reviews of the global evidence on various social safety net programs; systematic reviews of specific interventions, such as cash transfers; systematic reviews of specific outcomes, for example, in education; and comparative country studies (Baird et al. 2013; Bastagli et al. 2016; Davis et al. 2016; Hagen-Zanker, McCord, and Holmes 2011; IEG 2011; Kabeer, Piza, and Taylor 2012; Saavedra and Garcia 2012). One caveat to the recent literature is that Africa-specific findings can be difficult to glean within global</p>	<p>Beegle, Kathleen, Aline Coudouel, and Emma Monsalve. 2018. Realizing the Full Potential of Social Safety Nets in Africa. Africa Development Forum series. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1164-7</p> <p>http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/657581531930611436/Realizing-the-Full-Potential-of-Social-Safety-Nets-in-Africa</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>and most vulnerable. It then focuses on the three areas highlighted above: the political, institutional, and fiscal aspects.</p> <p>Scope: ++ Impact on an individual educational institution</p> <p>Depth: ++ Evidence of uptake of change by the educational institute</p> <p>Sustainability: + One discussion document</p>	<p>studies, and there are no studies that combine comparable cross-country evidence from Africa to develop the average size of effects.' (p89)</p> <p>How evidence was used: It does not systematically discuss technical aspects involved in designing social safety nets (see Grosh et al. 2008 for a thorough treatment). Rather, the report highlights the implications that political, institutional, and fiscal aspects have for program choice and design. It argues that these considerations are crucial to ensuring success in raising social safety nets to scale in Africa and maintaining adequate support. Ignoring these areas could lead to technically sound, but practically impossible, choices and designs.'(p2).</p>	
<p>Hanna et al. 2011</p> <p>Anti-corruption</p>	<p>United Nations Development Programme 2012</p>	<p>Cited in a report commissioned by the UNDP. 'The objective of the study, which took place from December 2011 to March 2012, was to document grassroots women's perceptions and lived experiences of corruption in developing countries and bring this rich experience to important discourses regarding anti-corruption, gender</p>	<p>Evidence used: "The authors of 'The effectiveness of anti-corruption policy: what has worked, what hasn't, and what we don't know,' a paper reviewing the field of corruption studies, state on page 45 that "micro-level gender-based anti-corruption studies find that females are no different to males, on average, in both their attitudes towards corruption and their tendency to engage in corrupt activity."</p>	<p>Matsheza P, Timilsina A, Arutyunova A (eds) (2012) Seeing Beyond The State: Grassroots Women's Perspectives On Corruption And Anti-Corruption.</p> <p>https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Anti-corruption/Grassroots%20women%20and%20anti-corruption.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>equality and women's empowerment.' (p2)</p> <p>Scope +++: Leaders from [11] grassroots women's organisations gathered all the data used in a participatory research process, coordinated the process and also provided translation into English</p> <p>Depth +++: Its recommendations inform our strategies to promote gendered dimensions of corruption in anticorruption interventions</p> <p>Sustainability ++: Informing strategic approaches to anti-corruption</p>	<p>How evidence was used: [The study] is intended to direct attention to the lack of research on the gendered impact of corruption on poor communities, provide some initial insights from grassroots women, and contribute to anti-corruption programming by prioritizing and bringing to the forefront grassroots women's voices.' (p2)</p>	
<p>Knox et al. 2011</p> <p>Impacts of climate change on food crop productivity</p>	<p>Australia's Climate Commission Secretariat (Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary</p>	<p>Policy impact: Cited by the Climate Commission which brings together internationally renowned climate scientists, as well as policy and business leaders, to provide an independent and reliable source of information about climate change to the Australian public.</p> <p>Also cited by the policy UNECA paper</p> <p>Scope: ++: Single organisation, while making evidence public</p>	<p>Evidence used by UNECA: Mean yield changes by the 2050s are projected of: 17% for wheat; 5% for maize; 15% for sorghum, and –10% for millet (Knox et al. et al. 2012).</p> <p>Evidence used by Climate Commission: Production of crops and livestock requires, among other things, suitable temperatures...food production (IPCC, 2012). For example, in developed countries, climate change could reduce wheat yields by about 4% by 2050, and 14% by 2080 (Nelson et al. et al. 2010).</p>	<p>https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/acpc-loss-and-damage-report_final_en.pdf</p> <p>https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2013/06/apo-nid34545-1236751.pdf</p>

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
	Education) 2013	Depth: +++: Evidence informing Climate Commission Sustainability +: two single documents	In Africa and South Asia, climate change could reduce crop yields by about 8% by the 2050s (Knox et al. et al. 2012)... In many developing countries, it is common for households to consume most of the food they produce, while also depending heavily on food production for income (IPCC, 2012; Knox et al. 2012). How evidence was used: to explain what the risks of climate change mean for agriculture, food production, and income.	
Masset et al. 2011 Agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2016	Informing debate for policy development: Cited in report by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Scope: ++: FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. The publication is a useful resource for all countries as they develop policies and programmes to make healthy diets an easier choice for their citizens. The book also serves a variety of audiences, including policy-makers, programme planners and	Evidence used: In the agriculture-nutrition literature, promising diversification interventions/programmes have been identified with a positive impact on diets and nutrition (Fanzo et al. 2013; Fanzo et al. 2014; Masset et al. 2012; Ruel and Anderman, 2013, Table 2). One of the most studied interventions here includes diversified home and community gardens. Numerous studies have recorded the positive effects on diet diversity and women's income generation from such gardens across a variety of settings (Ruel, 2001; Masset et al. 2012).	FAO (2016) FAO, Influencing food environments for healthy diets. Rome, Italy: FAO. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6484e.pdf

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		implementers and the private sector. Depth: +: small change in resource Sustainability +: One book	How evidence was used: This book offers 'chapters providing empirical evidence and proposals for influencing food environments for healthy diets.' (p4) '[It] is best viewed as an exploration of entry points for which the evidence base is growing, rather than an exhaustive review of the options' (p10).	
Meyer et al. (2011) The impact of vouchers on the use and quality of health goods and services	GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services	In a specialist database: Available in GSDRC Document Library Scope: ++: Influence organisation. Assume further impact on single team who requested topic guide; or impact on individual readers Depth: +: small change in resource Sustainability ++: in a long standing database	Evidence used: Summary and whole document as a topic guide How evidence was used: A collection of more than 4500 of the most credible publications available on governance, social development, conflict and humanitarian issues. Brief, policy-oriented summaries of each document are provided, plus links to the full text.	https://gsdrc.org/document-library/the-impact-of-vouchers-on-the-use-and-quality-of-health-goods-and-services-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review/
Ugur and Dasgupta 2011 Economic growth impacts of corruption	OECD 2013	Impact on international policy debate: 'The Russian Presidency of the G20 has chosen growth as the underlying priority of its agenda of the Saint Petersburg Summit... In the context of the G20 efforts to fight corruption, the G20 Anticorruption Working Group has asked the OECD to lead the work examining the impact of corrupt practices and anticorruption policies	Evidence used: Various analysts have attempted to explain [the combination of rapid growth and high levels of perceived corruption in many Asian economies]... See Marazza (2006); Rock and Bonnett (2004); Ugur and Dasgupta (2011). Their explanations combine a number of specific characteristics of corruption which are based on theoretical classifications developed by earlier analysts. Most of these explanations, however, provide reasons	Issues paper on corruption and economic growth: https://star.worldbank.org/sites/star/files/oecd_issues_paper_on_corruption_and_economic_growth_2013.pdf

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>on economic growth and development, resulting in this Paper to be presented to the G20 Leaders at the St. Petersburg Summit in September.' (p1)</p> <p>Scope: +++: G20 leadership Depth +: on G20 agenda once Sustainability +: One debating event</p>	<p>why corruption in the countries concerned is less detrimental than it could be, rather than arguing convincingly that it makes a positive contribution to efficiency and growth. (p15-16).</p> <p>'The following summary/overview of transmission channels through which corruption can affect economic performance is based on both survey articles and individual studies... Apart from the references quoted directly in the text, the results presented are also drawn from the following survey articles: Bardhan (1997), Aidt (2003), Dreher and Herzfeld (2005), and Ugur and Dasgupta (2011).'</p> <p>'[Ugur and Dasgupta 2011] find that corruption has a negative effect on growth in both groups. They estimate the overall effect of corruption in low-income countries to amount to a 0.59 percentage-point decrease in the growth rate of per capita GDP for each unit increase in the perceived corruption index. Their corresponding estimate for the complete sample is a decline in per capita GDP growth by 0.91 percentage points per unit increase in the perceived corruption index. When decomposing the overall</p>	

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			<p>effect into different transmission channels, they report a positive effect of corruption on overall fixed investment, which contrast with the results of most other studies. Based on their narrative synthesis of the theoretical/analytical studies reviewed, the authors further conclude that economic gains from reducing corruption in low-income countries can be increased if anticorruption interventions are combined with a wider set of policies aimed at improving institutional quality and providing correct incentives for investment in human capital. The review also indicates that while levels of corruption in low income countries may be higher than in middle and high income countries, the latter on average stand to gain larger increases in output (both in absolute and relative terms) from reducing the incidence of corruption. Synthetic estimates for the decomposition of the overall effect into several transmission mechanisms are also presented and will be discussed below.' (p27)</p>	

Transparent use to enhance understanding				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			How evidence was used: This was in a briefing for a G20 meeting under the Russian Presidency.	

Appendix 6: Systematic reviews embedded in processes, systems and working culture

Systematic reviews either informed the development of processes, systems or working culture for embedding evidence in decision making; or they were incorporated into existing processes, systems or working culture for embedding evidence in decision making.

Impact on development of processes, systems and working culture

<p>Clar et al. 2011</p> <p>Uptake of evidence from health research</p>	<p>Population Council (Evidence project) 2015</p>	<p>Identifying promising interventions: Cited in review of ‘emerging knowledge translation literature to provide lessons learned on ways to increase the role that evidence plays in decision making for family planning and reproductive health policies, programs, and practices.’</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on multiple organisations: The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council in partnership with INDEPTH Network, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Management Sciences for Health, PATH, Population Reference Bureau, and a University Research Network.</p> <p>Depth: ++ identified five categories of interventions that should be considered to enhance the contribution of research to decisions on family planning policies, programs, and practices</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ is part of the ongoing Evidence Project</p>	<p>Evidence used: Increasingly, this has resulted in a demand for multifaceted approaches and research designs that allow for the examination of interventions in complex, real-world health systems (multiple authors and Clar et al. 2011).</p> <p>How evidence was used: ‘This paper identifies five promising interventions that can increase the likelihood that decision-makers will include evidence among the factors that guide and influence their decisions... This line of inquiry will enhance our efforts to increase the “space” that research evidence holds, among other legitimate evidence and factors, in the policy, program and practice decision making process’ (p15).</p>	<p>Hardee K, Wright K (2015) Expanding the Role of Evidence in Family Planning, Program, and Practice Decision making, Working Paper. Washington, DC: Population Council, The Evidence Project.</p> <p>http://evidenceproject.popcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Expanding-the-Role-of-Evidence-in-Decisionmaking.pdf</p>
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Incorporation into processes, systems and working culture

[Systematic reviews are listed in chronological order (most recent first), and then alphabetically by first author. Examples of use in DFID business cases are listed in Appendix 7: Instrumental Use.]

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Burrow et al. 2016 Technology selection for low-volume, rural roads	DFID 2016	<p>DFID research priority impact: Named as an ongoing piece of work in a business case about 'Applied Research in High Volume Transport (HVT)'</p> <p>Scope +++: Potentially leading to infrastructure investment in India and Africa</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes [NB Depth and sustainability may be reduced in areas of fragility such as South Sudan]</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Long lasting change anticipated from implementing effective structural changes [NB Depth and sustainability may be reduced in areas of fragility such as South Sudan]</p>	<p>Evidence used: The title of this <i>ongoing</i> review is listed in a summary of DFID research in Annex B. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the evidence base in Africa and Asia on the most strategic, cost effective, safe and lower carbon passenger and freight transport investments and services.</p> <p>From 2017-2021, Investment management committee will manage the DFID High-Volume Transport applied research programme along national and regional transport corridors and within cities in low-income countries (LICs) in Africa and South Asia.</p> <p>How evidence was used: This review is listed in Annex B: 'an overview of existing DFID transport research and programmes is included in Annex B. It illustrates that DFID research has largely focussed thus far on rural roads but is increasingly broadening out into areas</p>	<p>https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203844/documents</p> <p>http://www.imcworldwide.com/project/hvt/</p>

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			that better align with a rapidly urbanising world, the need for increased work on climate change adaptation and mitigation and the way DFID and MDB transport programmatic work is changing to reflect this global context.'	
Hulland et al. 2015 Adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies	World Health Organization 2018	NGO policy impact: Cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health. Scope: +++: Impact is on WHO policy with guideline development panel including academics, independent consultants and NGOs (UNICEF, Water Aid UK) and ministries from several countries. Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes Sustainability: +++: Long lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy	Evidence used: 'Multiple psychosocial (norms and nurturing), non-modifiable (age and gender) and technology (cost, durability and maintenance) factors influence initial and sustained adoption of clean water and sanitation technologies (p12)' How evidence was used: It informed a recommendation: 'Demand and supply of sanitation facilities and services should be addressed concurrently to ensure toilet adoption and sustained use and enable scale' (p11).	Evidence: Hulland K, Martin N, Dreibelbis R, De Bruicker Valliant J, Winch P (2015) <i>What factors affect sustained adoption of safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies? A systematic review of literature.</i> London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education Use: Guidelines on sanitation and health. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Carr-hill et al. 2015 School-based decision making on educational outcome	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Westhorp et al. 2014 Community accountability, empowerment and education outcomes	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Kingdon et al. 2013 Contract teachers and para-teachers	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Knox et al. 2013 Impact of infrastructural investments in roads, electricity and irrigation on agricultural productivity	DFID (2017; business case undated, but file properties note file created 2017)	Policy impact: Cited in two DFID business cases, one for programme, one for research. Policy impact: intention is (1) to implement road building programme; and (2) to strengthen the evidence base in Africa and Asia on the most strategic, cost effective, safe and lower carbon passenger and freight transport investments and services. Scope: +++: The programme will be implemented by the	Evidence used: A recent systematic review funded by DFID noted that the majority of evidence relating to road investments on agricultural productivity is positive, particularly in relation to GDP gains and poverty reduction (Knox et al. 2013). How evidence was used: it is used alongside other evidence to support this recommendation: FROMA2B is a £50 million feeder roads programme that will build rural feeder roads and invest	Business Case and Intervention Summary: Feeder Roads construction, Operation and Maintenance to connect Agriculture to Business (FROMA2B) Programme. iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439657.odt This business case was approved, however the programme was brought to a close in early 2015 as it was not able to deliver on key expected results, given the

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>Department for International Development (DFID), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) working in partnership and as one team, and delivered through local and national contractors supported by State Governments and with community support where appropriate.</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes. 'The programme objective (Impact) is: Increased incomes and reduced food insecurity and malnutrition in Northern and Western Bahr-el Ghazal and Warrap States' (p78)</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Long term impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes.</p>	<p>in state level capacity building and maintenance over a period of five years. The programme will focus on the states of Northern Bahr-el Ghazal, Western Bahr-el Ghazal and Warrap. This will complement existing and planned livelihoods programmes in the same area. Together these programmes aim through focused and linked development interventions to improve production and markets and ultimately food security through the development of value chains.</p> <p>Business case included an Evidence Rating table that rated the evidence for three options.</p>	<p>changed operational environment in South Sudan (on going conflict, large numbers of displaced people and high humanitarian need) and no longer offered the best value for money.⁴⁵</p> <p>http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439776.odt</p>
Morgan et al. 2013	Campbell and UNICEF	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>

⁴⁵ http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439776.odt

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
School voucher programmes		Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	
Willey et al. 2013 Effectiveness of interventions to strengthen national health services	DFID 2016/17	Business case: Health Transitions- To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique Scope ++: DFID business plan for work in Mozambique (one government department in one country) Depth: ++: To provide technical and financial support to the different functions of the health sector Sustainability: +++: Three year business plan	Evidence used, for ‘Investing in health policy translates to improved quality, equity and coverage of services’... ‘A systematic review found that interventions focused on decision making in the health sector resulted in more consistent improvement on quality of care, equity, coverage and access than those using technical guidance alone’ How evidence was used: This systematic review is cited in an evidence rating table to indicate a strong ‘evidence rating’ for the approach proposed for health policy at central and provincial level, supported the objective ‘Investing in health policy translates to improved quality, equity and coverage of services’.	Health Transitions- To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/4833405.odt This business case was subsequently approved the programme is currently in the implementation phase. https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205074/documents .
Acharya et al. (2012) National health insurance	DFID 2018 (business case undated, but file properties note file	Impact: Cited in DFID business case for the Making Country Health Systems Stronger (MCHSS) programme aims to support countries to strengthen their health systems to accelerate progress towards Universal Health	Evidence used: ‘Women are also less likely than their male counterparts to be in formal employment they are less likely to benefit from social insurance schemes providing them with health cover’ (Acharya et al. 2012)	Business Case Summary Sheet: Making Country Health Systems Stronger iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/32808657.odt

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
	created 2018)	<p>Coverage, resulting in more people, specifically the poor and vulnerable, having greater access to essential preventative, curative and rehabilitation health services with increased levels of financial risk protection.</p> <p>Scope: +++: Programme targeting multiple countries Depth: +++: Efforts guided by country demand and need, and potential for learning and leveraging other donor support, political window of opportunity, delivery advantages and alignment with priorities and activities of other partners. Sustainability: +++: Targeting systems changes</p>	<p>How evidence was used: The business case included a section on understanding gender and equity, citing Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem. This was part of the evidence for supporting this decision: 'This programme will provide £28.15 million through a centrally-managed programme between September 2017 and April 2020 to help low and lower-middle income countries (LMIC) to strengthen their health systems.'</p>	
Coast et al. 2012 Models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes	Campbell and UNICEF	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega Map Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Dickson et al. 2012 Access to economic assets for girls and young women	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Hawkes and Ugur 2012 education, skills and economic growth	DFID 2018	Policy impact: Cited in DFID Business Case. Policy impact: intention is to scale up the Technical Assistance collaboration on Skill Development for joint prosperity. This will fulfil Prime Minister Theresa May's commitment of £12m to support the Skill India Mission, made during her India visit in November 2016. Scope: +++: DFID, Indian Ministry, multiple partners In UK and India Depth: +++: ...policy reforms working with the central ministry and on technology / best practices transfer working with international institutions and the private sector (including UK institutions, service providers and corporates) that will support joint prosperity through development	Evidence used: There is strong evidence that the cognitive skills of the population—rather than mere school attainment—are powerfully related to individual earnings, to the distribution of income, and to economic growth. A recent study by Hawkes & Ugur of the evidence around the relationship between education, skills and economic growth in low-income countries (LIC), indicate that human capital does have a positive and genuine effect on growth in LICs (Hawkes and Ugur 2012) . Education provides workers and entrepreneurs with the cognitive and technical skills they require to implement tasks effectively and efficiently and raises their ability to access and absorb new information	Skills for jobs: ADDENDUM TO BUSINESS CASE INCLUDING FOR BRIDGE FUNDING AND SCALE-UP COST EXTENSIONS https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202865/documents

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>impact in India and secondary benefits for the UK</p> <p>Sustainability +++: The focus on skills is a long-term investment in Indian population.</p>	<p>How evidence was used: Leading piece of evidence included in the India Business Case (Prosperity Fund).</p>	
<p>Carr et al. 2012</p> <p>Increasing salaries on improving the performance of public servants</p>	Campbell and UNICEF	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>
<p>Kabeer et al. 2012</p> <p>Conditional cash transfer</p>	Campbell and UNICEF	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>
<p>Guerrero et al 2012</p> <p>Teacher attendance</p>	Campbell and UNICEF	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource		
Yoong et al 2012 Economic resource transfers to women vs men	Campbell and UNICEF	Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF Depth: + Small change in evidence resource Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource	Evidence used: summary of whole review How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews	https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html
Ugur and Dasgupta 2011 Economic growth impacts of corruption	DFID 2017 (business case undated, but file properties note file created 2017)	Policy impact: Cited in DFID/ FCO plans for Phase 2 (2016/17 – 2020/21) of the Good Governance Fund: a Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Programme Document. Scope +++: largely focused on the provision of technical assistance in support of governance and economic reform in five partner countries: Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Depth: +++: Potentially leading to governance changes Sustainability +++: Long lasting, five year business plan	Evidence used: 'Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) concluded that corruption has a negative direct and indirect effect on per-capita income growth. In addition, they found that, indirectly, corruption is associated with lower investment and human capital.' Also cited in Annex B: Literature Review on the potential benefits of GGF priorities: Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) conducted a review of the evidence available (115 studies) on the effect of corruption on economic growth and concluded that, overall, corruption has a negative direct and indirect effect on per-capita income growth. In addition, they found that, indirectly, corruption is associated with	iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/19191508.odt

Embedded Use (DFID)/Capacity strengthening (Research Excellence Framework)				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			<p>lower investment and human capital. Moreover, they found that corruption is expected to be more detrimental in countries with higher levels of per capita income and institutional quality.</p> <p>How evidence was used: Cited in the section listing evidence that points to wide ranging and diverse impacts from the different GGF priorities.</p>	
<p>Hussein et al 2011</p> <p>Reductions in maternal mortality</p>	<p>Campbell and UNICEF</p>	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>
<p>Masset et al 2011</p> <p>Agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children.</p>	<p>Campbell and UNICEF</p>	<p>Evidence gap map. One of 302 systematic reviews in Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare MegaMap</p> <p>Scope: +++ Impact on Campbell and UNICEF</p> <p>Depth: + Small change in evidence resource</p> <p>Sustainability: +++ searchable knowledge resource</p>	<p>Evidence used: summary of whole review</p> <p>How evidence was used: included in searchable evidence gap map of systematic reviews</p>	<p>https://campbellcollaboration.org/child_welfare_megamap_28062018.html</p>

Appendix 7: Systematic reviews used for instrumental purposes

[Systematic reviews are listed in chronological order (most recent first), and then alphabetically by first author.]

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Burrow et al 2016 Technology selection for low-volume, rural roads	DFID 2016	<p>DFID research priority impact: Named as an on-going piece of work in a business case about 'Applied Research in High Volume Transport (HVT)'</p> <p>Scope +++: Potentially leading to infrastructure investment in India and Africa</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes [NB Depth and sustainability may be reduced in areas of fragility such as South Sudan]</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Long lasting change anticipated from implementing effective structural changes [NB Depth and sustainability may be reduced in areas of fragility such as South Sudan]</p>	<p>Evidence used: The title of this <i>ongoing</i> review is listed in a summary of DFID research in Annexe B. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the evidence base in Africa and Asia on the most strategic, cost effective, safe and lower carbon passenger and freight transport investments and services.</p> <p>From 2017-2021, Investment management committee will manage the DFID High-Volume Transport applied research programme along national and regional transport corridors and within cities in low-income countries (LICs) in Africa and South Asia.</p> <p>How evidence was used: This review is listed in Annex B: 'an overview of existing DFID transport research and programmes is included in Annex B. It illustrates that DFID research has largely focussed thus far on rural roads but is increasingly broadening out into areas that better align with a rapidly</p>	<p>https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203844/documents</p> <p>http://www.imcworldwide.com/project/hvt/</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			urbanising world, the need for increased work on climate change adaptation and mitigation and the way DFID and MDB transport programmatic work is changing to reflect this global context.'	
Carr-Hill et al. 2015 School based decision making	World Bank 2018	<p>World Bank policy impact: cited in a World Bank report arguing 'that achieving learning for all will require three complementary strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First</i>, assess learning to make it a serious goal... • <i>Second</i>, act on evidence to make schools work for learning... • <i>Third</i>, align actors to make the entire system work for learning... <p>Scope +++: Global scope of World Bank Depth +++: School-based decision making is a systems issue with large potential for change Sustainability +++: School-based decision making is a systems issue with long-term potential for change</p>	<p>Evidence used: Cited in section 7 on how investments in school inputs, management, and governance often can be guided by how well they improve the teacher-learner relationship. 'School-based management programs improve learning when the community has the capacity to make and implement smarter decisions' (Carr-Hill et al). Cited in section 11 on investing in better information on learning.' Parents can also use information to pressure schools to raise standards (Barr, Packard, and Serra, 2014).) For example, the provision of report cards has strengthened accountability in some countries (Snilstveit and others, 2015). Interventions of this kind work best where power relations between actors in an education system are not highly unequal or organised to support patronage networks, and where frontline service providers have autonomy to respond to community</p>	<p>World Bank. 2018. World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1096-1. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO</p> <p>http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			<p>demands Carr-hill et al. 2015; Grandvoinet, Aslam, and Raha, 2015). When these factors prevent parents' voices from being heard, it can encourage some, especially middle-class parents, to opt out of the public education system, weakening pressure on governments to improve learning across the system (Banerjee and others, 2010; World Bank 2017c).</p> <p>How evidence was used: 'The World Bank Group is already incorporating the key findings of this Report into our operations. We will continue to seek new ways to scale up our commitment to education and apply our knowledge to serve those children whose untapped potential is wasted. For example, we are developing more useful measures of learning and its determinants. We are ensuring that evidence guides operational practice to improve learning in areas such as early-years interventions, teacher training, and educational technology' (from Foreword, p. xii of World Bank report).</p>	
Gupta et al. 2015	UNICEF Research 2018 (document)	NGO policy impact: Cited in UNICEF Research brief intended to guide UNICEF policy	Evidence: 'Regulatory and road engineering interventions for preventing road traffic injuries and fatalities among vulnerable (non-	UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 Goal Area 4: Every Child Lives in a Clean and Safe Environment

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Regulatory and road engineering interventions	undated, but file properties of evidence brief note 2018)	<p>Scope: +++: Impact is on Policy Brief, with guideline development panel including academics, independent consultants and NGOs (UNICEF, Water Aid UK) and ministries from several countries.</p> <p>Depth: +++: Evidence informing UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021. Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Evidence has been sought explicitly to inform strategic planning for a timespan, longlasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy</p>	<p>motorised and motorised two-wheel road users in low- and middle-income countries' (p.2).</p> <p>How evidence was used: This review is listed as providing evidence with an equity focus to inform UNICEF's Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/Campbell%20UNICEF%20IRB%20SG4%20Rev.pdf</p>
Hulland et al. 2015 Adopting safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies	World Health Organization 2018	<p>NGO policy impact: Cited in WHO guidelines on sanitation and health.</p> <p>Scope: +++: Impact is on WHO policy with guideline development panel including academics, independent consultants and NGOs (UNICEF, Water Aid UK) and ministries from several countries.</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Long-lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Multiple psychosocial (norms and nurturing), non-modifiable (age and gender) and technology (cost, durability and maintenance) factors influence initial and sustained adoption of clean water and sanitation technologies' (p12)'</p> <p>How evidence was used: It informed a recommendation: 'Demand and supply of sanitation facilities and services should be addressed concurrently to ensure toilet adoption and sustained use and enable scale' (p11).</p>	<p>Evidence: Hulland K, Martin N, Dreibelbis R, De Bruicker Valliant J, Winch P (2015) <i>What factors affect sustained adoption of safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies? A systematic review of literature.</i> London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education</p> <p>Use: Guidelines on sanitation and health. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Lawry et al. 2014 land property rights	US Government's Global Food Security Strategy, 2018	<p>Impact on government policy: Cited in one of 18 technical guidance documents for implementing the US Government's Global Food Security Strategy.</p> <p>Scope ++: one government department</p> <p>Depth +++: integrated into guidance with resources and tools</p> <p>Sustainable +++: integrated into guidance with resources and tools</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Secure land, marine, and natural resource tenure promotes resilient production and market systems by creating incentives for short- and long-term investment. Evidence shows that secure land, marine, and resource rights are associated with improved agricultural productivity and higher incomes.' (Lawry et al. 2014)</p> <p>How evidence was used: This evidence introduces and justifies guidance for designing activities for land and marine tenure and natural resource governance regarding rights and responsibilities</p>	<p>Evidence: Lawry S, Samii C, Hall R, Leopold A, Hornby D, Mtero F (2014) The impact of land property rights interventions on investment and agricultural productivity in developing countries: a systematic review. <i>Campbell Systematic Reviews</i> 2014:1 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2014.1 [Funder DFID London]</p> <p>Use: Global Food Security Strategy Technical Guidance for Land, Marine, and Resource Tenure https://www.feedthefuture.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Final_Land-Marine-and-Resource-Tenure-2019-0228.pdf</p>
Dangour et al. 2013 Promoting nutrition through agriculture-led food price policies	World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean 2016	<p>NGO policy impact: Cited in WHO document offering proposed priority areas of action and strategic interventions</p> <p>Scope ++: Impact is on WHO RO for the Eastern Mediterranean</p> <p>Depth ++: Substantial impact anticipated if structural priorities (agricultural subsidies) implemented</p> <p>Sustainability ++: Long-lasting change anticipated if priorities implemented</p> <p>NB depth and sustainability judged lower than Hulland in WHO</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Agricultural subsidies, which have usually been designed to support agricultural producers and rarely take nutrition considerations into account, can also have an impact on the food supply and may influence rates of nutrition-related NCDs' (p19).</p> <p>How evidence is used: The statement above contributes alongside other evidence to justifying strategic intervention 5.18: 'Cooperate with other Member States to adopt a regional approach for engaging with food producers to drive food reformulation to eliminate trans fats</p>	<p>Evidence: Dangour AD, Hawkesworth S, Shankar B, Watson L, Srinivasan CS, Morgan EH, Haddad L, and Waage J (2013) Can nutrition be promoted through agriculture-led food price policies? A systematic review. <i>BMJ Open</i> 3, e002937.</p> <p>Use: Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259519/emropub_2017_20141.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		guidance because the evidence and how it is used is more tentative.	and reduce progressively total and saturated fat, salt, sugars, energy and portion size in a substantial proportion of processed foods'	
Kingdon et al. 2013	UNESCO 2015	<p>Impact on advocacy: 'This 11th Education for All Global Monitoring Report provides a timely update on progress that countries are making towards the global education goals that were agreed in 2000.' (p. i)</p> <p>Scope: ++: Influencing UNESCO's advocacy work for education.</p> <p>Depth: + Good potential with specific recommendations from UNESCO</p> <p>Sustainability: ++ reports advocating for change annually</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Contract teachers tend to have little formal training and to be employed under less favourable terms than regular civil service teachers, on contracts often limited to one or two years with no guarantee of renewal (Kingdon et al. 2013).' (p256)</p> <p>'In West Africa, where contract teachers made up half the teaching force by the mid-2000s their recruitment has been especially widespread, partly because the salaries of civil service teachers were perceived as high and unaffordable for the state as the need for teachers grew... The proportion is also high in some Latin American countries, such as Chile, where 20% of all teachers are contract and community teachers (Kingdon et al. 2013)' (p256-7).</p> <p>How evidence was used: Evidence supports this recommendation: Governments must step up efforts to recruit an additional 1.6 million teachers to achieve universal primary</p>	<p>UNESCO (2015) Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All. EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/4.</p> <p>https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000225660</p>

Instrumental use				
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			education by 2015. This Report identifies four strategies to provide the best teachers to reach all children with a good quality education. First, the right teachers must be selected to reflect the diversity of the children they will be teaching. Second, teachers must be trained to support the weakest learners, starting from the early grades. A third strategy aims to overcome inequalities in learning by allocating the best teachers to the most challenging parts of a country. Lastly, governments must provide teachers with the right mix of incentives to encourage them to remain in the profession and to make sure all children are learning, regardless of their circumstances' (p. i)	
Knox et al. 2013 Impact of infrastructural investments in roads, electricity and irrigation on agricultural productivity	DFID (2017; business case undated, but file properties note file created 2017)	Policy impact: Cited in two DFID Business Cases, one for programme, one for research. Policy impact: intention is (1) to implement road building programme; and (2) to strengthen the evidence base in Africa and Asia on the most strategic, cost effective, safe and lower carbon passenger and freight transport investments and services. Scope: +++: The programme will be implemented by the Department	Evidence used: A recent systematic review funded by DFID noted that the majority of evidence relating to road investments on agricultural productivity is positive, particularly in relation to GDP gains and poverty reduction (Knox et al. 2013). How evidence was used: it is used alongside other evidence to support this recommendation: FROMA2B is a £50 million feeder roads programme that will build rural feeder roads and invest	Business Case and Intervention Summary: Feeder Roads construction, Operation and Maintenance to connect Agriculture to Business (FROMA2B) Programme. iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439657.odt This business case was approved, however the programme was brought to a close in early 2015 as it was not able to deliver on key expected results,

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>for International Development (DFID), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) working in partnership and as one team, and delivered through local and national contractors supported by State Governments and with community support where appropriate.</p> <p>Depth: +++: Substantial impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes. 'The programme objective (impact) is: Increased incomes and reduced food insecurity and malnutrition in Northern and Western Bahr-el Ghazal and Warrap States' (p78)</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Long term impact anticipated from implementing effective structural changes.</p>	<p>in state level capacity building and maintenance over a period of five years. The programme will focus on the states of Northern Bahr-el Ghazal, Western Bahr-el Ghazal and Warrap. This will complement existing and planned livelihoods programmes in the same area. Together these programmes aim through focused and linked development interventions to improve production and markets and ultimately food security through the development of value chains.</p> <p>Business case included an Evidence Rating table that rated the evidence for three options.</p>	<p>given the changed operational environment in South Sudan (ongoing conflict, large numbers of displaced people and high humanitarian need) and no longer offered the best value for money.⁴⁶</p> <p>http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439776.odt</p>
<p>Willey et al. 2013</p> <p>Effectiveness of interventions</p>	<p>DFID 2016/17</p>	<p>Business case: Health Transitions- To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique</p>	<p>Evidence used, for 'Investing in health policy translates to improved quality, equity and coverage of services'... 'A systematic review found that interventions focused on decision making in the health sector resulted in</p>	<p>Health Transitions- To Improve Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Outcomes in Mozambique</p> <p>iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/4833405.odt</p>

⁴⁶ http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/13439776.odt

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
to strengthen national health services		<p>Scope ++: DFID business plan for work in Mozambique (one government department in one country)</p> <p>Depth: ++: To provide technical and financial support to the different functions of the health sector</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Three year business plan</p>	<p>more consistent improvement on quality of care, equity, coverage and access than those using technical guidance alone'</p> <p>How evidence was used: This systematic review is cited in an evidence rating table to indicate a strong 'evidence rating' for the approach proposed for health policy at central and provincial level, supported the objective investing in 'health policy translates to improved quality, equity and coverage of services'.</p>	<p>This business case was subsequently approved the programme is currently in the implementation phase.</p> <p>https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205074/documents</p>
<p>Aboal et al. 2012</p> <p>Investment rate changes</p>	DFID 2015	<p>Informing government programme: The journal article based on this review was cited in a review commissioned for DFID's Legal Assistance for Economic Reform Programme (Laser).</p> <p>Scope: ++: Impact is individual government programme</p> <p>Depth: +: Recommendation is for evaluation of future reforms</p> <p>Sustainability: +: Once discussion document</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'the linkage between contract enforcement and investment (Aboal) highlights the lack of robust evidence for the 'basic story' that effective third-party enforcement enables more complex contracting, the limited testing that has been carried out to date of the plausible indirect causal channels, as well as the low number of robustness checks that have been undertaken to rule out alternative explanations.'</p> <p>How evidence was used: It justifies this recommendation: '...future IC programming should have a strong focus on lesson learning. Where</p>	<p>Evidence: Aboal D, Noya N, and Rius A (2012) A systematic review on the evidence of the impact on investment rates of changes in the enforcement of contracts. London.</p> <p>Use: Manuel C (2015) Is there a causal link between investment climate and growth? A review of the evidence. DFID Legal Assistance Reform Programme.</p> <p>http://www.businessenvironment.org/dyn/be/docs/299/laser-evidence-paper-the-link-between-ic-reform-a.pdf</p>

Instrumental use				
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			feasible, programmes should aim, as a matter of course, to integrate the delivery of IC reforms with the generation and dissemination of robust, rigorous evidence on the existence (or not) of a causal link between the reform programme and economic impact. A growing body of such evidence may enable broader lessons to be drawn about what works and what to prioritise in IC reform, including in fragile and post-conflict situations. Rigorous impact evaluations seem to offer potential for further enlightenment, and should be included in these efforts.'	
Acharya et al. (2012) National health insurance	DFID 2018 (business case undated, but file properties note file created 2018)	Impact: Cited in DFID business case for the Making Country Health Systems Stronger (MCHSS) programme aims to support countries to strengthen their health systems to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage, resulting in more people, specifically the poor and vulnerable, having greater access to essential preventative, curative and rehabilitation health services with increased levels of financial risk protection.	Evidence used: 'Women are also less likely than their male counterparts to be in formal employment they are less likely to benefit from social insurance schemes providing them with health cover' (Acharya et al. 2012) How evidence was used: The business case included a section on understanding gender and equity, citing Acharya et al. (2012) to explain part of the problem. This was part of the evidence for supporting this decision: 'This programme will provide £28.15 million through a centrally-managed programme between September 2017	Business Case Summary Sheet: Making Country Health Systems Stronger iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/32808657.odt

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>Scope: +++: Programme targeting multiple countries</p> <p>Depth: +++: Efforts guided by country demand and need, and potential for learning and leveraging other donor support, political window of opportunity, delivery advantages and alignment with priorities and activities of other partners.</p> <p>Sustainability: +++: Targeting systems changes</p>	and April 2020 to help low and lower-middle income countries (LMIC) to strengthen their health systems.'	
Dickson (2012) Economic assets for girls	UNICEF 2018	<p>Policy impact: intention is to guide UNICEF policy</p> <p>Scope: ++: Single organisation, while making evidence public in the hope it will be used by others</p> <p>Depth: +++: Evidence informing UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Evidence has been sought explicitly to inform strategic planning for a three-year timespan. Long-lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy.</p>	<p>Evidence used: Brief highlights this review as focusing specifically on developing countries.</p> <p>How evidence was used: This review is listed as providing evidence with an equity focus to inform UNICEF's Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>Use: White H and Saran A (undated) Evidence and Gap Map Research Brief. UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti</p> <p>UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/Campbell%20UNICEF%20IRB%20SG5%20Rev.pdf</p>
Hawkes and Ugur 2012 education, skills and	DFID 2018	<p>Policy impact: Cited in DFID Business Case.</p> <p>Policy impact: intention is to scale up the Technical Assistance</p>	Evidence used: There is strong evidence that the cognitive skills of the population – rather than mere school attainment – are powerfully related to	Skills for jobs: addendum to business case including for bridge funding and scale-up cost extensions

Instrumental use				
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economic growth		<p>collaboration on Skill Development for joint prosperity. This will fulfil Prime Minister Theresa May's commitment of £12m to support the Skill India Mission, made during her India visit in November 2016.</p> <p>Scope: +++: DFID, Indian Ministry, multiple partners In UK and India</p> <p>Depth: +++: ...policy reforms working with the central ministry and on technology/best practices transfer working with international institutions and the private sector (including UK institutions, service providers and corporates) that will support joint prosperity through development impact in India and secondary benefits for the UK</p> <p>Sustainability +++: The focus on skills is a long-term investment in Indian population.</p>	<p>individual earnings, to the distribution of income, and to economic growth. A recent study by Hawkes & Ugur of the evidence around the relationship between education, skills and economic growth in low-income countries (LIC), indicate that human capital does have a positive and genuine effect on growth in LICs (Hawkes and Ugur 2012). Education provides workers and entrepreneurs with the cognitive and technical skills they require to implement tasks effectively and efficiently and raises their ability to access and absorb new information</p> <p>How evidence was used: Leading piece of evidence included in the India Business Case (Prosperity Fund).</p>	<p>https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202865/documents</p>
<p>Kabeer et al. (2012)</p> <p>Conditional cash transfer</p>	UNICEF	<p>Policy impact: intention is to guide UNICEF policy, cited in the evidence gap map and associated report</p> <p>The Policy Research Working Paper Series disseminates the findings of work in progress to encourage the exchange of ideas about development issues.</p>	<p>Evidence used: Many of the reviews in the map may present data disaggregated according to gender or disability. For example, a review of the economic effects of conditional cash transfers (CCTs) finds that CCTs reduce child labour for boys more than for girls, unless the transfer is explicitly targeted at girls (Kabeer, 2012).</p>	<p>UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life</p> <p>https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/Campbell%20UNICEF%20IRB%20SG5%20Rev.pdf</p>

Instrumental use				
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		<p>Scope: ++: Single organisation, while making evidence public in the hope it will be used by others</p> <p>Depth: +++: Evidence informing UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Evidence has been sought explicitly to inform strategic planning for a three-year timespan. Long-lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy.</p>	<p>How evidence was used: This review provides an example of data disaggregated according to gender or disability.</p>	
<p>Barakat et al. 2012</p> <p>Multi donor trust funds</p>	<p>DFID 2015</p>	<p>Cited in the report on How DFID works with multilateral agencies to achieve impact</p> <p>Scope +++: Recommendations for DFID are linked to ways of working with other multilateral organisations.</p> <p>Depth +++: DFID committed to greater transparency in donor coordination.</p> <p>Sustainability +++: DFID's response includes ongoing commitment</p>	<p>Evidence used: Trust Funds, which have a defined purpose and may (or may not) be significantly under the control of partner governments. DFID's funding for most of these trust funds is provided through its bilateral programme. We highlight the trust fund mechanism here because, as we will discuss, until this review, DFID did not report expenditure through trust funds separately (see paragraphs 3.46-3.47 on page 31) [Barakat et al. 2012]. This funding is discretionary.</p> <p>How evidence was used: the impact was on development of recommendations for how DFID works in multilateral systems:</p>	<p>https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Report-How-DFID-works-with-multilateral-agencies-to-achieve-impact.pdf</p> <p>DFID's response: https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Report-How-DFID-works-with-multilateral-agencies-to-achieve-impact.pdf</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			<p>1: DFID should have a strategy for its engagement with the multilateral system as a whole at the global level.</p> <p>2: DFID needs clear objectives for its work with the multilateral system in its country-level strategies.</p> <p>3: DFID should address the low proportion and limited seniority of its core staff resources devoted to managing its relationships with multilateral agencies.</p> <p>4: DFID should continue to press for greater transparency and accountability of multilaterals.</p> <p>5: DFID should promote more integrated working amongst multilateral institutions at country level.</p> <p>6: DFID should work more collaboratively with other bilaterals in its engagement with multilateral agencies.</p> <p>7: DFID should communicate more effectively to taxpayers about the role, impact and importance of multilaterals.</p> <p>DFID (2016) picked up on multilateral trust funds in its response accepting recommendation 5.</p> <p>Action already taken: DFID promotes cooperation amongst delivery partners in the countries where we have offices,</p>	

Instrumental use				
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			<p>under the leadership of the country's government and in line with the Paris principles on aid effectiveness. We have promoted strong collaboration in the humanitarian sector for example using multi-donor trust funds such as CERF and progress on initiatives such as One UN.</p> <p>Action to be taken: DFID will continue to support better donor coordination; we will collect examples of effective integrated working and share the lessons from these examples across the country network.</p>	
<p>Birdthistle et al. (2011)</p> <p>Separate toilets for girls at school</p>	<p>UNICEF 2018</p>	<p>Policy impact: intention is to guide UNICEF policy</p> <p>Scope: ++: Single organisation, while making evidence public in the hope it will be used by others</p> <p>Depth: +++: Evidence informing UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Goal Area 5: Every Child Has An Equitable Chance In Life</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Evidence has been sought explicitly to inform strategic planning for a three-year timespan. Long-lasting change anticipated by evidence incorporated into policy</p>	<p>Evidence used: Well targeted interventions providing additional resources, and supporting teachers, can have positive effects. However, there is no evidence on the effects of separate girls' toilets (Birdthistle et al. 2011).</p> <p>How evidence was used: The purpose of the research brief is to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Areas in which there is ample evidence to guide policy and practice, and so to encourage policy makers and practitioners to use the map as a way to access rigorous studies of effectiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Gaps in the evidence base, and so encourage research commissioners 	<p>White H and Saran A (undated) Evidence and Gap Map Research Brief. UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti</p> <p>Birdthistle I, Dickson K, Freeman M, Javidi L (2011) What impact does the provision of separate toilets for girls at schools have on their primary and secondary school enrolment, attendance and completion? A systematic review of the evidence. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London.</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
			to commission studies to fill these evidence gaps.	
Duvendack et al. 2011 models of delivery for improving maternal and infant health outcomes for poor people in urban areas	DFID 2018	<p>Team impact: Cited in a semi-systematic review by Duvendack (2017). DFID include a cover note of how they are responding (2018)</p> <p>Scope +: one department (DFID), maybe only one team (Payments by Results)</p> <p>Depth +: These were recommendations for research, monitoring and evaluation not policy</p> <p>Sustainability +: Some insights for research, monitoring and evaluation have been taken up by Payments by Results team.</p>	<p>Evidence used: Scant evidence in sectors beyond health and education, most research showed that the PbR programmes had statistically significant, positive effects.</p> <p>How evidence was used: DFID highlighted specific recommendations: Importance of reliable data (and its cost), involving independent evaluators early in designing PbR interventions; credible counterfactuals; how PbR impacts on the suppliers' incentives; challenge of PbR contracts for programming interventions in fragile and conflict-affected states; recording costs of measurement and verification of results. Doubts about the assertion that output-level indicators are flawed.</p> <p>DFID will incorporate these insights into our institutional PbR learning, training, guidance and support to programme design teams, as part of DFID's institutional learning strategy.</p>	<p>Duvendack M (2017) Semi-systematic review to understand Payments-by-Results mechanisms in developing countries: Full report: Review Of Payment By Results In DFID: Establishing The Evidence Base.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/684277/full-report-UEA1-merged.pdf</p>
Hanna et al. 2011	International Commission for AID impact 2014	Informing policy development: Cited in a report by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact as evidence of DFID's	Evidence used: 'DFID has also funded research papers in 2011 [Hanna et al] and 2012 [an evidence map] to ascertain better the evidence base for	Independent Commission for Aid Impact (2014) DFID's Approach to Anti-Corruption and its Impact on the Poor.

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
Anti-corruption		<p>Approach to Anti-Corruption and its Impact on the Poor</p> <p>Scope+++: The ICAI report offered recommendations for a single department, DFID. The select committee offered recommendations to the UK government more widely</p> <p>Depth+++: The definition of corruption used by Hanna is cited in House of Commons International Development Select Committee in their report on Tackling Corruption Overseas (2015).</p> <p>Sustainability+++: The Committee made 13 recommendations. The Government response agreed or partially agreed with 12 of them.</p>	<p>effective anti-corruption programming.' (IACI 2014).</p> <p>Select Committee report noted 'The term corruption is difficult to define and spans a variety of misconducts from "unethical behaviour to political misconduct to the sale of government property for personal gain"' (Hanna et al. 2011).</p> <p>How evidence was used: Hanna et al. (2011) was evidence of DFID's limited work on corruption (IACI 2015). The ICAI report 'called for more country-specific analysis of different types of corruption and the development of anti-corruption country strategies wherever there was a high risk of corruption. In response to this, in 2013, DFID published tailored anti-corruption country strategies for each of its priority countries.' (The Select Committee report).</p>	<p>https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/DFIDs-Approach-to-Anti-Corruption-and-its-Impact-on-the-Poor-FINAL.pdf</p> <p>House of Commons International Development Select Committee in their report on Tackling Corruption Overseas (2015)</p> <p>https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development.-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/tackling-corruption-overseas/</p> <p>House of Commons International Development Committee Tackling corruption overseas: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2016–17 Sixth Special Report of Session 2016–17 Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 11 January 2017.</p>
<p>Stewart et al. 2010 impact of microfinance</p> <p>Stewart 2012</p>	<p>NORAD 2012</p> <p>The <i>Anglican Communion</i> 2012</p>	<p>Policy impact: These reviews sparked debate and helped bring a more questioning approach to microfinance to the international development community. The led to policy change by NORAD in</p>	<p>Evidence used: findings of the reviews</p> <p>How evidence was used: <i>Policy change in Norway:</i> The research contributed to the 2012 decision of the country's aid agency Norad to stop funding most new microfinance institutions, after more</p>	<p>http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2012/06/19/norad-won-t-back-micro-lenders</p> <p>Research Excellence Framework Impact Case Study</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
micro-credit, micro-savings and micro-leasing		<p>Norway, and priorities for the Anglican Communion in Africa.</p> <p>Scope: +++: Two organisations leading their own policy changes. Multiple organisations included in debate.</p> <p>Depth: +++: Evidence informing microfinance programming</p> <p>Sustainability +++: informing strategic programming and priorities</p>	<p>than a decade as a key donor. The decision followed a TV exposé by a Danish journalist, to which Stewart contributed. In its response, Norad stated it was well aware of the new research in the microfinance area, including the systematic reviews' (see link). The <i>Anglican Communion</i> asked Stewart to contribute to its Economic Empowerment Workshop in Nairobi in 2012. Priorities agreed included 'development of new products and services that can provide access to finance for the most poor' and better financial literacy education. <i>Professional and public engagement:</i> Impact was heightened by an intensive programme of meetings, briefings and colloquia in 2011-12, including with Comic Relief, FSA, World Bank, Cochrane Colloquium, the South African government and the House of Commons Microfinance All Party Parliamentary Group.</p>	<p>https://impact.ref.ac.uk/casestudies/CaseStudy.aspx?id=44325</p>
Ugur and Dasgupta 2011 Economic growth impacts of corruption	DFID 2017 (business case undated, but file properties note file	<p>Policy impact: Cited in DFID/FCO plans for Phase 2 (2016/17 – 2020/21) of the Good Governance Fund: a Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Programme Document.</p>	<p>Evidence used: 'Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) concluded that corruption has a negative direct and indirect effect on per-capita income growth. In addition, they found that, indirectly, corruption is associated with lower investment and human capital.'</p>	<p>iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/19191508.odt</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
	created (2017)	<p>Scope +++: largely focused on the provision of technical assistance in support of governance and economic reform in five partner countries: Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)</p> <p>Depth: +++: Potentially leading to governance changes</p> <p>Sustainability +++: Long lasting, five-year business plan</p>	<p>Also cited in Annex B: Literature Review on the potential benefits of GGF priorities:</p> <p>Ugur and Dasgupta (2011) conducted a review of the evidence available (115 studies) on the effect of corruption on economic growth and concluded that, overall, corruption has a negative direct and indirect effect on per-capita income growth. In addition, they found that, indirectly, corruption is associated with lower investment and human capital. Moreover, they found that corruption is expected to be more detrimental in countries with higher levels of per capita income and institutional quality.</p> <p>How evidence was used: Cited in the section listing evidence that points to wide ranging and diverse impacts from the different GGF priorities:</p>	
Ugur and Dasgupta 2011 Economic growth impacts of corruption	Transparency International	<p>Policy impact: Cited in a U4 Expert Answer in response to request for areas of strong evidence that can illustrate how the UK's attempts to combat international corruption, at home and overseas, can also help to secure the UK's national interests in terms of prosperity (better business links, increasing</p>	<p>Evidence used: citation justifying statement that corruption is harmful.</p> <p>How evidence was used: U4 is a resource centre for development practitioners who wish to effectively address corruption challenges in their work. Expert Answers are produced by the U4 Helpdesk – operated by</p>	<p>Jenkins M (2016) How could anti-corruption interventions tackling global corruption benefit the UK? Transparency International</p> <p>https://www.u4.no/publications/how-could-anti-corruption-interventions-</p>

Instrumental use				
Review	User	Impact	Evidence used, and how	Citations
		<p>access to open and fair markets, more trade opportunities), migration flows, terrorist threats and reputational risks.</p> <p>Scope ++: responding to a request from a team</p> <p>Depth: +: justifies statement that corruption is harmful</p> <p>Sustainability +++: potential for prolonged impact if business plan supported</p>	<p>Transparency International – as quick responses to operational and policy questions from U4 Partner Agency staff.</p> <p>This request is designed to inform international anti-corruption business cases and the design of a cross-UK government anti-corruption strategy</p>	<p>tackling-global-corruption-benefit-the-uk.pdf</p>

ⁱ Measuring Effectiveness: The Value of the Use of Evidence in policymaking

ⁱⁱ REF: Research Excellence Framework for Higher Education undertaken by the four UK higher education funding bodies: [Research England](#), the [Scottish Funding Council](#) (SFC), the [Higher Education Funding Council for Wales](#) (HEFCW), and the Department for the Economy, [Northern Ireland](#) (DfE).

ⁱⁱⁱ TEF: Teaching Excellence Framework is a government assessment of the quality of undergraduate teaching in universities and other higher education providers in [England](#)

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