



The WHO EIDM Repository

# Evidence for impact

USER GUIDE



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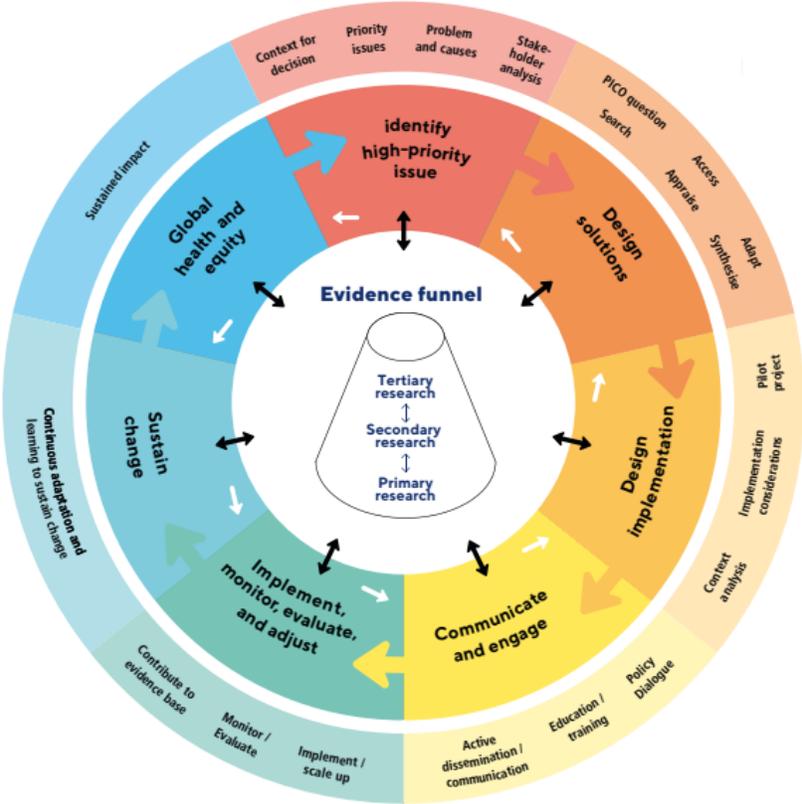
# BACKGROUND

This manual and online repository are the work of the Evidence to Policy and Impact Unit of the Research for Health Department in the Science Division. Created in 2019, the unit has the dual mandate of:

- (1) strengthening country capacity in generating, translating and using the best available research evidence in policies and practice, and
- (2) providing leadership on policies in research to ensure access and scale-up.

In light of this mandate, the Evidence to Policy and Impact Unit published the [Evidence, policy, impact. WHO guide for evidence-informed decision-making](#), as a guide for WHO staff, Members States and collaborating partner organizations involved in evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM). The guide introduced the ‘evidence ecosystem for impact framework’ which outlines the process and steps of EIDM, through two domains: evidence creation and evidence application. The evidence application domain, also known as the policy/action cycle, is the focus of the EIDM repository.

The [WHO online repository of EIDM tools](#), for which this document serves as an instructional manual, was developed as an interactive platform of key EIDM tools, methodologies and resources. The tools are organized by the stages of the policy/action cycle and focus on evidence application. Pictured below, the policy/action cycle highlights the general framework of evidence application as presented in the [WHO EIDM Guide](#). The repository functions as an online toolkit to bridge theory to



practice, by gathering WHO's EIDM methodologies for each step of the policy/action cycle in a user friendly and searchable platform.

## What is the purpose of this manual?

This document serves as an instructional user manual for navigating the WHO online repository of EIDM tools. It offers detailed, step-by-step guidance on searching the database, accessing and downloading tools, and utilizing various navigation and special features. For those preferring visual guidance, [an instructional video](#) covering the same content as this manual is also available.

## Who is the repository for?

The repository aims to support the work of all WHO staff, Member States, and partner organizations involved in planning, managing, monitoring, and evaluating the process of evidence use and implementation.

## What types of tools are included in the repository and how are they selected?

Tools have so far been identified on recommendation from WHO staff and members of the project steering group, as well as from a scoping search of IRIS, the digital library of WHO's published material and technical information. Tools included in the repository were selected based on the five criteria presented below. These criteria are applied by an independent, two-reviewer process. Tools that meet the inclusion criteria are mapped to the policy/action cycle and uploaded to the repository. All metadata and mapping are validated by the tool owner or workgroup prior to upload.

To be included in the repository, tools must meet all five of the below criteria.



Documents described as a guidance, handbook, manual, method or tool that outlines a methodology or process for creating or applying research evidence; and



Relevant to the policy/action cycle OR to the creation of tertiary research OR to the processes or actions of linkage and exchange between researchers and decision-makers; and



A WHO tool or an external tool that is used by WHO in the process of knowledge translation/evidence-informed decision-making; and



Document or tool available in English; and



Published in the year 2005 or after

## How will the repository support your EIDM work?

The objective of the repository is to provide up-to-date, easy access to knowledge translation and EIDM tools that have been curated and mapped to the WHO policy/action framework. In this objective, the repository will help support your work by:



### **Providing a one-stop shop of WHO EIDM tools**

While there are certainly useful tools beyond the scope of our platform, the repository can provide a one-stop shop of tools specifically published by or used by WHO for knowledge translation and EIDM work. The repository will be continuously expanded to include additional or newly published relevant tools.



### **Bridging theory to real world application**

All tools in the repository have been mapped to the steps and sub-steps of the policy/action cycle, with the goal of more quickly connecting you with relevant tools for your EIDM work. Using this mapping, you can identify where in the policy/action cycle your current work applies, and then search for all tools related to that step for curated guidance. You can also use the mapping to gain more understanding on when, where, and how the tool could be applied in the process of using evidence.



### **Facilitating a user-friendly platform for searching and accessing tools**

Beyond the policy/action cycle, you can further curate your search to align more specifically to your work by using the advanced search filters and functionalities, such as searching by language, WHO region, document type, and tool focus.



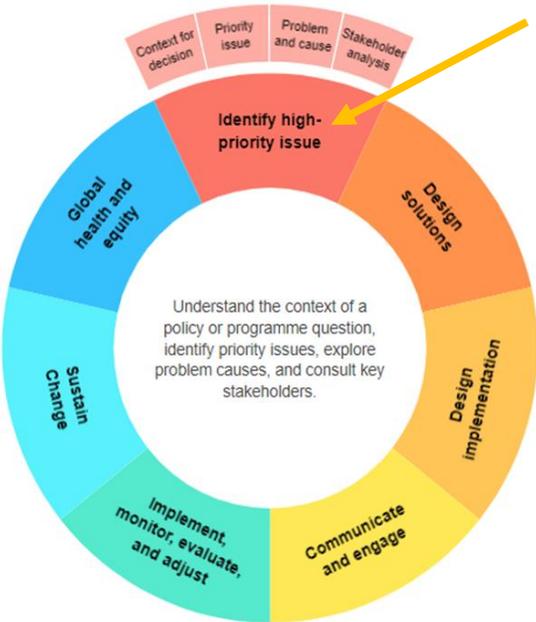
### **Helping you stay updated on key tools for your work**

Using the 'favorites' feature on the repository, users can sign up to receive updates on tools they are interested in. Users will be alerted when there has been a new version of the tool uploaded to the repository.

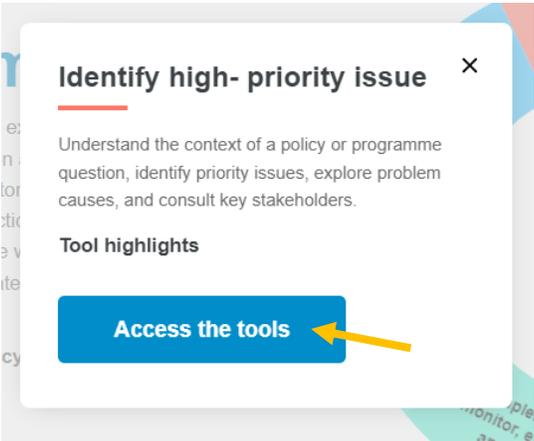
# SEARCHING THE REPOSITORY

## Searching using the policy/action cycle

All tools in the repository have been mapped to the different steps and sub-steps of the policy/action cycle. The interactive policy/action cycle on the repository homepage (pictured below) allows users to easily navigate and access the necessary tools for each phase of their EIDM work. More information on each step and sub-step can be found in the [WHO EIDM Guide](#). Hover and click on one of the steps or sub-steps of the policy/action to access the relevant tools.



When you click on any of the steps or corresponding sub-steps of the policy/action cycle, a dialogue box will appear. Click on “access the tools” to see all tools that have been mapped to that step or sub-step. Please note, the sub-steps will appear when you hover on the policy/action cycle image.



After clicking on “access the tools”, the list of tools for the step or sub-step can be refined using the filter options for document type, language, and WHO region on the right-hand side.

## Identify high- priority issue

**Evidence briefs for policy. Using the integrated knowledge translation approach. Guiding manual**

Evidence Briefs for Policy (EBPs) are a relatively new, innovative approach to packaging research evidence for policy-makers; however, they are already the most widely used tool. EBPs are prepared by...

WHO Team	Update	Reference	Copyright
Evidence and Research for Policy-Making, Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation, WHO Regional Office for Europe	22.02.2023	WHO/EURO/2020-1740-41491-56595	CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

[Direct Download](#) [Find out more](#)

**Country cooperation strategy guide 2020: implementing the Thirteenth General**

**Document type**

- Overview document
- Technical document

**Languages**

- Arabic
- Basque
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian

**Regions**

- AMR
- EUR

From the search results list you can immediately open a tool by clicking on the “Direct Download” link which will download the tool PDF file where available. You may also choose to open the tool page by clicking “Find out more”, which contains a complete description of the tool, tool metadata, tool web page links, and direct download links for other language documents available.

## Simple keyword search

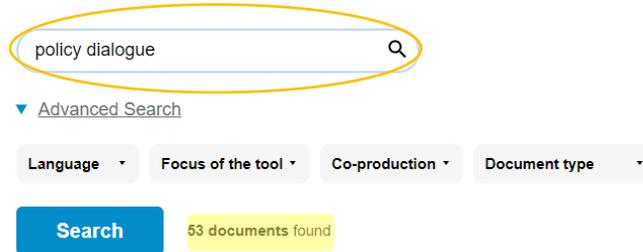
The repository also allows for keyword searches. Users can conduct a simple keyword search by typing keywords in the search bar. The repository will search the body of the tool documents for the keyword entered in the search. The search results will include all tools with the keyword in the document text.

If you would like to search for a phrase of two or more words, use quotation marks around the phrase to avoid searching the individual words. Currently the repository does not respond to other Boolean search operators.

The example below shows the difference in search results between searching for *policy dialogue* versus “*policy dialogue*.” In the first, the repository is including all documents with the words policy or dialogue in the text, which results in 53 search results. In the second, the use of quotation marks

tells the repository only to search for the phrase “policy dialogue”, resulting in a more refined search with 9 search results.

### Phrase search without quotation marks



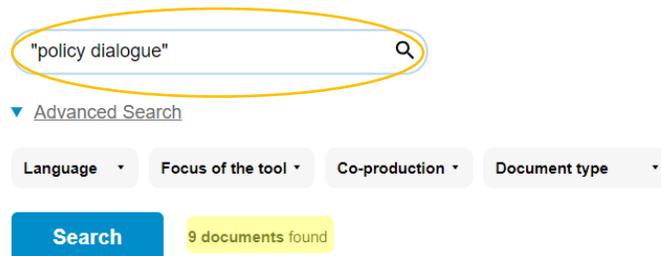
policy dialogue

Advanced Search

Language Focus of the tool Co-production Document type

Search 53 documents found

### Phrase search with quotation marks



"policy dialogue"

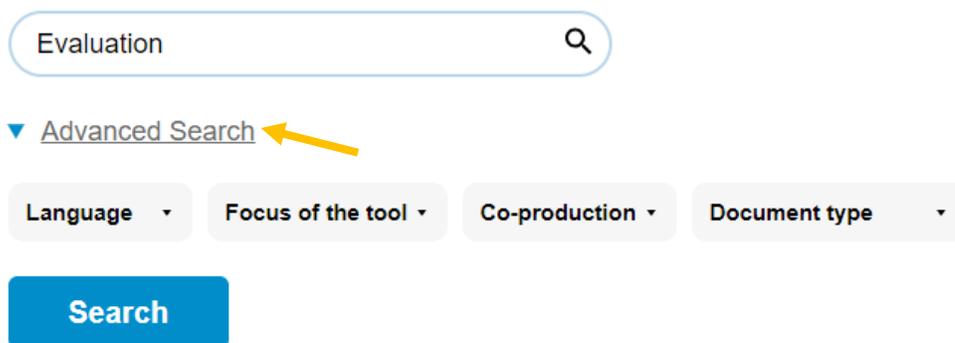
Advanced Search

Language Focus of the tool Co-production Document type

Search 9 documents found

## Advanced search functions

Users can also further refine their search by using the advanced search options. Begin by typing a keyword or phrase in the search bar. Next click on “Advanced Search” to access the filter options.



Evaluation

Advanced Search

Language Focus of the tool Co-production Document type

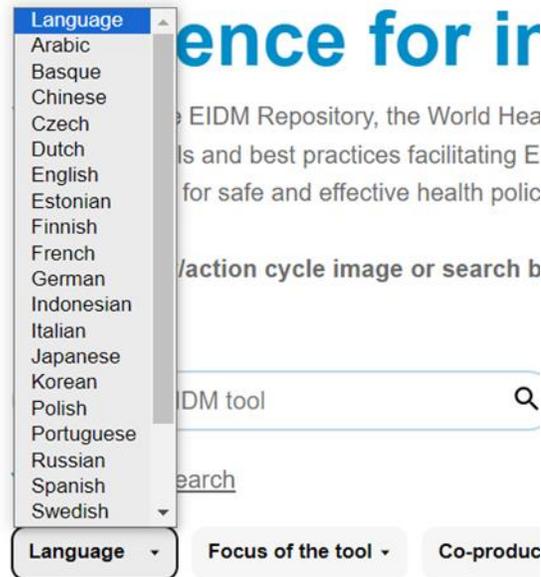
Search

The repository has four search filters that can be used to refine a search:

1. Language
2. Focus of the tool
3. Co-production
4. Document type

## Language filter

The tools in the repository feature over 20 languages, though not all tools are available in all languages. To refine the search results to only one language, use the dropdown menu to select the desired language.

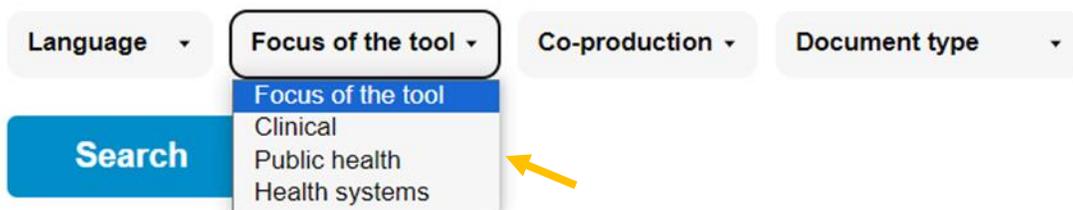


## Focus of the tool

Tools in the repository have been mapped to one or more of the following focus areas. To refine your search to one of the focus areas use the dropdown menu to select from the following options:

- Clinical - refers to clinical programs, services and products, (e.g. prescription drugs) that target individuals.
- Public health - refers to public health programs and services that target groups and populations.
- Health system - refers to governance, financial and delivery arrangements.

### ▼ [Advanced Search](#)



## Co-production

Co-production are engagement processes with a variety of stakeholders (researchers, policymakers, decision makers, planners, consumers etc.) that can be required either within evidence creation (research co-production) and/or within the policy action cycle (e.g. a tool that explicitly states that policy options need to be identified jointly by researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders, including citizens).

All tools in the repository have been mapped based on if they involve co-production or not. If you would like to refine the search based on this filter, use the dropdown menu to select “yes” or “no.”

### ▼ [Advanced Search](#)

Language ▼ Focus of the tool ▼ Co-production ▼ Document type ▼

Search

Co-production  
Yes  
No



## Document type

The tools in the repository have been mapped to two document types: overview and technical.

- Overview documents are tools that provide high-level summaries of guidance such as lessons learnt or key takeaway messages on topics related to EIDM and the policy/action cycle.
- Technical documents are tools that provide detailed ‘how-to’ guidance such as step-by-step instruction, templates, software, decision aids, etc. related to EIDM and the policy/action cycle.

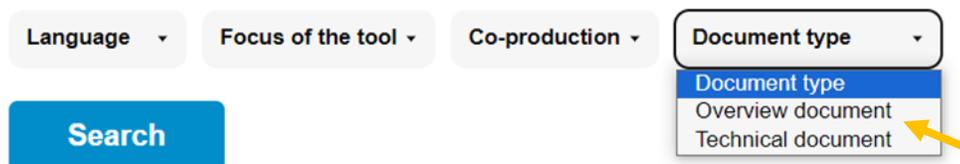
To filter the search, use the dropdown menu to select the desired document type.

### ▼ [Advanced Search](#)

Language ▼ Focus of the tool ▼ Co-production ▼ Document type ▼

Search

Document type  
Overview document  
Technical document



# NAVIGATING THE SEARCH RESULTS

## Tool metadata

On the tool page you will find the following metadata for each tool, where available:

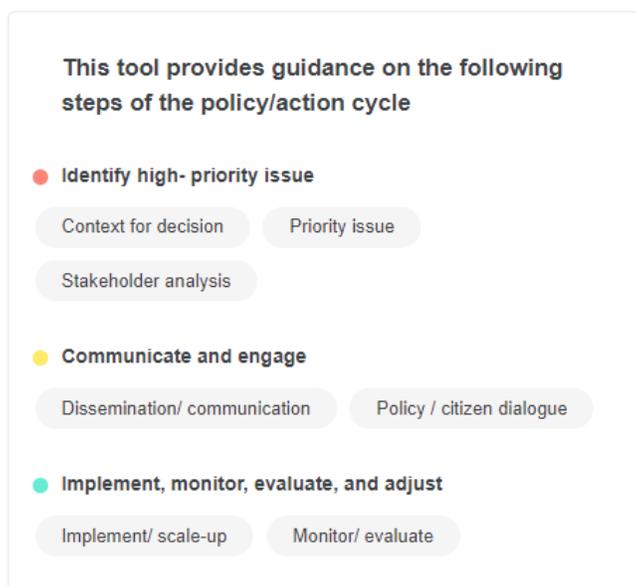
- WHO Team – refers to the team, unit, and/or department that developed the tool
- Date of last update – refers to the date that the tool was uploaded to or update on the repository. It does not refer to the date of last update of the publication itself.
- Reference – refers to the WHO IRIS Reference ID. It is only available for tools that are listed in IRIS.
- Copyright – the relevant copyright information will be presented for the tool, where available.
- Tool description – brief up to 250 word description of the tool

You will also see the filter categories matching the tool, as discussed above.

- Document type
- Languages

## Policy/action cycle mapping

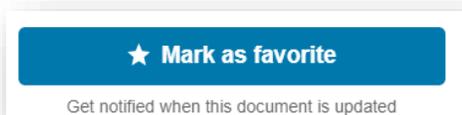
Below the tool description you will see the tool mapping to the relevant steps and sub-steps of the policy/action cycle. To help you assess the tool's relevance to your work or project area, each tool has been reviewed and mapped based on the guidance area it covers. See below, for example.



Tools have been mapped to the main steps only, or to specific sub-steps. If the tools are mapped to the main steps only, it means that the tool provides an overview of that step rather than detailed how-to guidance. The steps are color-coded to match the policy/action cycle search wheel on the homepage.

## Mark as favorite function

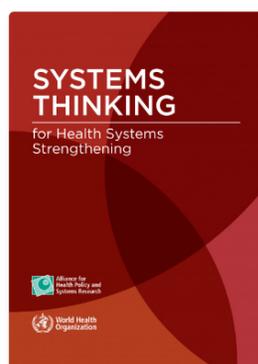
The repository will be monitored and continuously updated to include the latest version of the tools. You can stay updated on key documents for your work by clicking on the “Mark as favorite” function and entering your email address. You will be notified via email if the PDF document for the tool you marked as favorite is ever updated. Please note, this is only for the specific tool. If you would like to receive email notifications for multiple tools, you must mark each of the tools as favorite and re-enter your email each time.



## Downloading the tools

By clicking “Direct Download” the English version of the document will automatically download. All other language documents are available to users for direct download as well. Once on the tool page, click on the desired language to view and download the corresponding PDF document. If a tool is not available in PDF, such as a software or downloadable spreadsheet, follow the instructions in the tool to change the language settings.

### Systems Thinking for Health Systems Strengthening



**WHO Team**  
Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

**Update**  
28.02.2023

**Reference**  
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**Copyright**  
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In the previous decades, little was understood about what works in health systems strengthening and how researchers and policymakers can apply it. So, although there was general agreement for the need to strengthen health systems, especially in LMICs, there was no guidance to understand and appreciate the complex interactions and unintended consequences of actions in one part of the health system on other health system elements.

Systems Thinking provides a deliberate and comprehensive suite of tools and approaches to map, measure and understand these dynamics. This Report proposes “Ten Steps to Systems Thinking” for real-world guidance in applying such an approach to the health system. It uses a major contemporary health financing intervention to demonstrate how a broad partnership of stakeholders can deliver a richer understanding of the implications of the intervention, including how the system will react, respond and change, along with what synergies can be harnessed, and what negative emergent behaviour should be mitigated. This understanding can be applied to a safer and more robust intervention design and an evaluation that goes

Direct download

★ Mark as favorite

Get notified when this document is updated

#### Document type

Overview document

#### Languages

English French Spanish



Some tools, such as technical spreadsheets and software are not available for direct download. You will need to click on “website” on the right-hand side of the tool page to access to the tool. From that link you will be able to further access the tool.

## Other navigation functions

It is easy to navigate through the repository and go back to the homepage.

- The home button  on the top left side of the page will take you back to the home page.
- From the search results page, there is also a 'Back' button  [Back](#) to navigate to the previous page.
- Clicking on the WHO logo  [World Health Organization](#) will take you to the homepage of the WHO website.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### WHO EIDM Guide

The online repository of EIDM tools complements written guidance published by WHO in 2021 in the [EIDM Guide](#). We recommend that you review the EIDM Guide for additional support in understanding and navigating the repository. You can access the EIDM Guide directly from the homepage of the repository.

### Workstreams

The WHO EIDM Guide discusses seven workstreams of the evidence ecosystem. Workstreams can be thought of as areas of work, rather than as necessarily representing a specific department or unit within WHO. They can also be thought of as types of evidence produced that are useful for EIDM. Some of the areas of work/types of evidence produced may be undertaken by more than one department or unit. See Table 2.1 of the [WHO EIDM Guide](#) for definitions of each workstream.

Four workstreams are highlighted on the homepage of the repository: Guidelines, Implementation Research, Evidence-informed Policy, and Evaluation. Click on “read more” below each workstream to navigate to the corresponding WHO resource page for each workstream.

### Contact us

Any inquiries or requests can be directed to [eidm@who.int](mailto:eidm@who.int).