

Centre for Evaluation Newsletter – Spring 2019

Improving global health practice through evaluation



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome back after the Easter break.

Each Friday we have started to [share our pick of articles, blogs, videos, and other resources about evaluation from across the web](#). We hope you'll find these interesting! Please consider contributing items you've been reading: send to calum.davey@lshtm.ac.uk with the title 'links' — thanks!

Events

Our annual [Career's Panel](#) will take place on Monday 29th April from 17.15 to 18.15. Chaired by Prof Kara Hanson and organised by our MSc student group, we'll hear from panellists working in a range of sectors and organisations in the field of evaluation.

Dr Graham Moore, lead author of the [MRC guidance on process evaluations of complex interventions](#), will host [a lunchtime seminar](#) on Tuesday 30th April from 13.00 to 14.00 (LG81, Keppel Street). A fantastic opportunity for those wanting to learn more about process evaluations.

The [CEDIL lecture series](#) continues to host an interesting array of speakers across a range of different disciplines addressing methods and innovation in primary studies. Next will be [Prof Chris Bonell](#) on Wednesday 8th May from

12.45 to 14.00 who will discuss *the need for using theory to consider the transferability of interventions*

We are very excited to welcome [Prof Larry Moulton](#), who will present on [Randomization: Beyond the Closurization Principle](#) on Friday 12th July from 15.00 to 16.00. The seminar will focus on randomisation of cluster randomised trials.

CALL FOR SPEED TALKS: Evaluating programmes/interventions that change over time.

We are seeking speakers to give short speed talks at a lunch time seminar on **13th June** on either evaluation design or evaluation implementation in situations where the intervention or programme that was under evaluation changed over time.

We are interested in hearing about the study designs that you used where you *knew* that the intervention would change and/or changes to study design/methodology/outcomes/analysis as a result of *unplanned* changes to the programme/intervention.

If you would like to give a speed talk please send an outline of no more than 100 words in length to evaluation@lshtm.ac.uk with "Interventions changing over time speed talks" in the subject line, including the name of the presenter.

The deadline for submission is the **30th April**. Please feel free to email any questions to evaluation@lshtm.ac.uk.

A complete [list of upcoming events](#) can be found on our website and if you have missed any events you can [watch them back online by clicking on the links in the event's description](#).

Learning about evaluation methods:

Short course: Design & Analysis of Cluster Randomised and Stepped Wedge Trials

Course dates: 8-12 July 2019

Deadline to apply: 31 May 2019

This course will provide attendees with a clear understanding of the design and analysis of cluster randomised trials and stepped wedge trials. This includes the rationale for using these designs, specific design issues, the randomisation process, sample size calculations, analytical methods, ethical considerations, and trial reporting and interpretation. Participants will gain practical experience of data analysis using the computer package Stata. [Read more and apply online.](#)

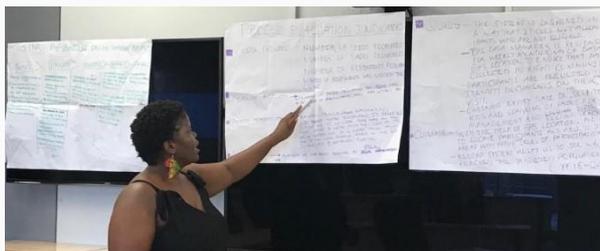
Growing interest in integrating Process Evaluations into intervention research

Over the last few months, LSHTM collaborating partners have approached the Centre for Evaluation, seeking practical, applied training for their local staff on the aims, principles and methods of rigorous process evaluations. At the African Health Research Institute in Mtubatuba, a 2-day workshop provided AHRI staff involved in outcome evaluations of new interventions with an opportunity to design a process evaluation framework, learning from “real life” examples from Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.



Working in small groups based on existing AHRI research teams, participants first visually depicted the logic models guiding their interventions from inputs and activities, through outputs, intermediate outcomes, and eventual intended effects. They identified key assumptions underpinning their “pathway to change” and discussed various mechanisms of action and contextual influences on these. On Day 2, groups moved toward defining indicators for key aspects of a process evaluation, including fidelity, feasibility, acceptability, and unintended effects and selected appropriate tools to capture these measures, using both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Final study designs were presented to the whole group, and other teams had to ask at least 2 critical questions each to help refine each other's process evaluations. Some comments from feedback on the

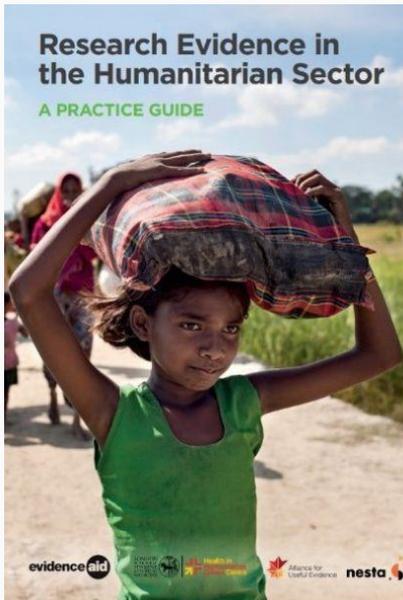


workshop included “This was very useful and relevant to my work” and “Learning using our personal experiences and the work we are currently doing made it easy and interesting to learn of process evaluation.”

The following week saw the annual scientific meeting of the AMARI (Africa Mental Health Research Initiative) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AMARI is a capacity-strengthening network, bringing scholars together from Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe to build research excellence in global mental health. Joanna gave a very pared-down version of the process evaluation workshop, closing the meeting with “5 reasons to integrate process evaluations into intervention research.”

The Centre for Evaluation is happy to support LSHTM staff and partners in conducting these kinds of workshops and skills-building sessions – we have everything you need to conduct a 1- or 2-day workshop, including powerpoint presentations, group work activities, and even sample case studies if you're training a group without shared research activities. All materials can be adapted to suit your needs – [please get in touch!](#)

Publications



The [Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre](#) is pleased to announce the release of ‘*Research Evidence in the Humanitarian Sector: A Practice Guide*’ written in collaboration with [Evidence Aid](#) and [Nesta](#).

The guide is intended for humanitarian decision-makers and practitioners working in the field or with donor, international, national, or non-governmental organisations. It is intended to help with decisions around financing, supervision, delivery, or evaluation of humanitarian interventions. It defines evidence-informed decision making, explores when and which evidence may be of use, and advises how to choose evidence, where to source it from, and how to assess the quality.

Read the [full report in English](#) or [Spanish](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact [Karl Blanchet](#).

Recent publications from Centre members

LSHTM is partnering on an evaluation project examining how a comprehensive sexual education in Mexico may help to address unequal gender norms, prevent partner violence and encourage critical thinking among students aged 14 to 17 has been awarded the [2019 SVRI and World Bank Development Marketplace Award for Innovation on GBV solutions](#). Read more about the preliminary findings in this [briefing paper](#).

Bonell C et al. (2019) [Examining intervention mechanisms of action using mediation analysis within a randomised trial of a whole-school health intervention](#)

Choko AT et al. (2019) [HIV self-testing alone or with additional interventions, including financial incentives, and linkage to care or prevention among male partners of antenatal care clinic attendees in Malawi: An adaptive multi-arm, multi-stage cluster randomised trial](#)

Dimala CA et al. (2019) [Current challenges and proposed solutions to the effective implementation of the RTS, S/AS01 Malaria Vaccine Program in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review](#)

Kuwawenaruwa A et al. (2019) [Implementation and effectiveness of free health insurance for the poor pregnant women in Tanzania: A mixed methods evaluation](#)

Makleff S et al. (2019) [Preventing Intimate Partner Violence among Young People – A Qualitative Study Examining the Role of Comprehensive Sexuality Education](#)

Moore GF et al. (2019) [From complex social interventions to interventions in complex social systems: Future directions and unresolved questions for intervention development and evaluation](#)

Mulubwa C et al. (2019) [Community based distribution of oral HIV self-testing kits in Zambia: a cluster-randomised trial nested in four HPTN 071 \(PopART\) intervention communities](#)

Oliver K et al. (2019) [The dark side of coproduction: do the costs outweigh the benefits for health research?](#)

Petticrew M et al. (2019) [Implications of a complexity perspective for systematic reviews and guideline development in health decision making.](#)

We welcome all of our members (both internal and external to the LSHTM) to share their experiences of evaluation methods with us. To find out more or suggest activities please contact evaluation@lshtm.ac.uk.

Best Wishes,

The Centre for Evaluation team
@LSHTMEvaluation

<https://evaluation.lshtm.ac.uk/>

