

Summary of previous workshop: “General principles of policy brief development” (Held in Oct 2021)

**Capacity Building for Development of Policy Briefs: Advanced Training of Trainers
Workshop for Researchers and Policy-Developers**

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29-30 March 2022
Cairo, Egypt

Outline

- Policy making processes and policy brief as a tool for policy making
- Introduction of a recommended template developed by EMRO for developing policy briefs
- Sources of evidence for policy brief development and critical appraisal
- Priority setting for policy problems to be addressed by policy briefs

Access to recordings and all materials: <http://www.emro.who.int/evidence-data-to-policy/about.html> (under technical products navigation icon)

Policy making processes (essentially there are four stages);

Source; Dr Arash Rashidian, Capacity Building workshop for Development of Policy Briefs: General Principles, Oct 2021

Problem formation / agenda setting

Problem identification and Understand the challenge or problem

- What precisely is the problem?
- What evidence is there?
- Who has an interest in the issue?
- What do we want to achieve?

Policy formulation

Review and evaluate research evidence
Identify options, Assess national data and evidence, Consult stakeholders, Identify risks and barriers and opportunities, Identify what works well, Evaluate options, identify pros and cons, Develop recommendations and Make decision

Policy evaluation

Establish performance measures (quantitative and qualitative), Key performance indicator, Develop plan for measurement and reporting, Monitor progress / ensure accountability
Give feedback to those involved with the tasks
Report on performance, Evaluate the outcomes of the policy, Adapt and amend the implementation plan in light of evaluation results

Policy implementation

National policies often requires “translation” to programmatic of those responsible for implementation, They may also require adaptation to the context, Draw implementation strategies and plans, Develop manageable pieces of work
Define timelines and deadlines, Allocate responsibilities, Keep stakeholders informed / involved

Evidence-informed policy-making

Using best-available evidence to answer policy questions

Policy-maker questions	What are the main priority issues/problems for decision-making?	What are the potential effective and safe policy options?	Are the policy options cost-effective and affordable?	Are the policy options feasible to implement and sustainable?
Policy-makers are keen in using evidence in their decisions				
Usual sources of evidence	Household, facility and user surveys			
	Routine information and surveillance			
		Interventional and cost-effectiveness studies		
	Qualitative studies			Qualitative studies
Knowledge products and processes	Policy briefs			
	Data fact sheets and observatories	Guidelines and health technology assessments		
Important challenges in availability of products and processes				

Source; Dr Arash Rashidian, Capacity Building workshop for Development of Policy Briefs: General Principles, Oct 2021

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Multi concept approach for Evidence-Informed Policy-Making;

<http://www.emro.who.int/evidence-data-to-policy/about.html>

The integrated system for evidence-informed policy making that all technical programs which are the sources of evidence are linked together to inform policy making.



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Template for a policy brief (WHO EMRO, 2021)

1. Title
2. Justification for the brief and policy objectives (introduction/background/purpose)
3. Key messages or policy main recommendations (summary presentation of the main messages)
4. Description of policy options and their advantages and disadvantages (details of the main findings)
5. A description of how the policy brief was developed (methods)
6. Further important considerations
7. Acknowledgements
8. Conflicts of interests
9. Sources of evidence and key references

DRAFT FOR GOOD PRACTICE FOR POLICY BRIEF DEVELOPMENT

EDP SID WHO EMRO OCTOBER2021



Draft for
“Good Practice for Development of a Policy Brief”

Evidence and Data to Policy, Science, Information and Dissemination
WHO Regional office for Eastern Mediterranean

2021

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Search for and assessing the research evidence

- **Where to search?**

PubMed, Scopus, Cochrane, CINAHL, IMEMR(EMR countries), National sources for publications and study registries

- **How to search?**

Developing a search strategy, using PICO

Critical appraisal; e.g. using CASP tools

IMEMR developed by WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in 1987 responding to urgent needs to remove the access barriers to the national and regional health studies and researches produced by EMR countries.

IMEMR contains more than **242,000** citations for health and biomedical sciences literature published in **771** peer-reviewed journals from **20** countries in the Region.

IMEMR is a unique source of information that provides the indexing and abstracting services for archiving, recording, and sharing national and regional health and biomedical sciences literatures published in EMR countries.

Criteria for selecting a topic/priority setting

- Addressing an important policy issue
 - Requested by policy maker
 - Important topic at national level or in more countries or regional level
- There are (potential) disagreements between stakeholders on the best policy options
 - Conflicting positions and views
 - Disagreements on responsibilities or interpretation of evidence
- Implementation steps are not clear or adequately discussed
- There are different and potentially conflicting sources of evidence



Thank you

