



**Sustaining Working Group**  
Notes from call on 10 March 2021

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| <p><b>1. FOLLOW-UP ON ACTION ITEMS</b></p> <p>a. Review notes and action items from previous meeting (see attachment 2)</p>   | <b>5 min</b>  |
| <p><b>2. COVID-END BASELINE PROJECT</b></p> <p>a. Discuss updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main objective of the qualitative interview phase (semi-structured interviews) of the baseline study is to explore the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations and understand their experiences of involvement in COVID-END</li> <li>• Ethical approval received from American University of Beirut (AUB)</li> <li>• Interview guide developed and pilot tested with NCCMT and INESSS and guide was adjusted based on feedback</li> <li>• Transcription and codebook have been developed and currently in the process of coding (open-coding due to availability of rich data) the interviews and producing a thematic analysis</li> </ul> <p>b. Review codebook of the baseline assessment of the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations (see attachment 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a high-level view of the different categories (“flavours” or clustering) of the organizations (for example, groups that are providing infrastructure, groups that are producing syntheses, etc.) that might allow different lens to separate out the interviews as it might be overwhelming to treat all the interviews as the same</li> <li>○ Might be useful to generate definitional work around the main categories/codes</li> <li>○ Potential other codes that can emerge/include in the thematic analysis is around how the pandemic has changed the evidence synthesis community</li> <li>○ Move towards a mixed methods study and approach, as opposed to 3 different approaches to examine the same phenomena</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>c. Share preliminary findings with working groups and/or partners?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not discussed at this meeting</li> </ul> | <b>40 min</b> |
| <p><b>3. FUTURE PROJECTS</b></p> <p>a. Global commission on evidence synthesis post-pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-END’s Advocating working group has been established with the leadership of Sylvia de Haan to operationalize the Global Commission</li> </ul>  | <b>10 min</b> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking around innovation, lessons learned from the COVID space and what could be done on the demand and supply side to get better alignment of evidence synthesis with the need of decision-makers</li> <li>• Looking for potential commissioners that are diverse in sectors, regions (i.e. across WHO regions), different types of actors (i.e. citizens, practitioners, research funders)</li> <li>• Aim to produce several position papers which will support a main report emerging from the Commission</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Working group members to send suggestions of potential commissioners to Jeremy and/or Safa</li> </ul> |                     |
| <p><b>4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>   | <p><b>5 min</b></p> |