COVID-END

SUSTAINING WORKING GROUP
Sustaining Group aims

• Examine how institutions/processes can be strengthened/sustained to enable effective use of evidence synthesis in pandemics and COVID-END’s role

• Today’s Partners’ meeting:
  i. Inform partners about our work (Logic Model + Baseline study)
  ii. Agree with approach (not detail)
  iii. Invitation to contribute
Baseline assessment of the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations

• Objectives:
  1. To understand how the evidence synthesis organisations, members of the COVID-END network, initially responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  2. To understand their experiences to date of involvement in the COVID-END network.
Baseline assessment of the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations

• Protocol
  Phase I: Documentary analysis (all partners)
  Phase II: Social network analysis through a brief survey (all partners)
  Phase III: Qualitative study (n = 20 to 25 partners)

• Ethics (American University of Beirut)
Phase I: Documentary analysis

- Textual analysis of institutional websites and documents
- Eligible documents: mission statements, reports, public news releases, and descriptions of COVID-19 related initiatives
## Phase I: Documentary analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data items include:</th>
<th>Description of organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description of collaborations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description of activities, strategies, and processes for COVID-19 response</td>
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</tbody>
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Phase two: Social network analysis

Networks are developed through interactions, shared projects, and collaboration between entities created through institutions and countries.
Phase two: Social network analysis

Aims:
- to illustrate patterns of interaction between evidence synthesis organizations (ESOs) prior to joining COVID-END
- to identify characteristics of interaction between ESOs including degree centrality, density, and clusters

Methods:
- online survey
- hierarchical scale adapted from Buchthal et al. (2013)

Phase two: Social network analysis

Proposed scale:

Survey of COVID- END partners: views on collaboration prior to joining the COVID-END network

Organization name: ________________________________
Organization type: ________________________________
Position of the respondent in the organization: ________________________________

Thinking about your collaboration with other evidence synthesis organizations prior to joining the COVID-END network (i.e., before March 2020), please use the scale below of 1 (no interaction) to 7 (full integration) to indicate the extent to which you interacted with each Partner organization. Please choose the response that best describes the relationship between your organization and each organization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of collaboration</th>
<th>No interaction (0)</th>
<th>Awareness (1)</th>
<th>Communication (2)</th>
<th>Cooperation (3)</th>
<th>Coordination (4)</th>
<th>Collaboration (5)</th>
<th>Partnership (6)</th>
<th>Full integration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell Collaboration</td>
<td>Not aware of the</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharing of</td>
<td>Working side-by-</td>
<td>Working closely as</td>
<td></td>
<td>Formal relationship with specified</td>
<td>Formal Integration including shared</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>existence of the</td>
<td></td>
<td>information only</td>
<td>side-by-side as</td>
<td>an informal team and</td>
<td>responsibilities to achieve common</td>
<td>mission, mutual planning, sharing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>organization, but</td>
<td></td>
<td>when it is</td>
<td>separate</td>
<td>actively pursuing</td>
<td>common goals (e.g., responsibilities for</td>
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<td></td>
<td>complete isolation</td>
<td></td>
<td>advantageous to</td>
<td>organizations (i.e.,</td>
<td>opportunities to work</td>
<td>each org. are outlined in a Memorandum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from each other.</td>
<td></td>
<td>either or both</td>
<td>efforts are organized</td>
<td>together (i.e., no formal</td>
<td>of Understanding or other agreement).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do not work</td>
<td></td>
<td>organizations.</td>
<td>to prevent overlap,</td>
<td>agreement; regularly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>together at all</td>
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<td>but tasks are</td>
<td>working together on joint</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and have separate</td>
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<td>performed as</td>
<td>projects, proposals,</td>
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<td>program goals.</td>
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<td>separate</td>
<td>conference organization,</td>
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<td>organizations)</td>
<td>publications).</td>
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<td>Evidence Aid</td>
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Phase three: Qualitative study

Methods:

• Semi-structured interviews of 20-25 ESO representatives
• Purposive sampling of ESOs from the Network of 46 partners
• Ensure maximum variation in terms of organization type; location; and scale of organization
• Initial COVID-19 response and initial engagement with the Network
Phase three: Qualitative study

Integrated model adapted from Cloutier et al. (2016) categorizing institutional work into four forms:

- **Structural**
  - formalized roles, rule systems, organizing principles, and resource allocation models

- **Conceptual**
  - new belief systems, norms, and interpretive schemes

- **Operational**
  - concrete actions affecting behaviors of staff

- **Relational**
  - building linkages, trust, and collaboration

Timeline and next steps

- Ethics submission: end of June
- Reach out to Partners: mid July
- Keep an eye out!