COVID-END’s 7 principles

1. Supporting (not competing with or replacing) well-positioned regional, national and sub-national organizations that are working in close partnership with key target audiences and already responding to their evidence needs

2. Supporting – with a common brand/identity, small agile secretariat, and simple working group structure – a distributed network of organizations and individuals to play to their comparative advantages and leverage one another’s work

3. Seeking out quick wins for those supporting decision-makers and among those involved in preparing evidence syntheses, technology assessments and guidelines, and taking measured steps to longer-term solutions that can better support decision-makers

4. Strengthening existing institutions (e.g., Campbell and Cochrane) and processes (e.g., protocol registration in PROSPERO) and contributing to their long-term sustainability

5. Addressing a diversity of regional and linguistic needs among decision-makers and those who support them

6. Ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion in the leadership of the initiative and its working groups (e.g., achieving a balance of co-chairs by gender and from high-income countries and from low- and middle-income countries)

7. Committing to related principles articulated by others
   - Principles of high quality evidence synthesis as articulated by Evidence Synthesis International
   - Principles of open access to of all data, methods, processes, code, software, publications, education and peer review produced through the initiative (in keeping with ‘open synthesis’ principles)

Together we can make a big difference in minimizing the human suffering being caused by COVID-19. We can also position ourselves optimally for addressing the more everyday challenges that we will return to when the worst of COVID-19 is behind us.
COVID-19 Evidence Demand Context
Unprecedented but uneven demand for evidence (incl. syntheses, guidance & HTAs) across sectors

COVID-19 Evidence Supply Challenges
Rapid upsurge in variable quality primary COVID-specific research, leading to rapidly evolving evidence base

COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Activities
Evidence ecosystem less coordinated than optimal
More duplication of synthesis activities than is constructive
New entrants not always aware of best approaches and tools
Evidence synthesis activities are of variable quality

Inputs
People
I - Partners (supply & demand sides)
II - Community
III - Working groups
IV - Secretariat
V - MUN MPH students

Other resources
Project funds (Ontario Ministry of Health)
Donor funds

Work Streams
Convening partners
Coordinating activities
Sharing knowledge & expertise
Collaborating with partners, community & stakeholders
Curating useful & high-quality synthesis resources
Producing products, tools & processes
Responding to stakeholder needs
Amplifying partner resources
Advocating for a more effective evidence ecosystem

Outputs
Tools & resources to support:
• Decision makers
• Researchers
• Other target groups
Opportunities & structures that enable relationship building & collaboration
Awareness-building & communication activities

Mechanisms
Short-term Influences
More cohesive evidence synthesis ecosystem for COVID-19
More evidence-informed and equitable response to COVID-19 pandemic

Target Groups
Primary
Decision makers
Evidence synthesizers
Guideline developers
HT Assessors
Knowledge/evidence intermediaries
Secondary
Citizens
Patients
Primary researchers
Civil society organizations
Funders
Media

COVID-END community organizations
COVID-END partner organizations

Impacts
Short-term Outcomes
Uptake & use of tools produced by COVID-END
Increased collaboration among partners
Better alignment of partner activities
Less redundancy in synthesis activities
Better quality, more accessible, timely and equity-oriented products in response to needs
More evidence-informed decision makers

Long-term Influences
More connected evidence synthesis ecosystem that can better support health & social system transformation

Inclusiveness
Diversity
Equity
Impacts Diagram - Relative Contributions of COVID-END and its Partners on Impacts

A. COVID-END partner organizations

B. Impacts

Short-term Influences
- More cohesive evidence synthesis ecosystem for COVID-19
- More evidence-informed and equitable response to COVID-19 pandemic

Short-term Outcomes
- Increased collaboration among partners
- Better alignment of partner activities
- Less redundancy in synthesis activities
- Better quality, more accessible and timely synthesis products in response to needs
- More evidence-informed decision

C. COVID-END community

COVID-END
COVID-19 Evidence Network to support decision-making

Inputs
- People
  - Scoping
  - Engaging
  - Digitizing
  - Synthesizing
  - Recommending
  - Packaging
  - Sustaining
- Other resources

Mechanisms
- Convening
- Coordinating
- Sharing
- Collaborating
- Curating
- Producing
- Responding
- Amplifying

Outputs
- Tools & resources
  - Decision makers
  - Researchers
  - Others
- Opportunities & structures for relationship building/collaboration
- Awareness & communications

Inclusiveness
Diversity
Equity
COVID-END Expected Areas of Influence in Context of the Broader Evidence Ecosystem

The Digital and Trustworthy Evidence Ecosystem

- **Synthesize evidence**
  - Analyze data, write and publish systematic reviews

- **Create guidance and HTA**
  - Analyze data, write and publish trustworthy HTA and guidelines

- **Authoring & Publication Platform**
  - Disseminate to policy makers, clinicians and patients
    - User friendly and understandable HTA, guidelines and decision aids

- **Trustworthy evidence**

- **Tools and platforms**

- **Digitally structured data**

- **Common methodology**

- **Coordination and support**

- **Universal standards**

- **Culture for sharing**

- **Implement evidence**
  - Personalized Decision Support Systems in the EHR

- **Evaluate and improve practice**
  - Population-based data in Registries, Quality Indicators, data from EHR

- **Produce evidence**
  - Plan, conduct and publish primary research (trials and observational studies)

- **data**
EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEMS

WIDER SYSTEMS AND CONTEXTS
INFLUENCING THE EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM

ACTORS/ PERSPECTIVES/ ISSUES / QUESTIONS / POWER

Policy, practice and individual decision making
Informed by research

Research production
Synthesis of research
Primary studies

ENGAGEMENT
Including intermediaries and further information

Demand for research
Prioritising issues
Supporting uptake
Guidance
Interpretation
Communication

Adapted from (Gough et al, 2010, 2018, 2019)
COVID-END Expected Areas of Influence in Context of the Broader Evidence Ecosystem

WIDER SYSTEMS AND CONTEXTS
INFLUENCING THE EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM

ACTORS/ PERSPECTIVES/ ISSUES / QUESTIONS / POWER

Policy, practice and individual decision making
Informed by research

ENGAGEMENT
Including intermediaries and further information

Research production

Adapted from (Gough et al, 2010, 2018, 2019) and magicproject.org