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
- Quality and currency of evidence & evidence products difficult to discern

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

Mechanisms
- 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

Target Groups
- Primary
  - Decision makers
  - Evidence synthesizers
  - Researchers
  - Other target groups
- 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
- Short-term Influences
  - More cohesive evidence synthesis ecosystem for COVID-19
  - More evidence-informed and equitable response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Long-term Influences
  - More connected evidence synthesis ecosystem that can better support health & social system transformation

COVID-19 Logic Model
Heather to send to Declan’s graphic designer
Impacts Diagram - Relative Contributions of COVID-END and its Partners on Impacts

A: COVID-END partner organizations

B: Impacts
- 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
- Short-term Influences
  - More cohesive evidence synthesis ecosystem for COVID-19
  - More evidence-informed and equitable response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Long-term Influences
  - More connected evidence synthesis ecosystem that can better support health & social system transformation

C: Inputs, Work Streams, Mechanisms, Outputs
- Inputs
  - People
  - Other resources
- Work Streams
  - Scoping
  - Engaging
  - Digitizing
  - Synthesizing
  - Recommending
  - Packaging
  - Sustaining
- Mechanisms
  - Convening
  - Coordinating
  - Sharing
  - Collaborating
  - Curating
  - Producing
  - Responding
  - Amplifying
- Outputs
  - Tools & resources
    - Decision makers
    - Researchers
  - Opportunities & structures for relationship building/collaboration/Awareness building & communications

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

WIDER SYSTEMS AND CONTEXTS
INFLUENCING THE EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM

Policy, practice and individual decision making
Informed by research

Research production
Synthesis of research
Primary studies

Demand for research
Prioritizing issues
Supporting uptake
Guidance
Interpretation
Communication

ENGAGEMENT
Including intermediaries and further information

Adapted from (Gough et al, 2010, 2018, 2019)