

1.8 What success looks like

What will change if the Evidence Commission's work has the impact we hope for? We provide below some examples of what success looks like, both generally and specifically. Examples marked with an asterisk (*) are drawn from the actual experiences of commissioners and COVID-END partners.

If (key players have the right supports in place)	then (they can achieve greater impacts)	Examples
Decision-makers are provided in a timely way with local (national or sub-national) evidence and with syntheses of what has been learned around the world, including how it varies by groups and contexts	they can more effectively respond to societal challenges	 A national government regularly adjusts its decision-making about lockdowns and travel restrictions based on co-designed modeling (of the likely consequences of available policy options) and its decision-making about vaccination distribution based on weekly updates to a living evidence synthesis about vaccine effectiveness against variants* A citizen group relies on evidence syntheses to fact check statements made by government and to advocate for change
Intermediaries are positioned optimally and have the right capacities, opportunities and motivation	they can package the right evidence on the right issues at the right time in the right context	 A non-governmental organization establishes an integrated evidence-support unit that commissions data analytics, evidence syntheses and behavioural insights, and integrates them into briefing notes* The UN Secretary-General supports the design, implementation and monitoring of the global evidence architecture needed to ensure that evidence is at the heart of the UN's efforts to deliver the SDGs, including the work of any global commissions that it sponsors
Evidence producers are supported by improved prioritization and coordination processes and other supports	they can work in their respective areas of strength and build on one another's work	 A research unit maintains a living 'evidence map' about human settlements (showing the likely consequences of available policy options) that informs the preparation of a national commission report, its implementation, and the monitoring of its implementation and evaluation of its impact* A research unit prepares timely, demand-driven evidence syntheses that directly inform policymaking and feed into other units' modeling, behavioural insights, technology assessments, guidelines and evaluations that in turn inform policymaking in complementary ways