

2.3 Ways of addressing challenges



Societal challenges can be addressed in many ways. Here we describe three ways, some of which can be combined. For example, a team of research and innovation professionals may partner with community leaders to co-design a single intervention to address a societal challenge. Alternatively, a group of researchers may use a combination of data analytics, cost-effectiveness analysis and modeling to identify what combination of evidence-based interventions will have the greatest impacts in jurisdictions with a given profile, as was done with Disease Control Priorities 3, a periodic review to address the burden of disease in low-resource settings.(4)

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Descriptions

What is being offered	Single intervention	An intervention (e.g., a policy, program, service or product) is selected based on the certainty of the evidence that benefits outweigh harms, and that the intervention is affordable to those who will pay for it and acceptable to those who will receive it
	Package (or bundle) of interventions	An optimal package of interventions is selected based on the interventions that will give the greatest improvement in outcomes within a fixed budget
	Synergistic combination of interventions	An optimal combination of interventions is selected based on the likelihood that some interventions will interact with other interventions in ways that the 'whole is greater than the sum of the parts,' or that they simultaneously achieve multiple targets
How it is selected or developed	Evidence-based intervention selected	An intervention is selected from among interventions that have been shown to work for the same problem being experienced locally
	New intervention developed	An intervention is designed by researchers, innovators and others
	Co-designed intervention	An intervention is co-developed by those who will receive it and/or those who will offer it, as well as researchers, innovators and others
	Community-led action	An intervention is developed by representatives of the community who recognized the need for the intervention and who will receive it
How it is managed over time	Portfolio management	An optimal portfolio is selected that achieves strategic objectives, reflects capacity to deliver, and balances the implementation of change initiatives and the maintenance of business-as-usual while optimizing return on investment
	Systems thinking (5)	Interventions are combined, adapted and replaced based on an understanding of patterns in their interrelationships and interactions within complex adaptive systems that are themselves constantly changing in unpredictable ways