

## 5.1 Types of evidence intermediaries

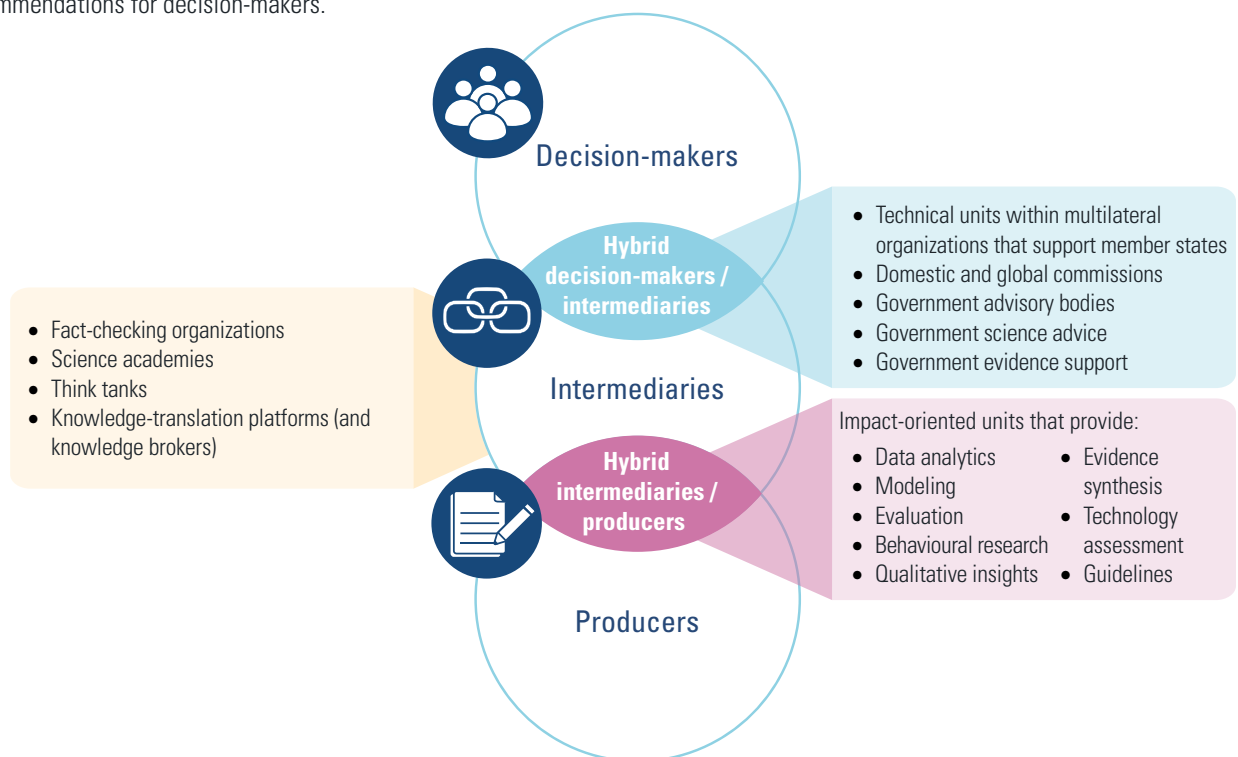
As the term suggests, evidence intermediaries are entities that work (or individuals who work) ‘in between’ decision-makers and evidence producers. They support decision-makers with best evidence and they support evidence producers with insights and opportunities for making an impact with evidence. There are many types of evidence intermediaries and we have included those that tend to focus significant energy specifically on using evidence to support decision-making. Some of these evidence intermediaries may use other labels to describe themselves, such as knowledge brokers.

We distinguish among:

- intermediaries that both use evidence themselves in their own work (i.e., they are involved in decision-making themselves) and directly support decision-making by government policymakers, organizational leaders, professionals and/or citizens
- intermediaries that use evidence to directly support decision-making
- intermediaries that may both produce generalizable knowledge (e.g., for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals) and use evidence to directly support decision-making.

For the first and second broad types of evidence intermediaries, we have included some entities that don’t necessarily prioritize evidence in the way we call for in this report, as a motivating force in their work. They may instead rely on beliefs, values or interests. We were broadly inclusive because we hope that many of these entities will re-consider the priority they accord to evidence in their work after reading this report. We introduce in [section 5.2](#) some of the alignments and funding sources that may influence choices about the forces that motivate intermediaries’ work. We previously introduced in [sections 3.3 to 3.6](#) a range of other processes that can be (but are often not) the targets of intermediaries’ work (e.g., budgeting and planning for government policymakers and organizational leaders, continuing professional development for professionals, and traditional and social media for citizens).

For the third broad type of evidence intermediaries, some actually function as intermediaries for other evidence groups. For example, technology assessment and guideline groups may draw on evidence syntheses produced by others in preparing a report or recommendations for decision-makers.



Broad types	Specific focus (or type)	Examples of national entities and global (or regional) networks*
<p>Hybrid decision-makers / intermediaries</p> 	Technical units within multilateral organizations that support member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN and its departments (e.g., Department of Economic and Social Affairs), funds (e.g., UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti), programs (e.g., UNDP's Human Development Reports), and specialized agencies (e.g., WHO Science Division and World Bank's research and publications)</li> <li>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) substantive directorates</li> </ul>
	Domestic and global commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic standing commissions (e.g., Australia's Productivity Commission) and ad hoc commissions (e.g., New Zealand's royal commissions)</li> <li>See <b>section 8.1</b> for global commissions</li> </ul>
	Government advisory bodies**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese government's expert advisory bodies</li> <li>No global or regional network identified</li> </ul>
	Government science advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Chief Scientific Advisor (UK)</li> <li>International Network for Government Science Advice</li> </ul>
	Government evidence support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ugandan parliament's department of research services</li> <li>African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation</li> </ul>
<p>Intermediaries</p> 	Fact-checking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WebQoof (India)</li> <li>International Fact-Checking Network and Africa Check</li> </ul>
	Science academies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (US)</li> <li>International Science Council and G-Science Academies</li> </ul>
	Think tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAND Corporation (US)</li> <li>Global Solutions Initiative and Think20</li> </ul>
	Knowledge-translation platforms (and knowledge brokers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge to Policy Center (Lebanon)</li> <li>Evidence-Informed Policy Networks (EVIPNet) and Africa Evidence Network</li> </ul>
<p>Hybrid intermediaries / producers</p> 	Impact-oriented data-analytics units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pulse Lab Jakarta (Indonesia)</li> <li>UN Global Pulse, which includes four such labs</li> </ul>
	Impact-oriented modeling units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</li> </ul>
	Impact-oriented evaluation units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) (US with offices in other countries)</li> <li>International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE) and Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR)</li> </ul>
	Impact-oriented behavioural / implementation research units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioural Insights Team (UK with offices in other countries)</li> <li>UN Behavioural Science Group</li> </ul>
	Impact-oriented qualitative-insights units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group</li> </ul>
	Impact-oriented evidence synthesis units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE) (South Africa) and EPPI-Centre (UK)</li> <li>Evidence Synthesis International (ESI) and Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI)*** and as well as What Works Network</li> </ul>
	Technology-assessment units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (Canada)</li> <li>International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) and Red de Evaluación de Tecnologías en Salud de las Américas (RedETSA)</li> </ul>
	Guideline units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (UK)</li> <li>Guidelines International Network (GIN)</li> </ul>

\* Some networks focus more on supporting evidence production than on supporting evidence-intermediary roles.

\*\* Also called advisory groups, assessment panels, monitoring boards, review committees, and technical task forces, among other names.

\*\*\* Many additional thematically focused global networks exist, such as CAMARADES and SYRCLE focused on animal studies, Cochrane and JBI focused on health, Collaboration for Environmental Evidence focused on the environment, and Campbell Collaboration focused on a range of non-health topics.