Implementation research

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1. What is implementation and implementation research?

    Evidence-based practices

    Context

    Implementation strategies

2. Implementation research in LMIC

3. Group work

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Implementation research is key to achieve SDG 3

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"To maximize impact, a new programme should devote at least 50 percent of available global health research funding to the prioritized area of "implementation research", with the remaining funding allocated to thematically unrestricted calls for projects relevant to the programme's primary objective.
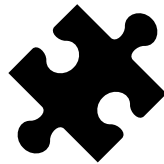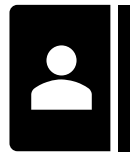
New Priorities for Global Health Research

2021–
Portfolio for Global Development
and International Relations
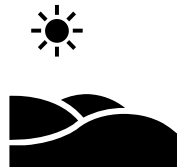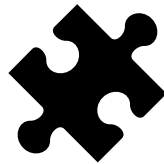
RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

What is implementation?

"Implementation is a specified set of activities
designed to put into practice an activity or program
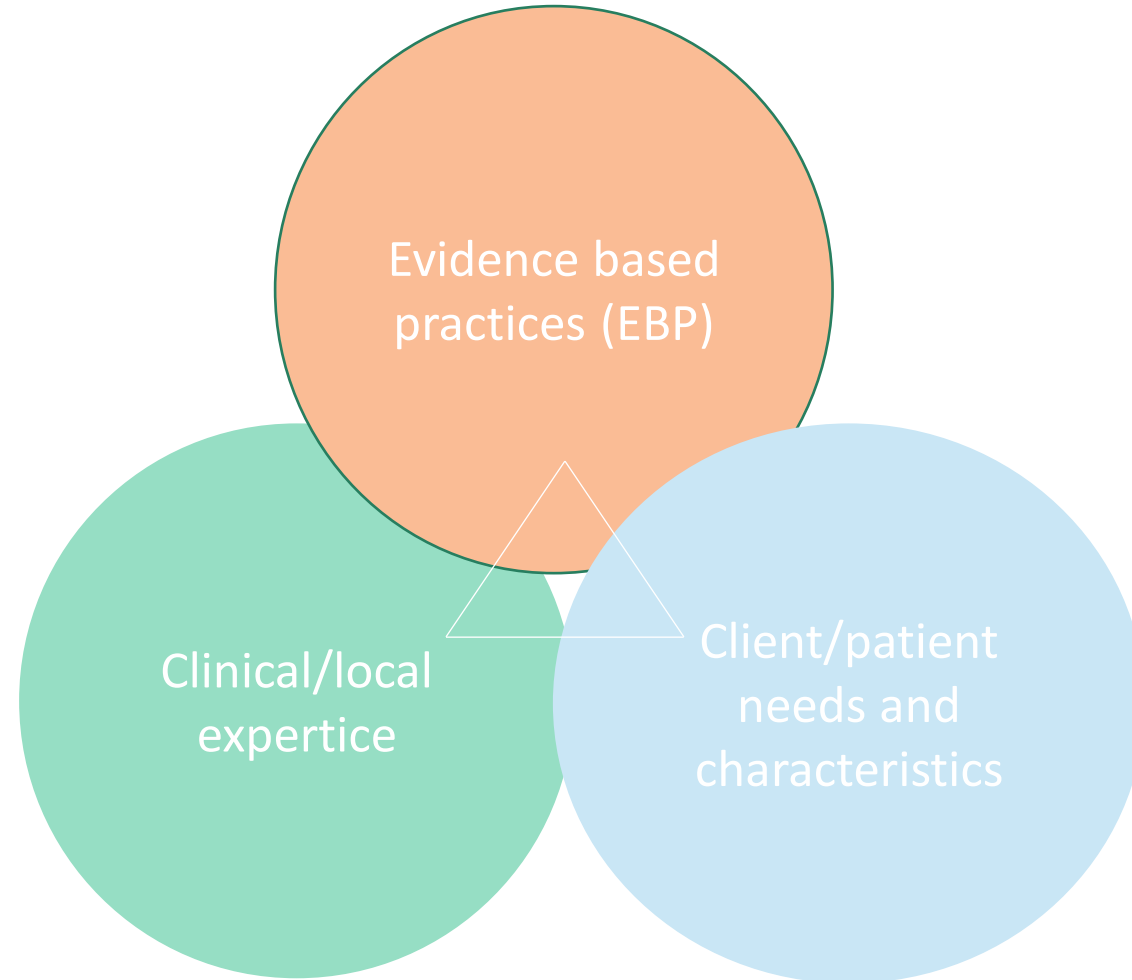of known dimensions»

Fixsen et al., 2005

What is implementation research?

"The scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services"

"This methodology provides a mechanism for assessing contextual factors that need to be addressed when implementing evidence-based interventions to achieve improved health outcomes"

Eccles & Mittman, 2006
National Institutes of Health. Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01 Clinical Trial Optional). Published 2019. https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-274.html

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Evidence-based practice

Evidence based practices (EBP)

Clinical/local expertice

Client/patient needs and characteristics

American Psychological Association, 2005; Norsk Psykologforening, 2007

Successful health interventions

Bauer, M. S., & Kirchner, JA. (2020). Implementation science. What is it and why should I care? Psychiatry Research, 283.

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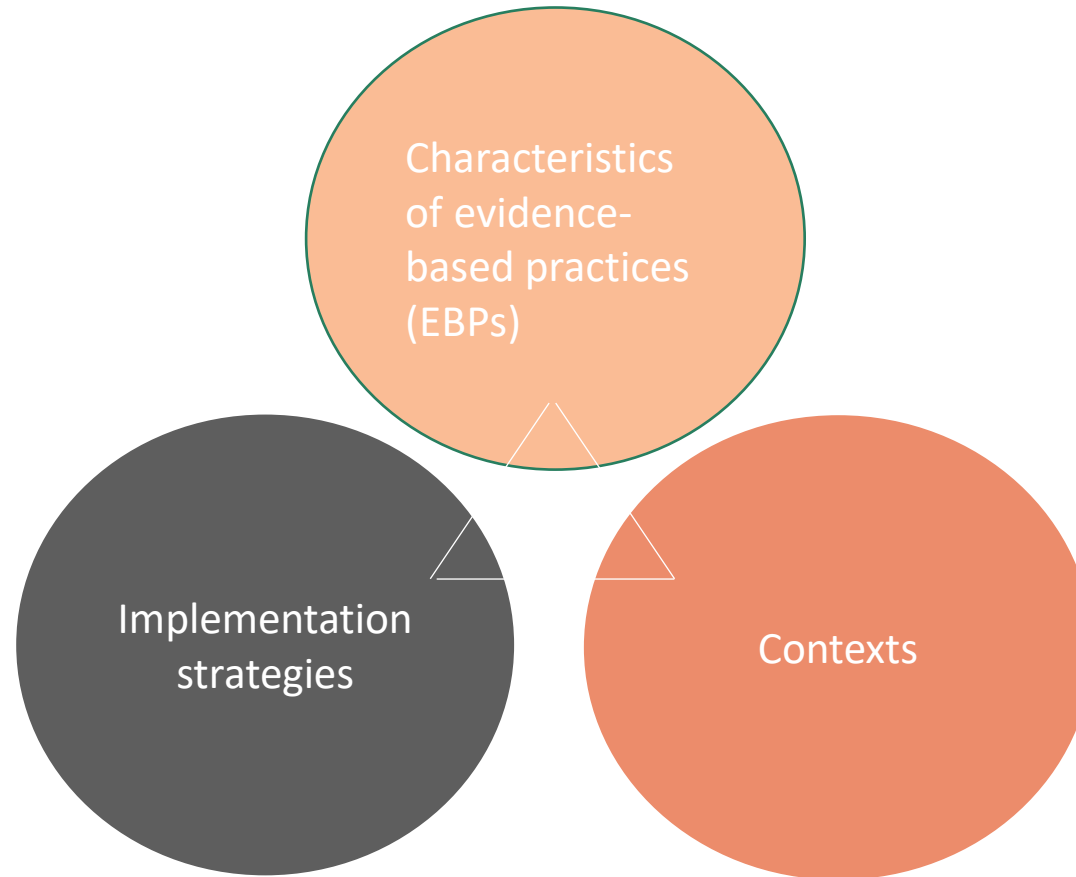
Contextual factors (ex. Covid health supply)

Potential enabling contextual factors:

- strong partnerships between governments, donor institutions, manufacturers

- access to seaports

- road networks to ease transport and delivery of goods

Potential barriers:

- poor health care facility infrastructure

- unreliable electricity for cold storage of vaccines

- challenging geographical terrain

- resource constraints

- corruption

- lack of leadership

Frisch, M.F., Scott, K.W. and Binagwaho, A., 2021. An Implementation Research Approach to Reorient Health Supply Chains Toward an Equity Agenda in the COVID-19 Era. *Annals of Global Health*, 87(1), p.42.

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Implementation strategies

"Methods and techniques that are used to enhance
the implementation of a practice"

Proctor et al., 2013

Classifying the strategies used in implementation science and practice

Classes of implementation strategies	Examples of implementation strategies
1. Dissemination	Develop customized information for the target groups
2. Implementation process	Engage key partners Evaluate the process and outcome
3. Integration strategies	Provide supervision Allocate responsibilities
4. Capasity building strategies	Training Materials to support the implementation process
5. Scale-up strategies	Train-the-trainer Developing of infrastructure

Leeman, J., Birken, S. A., Powell, B. J. Rohweder, C., & Shea, C. M. (2017). Beyond "implementation strategies": classifying the full range of strategies used in implementation science and practice. Implementation Science, 12.

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Theories and frameworks

- Determinant frameworks:
  - *To understand and/or explain what influences implementation outcomes*

- Process frameworks:
  - *To describe and/or guide the process of translating research into practice*

- Evaluating framework:
  - *To evaluate implementation efforts*

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Implementation outcomes (evaluative framework)

Implementation outcomes

Adoption
Acceptability
Feasibility
Fidelity
Reach
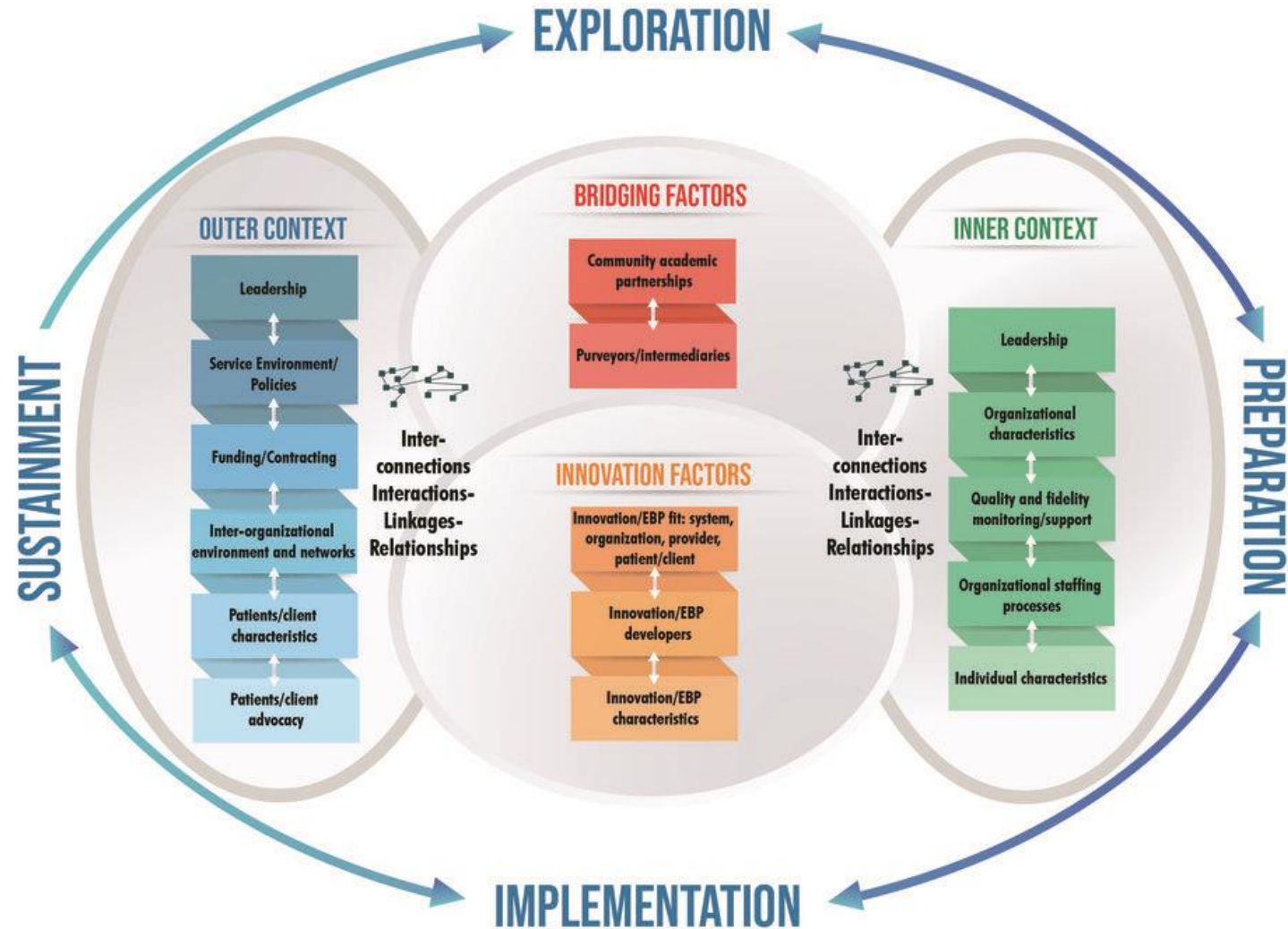*Costs*
Sustainability

Service outcomes

Efficiency
Safety
Effectivness
Equity
Patient-centeredness
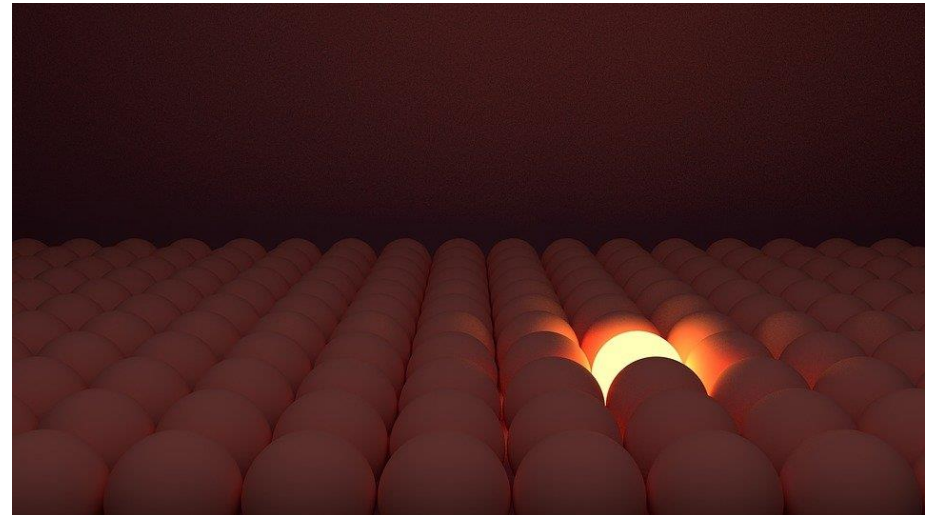*Timelineness*

Client/patient outcomes

Satisfaction
Function
Health Status
Symptoms

Proctor et al., 2011

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Process and determinant framework

Exploration

Preparation

Implementation

Sustainability

https://episframework.com/

- **1.6%** of implementation studies from LMIC

- Implementation research in LMIC is considered an important opportunity for innovation in research and development.

- This bias helps to maintain geographical differences in access to effective mental health interventions.

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Yapa, H. M., & Bärnighausen, T. (2018). Implementation science in resource-poor countries and communities. Implementation Science, 13.

- Most studies on acceptability and appropriateness

- Some studies on feasibility and fidelity

- Very few studies on reach, sustainability, and costs

Alonge et al., 2019. How is implementation research applied to advance health in lowincome and middle-income countries? BMJ Global Health

Verhey, I. J., et al. (2020). Implementation outcomes of cognitive behavioural therapy delivered by non-specialists for common mental disorders and substance-use disorders in low-and middle-income countries: a systematic review. International Journal of Mental Health Systems, 14.

Wagenaar, B. H. (2020). Implementation outcomes and strategies for depression interventions in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review.

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Future research should..

1. test implementation strategies,

2. focus on sustainability,

3. use a consistent approach, and

4. foster stakeholder involvement and academic partnership

… to "develop scalable and sustainable approaches to address mental health and substance-use disorders in resource-poor settings globally"

Wagenaar, B. H. (2020). Implementation outcomes and strategies for depression interventions in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review.

Verhey, I. J., et al. (2020). Implementation outcomes of cognitive behavioural therapy delivered by non-specialists for common mental disorders and substance-use disorders in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review. International Journal of Mental Health Systems, 14.

Zhou, W. ... & Xiao, S. (2020). Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Challenges and Lessons for Policy Development and Implementation. Fron Psychiatry, 11(150).

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Reflection tasks

1. «Implementation research is key to achieve SDG 3»
2. How could implementation research be included in your project?

Thank you for your attention!

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#impsci to promote #globalmentalhealth!