

EVIDENCE MAPS TO INFORM POLICY DECISION-MAKING

INTRODUCTION

Evidence Maps (EMs) are decision-making tools that respond to a policy issue or broad question – which defines the scope. EMs are built by following a Systematic Review process and transforming a collection of synthesised relevant evidence pieces into a visual artefact that indicates areas of gaps in research as well as abundance of research, thereby informing research agendas. EMs thus support Evidence Informed Policy Decision-making, by (for example) guiding decision makers on the interventions that can be included within a policy area to respond to certain outcomes. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) has adopted this methodology to effectively contribute to the policy space and bridge the evidence and policy gap.

METHODOLOGY

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW METHODOLOGY AND EVIDENCE MAPPING

“Systematic review: a review of existing research using explicit, accountable rigorous research methods.” (Gough et al 2017).

With the development of an evidence map, the same steps are followed as with a systematic review. Added to that, the map gets visualised and presented in a framework. A systematic process that is transparent and replicable is followed:

CO-PRODUCTION MODEL

Sector Experts from outside the department partner with Sector Experts within the department. These experts work together in defining the scope and engage in active discussions with Methods Experts, Information Specialists and Researchers within and outside of the DPME to design the framework and co-produce the EM. The Co-production Model builds capacity and enhances learning from each other.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



Human Settlements: Supporting the review of the White Paper on Human Settlements in 2015/16. Total Evidence Pieces: 409.



Developmental State: Conceptualisation of the DS to inform the implementation of Chapter 13 of the NDP. Total Evidence Pieces: 137.



Early Grade Mathematics Study: Identified interventions that inform decisions around mathematics teaching and learning. Total Evidence Pieces: 167.



National Spatial Development Framework: An experiment aimed to produce an evidence map consisting of datasets. Total datasets collected: 200+.



Land Reform: Supporting Land Reform Advisory Panel 2018/19. Total Evidence Pieces: 310.

BENEFITS

- Knowledge Management Tool
- Visual presentation of evidence
- Scoping tool for easy access
- Identification of Research Gaps
- Responsive Knowledge Brokering Service
- Rapid Response Service
- Co-production builds capacity

CONCLUSION

EMs organise information into a manageable decision tool where patterns and gaps in the evidence base are identified and can be used to engage with Sector Experts and Decision Makers. EMs therefore serve as instruments to support evidence-informed decision-making and guide the prioritisation of future research. The methodology is systematic, promotes transparency and is reliable. EMs have the potential to guide the path of evidence uptake when policies are implemented, reviewed or proposed.

THE FUTURE

Access to other departments and external institutions

Strengthening capacity for evidence use and knowledge systems

Automation and using AI for labour intensive part in EM process

Build enabling environment for responsive knowledge brokering to inform policy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE), UJ, DPME Graphics Designer: Sanmarie Moore, DPME Research Director: Harsha Dayal, DPME Research Team.

AUTHORS

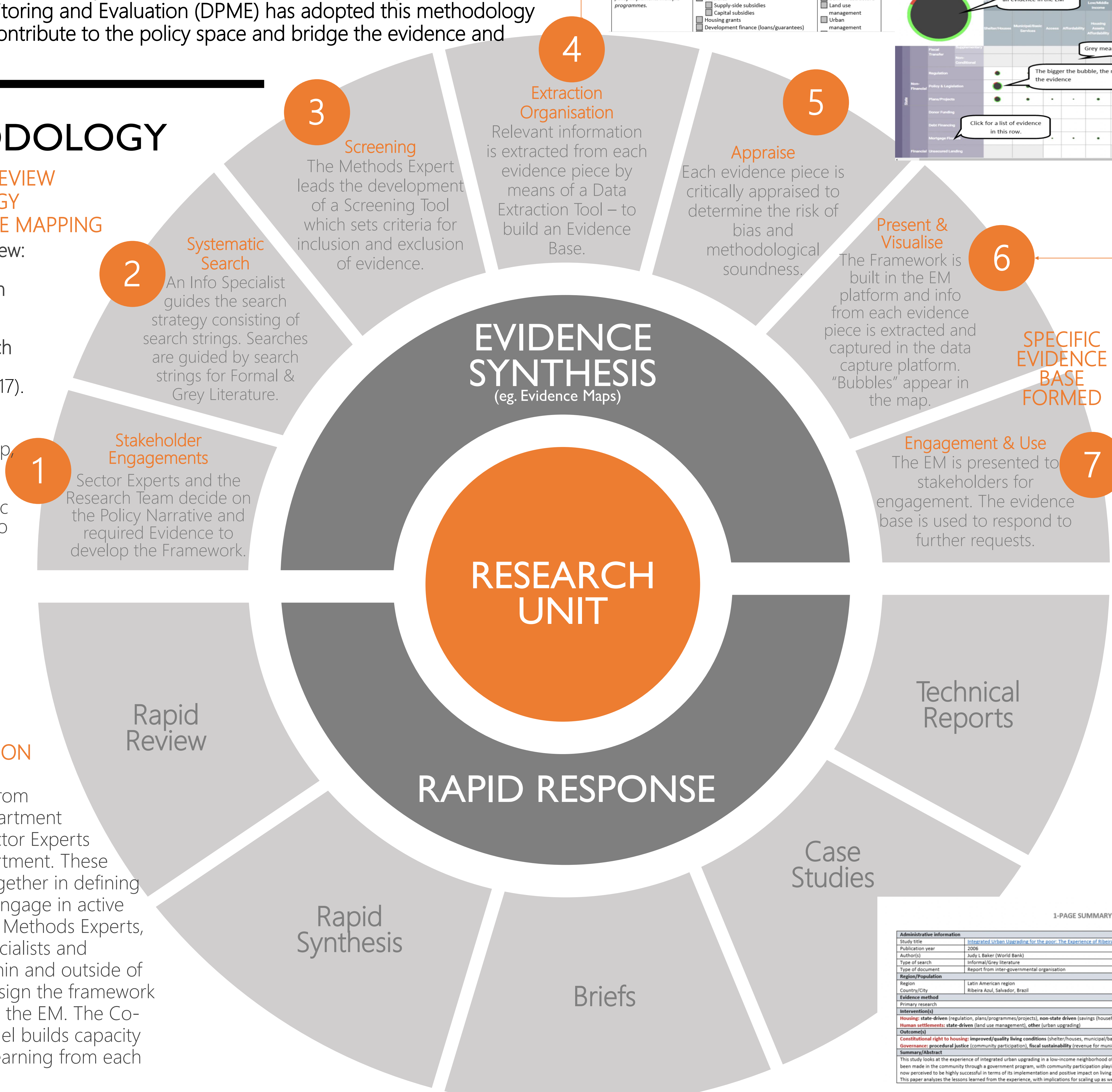
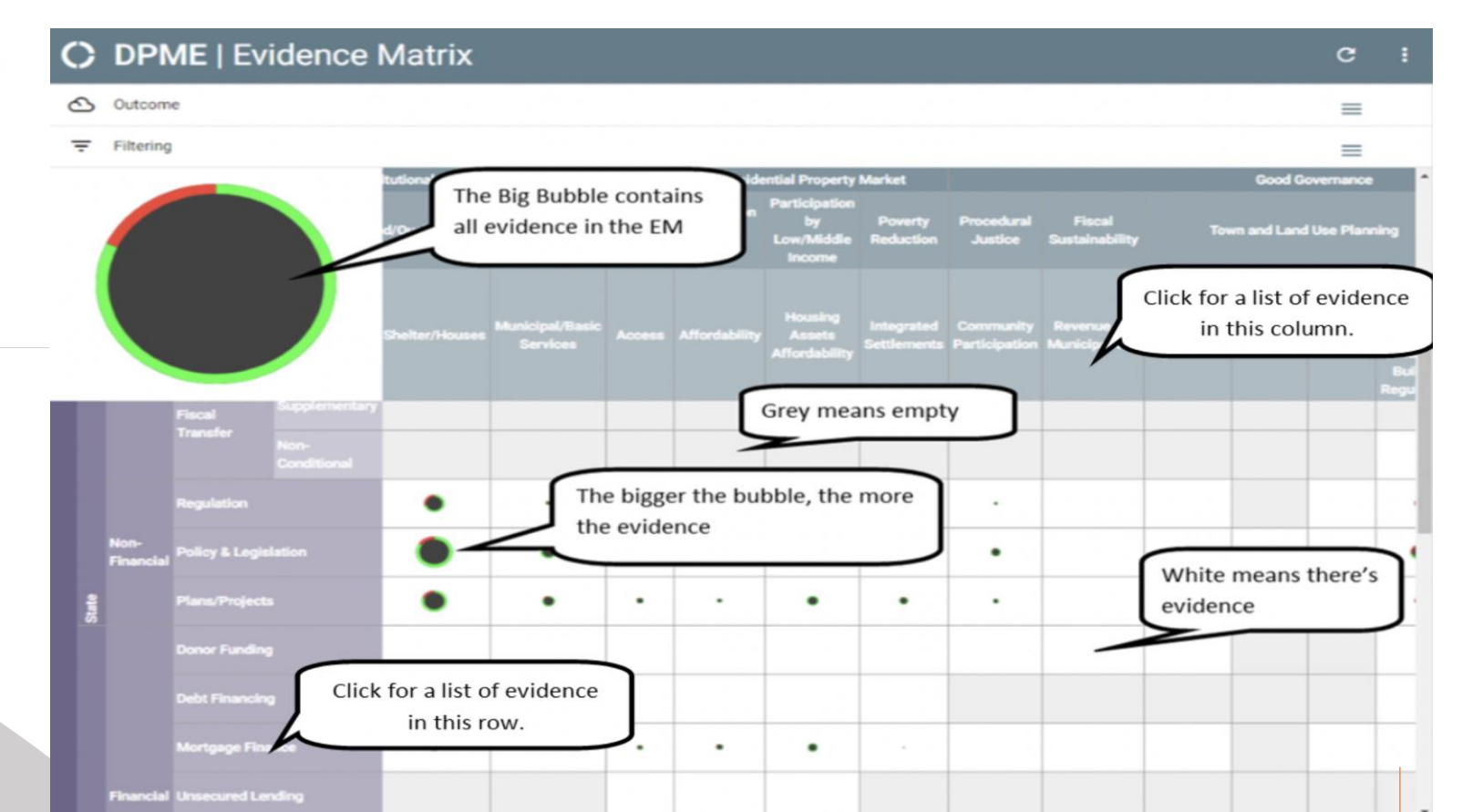
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REFERENCES
Gough, D., Oliver, S. and Thomas, J. 2017. An Introduction to Systematic Reviews, 2nd Edition. SAGE, Los Angeles.
Katz, D. L., Williams, A. L., Grand, C. and Goodman, J. 2003. The evidence base for complementary and alternative medicine: methods of evidence mapping with application to CAM. In: Alternative therapies in health and medicine, Vol 9 (4):22.

October 2019

1. Administrative information	
1.1 Study title	
1.2 Publication year	
1.3 Author(s)	
1.4 Type of research	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal research <input type="checkbox"/> Informal/Grey Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Other
1.4.1 Categories of research	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic journal article <input type="checkbox"/> Research report (e.g. HSR, CSR, unpublished academic paper) <input type="checkbox"/> Government report (e.g. DHS reports) <input type="checkbox"/> Book <input type="checkbox"/> Report from SA parastatal organisation (e.g. HRC) <input type="checkbox"/> Report from inter-governmental organisation (e.g. UN-Habitat) <input type="checkbox"/> Report from NGO/civil society organisation (e.g. SA city network) <input type="checkbox"/> Report from consultancies (e.g. 80:20 consulting)
2. Region/Population	
2.1 Country	<input type="checkbox"/> Africa region <input type="checkbox"/> Latin American region <input type="checkbox"/> Asian region <input type="checkbox"/> Europe <input type="checkbox"/> North America
State country and/or city	<input type="checkbox"/> Country/City: _____
2.2 Target group	E.g. homeless; unemployed; citizens; migrants etc.
3. Intervention	
3.1 Type of intervention	Note: You can tick more than one if the study reports multiple interventions or a policy implements multiple programmes.
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> State-driven: <input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Demand-side <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidies <input type="checkbox"/> Supply-side subsidies <input type="checkbox"/> Capital subsidies <input type="checkbox"/> Housing grants <input type="checkbox"/> Development finance (loan/guarantee)
Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> State-driven: <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Land use management <input type="checkbox"/> Urban management

THE DPME EVIDENCE MAPPING TOOL



1-PAGE SUMMARY

Administrative information	Integrated Urban Upgrading for the poor: The Experience of Ribeira, Salvador, Brazil
Study title	Integrated Urban Upgrading for the poor: The Experience of Ribeira, Salvador, Brazil
Publication year	2006
Author(s)	Judy L. Baker (World Bank)
Type of search	Informal/Grey Literature
Type of document	Report from inter-governmental organisation
Region/Population	
Region	Latin American region
Country/City	Ribeira Azul, Salvador, Brazil
Evidence method	
Primary research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interview(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing: state-driven (regulation, plans/programmes/projects), non-state driven (savings (households), participation in construction – self-built housing)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human settlements: state-driven (land use management), other (urban upgrading)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcomes	
Constitutional right to housing; Improved/quality living conditions (shelter/housing, municipal/basic services); Sponsorship/procedural justice (community participation); fiscal sustainability (revenue for municipalities); teams and land-use planning (land tenure)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary/Abstract	This study looks at the experience of integrated urban upgrading in a low-income neighbourhood of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Infrastructure and social investments have been made in the community through a government program, with community participation playing a major role in the design and implementation. This approach is now perceived to be highly successful in terms of its implementation and positive impact on living conditions, and will provide the basis for a major state-wide program. This paper analyses the lessons learned from the experience, with implications for scaling up as well as applications for other urban upgrading programs.