



# Knowledge café

## Promoting use of evidence in policy and planning

### Knowledge café secretariat

The Policy, Planning and Monitoring Division (PPMD) at the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) aims to engage policymakers, programme managers, researchers, and health professionals, from MoHP and the broader health system, through a series of knowledge translation activities. The Policy and Planning Section under the PPMD has been designated as the knowledge café secretariat with a role to organise and facilitate various activities that will promote the use of evidence in decision-making in policy development, planning, programming, and budgeting. The National Health Policy 2019 stipulates that evidence and research findings obtained from every area and agency in health sector will be congregated and used for continuous improvement.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, the approach paper of the 15<sup>th</sup> five-year plan under the health and nutrition sub-sector mentions that the use of evidence in policy development and decision making will be encouraged from federal to local government level.<sup>2</sup>

### What is a Knowledge café meeting?



Knowledge café is one among many initiatives of the knowledge café secretariat. Knowledge café meetings are a semi-formal, interactive discussion platform for health system stakeholders to discuss recent evidence on priority health issues and its implications especially for relevance and use in health decision-making e.g. policy development, planning, programming, and budgeting. The knowledge café, as a term sounds very informal. Unlike the formality of the research conferences, policy dialogues, technical working groups or summit, it is semi-formal setup which inspires critical, frank discussion on the usefulness of the available evidence and its applicability in promoting the use/uptake of evidence. Other initiatives include:



**Knowledge bank-** archive of the policies, strategies, work plan, research/study reports, MoUs, guidelines of the MoHP



**Review and discussion** of evidence use in policies, strategies, guidelines, programmes (including strategies, guidelines drafted by MoHP)



**A roster of experts-** a pool of experts from various sectors/areas relevant to MoHP who could be contacted or invited for any engagement with MoHP



**Debriefing** by ministry officials who participate in important international events.



**Knowledge products mapping-** Collection of evidence summaries, policy briefs, research briefs etc. which consists of a set of recommendations that can assist MoHP in decision making



**Situational Analysis** - an analysis on what factors and stakeholders influence the use of evidence in policy, planning and decision-making

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health and Population: National health policy 2019.

<https://www.mohp.gov.np/downloads/National%20health%20policy-%202076.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> National Planning Commission. Fifteenth plan (2076/77-2080/81) approach paper.

[https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Approach\\_Paper2.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Approach_Paper2.pdf)



## Why organise a knowledge café?

- To facilitate and/or promote the use of evidence in decision-making e.g. policy development, planning, programming, and budgeting in MoHP.
- To provide a platform to discuss the available evidences and determine how to make use of them in the decision-making process.

### What is the process?



Knowledge café secretariat identifies a theme for each meeting based on its relevance to evidence-informed decision making.



Available and emerging evidence on the theme is collated. The evidence will be collected from online databases, research articles (national and international journals), scoping reviews, research reports, websites (professional bodies and government organisations), government documents, review or analysis reports, thematic experts, etc.



The meeting is held at, chaired and facilitated by the MoHP with the support of collaborators. Collated evidence is discussed focusing on how to use the evidence in decision making. Meeting is conducted using a variety of discussion modalities which include presentation, panel discussion, question and answer session, group discussion, etc.



Policy briefs and/or evidence summaries or notes are produced that would inform planning and decision making.

## Who is the target audience?



- Relevant officials of the MoHP and its line agencies
- Representative of Nepal Health Research Council
- Representative from the external development partners, thematic experts, researcher and health practitioners from academia and non-government sectors (as required)

## What are the expected outcomes?

- Enhanced evidence engagement–actions that enable policymakers and programme managers to identify gaps, and generate, access, discuss and use relevant evidence to inform health policy and planning
- Enhanced space to assess priorities, potentials and possibilities for use of evidence in the decision-making processes

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