COVID-END

SUSTAINING WORKING GROUP

Sustaining Group aims

- Examine how institutions/processes can be strengthened/sustained to enable effective use of evidence synthesis in pandemics and COVID-END's role

- Today's Partners' meeting:
  i. Inform partners about our work (Logic Model + Baseline study)
  ii. Agree with approach (not detail)
  iii. Invitation to contribute

COVID-END Logic Model

COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making

2020-06-17

COVID-19 Evidence Demand Context

Unprecedented but uneven demand for evidence (incl. syntheses, guidance & HTAs) across sectors

Quality and currency of evidence & evidence products difficult to discern

COVID-19 Evidence Supply Challenges

Rapid upsurge in variable quality primary COVID-specific research, leading to rapidly evolving evidence base

Evidence ecosystem less coordinated than optimal

More duplication of synthesis activities than is constructive

New entrants not always aware of best approaches and tools

Evidence synthesis activities are of variable quality

COVID-END

Inputs

People

I - Partners (supply & demand sides)

II - Community

III - Working groups

IV - Secretariat

V - MUN MPH students

Other resources

Project funds (Ontario Ministry of Health)

Donor funds

Work Streams

Scoping

Engaging

Digitizing

Synthesizing

Recommending

Packaging

Sustaining

Mechanisms

Convening partners

Coordinating activities

Sharing knowledge & expertise

Collaborating with partners, community & stakeholders

Curating useful & high-quality synthesis resources

Producing products, tools & processes

Responding to stakeholder needs

Amplifying partner resources

Advocating for a more effective evidence ecosystem

Outputs

Tools & resources to support:

- Decision makers
- Researchers
- Other target groups

Opportunities & structures that enable relationship building & collaboration

Awareness-building & communication activities

Inclusiveness

Diversity

Equity

COVID-END partner organizations

COVID-END community organizations

Target Groups

Primary

Decision makers

Evidence synthesizers

Guideline developers

HT Assessors

Knowledge/ evidence intermediaries

Secondary

Citizens

Patients

Primary researchers

Civil society organizations

Funders

Media

Impacts

Short-term Outcomes

Uptake & use of tools produced by COVID-END

Increased collaboration among partners

Better alignment of partner activities

Less redundancy in synthesis activities

Better quality, more accessible, timely and equity-oriented products in response to needs

More evidence-informed decision makers

Short-term Influences

More cohesive evidence synthesis ecosystem for COVID-19

More evidence-informed and equitable response to COVID-19 pandemic

Long-term Influences

More connected evidence synthesis ecosystem that can better support health & social system transformation

Baseline assessment of the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations

- Objectives:
  1. To understand how the evidence synthesis organisations, members of the COVID-END network, initially responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

  2. To understand their experiences to date of involvement in the COVID-END network.

Baseline assessment of the COVID-19 response of evidence synthesis organizations

- Protocol
  - Phase I: Documentary analysis (all partners)
  - Phase II: Social network analysis through a brief survey (all partners)
  - Phase III: Qualitative study (n = 20 to 25 partners)
- Ethics (American University of Beirut)

Phase I: Documentary analysis

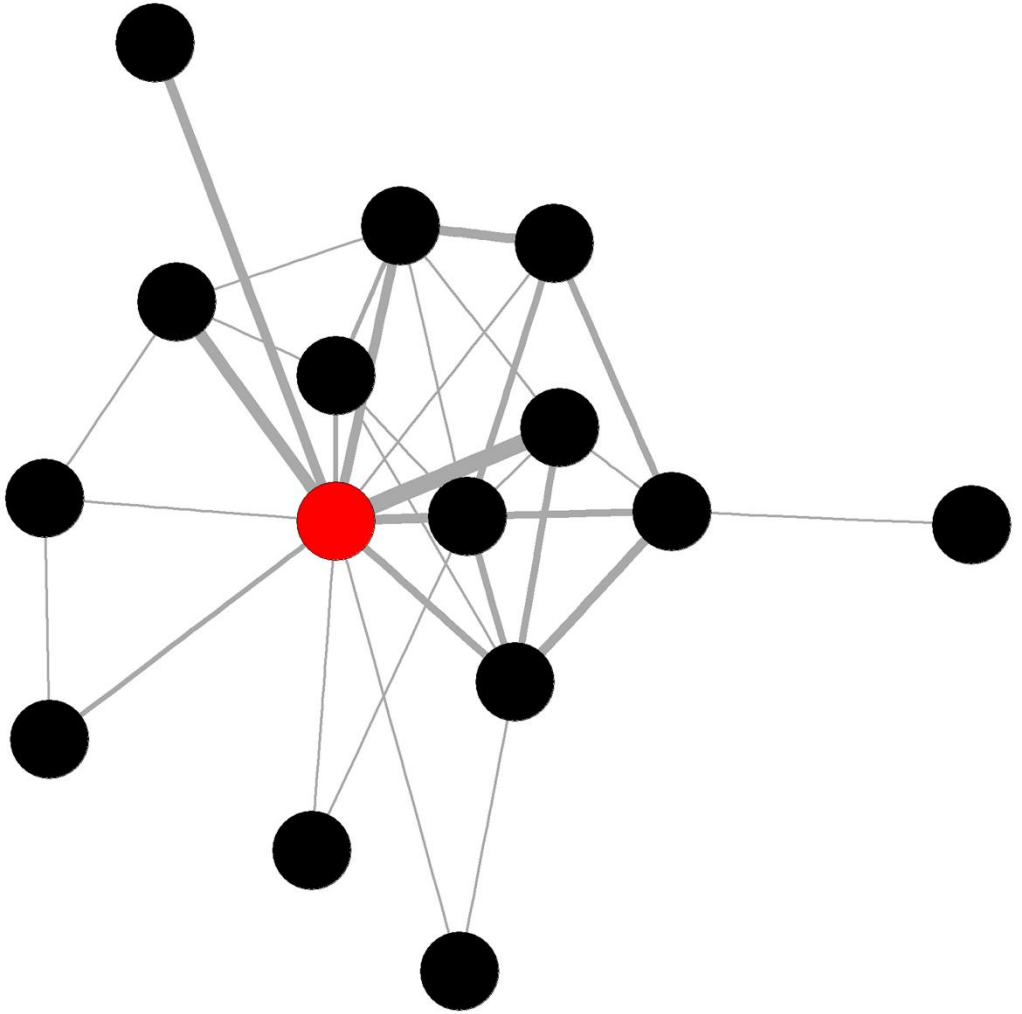
- Textual analysis of institutional websites and documents
- Eligible documents: mission statements, reports, public news releases, and descriptions of COVID-19 related initiatives

Phase I: Documentary analysis

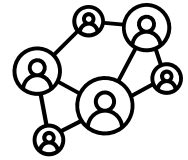
Data items include:	Description of organizations
	Description of collaborations
	Description of activities, strategies, and processes for COVID-19 response

Phase two: Social network analysis

Networks are developed through interactions, shared projects, and collaboration between entities created through institutions and countries.



Phase two: Social network analysis



Aims:

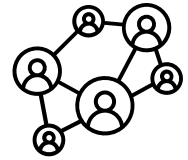
- to illustrate patterns of interaction between evidence synthesis organizations (ESOs) prior to joining COVID-END
- to identify characteristics of interaction between ESOs including degree centrality, density, and clusters

Methods:

- online survey
- hierarchical scale adapted from Buchthal et al. (2013)

Buchthal OV, Taniguchi N, Iskandar L, Maddock J: Assessing state-level active living promotion using network analysis. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* 2013, 10(1):19-32.

Phase two: Social network analysis



Proposed scale:

Survey of COVID- END partners: views on collaboration prior to joining the COVID-END network

Organization name: ----------
Organization type: ----------
Position of the respondent in the organization: ----------

Thinking about your collaboration with other evidence synthesis organizations **prior to joining the COVID-END network (i.e., before March 2020)**, please use the scale below of 1 (no interaction) to 7 (full integration) to indicate the extent to which you interacted with each Partner organization. Please choose the response that best describes the relationship between your organization and each organization.

	Levels of collaboration							
	No interaction (0)	**Awareness (1)**	**Communication (2)**	**Cooperation (3)**	**Coordination (4)**	**Collaboration (5)**	**Partnership (6)**	**Full integration (7)**
Organization name	*Not aware of the existence of the organization*	*Aware of organization, but complete isolation from each other. Do not work together at all and have separate program goals.*	*Sharing of information only when it is advantageous to either or both organizations.*	*Sharing of information and working together on joint projects, proposals, etc. when any opportunity arises.*	*Working side-by-side as separate organizations (i.e., efforts are organized to prevent overlap, but tasks are performed as separate organizations).*	*Working closely as an informal team and actively pursuing opportunities to work together (i.e., no formal agreement; regularly working together on joint projects, proposals, conference organization, publications).*	*Formal relationship with specified responsibilities to achieve common goals (e.g., responsibilities for each org. are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding or other agreement).*	*Formal integration including shared mission, mutual planning, sharing staff or funding resources and evaluating activities to accomplish common goals.*
Campbell Collaboration								
Evidence Aid								

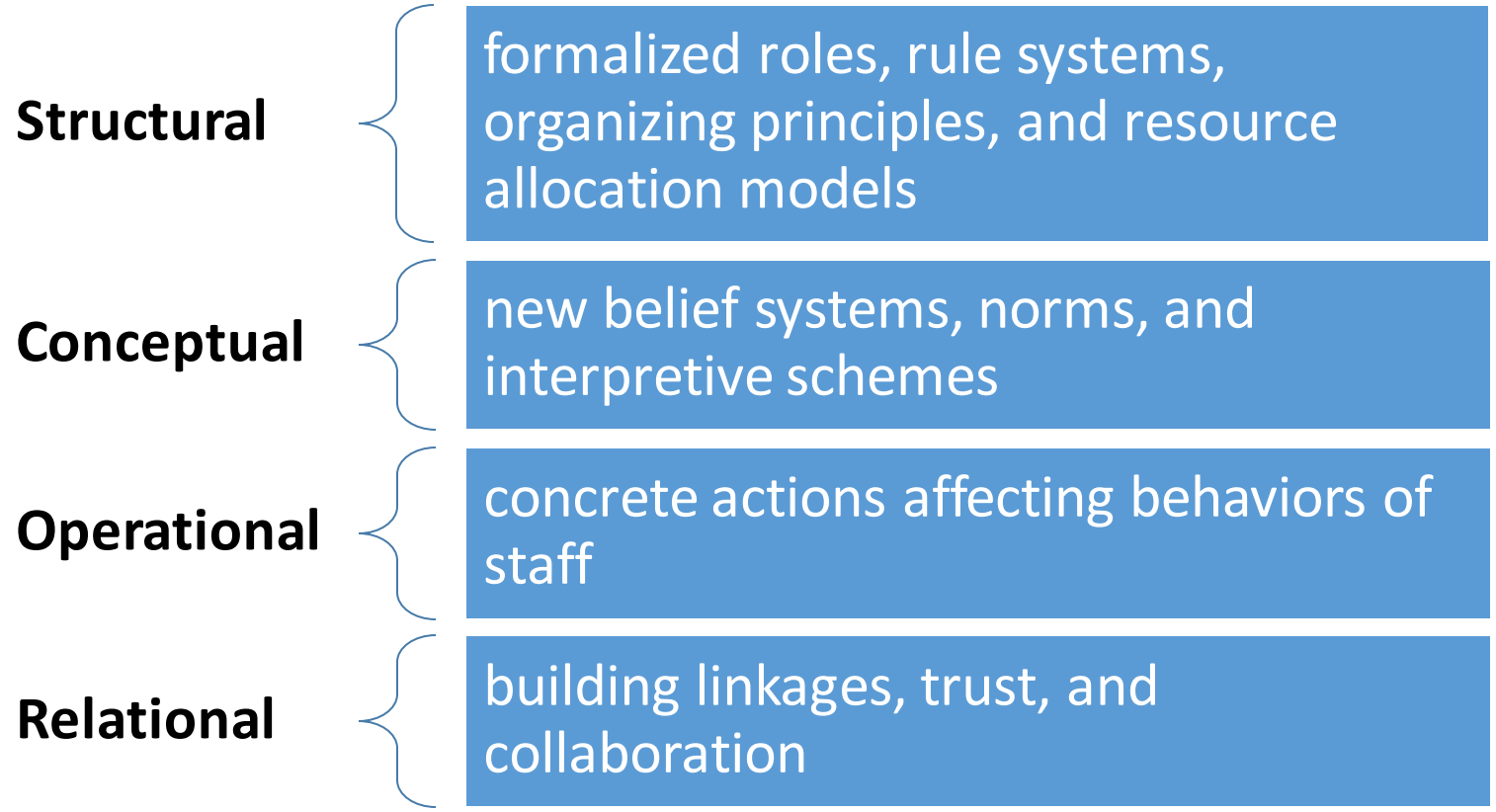
Phase three: Qualitative study

Methods:

- Semi-structured interviews of 20-25 ESO representatives
- Purposive sampling of ESOs from the Network of 46 partners
- Ensure maximum variation in terms of organization type; location; and scale of organization
- Initial COVID-19 response and initial engagement with the Network

Phase three: Qualitative study

Integrated model adapted from Cloutier et al. (2016) categorizing institutional work into four forms



Cloutier, C., et al., Agency at the managerial interface: Public sector reform as institutional work. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 2016. 26(2): p. 259-276.

Timeline and next steps

- Ethics submission: end of June
- Reach out to Partners: mid July
- Keep an eye out!