



10 TIPS ON IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH FOR DECISION MAKERS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

IR References and Key Resources (DRAFT September 2020)

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TIP #1: Introducing implementation research: real-time evidence to save lives

Key Resources

[Implementation research in health: a practical guide](https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_irpguide.pdf)

https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_irpguide.pdf

[TDR Implementation Research Toolkit](https://www.who.int/tdr/publications/topics/ir-toolkit/en/)

<https://www.who.int/tdr/publications/topics/ir-toolkit/en/>

[MEASURE Evaluation Fundamentals of Implementation Research](https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/ms-12-55)

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/ms-12-55>

[Statement on Advancing IRDS, 2014](https://www.healthsystemsglobal.org/the-irds-statement/)

<https://www.healthsystemsglobal.org/the-irds-statement/>

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3. Bhattacharyya O, Reeves S, Zwarenstein M. (2009) [What is implementation research? Rationale, concepts, and practices](#), *Research on Social Work Practice* 19(5), 491-502.
4. Peters DH, Tran NT, Adam T. (2013) [Implementation research in health: a practical guide](#), Geneva: World Health Organization.
5. Proctor EK, et al. (2009) [Implementation Research in Mental Health Services: An Emerging Science With Conceptual, Methodological, and Training Challenges](#). *Adm Policy Ment Health* Jan;36(1):24-34.

TIP #2: How does IR work?

Key Resources (see also Key Resources from TIP#1: Introducing IR)

Proctor E, et al. (2011) [Outcomes for implementation research: conceptual distinctions, measurement challenges, and research agenda](#), 38(2):65–76.

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2. Proctor EK, et al. (2009) [Implementation Research in Mental Health Services: An Emerging Science With Conceptual, Methodological, and Training Challenges](#). *Adm Policy Ment Health* Jan;36(1):24-34.
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4. Applegate JA, et al. (2019) [Early implementation of guidelines for managing young infants with possible serious bacterial infection in Bangladesh](#). *BMJ Glob Health* 19; 4(6):e001643.

TIP #3: When to use IR to address implementation challenges?

Key Resources

Routine Monitoring

- USAID Monitoring e-Toolkit: <https://usaidlearninglab.org/monitoring-toolkit>

Collaborating, Learning and Adapting

- USAID Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA): <https://usaidlearninglab.org/faq/collaborating%2C-learning%2C-and-adapting-cla>

Quality Improvement

- Rakhmanova, N., & Bouchet, B. (2017). [Quality improvement handbook: a guide for enhancing the performance of health care systems](#). FHI 360.
- University Research Co, LLC. Quality improvement overview. <https://www.urchs.com/sites/default/files/urc-overview-quality-improvement.pdf>

Program Evaluation

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011). [Introduction to program evaluation for public health programs: A self-study guide](#).
- USAID Evaluation e-Toolkit: <https://usaidlearninglab.org/evaluation-toolkit>

Operations Research

- Zachariah, R., Harries, A. D., et al. (2009). [Operational research in low-income countries: what, why, and how?](#) The Lancet Infect Diseases, 9(11), 711-717.

Implementation Research

- Peters, D. H., Tran, N. T., & Adam, T. (2013). [Implementation research in health: a practical guide](#). World Health Organization.

Health Services Research

- Lohr, K. N., & Steinwachs, D. M. (2002). [Health services research: an evolving definition of the field](#). Health services research, 37(1), 15.

Health Program Evaluation

- MEASURE Evaluation M&E Fundamentals (This is a free 2-hour online training). Available from: <http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/course/m-e-fundamentals>

Health Policy and Systems Research

- Gilson, Lucy (Ed.) (2012). [Health policy and systems research: a methodology reader](#). AHPSPR, WHO, Geneva.

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1. Neta, G., Brownson, R. C., & Chambers, D. A. (2018). Special Article [Opportunities for Epidemiologists in Implementation Science: A Primer](#). Am J Epidemiol.187(5):899-910.
2. Rabin and Brownson. Terminology for Dissemination and Implementation Research. Chapter 2 in: Brownson, R. C., Colditz, G. A., & Proctor, E. K. (Eds.). (2018). [Dissemination and implementation research in health: translating science to practice](#). Oxford University Press.
3. Peters David H, Adam Taghreed, et al. [Implementation research: what it is and how to do it BMJ 2013](#); 347 :f6753
4. Theobald S, Brandes N, et al. (2018). [Implementation research: new imperatives and opportunities in global health](#). The Lancet, 392 (10160), 2214-2228.
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6. Bhatia, Manu. What is Monitoring and Evaluation? A Guide to the Basics. July 16, 2018. <https://humansofdata.atlan.com/2018/07/what-is-monitoring-and-evaluation/>
7. CDC. Types of Evaluation. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Types%20of%20Evaluation.pdf>

TIP #4: Identifying problems to solve with IR

Key Resources

Clarifying Implementation Problems

- [SUPPORT Project Tools for Evidence-informed Health Policymaking \(STP\)](#) - This 18-article supplement in BMC Health Research Policy and Systems (2009) describes systematic processes to support evidence-informed policymaking. Article #4 focuses on clarifying problems.

Priority-setting Resources

- Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) http://www.cohred.org/Priority-setting-tools/#plan_implement_priority_setting

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3. Kanmiki EW et al. (2019) [Cost of implementing a community-based primary health care strengthening program: The case of the Ghana Essential Health Interventions Program in northern Ghana](#). PLoS ONE 14(2): e0211956.
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5. Gilson L (Ed). (2012) [Health Policy and Systems Research: a methodology reader](#). AHPsr, WHO.
6. Council for Health Research for Development (COHRED) Collaborative Paper. (2006) [Priority Setting for Health Research: Toward a management process for low and middle income countries \(Working Paper 1\)](#).
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9. Rudan I, et al. [Setting Priorities in Global Child Health Research Investments: Guidelines for Implementation of the CHNRI Method](#). Croat Med J. 2008 Dec; 49(6): 720-733.
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11. Peters D, Tran N, Taghreed, A. (2013) [Implementation Research in Public Health: a practical guide](#). AHPsr, WHO.

TIP #5: Involving stakeholders and establishing a strong IR partnership

Key Resources

Stakeholder Engagement in Implementation Research

- [Implementation Research in Public Health: Practical Guide \(Chapter 4, p35-42\)](#)
- [Learning by doing in practice: a roundtable discussion about stakeholder engagement in implementation research](#)

Stakeholder Mapping Tools

- <http://www.tools4dev.org/resources/stakeholder-analysis-matrix-template/>
- <https://www.researchtoaction.org/2015/09/stakeholder-mapping-resource-list/>

The MSP Guide – How to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships

- <https://www.developmentbookshelf.com/doi/book/10.3362/9781780446691>

Building Collaboration Capacity in Community Coalitions: A Review and Integrative Framework

- http://systemexchange.msu.edu/upload/collab_capacity.pdf

Human Centered Design Toolkit

- <https://www.designkit.org/human-centered-design>

Participatory methods for stakeholder engagement

- <https://www.participatorymethods.org/page/about-participatory-methods>
- <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e316430c-1cad-48dd-86a9-c708f0876562>

Establishing a strong IRDS Collaboration

- Implementation Research for UHC in Practice A Series of Technical Briefs Based on Lessons Learned from the Field in Myanmar and Indonesia.
 - Part 1: [Laying the groundwork for IR](#) (2015)
 - Part 2: [Defining and Designing IR](#) (2017)
- William T. Grant Foundation Research-Practice Partnerships
 - [Finding Good Partners](#)
 - [Structuring a Partnership—Guiding Tips](#);
 - [Developing Data Sharing Agreements](#)
- Sample [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) for Partnership Work (researchandpractice.org)
- [Tools for Data Demand and Use in the Health Sector: Stakeholder Engagement Tool](#) (USAID MEASURE Evaluation Manual, 2011)
- TDR IR Toolkit (2017), Module 7: [Integrating Implementation Research into the Health System](#)

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4. 'Building and managing a research team - <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/leadership-development-for-principal-investigators-pis/building-and-managing-a-research-team>.

TIP #6: Formulating IR questions

Key Resources

- [A Practical Guide for Engaging Stakeholders in Developing Evaluation Questions](#) (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).
- [A guide to researcher and knowledge-user collaboration in health research: Section 4](#) (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2009).
- [Frame Your Question](#) (University of Washington Resource Hub)
- Morshed, A., Baumann, A., & Proctor, E. D&I Aims Toolkit. St. Louis, MO: Washington University; 2016 November. [Eight toolkits related to Dissemination and Implementation](#). The full set of toolkits is available at <https://sites.wustl.edu/wudandi/>

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5. TDR Implementation Research Toolkit. <https://www.who.int/tdr/publications/topics/ir-toolkit/en/>

TIP #7: Selecting and using a framework to guide your IR project

Key Resources

- [Theories, Models, and Frameworks](#) (University of Washington, Implementation Science Resource Hub)
- [Training Module 3: Implementation Science Models, Theories and Frameworks](#) (National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Control & Population Studies)
- Damschroder LJ, Aron DC, Keith RE, Kirsh SR, Alexander JA, Lowery JC. [Fostering implementation of health services research findings into practice: a consolidated framework for advancing implementation science](#). Implement Sci. 2009;4:50

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Why invest in implementation research?

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