

Overview of Pre-Training Reading Materials

In order to make the evidence-informed policymaking (EIPM) training more effective and enriching, we have provided pre-training reading materials that all learners need to read prior to the start of the 5-day training workshop. The main purpose of reading these materials before the training is so that learners can have some level of understanding of the key concepts that the training will cover. In addition, some of the pre-training reading materials provide important understanding required for some of the training modules to be effective; this is mainly the case for the reading materials on research design and methods, which is an important pre-requisite for module 3, which focuses on appraising evidence.

Each learner is requested to read the list of materials in the table prior to the start of the training workshop. In the table, we list the title of the document, describe what the reading is about and why it is important to read it. All the materials are provided for you two weeks prior to the training workshop.

1. Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

This is a brief document that provides definitions of key terms and concepts used in the in the training program. Reading this prior to the workshop builds learners' understanding of the key terms and concepts relating to the training. Although these terms and concepts will be defined during the training, having an understanding prior to the training workshop will enhance learners' ability to understand the training content as well as be actively involved in their own learning.

2. Session 2 Handout: SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed policymaking (STP) 1: What is Evidence-informed policymaking?

This is a journal article that discusses three main questions, namely: What is evidence? What is the role of research evidence in informing health policy decisions? What is evidence-informed policymaking? Reading this article will enable the learner to starting understanding what the whole course is about by understanding research evidence, its role in health policy decisions, and the meaning of evidence-informed policymaking. This reading is part of module 1 on Foundation of Policymaking.

3. Session 2 Handout: Pathways to evidence-informed policy and practice: A framework for action

This is a journal article that proposed and discusses a framework or a pathway through which research evidence gets to inform policy decisions. Reading this article stimulates learners to start appreciating the process of evidence to policy and practice, for which this training is part of. It also stimulates learners to think of ways in which they can navigate the barriers to evidence use in their work.

4. Illustrative case study: Integrating Family Planning into HIV programs: Evidence-based practices

This is an evidence summary published by FHI 360. The evidence summary focuses on a topic of public interest and will be used as a case study throughout the training workshop. By this we mean that various exercises that learners will undertake in groups during the training workshop will be based on this evidence summary. Therefore reading the illustrative case study prior to the training is important so that learners do not have to spend so much time reading this to understand its focus before embarking on group exercises.

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5. Session 4 Appraising Evidence: Research Designs and Methods

This document provides definitions of research design and research methods, and goes ahead to describe major research designs, the types of evidence generated by these designs, and how this could be used in decision-making. Reading this document will equip learners with understanding of research designs and methods, which is an important pre-requisite for module 4 on Appraising Evidence.

6. Session 4 Handout: How to critically appraise an article

This is a journal article that explains how one should go about appraising the quality of a research paper. Reading this will prepare the learner for module 4 on Appraising Evidence.

7. Session 4 Handout: Scientific paper on ‘Facility-level intervention to improve attendance and adherence among patients on anti-retroviral treatment in Kenya...’

This is a journal paper that will be used in a group activity in module 4 on Appraising Evidence. Reading the article prior to the training will save learners time of having to read this paper for the first time before they embark on the exercise of appraising its credibility.

8. Session 5 Handout: Scientific paper on ‘An evaluation of a community-based food supplementation for people living with HIV in Ghana...’

This is a journal paper that will be used in a small group activity during module 5 on Synthesizing Evidence. Reading the article prior to the training will save learners time of having to read this paper for the first time before they embark on the group exercise of generating questions on applicability of evidence before one decides to use or not to use the evidence.

9. Session 5 Handout: SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed health Policymaking (STP) 13: Preparing and using policy briefs to support evidence-informed policymaking

This is a journal paper that provides guidance on how to develop policy briefs. Reading this article ahead of the training workshop prepares learners’ for module 5 on Synthesizing Evidence, which has an in-depth focus on developing policy briefs. This reading material is relevant for module 5.

10. Assignments and Readings for each day of the EIPM Training Workshop

This is not a pre-training reading material. However, it is included here as it lists the readings and assignments that learners will undertake through the 5-day training workshop. The most critical part that learners need to do on this document prior to the workshop is the first item in the table which requires learners to think about and define their policy issue/question the day before the training as well as read one of the materials contained in the this list.