This case study provides a topic of public health interest as a scenario to refer to throughout the course. Though the evidence outlined within the case study is real, some portions of the case study exercise are hypothetical (e.g., being asked by a superior to do something). The case study content is organized in a way that will allow participants to demonstrate the various practical skills involved in evidence-based decisions and policymaking as applied to one consistent theme and scenario.

Session 2 Foundation: Developing a Policy Question

*Background*

The integration of family planning (FP) and HIV services improves sexual and reproductive health outcomes by providing both services under one programmatic umbrella. This type of integration refers to the delivery of health services, and it is a subset of closely related but broader linkages between family planning and HIV policies, funding, programs, and advocacy.

For close to a decade, governments, normative bodies, funders, implementing partners, and communities have issued statements supporting the integration of family planning and HIV policies, programs, and services. As a result, meeting the contraceptive and other reproductive health needs of people living with HIV through the provision of integrated services is a core component of key global health frameworks. Major HIV/AIDS funders such as PEPFAR and The Global Fund increasingly encourage the integration of family planning into programs they support. For example, recent PEPFAR guidance states that “The need for family planning for HIV-positive women who desire to space or limit births is an important component of the preventive care package of services for people living with HIV/AIDS and for women accessing PMTCT services…PEPFAR is a strong supporter of linkages between HIV/AIDS and voluntary family planning and [other] reproductive health programs” (PEPFAR Fiscal Year Country Operational Plan (COP) Guidance). At the country level, some government health leaders have established national coordination efforts between reproductive health and family planning departments and HIV departments, which, in turn, have led to measurable progress in policy and practice. At least 16 countries have implemented the *Rapid Assessment Tool for Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Linkages* to assess the current state of integration and develop action plans for strengthening efforts.

*Given these developments, your superior has asked you to advance FP and HIV integration in your country. What policy question can be derived from this directive and mandate?*

Potential answer:

Session 3: Accessing Evidence

*What terms might you use in your search that would result in relevant research and evidence about family planning and HIV integration?*

Terms relevant for the search strategy template and practice:

Session 4 Appraise: Interpreting Evidence

*One of the next steps for evidence use after it has been appraised is to determine which findings are relevant for your situation. The evidence presented below has gone through the appraisal process and has been deemed high quality and credible. Please choose an institution or organization you are all familiar with, e.g. the MoH. Then, devise questions that should be asked to determine the evidence or innovation’s a) applicability (e.g., feasibility), and b) transferability (e.g., generalization) within the chosen institution or situation.*

**

Compare and synthesize the participant answers to the following questions:



SOURCE: <http://www.nccmt.ca/learningcentre/index.php?lang=en#main2.html>

Session 5 Synthesizing: Writing Actionable Recommendations and Elevator Pitches

*In a real scenario, you would likely identify many sources of evidence that you would then appraise and prioritize. To expedite the process in a training setting, please use the following lists of key research findings as the evidence base to be synthesized. What conclusions can you draw about what the bulk of the evidence suggests, particularly in regard to actions that can be taken to effectively advance integration?*



Synthesis conclusions to be drawn about actionable measures which can be taken to advance effective integration include explicitly addressing and improving multiple levels of the health system, including:

*What type of elevator pitch might you deliver to convey the larger context and also your evidence-informed decision-making process and subsequent recommendations for action?*

Potential elevator pitch:

Session 6: Applying - Communication strategy

Participants will use the case study and their own knowledge of their country networks to complete a communications strategy worksheet. The brief and case-study work to-date can be referenced but the activity is not dependent on technical content.