



Making it easier to learn from others around the world:

Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative
(ESIC)

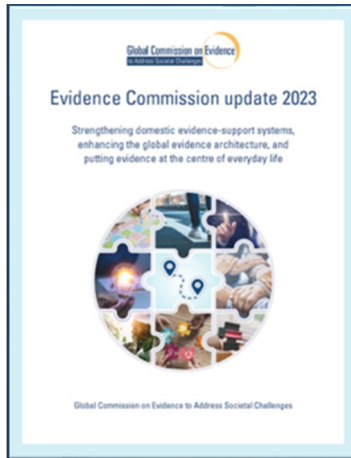
28 May 2025

Global Evidence Commission helped to build momentum on three implementation priorities, particularly the second one

Report (2022)



Update 2023



Update 2024



Update 2025



Formalize and strengthen national (and local) evidence-support systems



Enhance and leverage the global evidence architecture



Put evidence at the centre of everyday life

'SHOW ME the evidence' consensus helped to make the case that the field of 'evidence synthesis and support' was ready for big investments

- 1) **S**upport systems nationally that use many forms of research evidence to help address local priorities
- 2) **H**armonized efforts globally that make it easier to learn from others around the world
- 3) **O**pen-science approaches that make it the norm to build on what others have done
- 4) **W**aste-reduction efforts that make the most of investments in evidence support and in research
- 5) **M**easured communications that clarify what we know from existing evidence and with what caveats
- 6) **E**quity and efficiency in all aspects of this work



Available in eight languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish

Co-published in six journals: Campbell Collaboration, Cochrane, Collaboration for Environmental Evidence, Guidelines International Network, JBI, ZEFQ



Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative (ESIC) will be a game-changer for three categories of ‘interest holder’

- **Policymakers and other decision-makers**

- Actionable insights – what has been learned from around the world, particularly for groups and contexts relevant to them – from AI-enabled, living evidence syntheses on the major questions of our time, which can then be put alongside the many needed forms of national evidence in program development, science advice, briefing notes, learning and improvement initiatives, etc.

- **Evidence intermediaries**

- Data ‘on tap’ from these living evidence syntheses (i.e., study findings are extracted once and quality assessments are done once, and used many times), which can then be contextualized to programmatic needs (e.g., ‘best buys,’ contextualized evidence syntheses, and evaluation designs and recommendations)

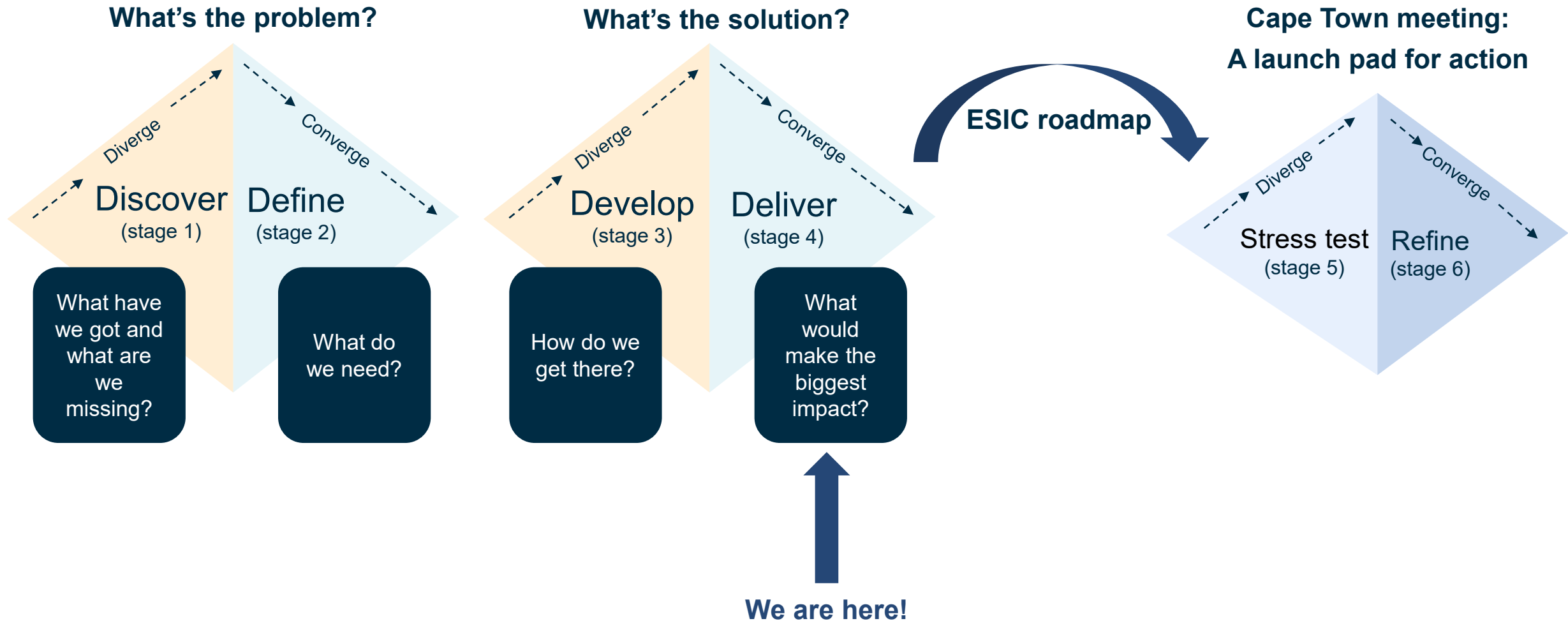
- **Research funders (or commissioners)**

- Feedback loops to reduce research waste
 - For primary researchers about gaps in decision-maker priority areas and about the design or methodological characteristics needed to add value in responses
 - For synthesis teams about gaps (and needless duplication) in decision-maker priority areas
- Data ‘on tap’ to support assessments of research impact (e.g., whose primary studies ‘tipped the balance’ on questions like what works or how and why something works)

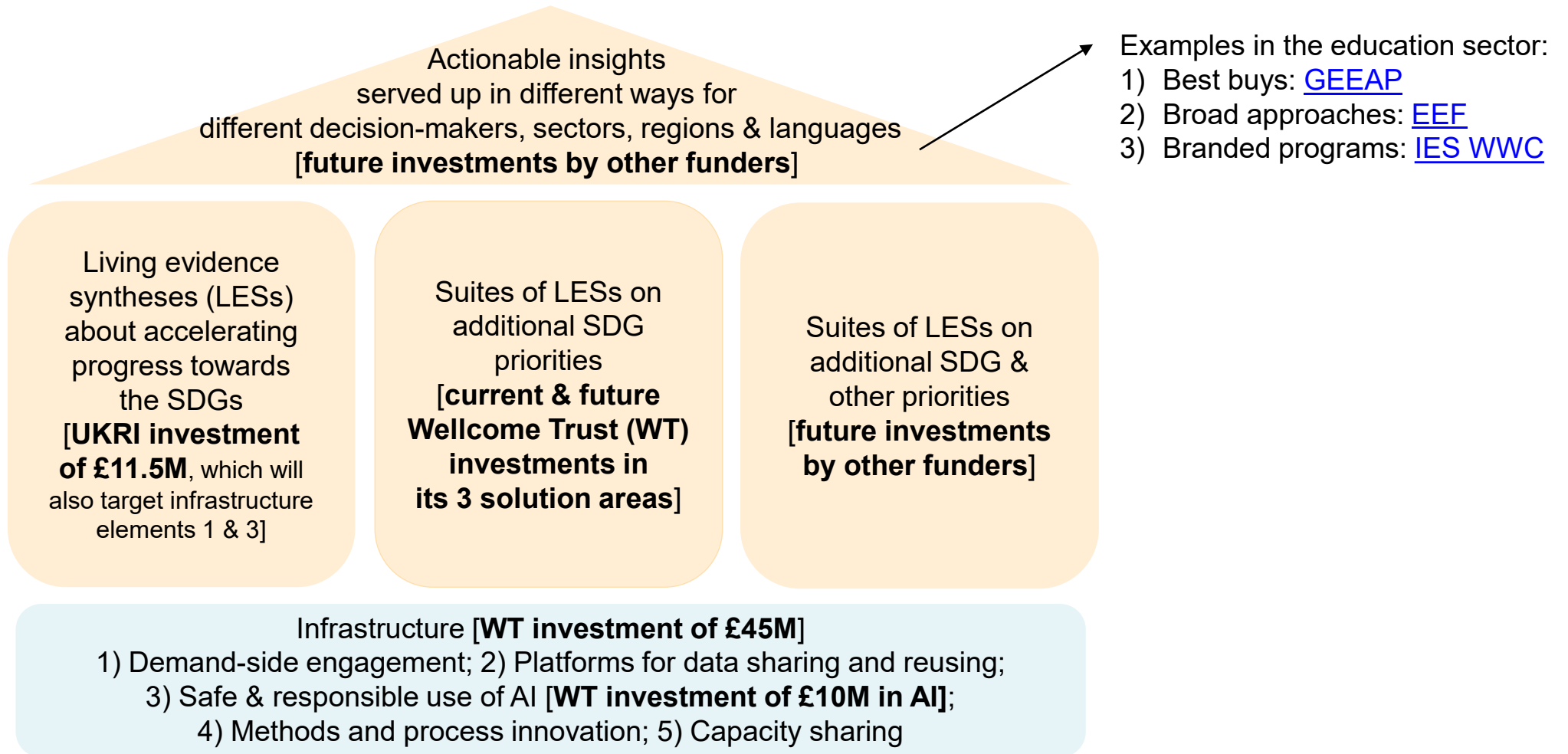
Where we are in the ESIC planning process

- The planning process is progressing well, with the **five working groups** having delivered report 3 (the long list of potential 'solutions') and soon to release reports 4a (high-impact solutions) and 4b (costed solutions)
 - Demand-side engagement → Anticipating and responding to 'windows of opportunity' and meeting user needs
 - Data sharing & reusing → Extracting data and assessing quality once, and using the data many times
 - Safe and responsible use of AI → Using AI tools for discrete tasks as performance metrics allow
 - Methods and process innovation → Making synthesis radically more timely, relevant and affordable
 - Capacity sharing → Supporting a transition in leadership and execution to the Global South
- Targeted engagements are underway with representatives from key categories of **interest holders**
 - e.g., multilaterals (GSDGSC with 53 UN entities, MDBs & IFPs); citizen-serving NGOs; science advisors (INGSA & RFICS); other types of evidence intermediaries (like HubLAC); synthesis producers (BGESC); domestic, development, philanthropic & research funders (Funders interest group, HIROs and EvalNet)
 - The **Global SDG Synthesis Coalition** (GSDGSC) is also supporting an aligned engagement process across the UN system with preliminary outputs (prioritization process, pathways-to-impact playbook) now available
- The ESIC **roadmap writing team** is accelerating its work and using the principle 'Work in the open, it makes things better' → [Watch for the draft ESIC roadmap to be released on 13 June](#)
- The **Cape Town consensus meeting** will take place from 24-26 June
- The **Funders interest group** will then work through who funds what & how... and **we all transform our work**

Our process: A double- (now triple-) diamond approach as part of a six-month planning process



Our goal: Consensus roadmap for a step-change improvement in how we produce and use AI-enabled living evidence synthesis... a roadmap that can then be operationalized using a collective-impact approach



How you can shape ESIC to meet the needs of Singapore, and begin preparing now so you can leverage ESIC in the future

- Participate in **briefings** for key categories of interest holder (e.g., evidence intermediaries, evidence-synthesis producers) to craft collective messaging that ‘interest holders’ can bring to the Cape Town consensus meeting
- Providing **feedback during consultation windows**
 - 1) About reports 4a and 4b from each of our five working groups and from the governance planning group (e.g., from working group 3 about the safe and responsible use of AI in evidence synthesis)
 - 2) About the ESIC roadmap before (and after) it is circulated to Cape Town meeting participants

Draft documents	Consultation window
1) Capability profile for each focus area	February 19-26
2) Capability-maturity assessment and gap map for each focus area	Mar 12-19
3) Strategies for strengthening capabilities related to each focus area	April 30 – May 7
4a) Impact effort matrix and conclusions/recommendations for each focus area	May 26-30 (draft)
4b) Report – now incorporating costing and additional planning-group considerations – for each focus area	June 4-11 (with costings)
5) ESIC roadmap that integrates insights from across working and planning groups	June 13-20
	June 24-26 (Cape Town meeting)

To learn more, find existing reports, and check back for future reports: <https://evidencesynthesis.atlassian.net/wiki>

- These are exciting times for those engaged in providing timely, demand-driven evidence synthesis and support for advisory and decision-making processes and for learning and improvement platforms
- ESIC will transform how we learn from other countries (and put these insights alongside the many needed forms of national evidence), and we need to start preparing now
 - ESIC is focused on creating a step-change improvement in how we produce and use evidence synthesis, particularly AI-enabled 'living' evidence synthesis
- There is still time to shape ESIC's trajectory, and you could start strategizing now about how you will contribute to and benefit from it