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Interpreting Evidence and Shaping Future Action for Sustainable Development Goals in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Dissemination Seminar & Expert Consultation | 4-5 November 2026

Jointly Organised by

Institute for Social and
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Utrecht University, The
Netherlands

Prasanna School of
Public Health, Manipal
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Education

University of
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Local Organizing Committee

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About the Seminar

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require policies and programmes that are informed by robust and accessible evidence. While a substantial body of research exists across sectors relevant to sustainable development, decision-makers often face challenges in identifying where evidence is available, where important knowledge gaps remain, and how much of the existing evidence is reliable for informing policy, programming, and further investment.

To address this need, a comprehensive Mega- Map study has been undertaken, documenting evidence gap maps (EGMs) and systematic reviews relating to interventions that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs across low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs).

Recognizing that evidence is most valuable when interpreted alongside practical experience and policy priorities, this 2-day event brings together researchers, policymakers, development practitioners, funders, and international organizations to discuss the implications of the findings and jointly identify priorities for future action

Objectives

- Disseminate the findings of the SDG Mega-Map to key local, national, regional and international stakeholders.
- Foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and development partners on the implications of the evidence for SDG implementation in LMICs.
- Interpret the evidence landscape through the lens of policy, programme implementation, and financing.



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Sessions

- Identify priority evidence gaps and opportunities for future research and evaluation.

Mega-Map: Methodology: Overview of the Mega-Map approach, scope, and methodology

Thematic Highlights Across the SDGs: Key patterns and insights emerging across selected SDGs and thematic areas, followed by Discussion, Questions and Answers

Invited Expert Presentations: International, national and regional perspectives on interpreting the evidence landscape and its relevance to policy and practice

Understanding the Gaps in Quality, Financing and Administration of SDGs

From Evidence Gaps to Research Priorities: Identify priority areas for future research, synthesis, evaluation, and knowledge generation and discuss opportunities to strengthen evidence generation, synthesis, dissemination, accessibility, and uptake

Consolidation: Priority Recommendations & Further steps

Participants

The event will convene invited representatives from Government ministries and agencies responsible for SDG implementation and monitoring, national policy institutions and think tanks, United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations, bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and universities, and funding organizations supporting sustainable development research and implementation.

Expected Outcomes

The event is expected to foster a shared understanding of the current evidence landscape, and the priority evidence gaps that need to be addressed to support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in low- and middle-income countries. The meeting aims to generate stakeholder-informed recommendations to guide future research, policy, programming, and investment. It will also provide a platform for identifying opportunities for collaboration across governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, and funding agencies, with the aim of strengthening evidence generation and use.



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