Brooks, C., Mirzoev, T., & Madill, A (Nov, 2020). A review of evidence-to-policy frameworks: What can be learned in relation to setting the agenda for mental health in Assam? Sixth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2020), 8-12 November 2020.

Background: The Indian State of Assam does not have a stand-alone mental health policy. Such a policy has, however, been recommended for all states in the recent National Mental Health Survey. This presents an opportunity to explore the role of evidence in mental health agenda-setting in Assam. A review of the literature was conducted to explore what frameworks exist for understanding, strengthening, and assessing the role of evidence in (mental) health policymaking, and what can be learned in relation to applying them at LMIC, state-level agenda-setting.

Method: A systematic 'review-of-reviews' was conducted given that a prior scoping search revealed a large number of frameworks. Reviews published on or after 2004 - the date of the seminal Mexico Ministerial Health Summit - were included. The reviews were analysed using an adapted version of the health policy triangle with evidence as the central component, along with actors, process, context and approach.

Results: 19 health framework reviews were identified, with a low proportion of overlap between the frameworks included in each of the reviews. Most focused on *understanding* and *strengthening* the use of evidence, and only two concentrated on *assessing* the use of evidence. Policy and practice were often considered together and, within policy, agenda-setting was underrepresented. Few health frameworks have been applied to *mental* health. Moreover, no framework has been developed for, or applied at, in relation to LMIC, sub-national level mental health policymaking context.

Six key themes relating to evidence were identified from the analysis of the reviews: inherent characteristics of evidence; perception of evidence; multiple types of evidence; demand and supply of evidence; communication of evidence; and the use of evidence. These formed the basis of the conceptual framework developed from this review-of-reviews, with components of each of the themes interacting with factors relating to actors, process, context, and approach.

Conclusion: Many frameworks for the use of evidence in (mental) health policy are available, and six key themes relating to evidence were identified. However, this review-of-reviews found limited application of evidence-to-policy frameworks in sub-national. LMIC settings, such as Assam. The conceptual framework developed based on the findings will be applied to the context of mental health policy agenda setting in Assam and iteratively refined through further empirical work.