

COVID-19 RESEARCH SURVEY RESPONSES

20 APRIL 2020

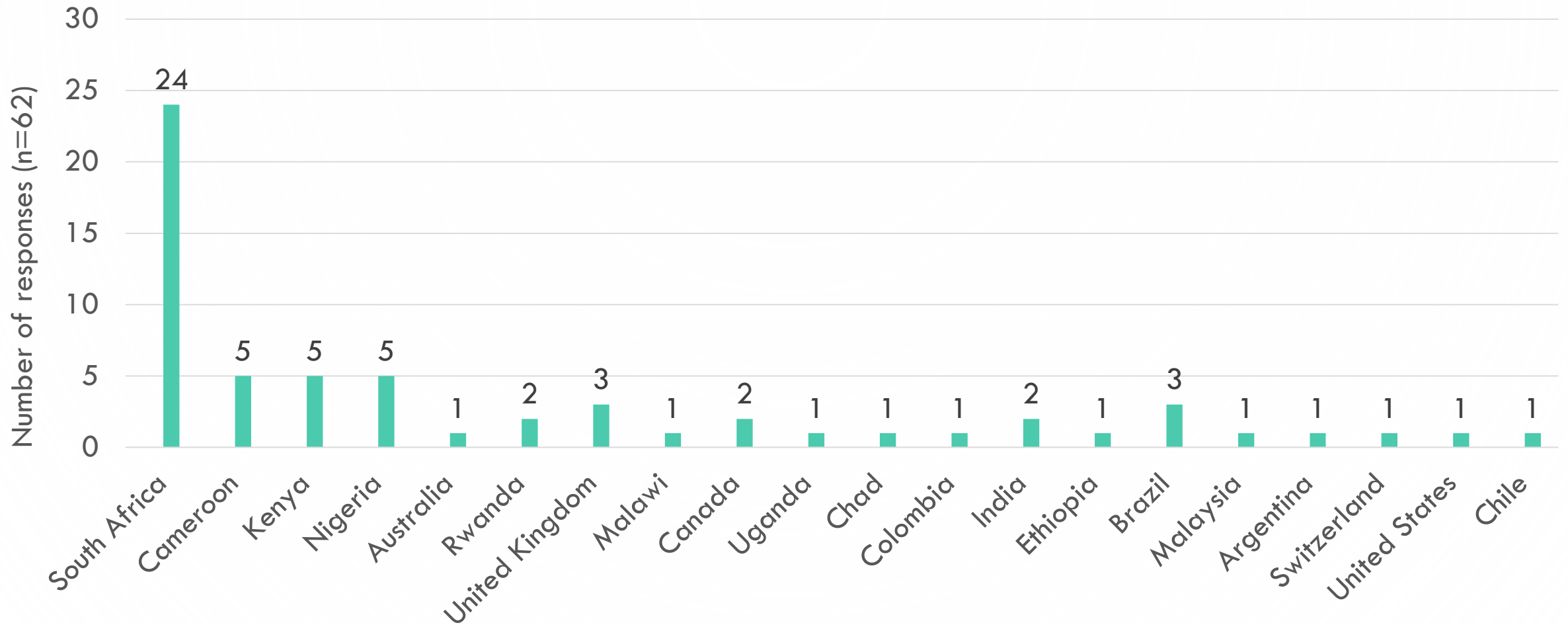


OVERVIEW

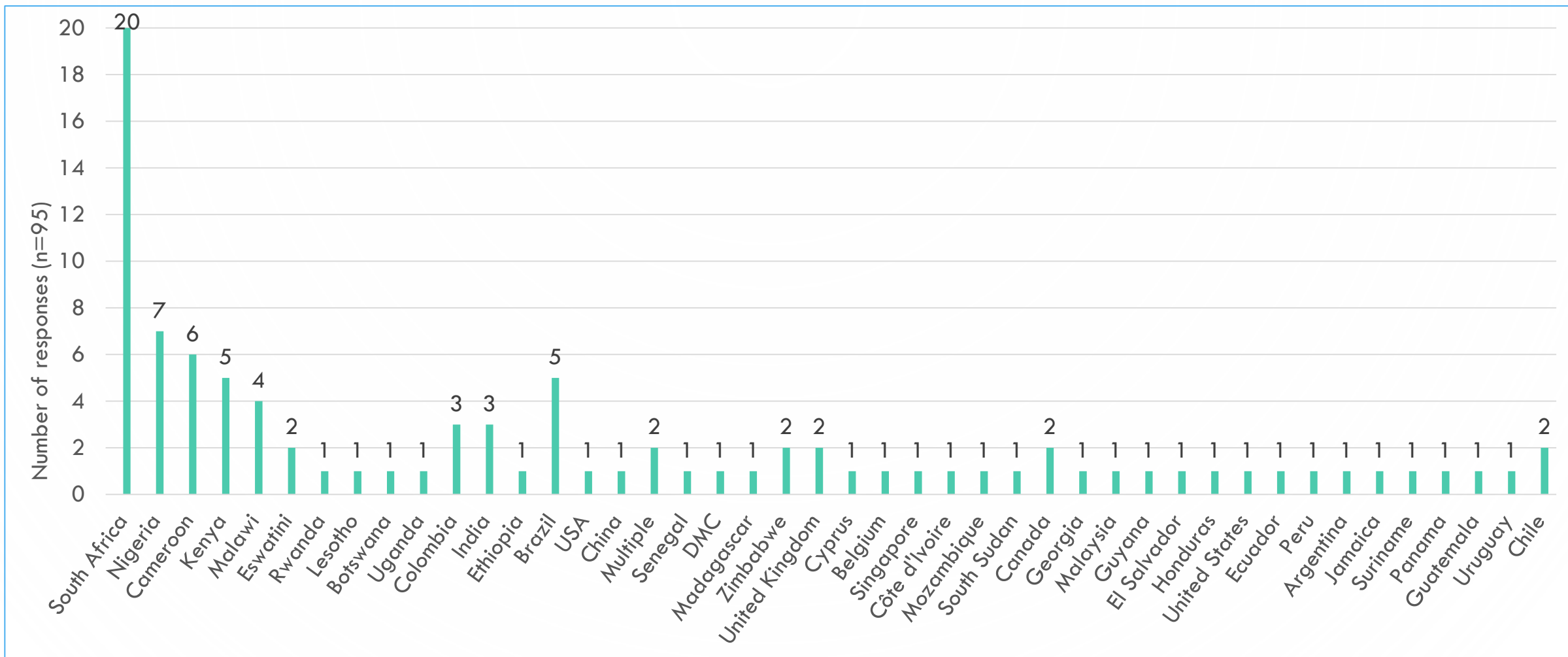
- Survey start date: 24 March 2020
- Date of wider dissemination by FHI: 26 March 2020
- Number of usable responses: 62 (there were two duplicate entries)

Survey conducted by Cochrane South Africa and the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI)

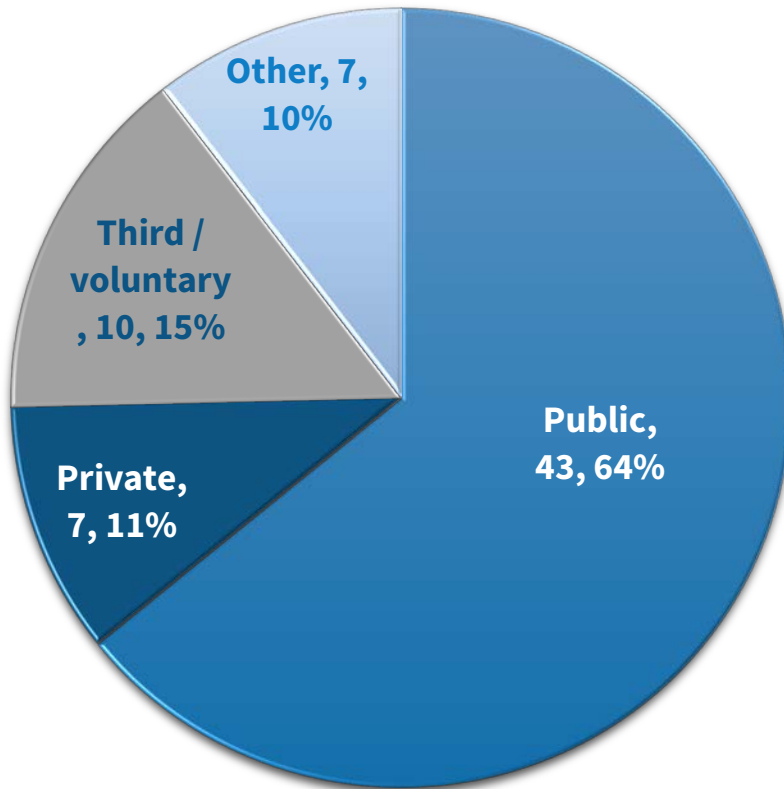
COUNTRIES WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE



COUNTRIES IN WHICH RESPONDENTS WORKED IN PAST YEAR



TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS RESPONDENTS WORK FOR

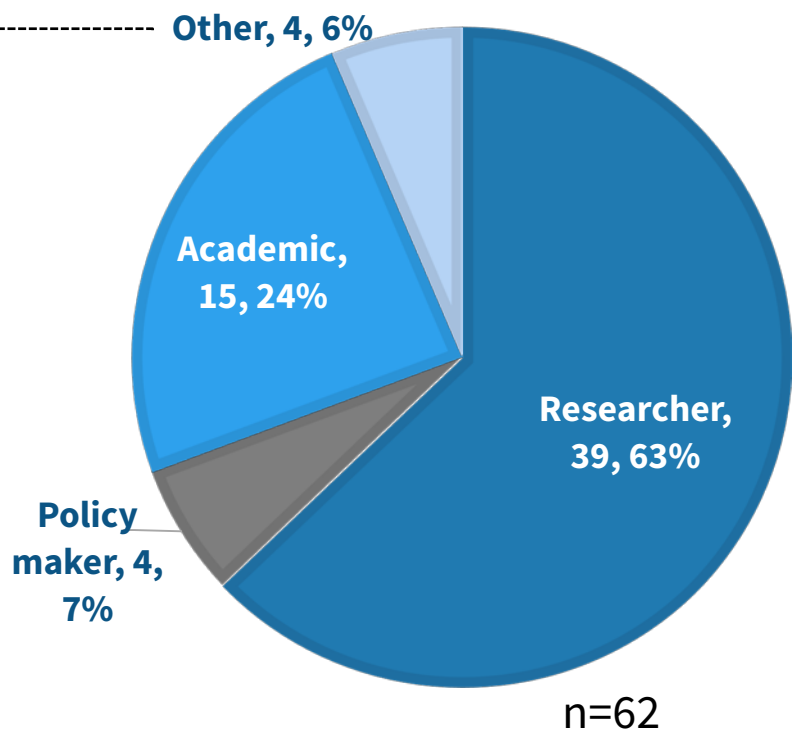


n=67

Department/Ministry of Health	6	University Teaching Hospital	1
NICD/NHLS	1	Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences	1
National Health Service (UK)	1	Ethiopian Public Health Institute	1
Provincial Health Department	2	The George Institute for Global Health	1
South African Medical Research Council	3	Monash University Malaysia	1
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal	2	University of Lagos	1
Rhodes University	1	Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis	1
College of Medicine University of Lagos	2	Institute of Primate Research	3
University of the Western Cape	2	Africa Centre for Evidence	2
University of Rwanda	1	KEMRI Wellcome Trust	1
University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital	1	Medecins Sans Frontieres	1
University of Cape Town	5	CAPRISA	1
Stellenbosch University	2	WHO Nigeria	1
Glasgow Caledonian University	1	Ear Science Intitute Australia	1
McMaster University	1	Bruker-Hain South Africa	1
University of Antioquia	1	Independent consultant	1
Centre for Development Best Practices in Health, Yaounde Central Hospital	3	CHU Bon Samaritain	1
King's College London	1	Oswaldo Cruz Foundation	1
UNIFESP	1	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	1
Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto	1	Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)	1
UMC	1	Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization	1

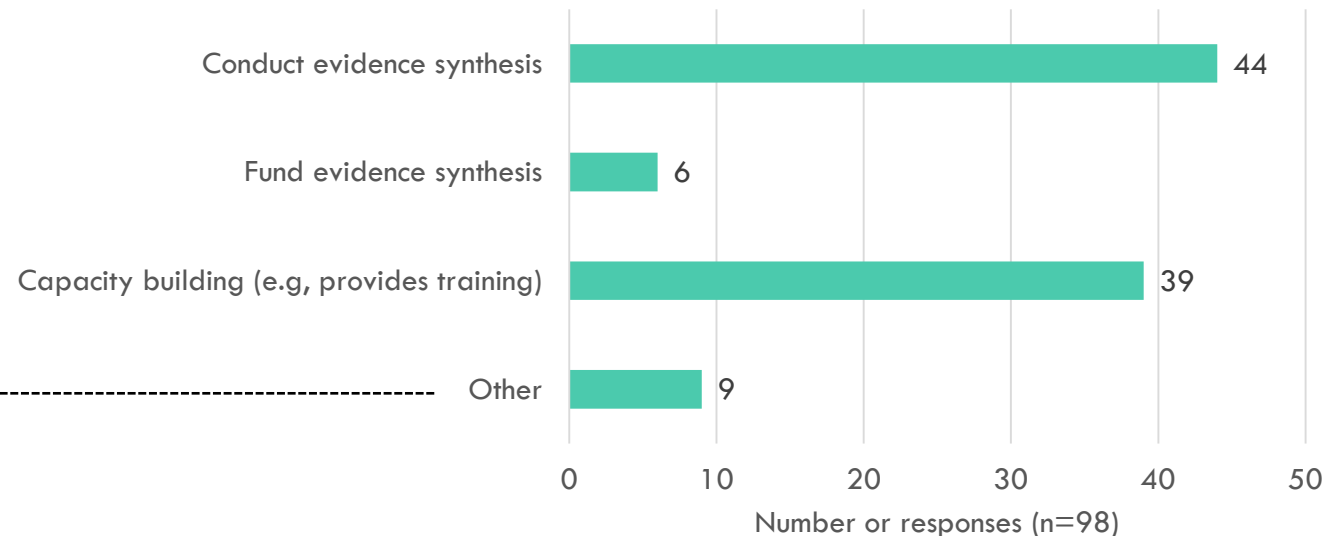
INVOLVEMENT IN EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS?

RESPONDENT



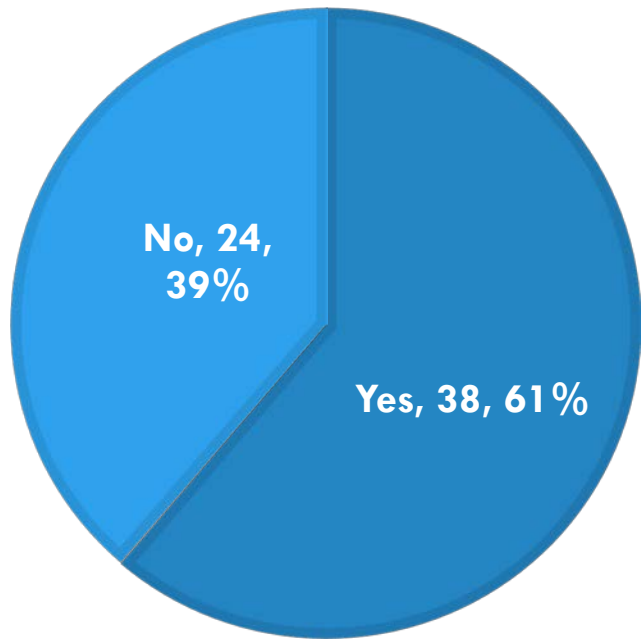
-
- Producer of evidence based guidelines
 - Manager
 - Detection of COVID-19 in patients
 - Convener and knowledge broker
-

ORGANISATION



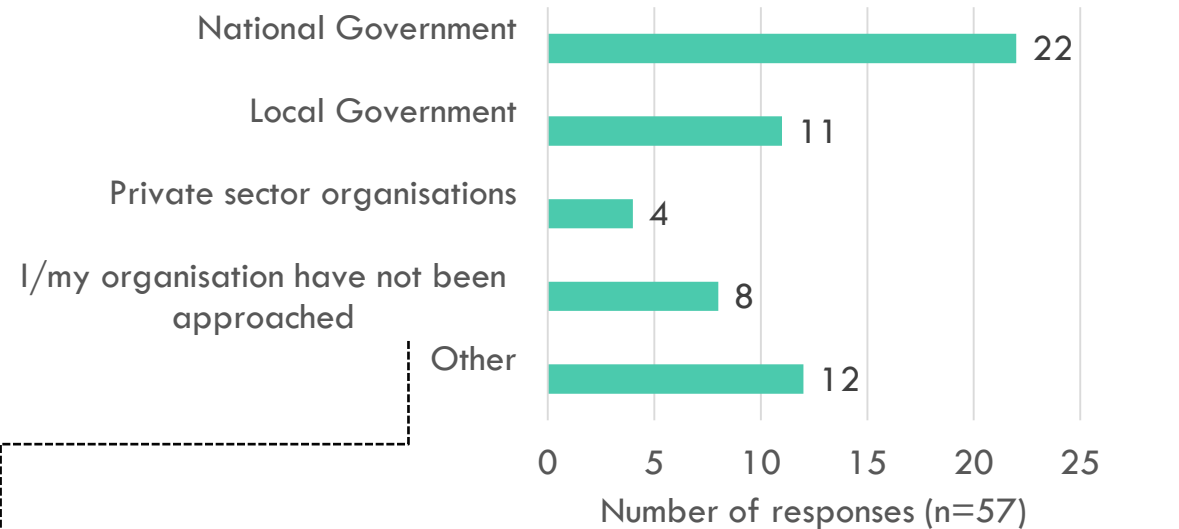
-
- Use available evidence to inform operations
 - Operational research
 - No organisational involvement. I am involved in evidence synthesis on an individual level.
 - Supplying of COVID-19 assays, extraction and detection devices, extraction kits
 - Conduct preclinical research and train in research, but not in evidence synthesis
 - None of this item
 - Policy making
 - Evidence network building
 - Guide the research agenda, support prioritization, advocacy, we have a regional Policy on research for health that highlights key aspects that overlap with Cochrane, support for WHO's Strategy on Research for Health.

APPROACHED WITH PRIORITY POLICY QUESTIONS OR RESEARCH REQUESTS ?



n=62

If yes, by who?



- Community members
- Individual patients and colleagues
- We actively search for available evidence to inform community interventions in the control of COVID-19
- Government Technical Agencies (not ministry directly)
- Private people on the water forum for UCT institute I work at
- Other researchers wanting to collaborate
- Not sure. Part of pool of questions in Cochrane Iberoamerica
- PAHO
- World Health Organisation
- Strategic partners such as EvidenceAid, Epistemonikos. Staff from our own organization
- Health Professionals
- Not working on COVID-19 nowadays

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Epidemiology

- Timing to events of interests
- What are the estimates of incidence and prevalence of Covid-19 acute respiratory syndrome in the general population and in specific age groups?
- What are the community risk factors for worsening the health condition and death by Covid-19?
- What mathematical models are there to predict Covid-19's epidemiological 'behavior'?
- Is the COVID19 lethality rate related to longevity? Does it depend on other factors such as the lack of beds in the ICU?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Prevention and containment (1)

- Prevention and control of COVID-19
- What are the most effective containment/mitigation strategies for COVID-19
- Surveillance in the hospital and the community
- What are the most effective community prevention interventions against the COVID-19 epidemic?
- What is the recommended quarantine time for: those who have had contact with infected people; visited a community broadcast area / region / country?
- Would population screening be an option front the long-term isolation for the entire population?
- What is the most effective Covid-19 screening strategy?
- What are the most effective interventions to prevent infection among healthcare professionals?
- What are the main interventions adopted by the national governments to stop the Covid-19 epidemic and what are the results observed so far?
- When is the quarantine indicated to stop the Covid-19 epidemic from advancing?
- For how long and how far does an infected individual act as a transmission agent?
- Is it possible to have reinfection and new illness by Covid-19?
- What is the incubation period, until the Covid-19' clinical manifestations?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Prevention and containment (2)

- Is there transmission during the incubation period?
- What are the most effective individual prevention interventions?
- What are the main forms (means) of contamination of Covid-19?
- Is there vertical transmission?
- Social isolation measures (modalities and effectiveness)
- Is masquerade effective? What, why and what for?
- Use of alcohol etc. are effective? Then, where, when and for what?
- Is public transport disinfection useful?
- Is it rational to limit public events by setting limits on competing people?
- What are the most effective communication / dissemination strategies for reducing the spread of viruses by changing the behavior of people?
- What are the most effective communication / dissemination strategies to reduce the spread of the virus by changing the health teams' behavior?
- What are the most effective communication / dissemination strategies aimed at population to reduce the spread of the virus?
- Interventions to reduce transmission in public transport
- Methods for contact tracing - which aspects of contact tracing is more effective
- Protection duration and replacement frequency of facial masks in health care providers.
- What evidence is there for prevention and control practices/measures for preventing or reducing respiratory viruses in older adults living in long-term care?
- Effectiveness of Mask for everyone to control the infection

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Screening and diagnosis

- What are the main clinical manifestations (symptoms) of Covid-19 and what observed variations?
- What are the less common symptoms of Covid-19?
- What is the best way to identify asymptomatic cases?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Treatment

- Does participation in physical activity help improve covid19 symptoms?
- Impact of HIV/TB coinfection and transmission of SARS Cov2
- Therapeutic
- Medicines and COVID-19 - e.g. lopinavir, choroquine, brufen, ace-inhibitors
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions
- Treatment
- What clinical guidelines are available for Covid-19 and what are their convergences / divergences?
- What are the comorbidities that most influence Covid-19's prognosis?
- What are the treatment options?
- What is the best clinical approach for patients with Covid-19 acute respiratory syndrome?
- What is the worst thing to do for patients with Covid-19 acute respiratory syndrome?
- Do anti-inflammatory drugs cause adverse effects in Covid-19?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Treatment

- What is the best medicine to fight Covid-19 symptoms?
- What are the main clinical recommendations for critically ill Covid-19 patients?
- What are the individual risk factors for worsening of the condition and death by Covid-19?
- Prognosis of HIV positive individuals with COVID-19
- Evidence-informed responses related to care provided to older people in long-term care facilities
- Which essential medicines are required for criticals patients ´ ?
- What is the effectiveness and safety of antiviral or antibody drugs to treat COVID-19/coronavirus?
- What are the existing protection and control recommendations for viral respiratory infections from published clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) for adults aged 60 years and older in long-term care settings?
- Systematic review of convalescent plasma (in process with Mc Master)
- Rapid Reviews on COVID-19 (convalescent plasma, quarantines, VIH, breastfeeding, antiviral)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Health systems response

- How do we optimize preparedness for pediatric care during this pandemic
- Health systems strengthening during pandemics
- To prepare a rapid evidence synthesis about the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia
- What evidence is there to support the planning and development of resources for ensuring preparedness of Frontline health workers for COVID-19 ? The brief was to develop an inventory of resources and also provide a detailed outline on roles, issues and challenges in using frontline health workers (community health workers in other contexts) in COVID-19
- How many isolation and ICU beds should be needed for a population exposed to Covid-19 community transmission?
- Who should be admitted to Covid-19 and when is hospitalization opportune?
- Operational questions on ICU management
- What is the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on staff infection prevention and control practices?
- How to foster successful reorganisation of services to respond to the sharp increase in demand for ICU beds?
- What are the long-term implications for frontline health care workers? and what interventions are available to support them?
- Health systems questions on delivery of care, financing of the system, quality of care, governance issues, implementation. Issues such as segregation, assessment of tests, measures to save lives, protect health workers and reduce the spread.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS (ASKED BY DECISION-MAKERS)

Other

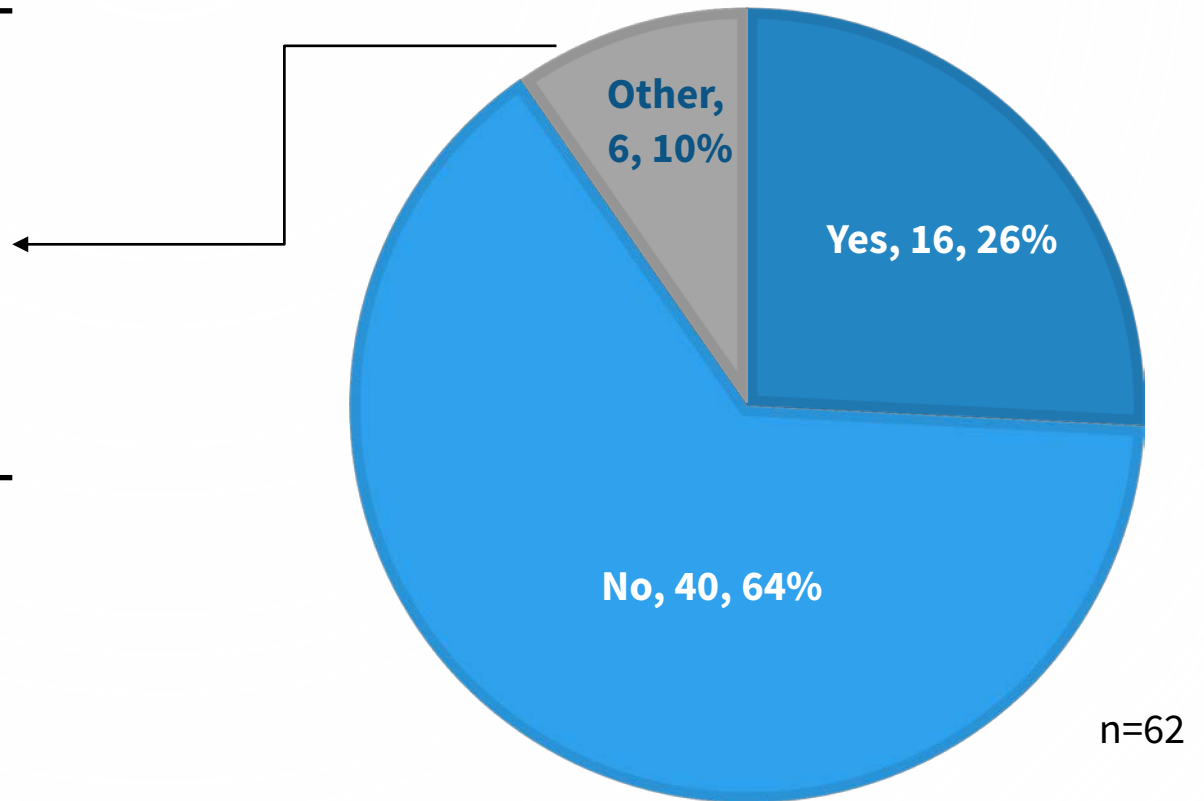
- What is the prognosis of Covid-19 for children and pregnant women / fetuses?
- What are the sequelae of Covid-19 observed in cured patients?
- What are the most effective treatments for the rehabilitation of patients healed from Covid-19?
- Is there a mutation of the virus or different strains living in a pandemic?
- Are vaccines important for seasonal flu in a pandemic?
- How does the experience of isolation in the Covid-19 epidemic affect the mental health of isolated people?
- For a rapid overview or for a dynamic evidence gap map: In a nutshell (nuts and bolts), what does the evidence say about the Covid-19 epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatments and preventions?
- Covid survival in waste water
- Not authorised to share
- Rapid exploratory review on COVID-19, weekly bulletin of publications on COVID-19 supplemented by an Evidence Map, Evidence-Based Clinical Recommendations COVID-19

WHAT ARE THE KEY RESOURCE CHALLENGES?

- Information overload and many portals collecting resources
- The value of various PPE for various categories of the public
- Few evidence, low quality, too much noise
- We are in a question clarification stage
- Delivery of materials, Funding
- In fact, there is a great diversity of studies being published or exposed. The biggest difficulty is that this variety includes studies not evaluated and the need for critical synthesis is growing, impacting the time needed to develop a rapid response
- Overload
- Inadequate supplies as they are in great demand
- Not enough evidence on the topic yet
- Mental health impact and best ways to assist
- Slight concern over the rigour of some of the work pushed through.
- Timing, the fact that this is merely voluntary
- Paucity of evidence, particularly good RCT
- Mitigate the circulation and infection
- New evidence is emerging very rapidly from very diverse sources
- The uptake of artificial intelligence and novel approaches, things move quickly and bureaucracies don't, many of the repositories fail to think through the indexing and taxonomies (or engage us in the development) and fail to label studies with the date when they were uploaded or updated, and sort them accordingly, making updating a cumbersome resource-demanding task.
Researchers are not always acquainted with WHO's Research BluePrint developed to guide research for COVID-19
https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/Coronavirus_Roadmap_V9.pdf
Failure by researchers to use the Equity extensions for research reporting guideline means key data disaggregation for public health is missing
- Accessing full text, limited skills to search other databases than PubMed
- There's too much scientific achievements about COVD019 as videos, articles, webinars, chats and other sources.

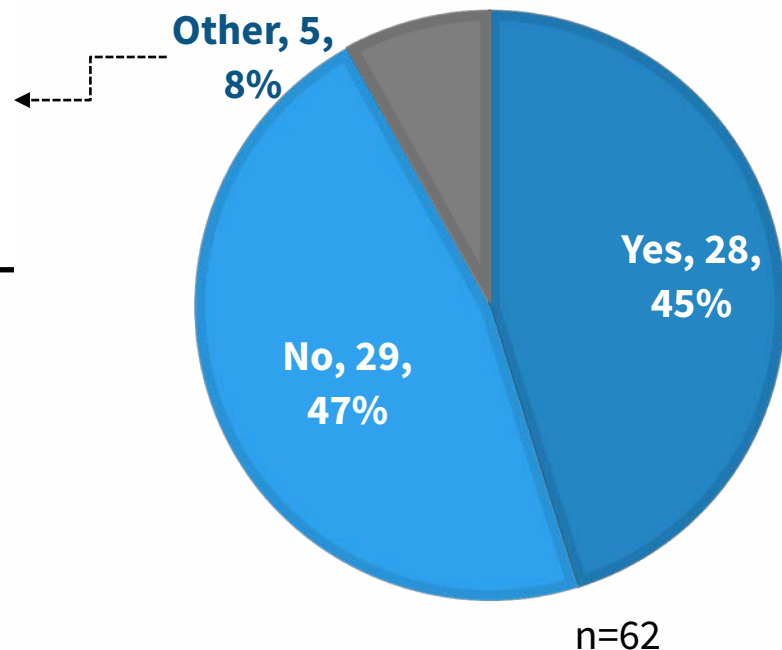
PLANNING OR CONDUCTING ANY PRIMARY RESEARCH?

May contribute to international surgical observational study of effect on non-COVID patients needing surgery
Possibly in the long term
Maybe
in communication with NPP
We may adapt an existing trial on HIS to improve care of compatible cases
Our organization is promoting and facilitating some primary studies in countries.



PLANNING OR CONDUCTING ANY SECONDARY RESEARCH SYNTHESIS?

Review of international ICU guidance to inform our response locally
Hoping to but no evidence yet
I would like to but cannot do it alone
Maybe
I wish to do it



Awareness of any appraisals of existing reviews that may be useful

We are planning to search for relevant articles and appraise using the JBI appraisal tools or AMSTAR-2

Evidence Aid has useful collection

HPCSA website

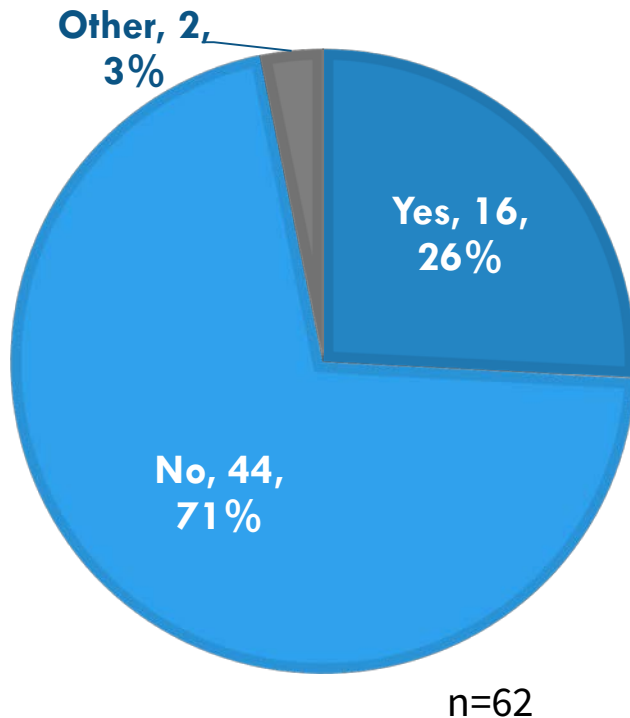
Colleague is involved in some evidence synthesis

Very useful summaries in Epistemonikos and EvidenceAID.

Very recent work on Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine for treating COVID-19 – a PROTOCOL for a systematic review of IPD. Available from:

<https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/hydroxychloroquine-or-chloroquine-for-treating-covid-19-a-protocol-for-a-systematic-review-of-ipd/>

INVOLVED WITH OR CONTRIBUTING TO ANY LOCAL, NATIONAL OR REGIONAL GUIDELINES?



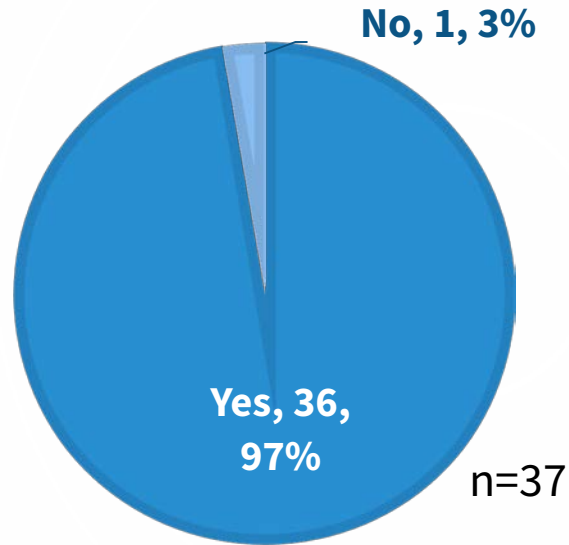
ROLE IN GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

- Contributor and local Disaster Management lead
- Contributor
- Building capacity on how to apply preventive measures in the local community
- Advisor
- I have provided research evidence to guideline developers in South Africa
- Contributor
- Development of the concept and technical guidance in development and review of guidelines
- Evidence synthesis
- Expert review
- Analysis
- Supplying test kits
- Participant
- Researcher / methodologist
- Rapid evidence synthesis on demand to any public agency request
- Produce evidence
- Search and synthesize evidence
- Researcher on SAGE project - so research on guideline development itself in the past
- Mental health of lockdown
- Providing evidence, describing quality of evidence, suggesting protocols
- Policy maker
- Methodological guidance, producing quick reviews, and organizing evidence collections on health systems issues, save lives (clinical interventions mostly), slow spread (public health), and protect health workers and getting them out on the web.
- Advisory role based on professional experience
- Preparation of quick reviews

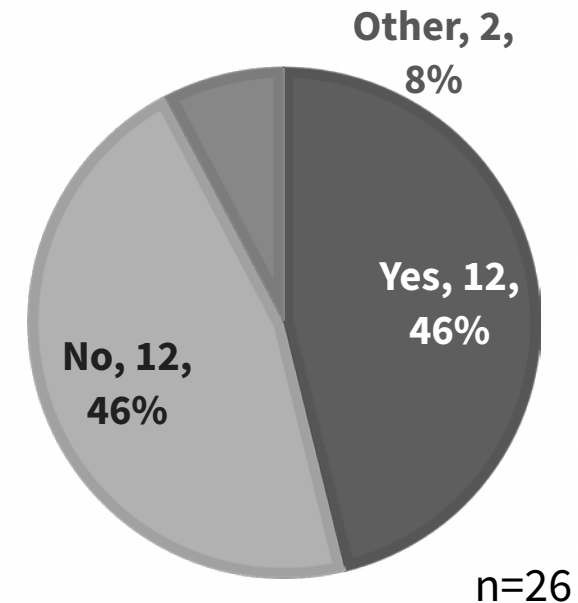
ANY OTHER WORK OR IDEAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

- Best practices, relationship with HIV/TB
- The impact of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health is an important area of investigation.
- Understanding the modes of transmission other than direct contact of infected object or droplet
- I manage two subdistricts with district hospitals in a rural district. My questions are very practical. e.g. what is the mortality rate amongst COVID 19 patients who deteriorate to the point of needing ventilation.
- It may be interesting to study determinants of application of preventive measure in our country!
- The value of contact tracing in the various stages of the epidemic
- We are proposing a platform to qualitatively explore fears and questions of citizens
- Need for more information on role and protection of the front line health care providers
- <https://www.georgeinstitute.org.in/frontline-health-workers-in-covid-19-prevention-and-control-rapid-evidence-synthesis>
- I think that a large dynamic evidence map on Covid-19 interventions at different levels, could be useful amid the growing number of papers
- Not at the moment - but interested in pregnancy questions and wastewater issues
- Working on medical capacity to handle COVID-19 outbreak in SA
- Busy with developing mental health and study tips for university students during lockdown
- A registry of COVID 19 review and empirical questions to avoid duplication of work
- We would need to produce robust research documenting the unbearable incompetence of certain governments, experts and the media in dealing with this
- We are conducting a survey to identify how care homes managers are facing the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America
- Impressed of the good work of some of Cochrane spin-offs and partners. We need better evidence-gap maps to address specific questions and bring into the prioritization exercises
- Understanding the modes of transmission other than direct contact of infected object or droplet

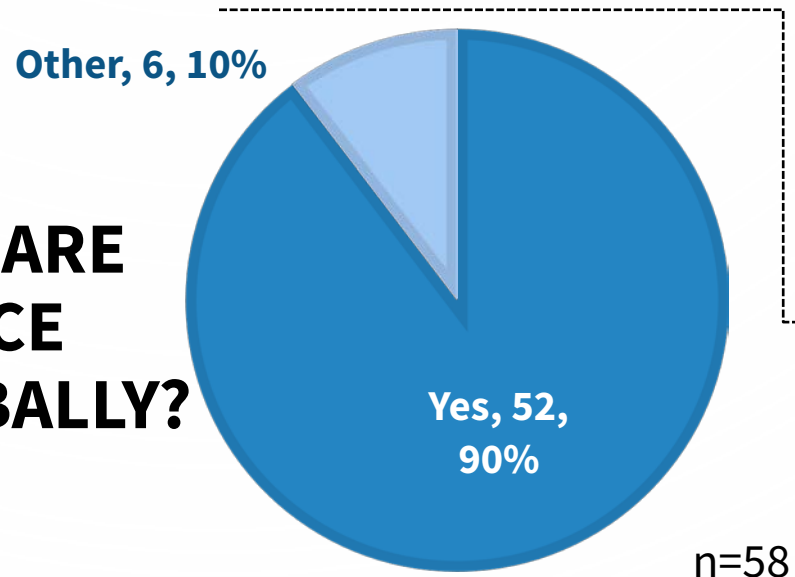
REPOSITORY FOR COVID-19 RELATED RESEARCH – WILL YOU FIND THIS USEFUL?



HAVE YOU PRODUCED RAPID RESPONSES / EVIDENCE BRIEFS / EVIDENCE SUMMARIES (OR SIMILAR) FOR DECISION MAKERS?



WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE THESE WITH OTHERS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT GLOBALLY?



- Currently, 12 quick queries are under review, to share soon
- Depends on authorisation from government
- The issues are very specific to our specific students and their needs
- Yes and I am bound by PAHO and WHO's publications policy that makes this difficult and cumbersome
- I would be willing if I could have one
- If possible, yes.