



NEDWORC – New Year’s Networking day 12 January 2023, Utrecht  
How to promote evidence-informed practice? Experiences from Breaking Down Barriers.

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## Summary – learning session discussions

The topic of the learning session was how to promote evidence-informed practice within the international development sector. The presenters have shared their experiences from the joint multi-annual research trajectory Breaking Down Barriers2.0. After the presentation, participants were invited to form 5 groups, identify 1 specific challenge per group and provide solutions for tackling the challenge.

Number of points that emerged from the discussions are summarized as following:

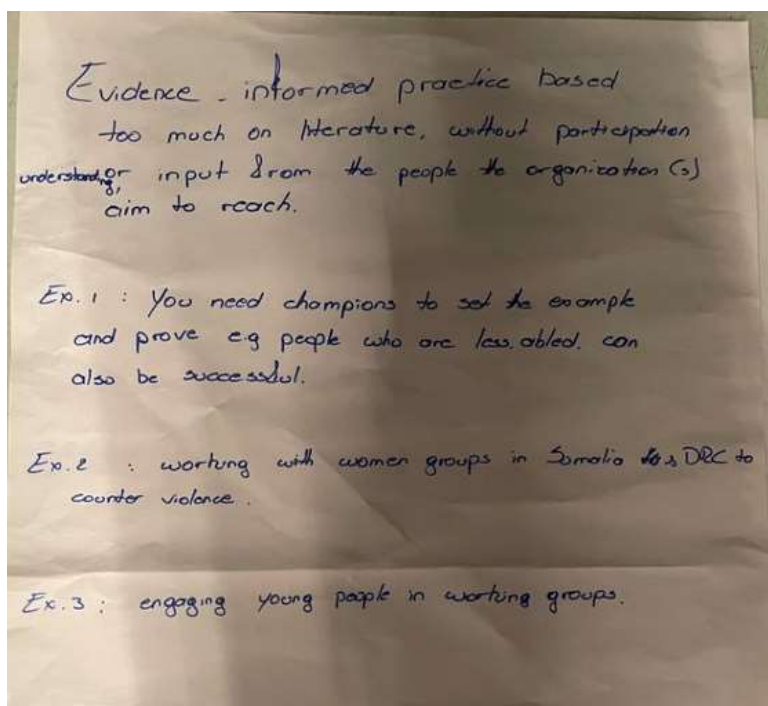
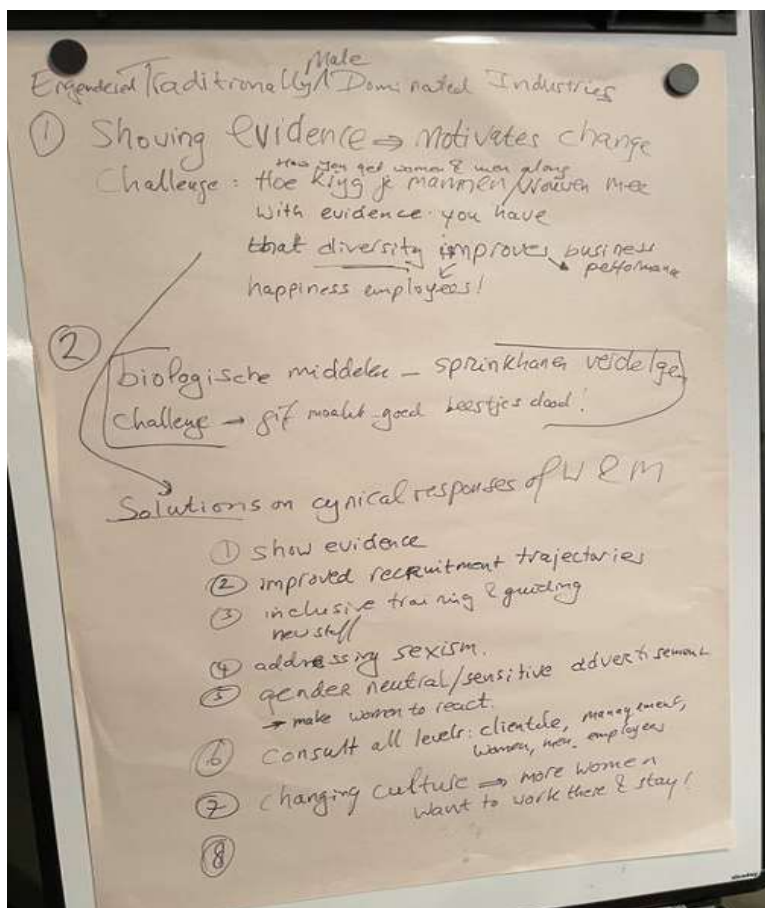
- The emergent need to shift the power in the relationships among practitioners, academics and clients in the North and the Global South regarding knowledge development, by focusing more on co-creation, complementarity, and shared understanding by focusing on two important aspects: (1) The need to involve more local researchers/experts who can collect and interpret data in the research process and contribute to the development of actionable knowledge. (2) The need to involve practitioners and clients/communities in identifying learning/research needs and research agenda, and to contribute with evidence from their own work and individual experiences.
- The importance of testing assumptions of what is good evidence and who owns it. The evidence needs to be applicable and owned by the ones who need to use it further. Therefore, making a connection between the researchers and the up takers is crucial.
- The importance of involving diverse up takers who can contribute to research by providing input on questions important to be explored in their work (women's groups and young people).
- The need for flexibility and openness among the donors to take learning and developing evidence-informed practice as part of the regular funding cycle.
- The importance of showcasing success by developing practical products and recruiting champions in the organization who can promote the new knowledge and the usefulness of the products. This way, showing practical evidence can also motivate change in the development of policies and programmes (cases of gender-equality in the workplace)
- The importance of producing actionable and accessible knowledge, presented in diverse attractive communication forms (visuals, videos, etc.).

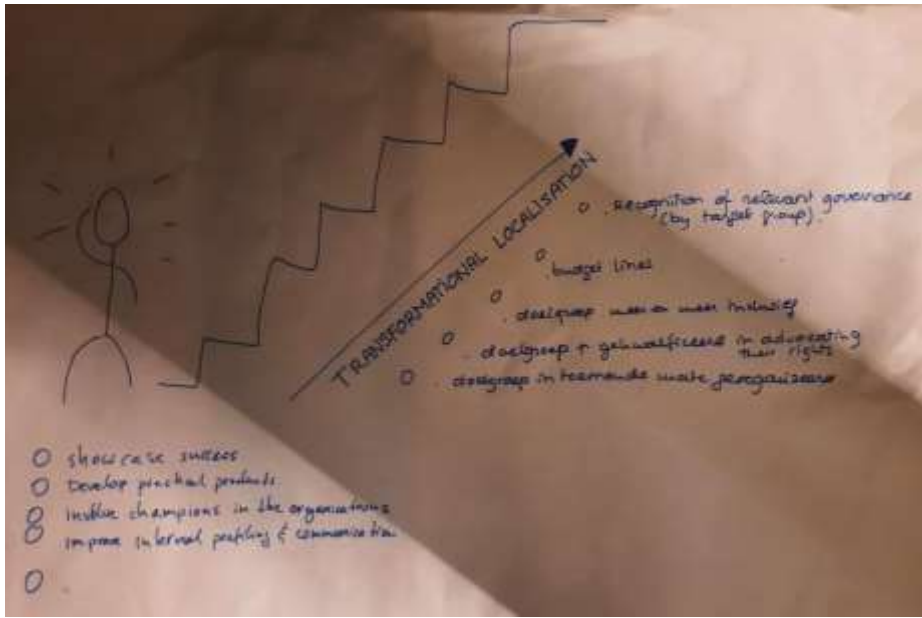
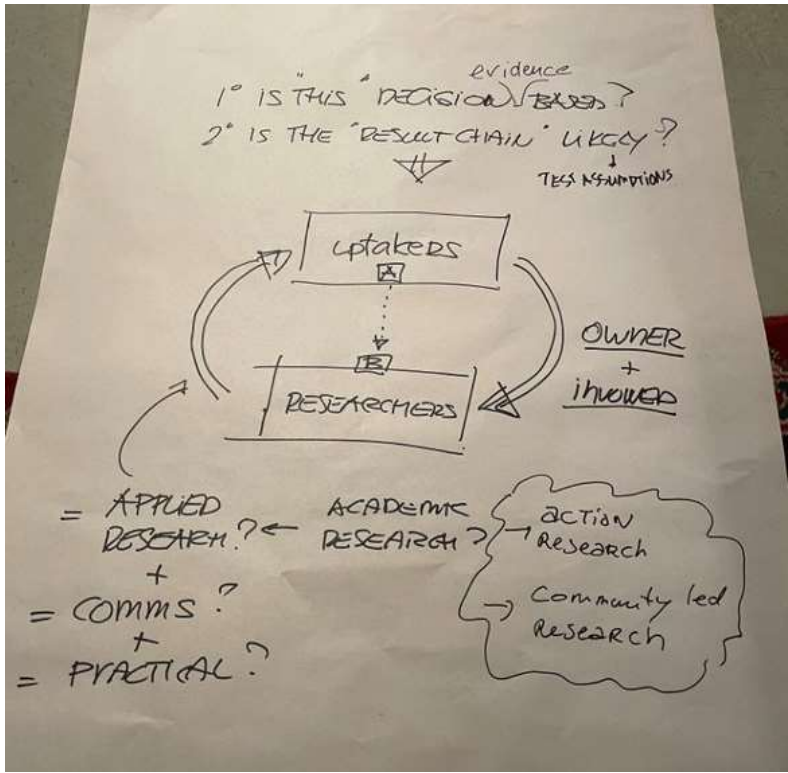
Each specific topic and solutions discussed and presented by the groups can be found in the attached photos (Annex).

Thank you all for taking active part in it and contributing with your knowledge and insights on how we can further promote and invest in evidence-informed practice.

If you want to stay informed and involved, please check our website: **barriersfree.org** and **Breaking Down Barriers Liliane Foundation (LinkedIn page)**.

## Annex





Consultant perspective

Challenge = ~~concern~~ getting data ~~when not at site~~ through local experts

Solution = ~~tried to get data through local experts~~ exchange  
so → want there to collect data on the spot together with local experts

Challenge = motivation <sup>+ urgency</sup> to get evidence

Solution = provide proper means  
= joint efforts / fact finding mission  
= commitment