Embedded Research Translation

an innovative model for collaborative research impact
Objectives

1. To introduce the Embedded Research Translation (ERT) model and how it fills a gap for collaborative development research

1. To overview the implementation of Embedded Research Translation within LASER funded projects in Ethiopia

1. To discuss preliminary outcomes of the effectiveness and impact of the Embedded Research Translation model
Objective 1

To introduce Embedded Research Translation
  a. Provide overview of the research translation landscape in development
  b. Present how ERT fills a gap for collaborative development research
Gap in Research Translation for Development

- Research is often irrelevant, unused, and wasted (Chalmers et al. 2014)
- Evidence is inaccessible to international development professionals (Waddington et al. 2012, Waddington et al. 2018)
- More than 100 terms for research translation (Graham et al. 2006, McKibben 2010, Nguyen et al. 2020)
- Lack of frameworks and clear principles to develop and implement an effective research translation (Wall et al. 2017)
Literature review on five translation approaches

Main findings from the literature review

- **Impact**: research can have an impact beyond academia and connect to policy and practice
  - (Toukan 2021; Fowle et al. 2021; Fransman et al. 2021; Gunn and Mintrom 2021)

- **Effectiveness**: decision makers need access to data to adopt evidence-based practices or policies for higher quality programs with greater impact
  - (Waddington et al. 2018; Newman et al. 2012; Banks et al. 2015)

- **Meaningful participation**: inclusion of knowledge of academic researchers and practitioners can inform and improve development practice and policy because it can produce comprehensive understanding of on-the ground realities
  - (Graham et al., 2006; Mele et al., 2013; Straus et al., 2011).
Research Translation Continuum
Operational phases of translational research in greater detail (T0–T4).

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ERT on Research Translation Continuum

Embedded Research Translation

ERT is the iterative co-design process among academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders in which research is intentionally applied to a development challenge.
Four pillars of Embedded Research Translation
Interrelated pillars of Embedded Research Translation
ERT Capacity Strengthening Resources

- 4 ERT Foundational resources
- 4 ERT Planning templates
- 6 ERT Courses
- 9 ERT Tools

https://laserpulse.org/learning/
Objective 2

To provide an overview of the implementation of Embedded Research Translation

a. Illustrate LASER PULSE teams' ERT activities across the four pillars
b. Introduce the Promising Practices for to implement ERT
ERT Partnership example

Co-Creating Impactful Solutions: Deploying a Design Thinking Process for Conducting Participatory Action Research with Ethiopian Afar Youth

- Purdue University
- Afar Pastoralist Development Association
- Samara University
- Butler University
- Colorado State University
ERT Process examples

A systems, networks, and human-centered design approach to assessing the resilience of Ethiopian communities experiencing recurring violent conflict shocks.

- **Establish collaborative process**: regular meetings with relevant actors

- **Inclusion**: Wicked problems are most effectively addressed by collaborations and different kinds of knowledge.

- **Co-design**: Women and men, youth and elders, government and civil society, community leaders
ERT Product examples

Increasing youth engagement while mitigating potential for conflict in Ethiopia

- Tolerant Engagement Forum Manual
- Host Tolerant Engagement Forums
- Video for government agency and civil society
- Policy brief with recommendations
- Policy presentations
ERT Dissemination examples

Youth Empowerment through Livelihood Transformation in Agro-Pastoral Areas of East and West Hararghe Zones, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia

- Mobile theater
- Training on youth entrepreneurship
- Youth policy strategy document
- Website
- E-learning modules
- Radio interviews
- Documentary video
Promising Practices for ERT

What is the purpose of this toolkit?
○ improve collaborative partnerships
○ establish collaborative processes
○ create applicable products
○ enhance research dissemination for uptake

What does LASER PULSE mean by promising practices?
○ synthesis of evidence and knowledge from 187 peer reviewed articles and practitioner reports to identify practices that have led to positive outcomes in research translation
ERT Pillars & Promising Practices in action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Start-up</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Close-out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERT promising practices</td>
<td>Define the goal of research together</td>
<td>Plan for proactive engagement</td>
<td>Co-design research translation products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERT pillar</td>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Product</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ERT promising practices | Interactively frame the problem | Engage with audience early and often | Build long term trust and relationships for uptake | Involve diverse partners and stakeholders |
| ERT pillar | Process | Product | Dissemination | Partnership |
Objective 3

To discuss preliminary outcomes of the ERT model

a. Share findings of initial findings on ERT effectiveness
Effectiveness of ERT

- **Question**: To what extent does an ERT collaboration result in higher perceived relevance of research outcomes?

- **Findings**:
  - Participants reported improved levels of intra-team collaboration and had improved perceptions regarding the utility of their research findings.
  - “Early collaboration among partners and stakeholders often reveals quite a few helpful things. In this case, additional actors were identified that might not have been explicitly pulled out before. This early engagement will help the impact of the project later on.”

LASER PULSE funded Practitioner
Impact of ERT for participants

• **Question**: To what extent has the ERT model resulted in personal and professional growth on the part of participating researchers and practitioners?

• **Findings**:
  - Researchers and practitioners report improved willingness to engage in similar projects in the future.
  - LASER PULSE ERT project participants reported personal and professional growth as a result of adherence to the ERT model.
  - “I am using research translation now. I am engaged with other projects with the Ministry of Education. I continued using research translation beyond the project.” LASER PULSE funded researcher.
Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of ERT Impact

- ERT Biannual survey with teams
- ERT Learning meeting at close-out
- Learning agenda

“When you collaborate you are able to see other things you had not seen. Then you come up with findings that are the best. The findings are credible and the best.”

- LASER PULSE funded researcher
Thank you.

Questions or comments?