



BIROO FAYYAA OROMIYAA
ኮሮሚያ ጤና ቢሮ
OROMIA HEALTH BUREAU

Piloting Chat EIDM in Ethiopia Lessons for Policy and Practice

By: Dabesa Gobena (PhD Candidate)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

August 2025

CONTEXT

- Ethiopia is committed to evidence-informed policymaking
- Demand is growing for faster and more reliable access to research evidence
- A digital tool - Chat EIDM was piloted

CONTEXT

- Chat EIDM is designed to:
 - Simplify access to synthesized evidence
 - Support policy inquiries in real time
 - Reduce duplication, cost, and delays
- Our task: assess how practical, usable, and relevant this tool is for decision-making in our context
 - Emergency response specially in the biggest region Oromia, Ethiopia

PILOTING

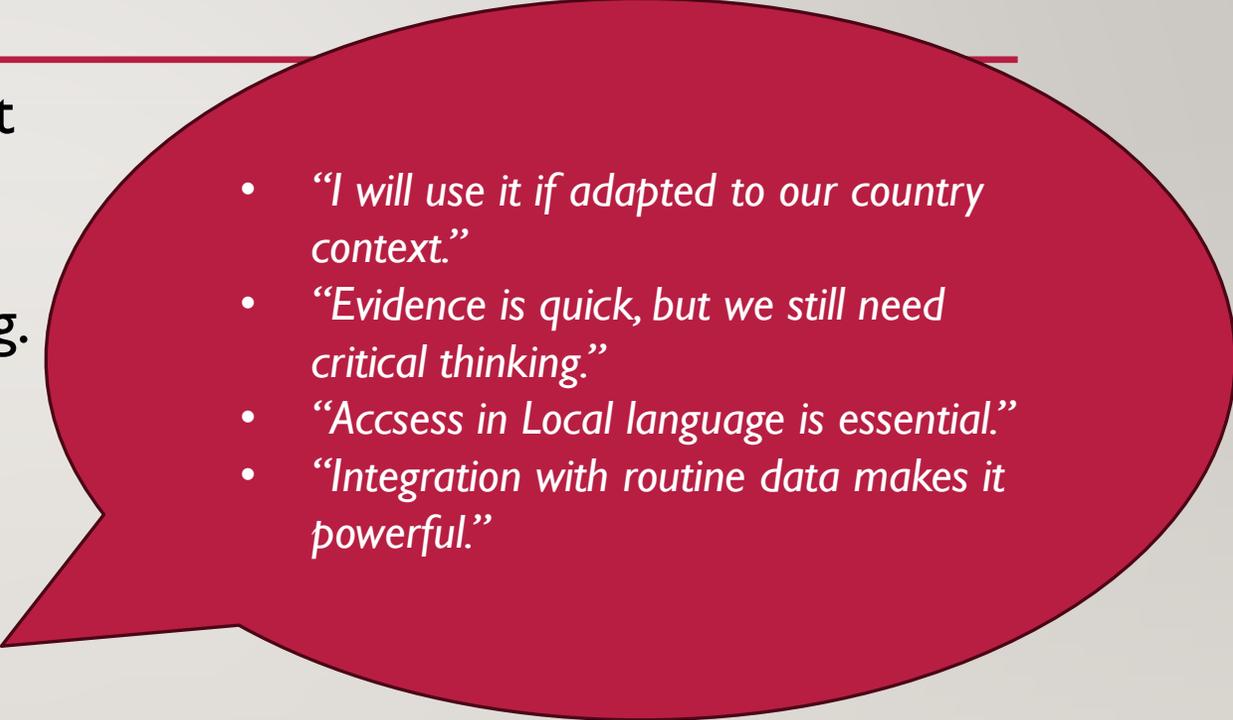
- Participated in a live demonstration of the tool
- Used policy scenarios and questions
 - In the emergency management context
- Shared structured feedback on
 - Usability,
 - Clarity,
 - Local fit

POSITIVE FEATURES

- User-friendly and simple to navigate
- Provided clear, summarized answers with references
- Could reduce duplication of research and save resources
- Showed potential to support quick policy recommendations

LESSONS FOR POLICY RELEVANCE

- Must be customized to Ethiopian context (language & categories)
- Needs integration with local datasets (e.g. DHIS2) and national reports
- Transparency on evidence screening builds trust
- Policymakers need clear onboarding and guidance

- 
- *“I will use it if adapted to our country context.”*
 - *“Evidence is quick, but we still need critical thinking.”*
 - *“Access in Local language is essential.”*
 - *“Integration with routine data makes it powerful.”*

WHY THIS MATTERS

- We need timely and credible evidence for urgent policy questions
- Current processes often mean duplication, delay, and added cost
- Chat EIDM offers a chance to save time and strengthen our decisions



SAVE TIME.

**MAKE A
DECISION**

WHAT COULD MAKE THIS BETTER

- Adapt prompts & categories for Ethiopian context
- Add local language support
- Provide simple inbuilt demo and onboarding for new users
- Expand evidence base to avoid missing/new/local research
- Test internally with decision-makers before rollout



OPPORTUNITIES IT BRINGS

- Faster and cheaper access to evidence
- Promote a culture of evidence use in policymaking
- Build capacity in digital decision-support tools
- Position us to lead regional and local adaptation

ENGAGEMENT MOVING FORWARD

- Engage decision-makers in pilot feedback
- Build skills for interpreting and evaluating tool outputs
- Strengthen collaboration between technical teams(knowledge translation team) and policymakers

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR US

- Chat EIDM is promising tool
- With adaptation to the Ethiopian context and integration with our system, it can become a core decision-support tool
- We see it as a step toward stronger, faster, more evidence-based policies

THANK YOU

