**Joshua Vogel**

**Can you briefly introduce yourself, and give some background on which part of DECIDE your work contributed to?**

I’m Joshua Vogel, I’m a maternal health researcher, and I work at the department of Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva. I was working primarily with work package 5 and we were looking at how health systems recommendations can be better communicated to policy- makers to support implementation. We also helped develop the Evidence to Decision frameworks, which we have used in developing WHO guidelines.

**What are the most important findings from your work with DECIDE?**

Our use of DECIDE frameworks has been viewed positively by guideline review panels and policy-makers, who appreciate the efforts to better incorporate evidence into developing policy. However there were some challenges - developing the frameworks can take time. We also need to educate people on how the DECIDE frameworks can be incorporated into their decision making. We found that policy-makers often don’t have sufficient resources or expertise in order to incorporate evidence into policy in a systematic way.

However their responses to the DECIDE frameworks in our experience, have been very positive; they’ve generally found it to be a practical, feasible and useful tool. Certainly, adopting the frameworks in developing guidelines has been a huge positive outcome for our team.

**How has DECIDE changed the way you work?**

Our department regularly develops guidelines related to clinical and health systems information for reproductive health, and we’ve been able to successfully use DECIDE platforms and tools in some of those guidelines. Particularly those related to task-shifting in reproductive health, and also guidelines on antenatal care. I would say the frameworks encourage guideline panels to be more explicit and evidence-based in developing recommendations. The iEtD frameworks have proven to be particularly useful not just for out guideline panels but also for us when we’re developing material for guideline panel deliberations.

**How might DECIDE’s work help other guideline groups?**

The DECIDE frameworks are sufficiently flexible that they can be applied to many types and varieties of challenges. I am aware that WHO departments in TB, HIV and other areas have used the frameworks also. I think it’s been important for the DECIDE team to develop resources and frameworks that allow for flexibility in applying the frameworks, and that are as simple and useable as possible. This can allow other guideline groups to use the frameworks and improve methods of guideline development also.

**How did you use the DECIDE Evidence to Decision frameworks in real guideline panels?**

We applied different iterations of the evidence to decision frameworks during the DECIDE project, as the frameworks themselves were evolving. Also, formal user testing and informal feedback was collated to improve the frameworks. We did this both in paper format, and recently we’ve been testing an online, interactive version. We have made online frameworks available to panel members, along with evidence summaries ahead of guideline meetings. We felt that this worked very well and allowed us to see how the frameworks are used in real-world settings.

**Were there any challenges and how did you overcome them?**

I would say that initially people were not very convinced the frameworks were needed to develop guidelines. We took great care to introduce people to the frameworks early in the process, provided information sessions online and also provided guidance notes with information on how and why the frameworks can be used. I think that’s worked quite well. I think over time we’ll see that understanding of the frameworks will improve so people are more comfortable with using them.

**What do you think is the single biggest benefit of using the framework?**

I think the frameworks have really improved our systematic approach to considering all the important factors, like patient acceptability and cost effectiveness. This has allowed us to explore how our recommendations can be better implemented and adhered to by target audiences.