# $126 Million mobilized for Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative

Wellcome Trust, UK Research and Innovation, Health Research Board, Jacobs Foundation and National Institute of Health Research announce major investments ahead of UNGA

**New York, 21 September 2025:** Today, the Wellcome Trust – alongside fellow members of the new Executive of the 35+ members of the Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative (ESIC) Funders interest group (FIG), namely UK Research and Innovation (co-chair), Health Research Board, Jacobs Foundation and National Institute of Health Research – announce a near doubling of the initial ESIC financial commitment, bringing us to US$126 million mobilized in little under a year.

This announcement comes as part of a broader effort to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through five foundational investments that directly address 16 of the 40 solutions proposed in the ESIC roadmap, and which indirectly address many more:

1) sectoral hubs to catalyze radically more timely, relevant and affordable evidence synthesis to support SDG achievement;
2) regional hubs to support impacts at the country level, often amplified through UN Country Teams;
3) an open data system to streamline how we share and reuse synthesis data;
4) a living inventory of AI-enabled digital evidence synthesis tools to support choice and reporting;
5) an agile monitoring, evaluation and learning infrastructure.

A slide deck detailing these proposals is available on the new ESIC website. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback.

"National governments, citizen-led and citizen-serving NGOs, professional bodies, and multilateral agencies need to find better ways to learn from others if we are going to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," said Tariq Khokhar, Head of Data for Science and Health at Wellcome. "Evidence synthesis gives us rigour in learning from scientific studies and UN evaluations; AI gives us speed. AI-enabled living evidence synthesis can deliver localized, actionable insights with both rigour and speed,"

The ESIC roadmap and Cape Town Consensus Charter, developed through a largely Global South-led planning process from January through June 2025, are now available in six languages on our website. The Wellcome Trust was pleased to support this planning process and acknowledges the contributions of the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition, Cochrane, Campbell

Collaboration and JBI who co-led the process as well as the Pan-African Collective for Evidence (PACE, South Africa) and the Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES, Uganda) who made the Cape Town meeting a springboard for action.

"We have heard from diverse interest holders what they would like to see happen and about how they would like it to happen," said Laurenz Mahlanza-Langer, Executive Director of PACE and co-convenor of the Cape Town meeting. "This includes a shift in power to the Global South and locating equity at the heart of each step in the roadmap."

In the coming months, the Wellcome Trust will be designing appropriate funding vehicles to operationalize these investments. Other funders will be engaging their funded entities in complementary processes to explore whether and how they can align their work with these foundational investments. They will also be exploring making additional financial commitments.

One government, one synthesis group, one UN agency or one implementing partner cannot do this kind of work alone. In addition to the ESIC FIG Executive, the Wellcome Trust is putting in place a small Steering group and a broader Communities council, transitional arrangements that will support governing, coordinating and funding ESIC for collective impact.

"We have come a long way in the year since the original idea of ESIC was announced. ESRC is proud to be part of this growing collaborative. Together, we are laying the foundations for a global system that harnesses AI-enabled evidence synthesis to provide governments around the world with timely, high-quality evidence that improves lives and accelerates progress towards the SDGs," said Jen Gold, Executive Director of Research at the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

Building on all of this, the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UN Partnerships) and ESIC also announce a new partnership to launch AI Commons—a global, open-source repository showcasing AI applications for sustainable development. Leveraging ESIC's expertise in evidence hubs and open data systems, AI Commons will provide freely accessible case studies illustrating how AI is utilized by a wide range of development stakeholders. Each case study will profile any available data about the AI application's performance and evidence about whether the application is addressing an approach that the evidence has found supports SDG achievement. The platform will also include collaboration tools designed for developers, researchers and policymakers, ensuring that the benefits of AI advancements reach everyone, everywhere, simultaneously.