**Conducting High Impact Research**

**Small Group Activity 1 – DIRECTIONS**

**Mapping Research Questions to the Policy/Program Process**

* Review the research questions listed below. Discuss whether the question responds to advocacy and policy formulation or program formulation, monitoring, or evaluation. Refer to the bulleted list below to assist you in this process. It is possible that research questions will not fall exclusively into one category, as research studies frequently have multiple objectives. In this case, note the policy-program categories that the research question addresses. You will have 30 minutes for this exercise and 15 minutes for discussion of the answers with the larger group.

Research Questions:

1. Can injectable contraception (DMPA) be provided safely by paramedical workers to increase contraceptive prevalence rates (CPR)?
2. Is HIV mortality,incidence, or prevalence improving in countries with the largest Global Fund (GF) programs, compared to control countries?
3. Is the completion rate for the recommended 4 ante-natal visits better in clinics in which there is a higher staff-to-client ratio?
4. Does marrying before age 15 result in higher levels of adolescent pregnancy and other negative health outcomes?
5. Are orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) programs improving the well-being of OVC and their families?
6. What is the status of health-care-seeking behavior among children under 5 years of age?

Program-Policy Continuum

* + Advocacy & policy formulation
    - * Problem identification: size, scope, population affected
      * Making the case for action
  + Program formulation
    - * Assess program approaches
      * Determine what works
      * Target formulation: who, where, when, how much
  + Program monitoring
    - * Determine if the program is being implemented as planned
      * Determine if targets are being met
  + Program evaluation
    - * Determine how well the program has achieved desired outcomes
      * Determine what public health impacts have been achieved
      * Determine the cost-effectiveness of the program