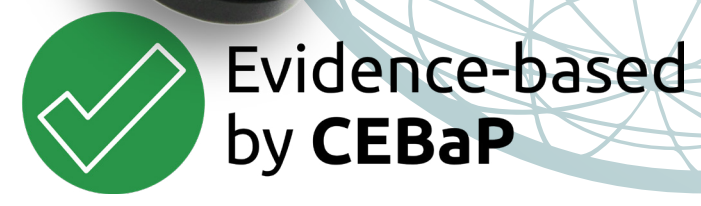


Applying the Evidence Ecosystem concept as a tool to demonstrate the successful implementation of Evidence-Based Practice in international aid: the example of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Van Remoortel H.¹, De Buck E.^{1,2,3}, Schelstraete C.⁴, Lievens T.⁴, Vandekerckhove P.^{2,5}

¹ Centre for Evidence-Based Practice (CEBaP), Belgian Red Cross, Mechelen, Belgium; ² Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; ³ Cochrane First Aid, Mechelen, Belgium; ⁴ International Cooperation Department, Belgian Red Cross, Mechelen, Belgium; ⁵ Belgian Red Cross, Mechelen, Belgium



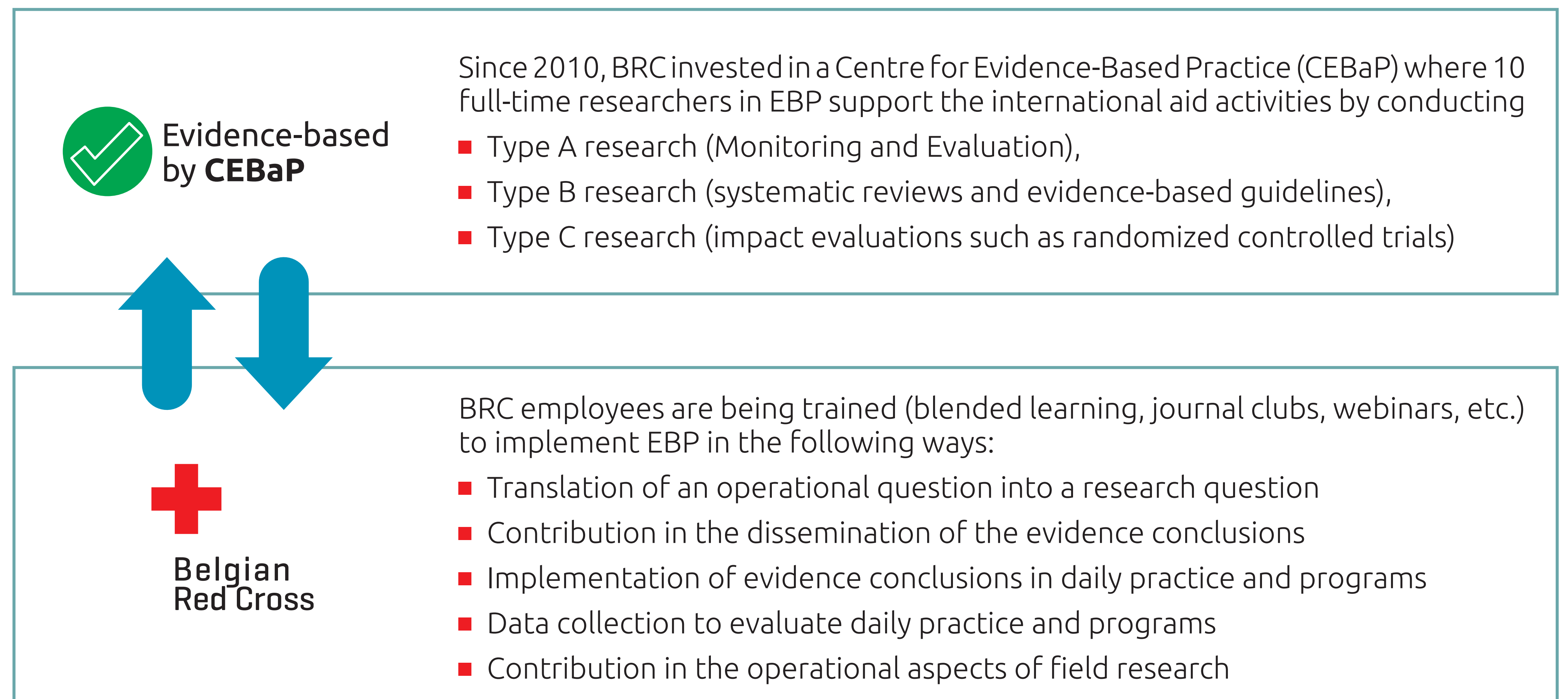
Background

The Belgian Red Cross (BRC) is an aid organization with a wide range of activities, from blood collection and banking over first aid education to international disaster and development aid. Evidence-based decision-making is embedded in the long-term strategic vision of BRC for all its activities.

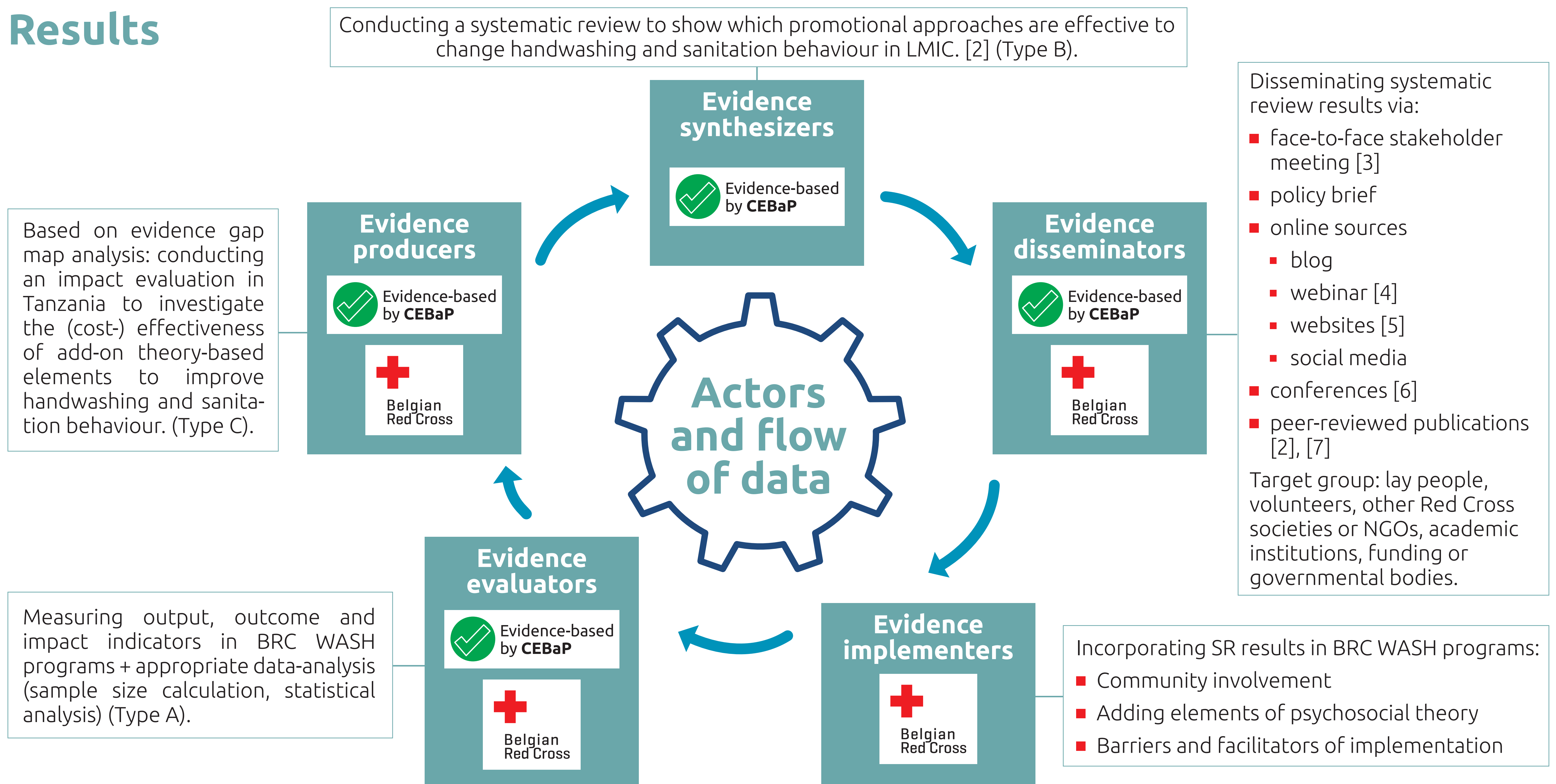
Objectives

1. To scientifically underpin BRC activities by implementing the principles of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in its international aid activities.
2. To demonstrate how we scientifically underpin the WASH activities of our International Cooperation Department via the Evidence Ecosystem. [1]

Methods



Results



Conclusions

- The Evidence Ecosystem demonstrates that the EBP principles are successfully implemented in the International Cooperation Department of the BRC.
- A top-down managerial focus on EBP increased the awareness of all employees and volunteers and resulted in a positive attitude towards EBP. This evidence-based approach further supports the quality of BRC research projects, will result in more (cost-)effective interventions, ultimately benefitting the beneficiaries of these projects/programs.

References: [1] <http://magicproject.org/research-and-tools/the-evidence-ecosystem> [2] De Buck et al. Campbell Systematic Reviews 2017:7; [3] 5-7 December (Geneva, Switzerland), 20 stakeholders: 12 development practitioners and consultants (Red Cross UK/Malawi/Netherlands/Philippines, WaterAid, Oxfam, WSUP, Helvetas), 3 policy-makers (IFRC, ICRC, World Bank), 1 topic expert (LSHTM) and 4 donors (WSSCC, 3ie, BRC); [4] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noFUO3lOn7Q>; [5] websites of 3ie (www.3ieimpact.org), WSSCC (www.wsscc.org), Campbell Collaboration (www.campbellcollaboration.org) and CEBaP (www.cebaP.org); [6] Emergency environmental health forum 2017 (Kathmandu, Nepal), Cochrane Colloquium 2016 (Seoul, South Korea), European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry 2017 (Leuven, Belgium), Global Evidence Summit 2017 (Cape Town, South Africa), Water Engineering and Development Centre conference 2017 (Loughborough, United Kingdom); European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health 2017 (Antwerp, Belgium); [7] De Buck et al. Int J Environ Health Res 2018;28(1):8-22.

