Building the infrastructure we need to tackle homelessness better

1

reliable evidence i.e. evidence that is actionable, accessible and accurate

2

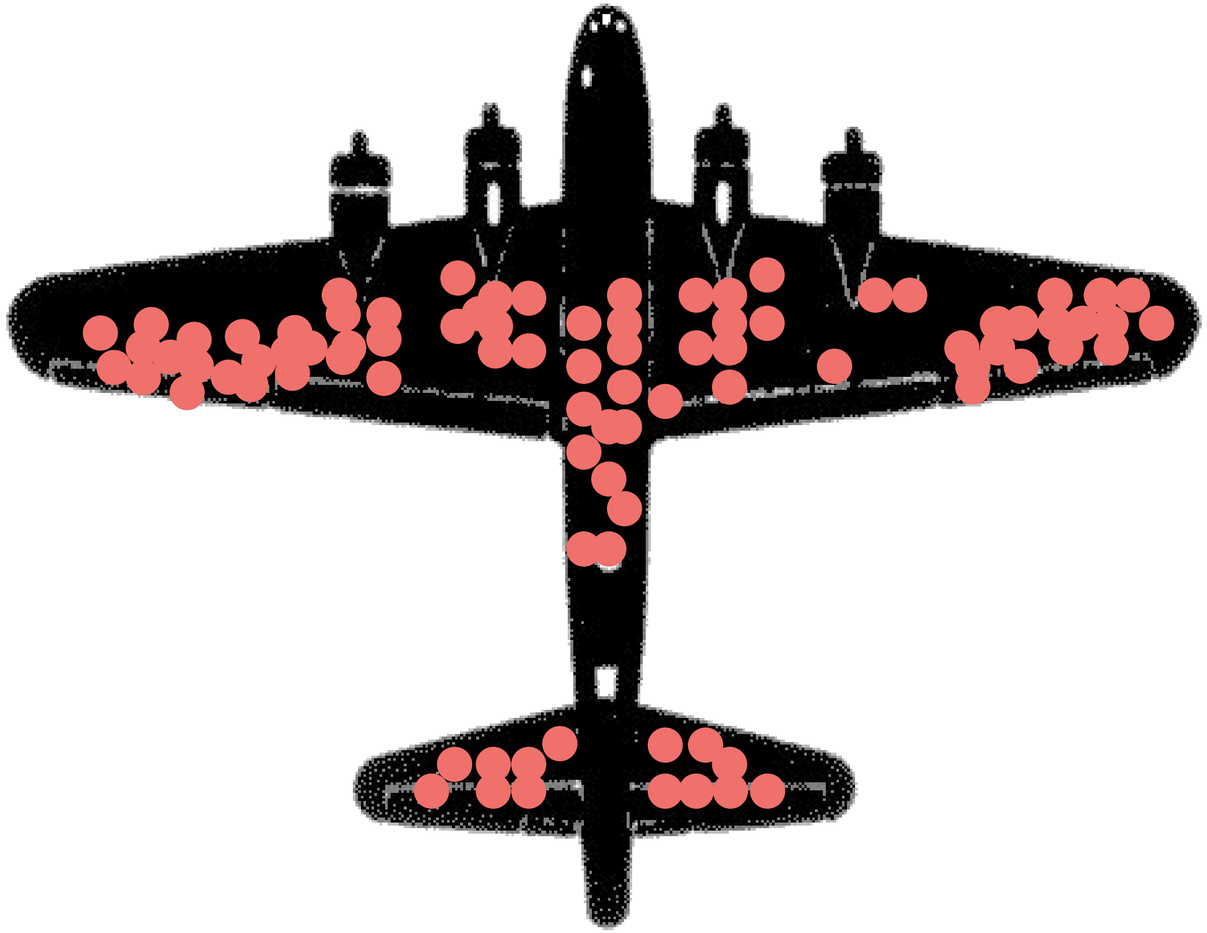
act on the best evidence available

3

learn to ask the right questions - to go beyond the surface of assumptions to draw deeper insights

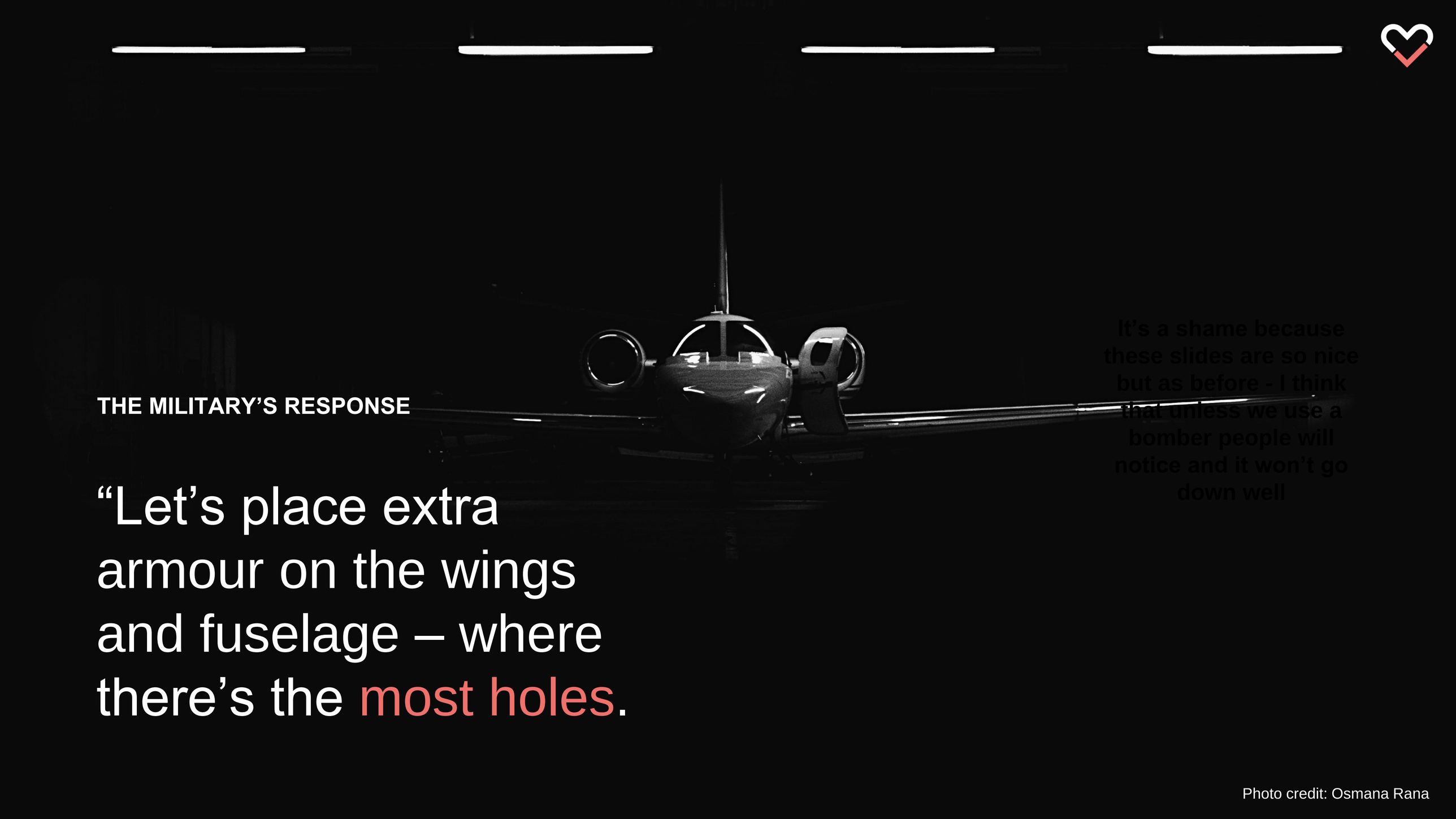
Abraham Wald

Tasked with helping the Allies improve the safety of bomber aircrafts, at a time where probability of a pilot surviving a tour of duty was little better than fifty-fifty.



The pattern seemed clear

Many of the airplanes were riddled with gunfire all over the wings and fuselage. But they were not being hit in the cockpit or tail.



THE MILITARY’S RESPONSE

“Let’s place extra armour on the wings and fuselage – where there’s the most holes.

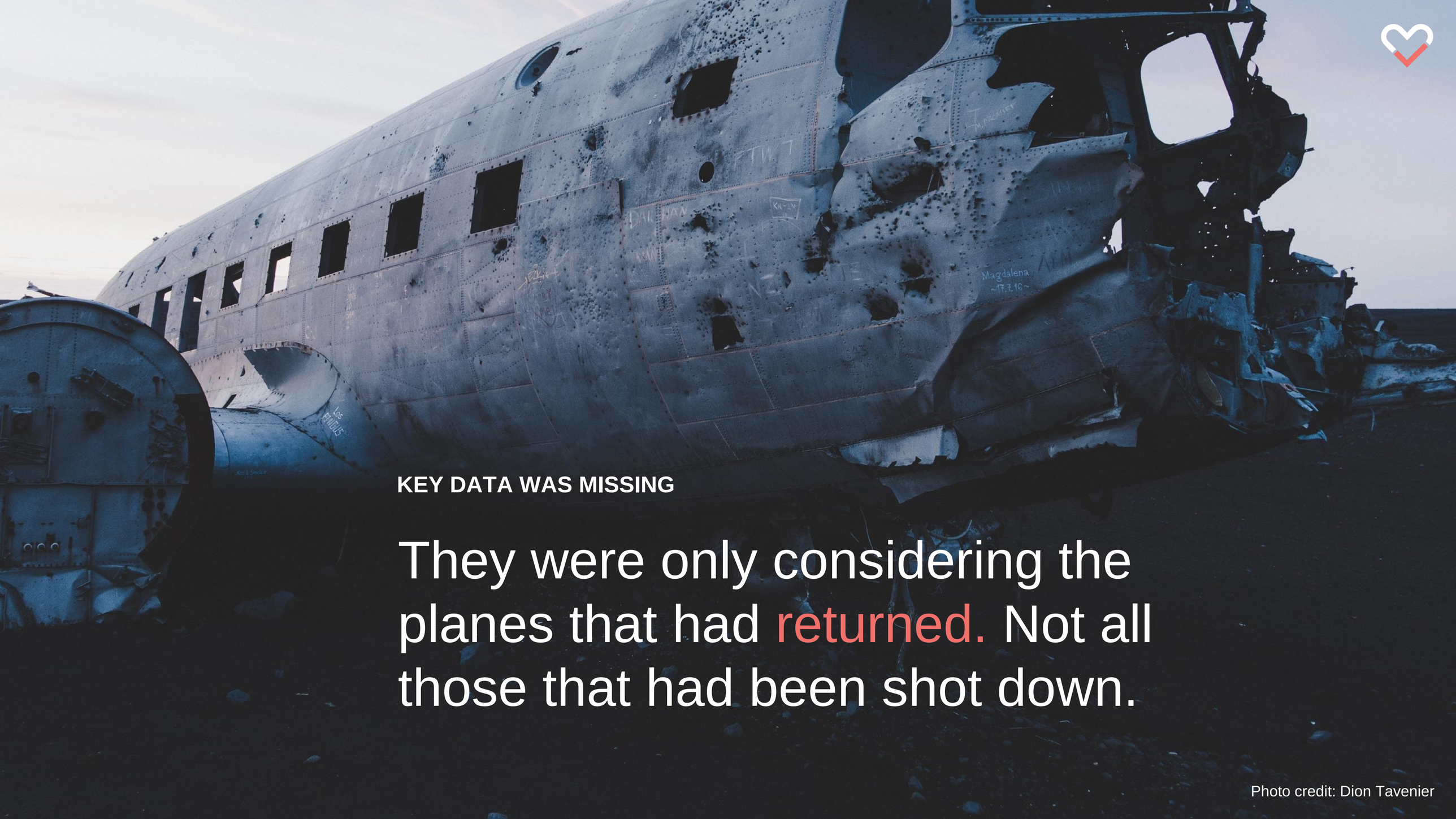
It’s a shame because these slides are so nice but as before - I think that unless we use a bomber people will notice and it won’t go down well

Photo credit: Osmana Rana

ABRAHAM WALD:

Not so fast. Where are the missing holes?

Photo credit: Osmana Rana



KEY DATA WAS MISSING

They were only considering the planes that had returned. Not all those that had been shot down.

Photo credit: Dion Tavenier

1.

You have to take into account all data you cannot immediately see.

Photo credit: Daan Stevens

2.

Learnings from data aren’t always easy or obvious.

Photo credit: Daan Stevens

3.

It’s important to question basic assumptions.

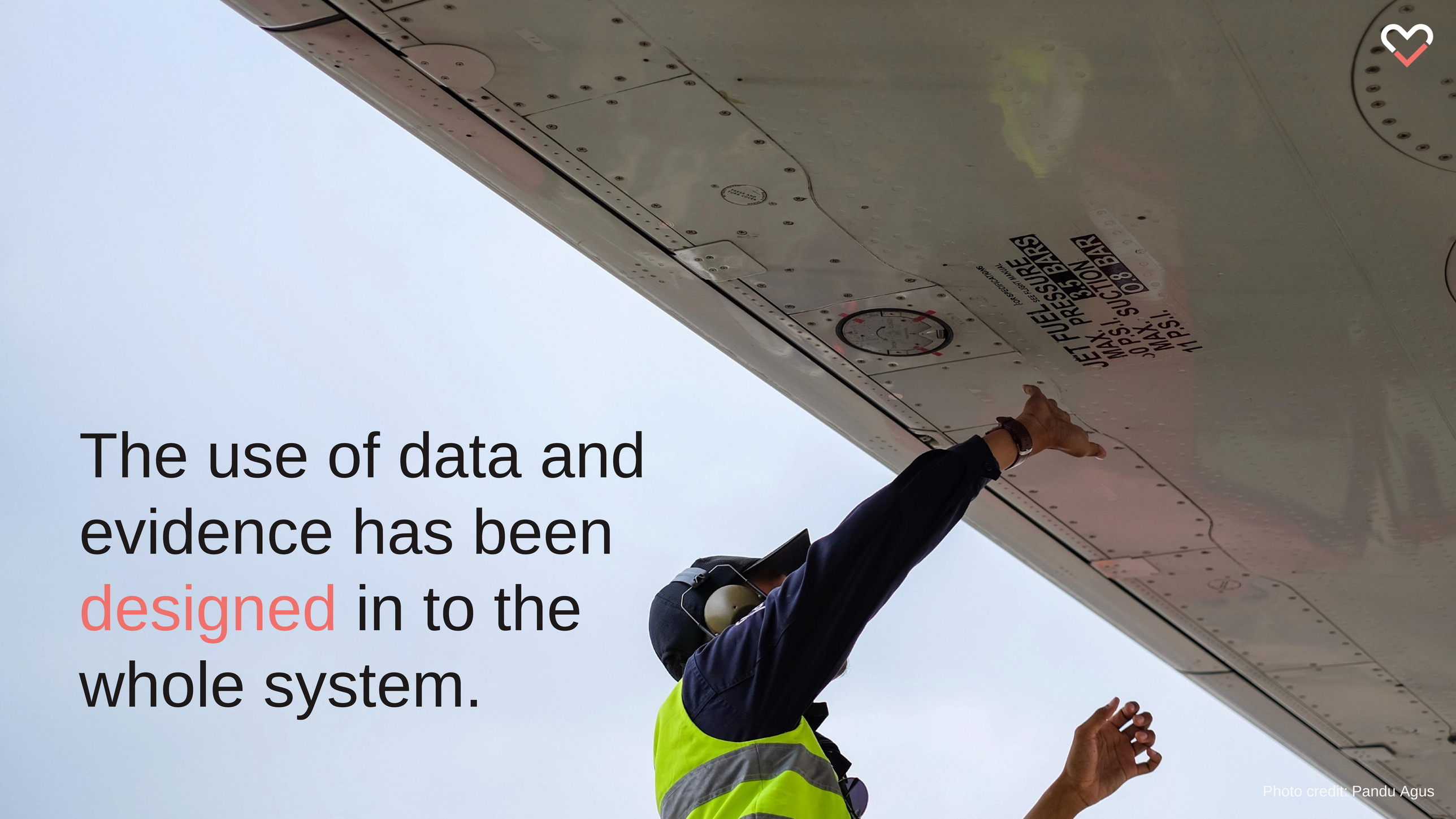
Photo credit: Clem Onojeghuo

TODAY

The rate of aircraft accidents is at a historical low. Why?

http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2016-02-15-01.aspx

Photo credit: Marcus Zymmer



The use of data and evidence has been designed in to the whole system.

Photo credit: Pandu Agus

What if we applied the same rigour and meticulous testing to the homelessness issue?

DESPITE OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

The positive impact of our work has changed little over the past decades.

Photo credit: Valentin P

Centre for Homelessness Impact

Better evidence for a world without homelessness

Photo credit: Neonbrand

Our mission is to accelerate the end of homelessness by championing the creation and use of better evidence.

By starting a movement that will lead to more and faster learning and experimentation across the sector

Photo credit: WOCTechChat

We have lots to be proud of. And we now know more than ever before about what works to help solve or prevent homelessness.
But we can do more.

Photo credit: Kipras Streimikis

THE CHALLENGE IN A COUNTRY LIKE OURS

How can we ensure that, when we try to help people who are homeless, we do so as effectively as possible?

Photo credit: Clem Onojeghuo

We know what problems need to be solved, but may not be making the right kinds of investments to address them. Evidence is lacking.

Photo credit: Stefan Stefancik

In other fields, we've improved our understanding of what works by applying scientific methods. Why not do the same for homelessness?

Photo credit: Kipras Streimikis

In the 200 years since the first use of clinical trials, medicine has progressed from the ideas of Galen to the wonders of gene therapy.

Photo credit: Ken Treloar

The same testing that has revolutionised business could similarly help improve outcomes in our sector.

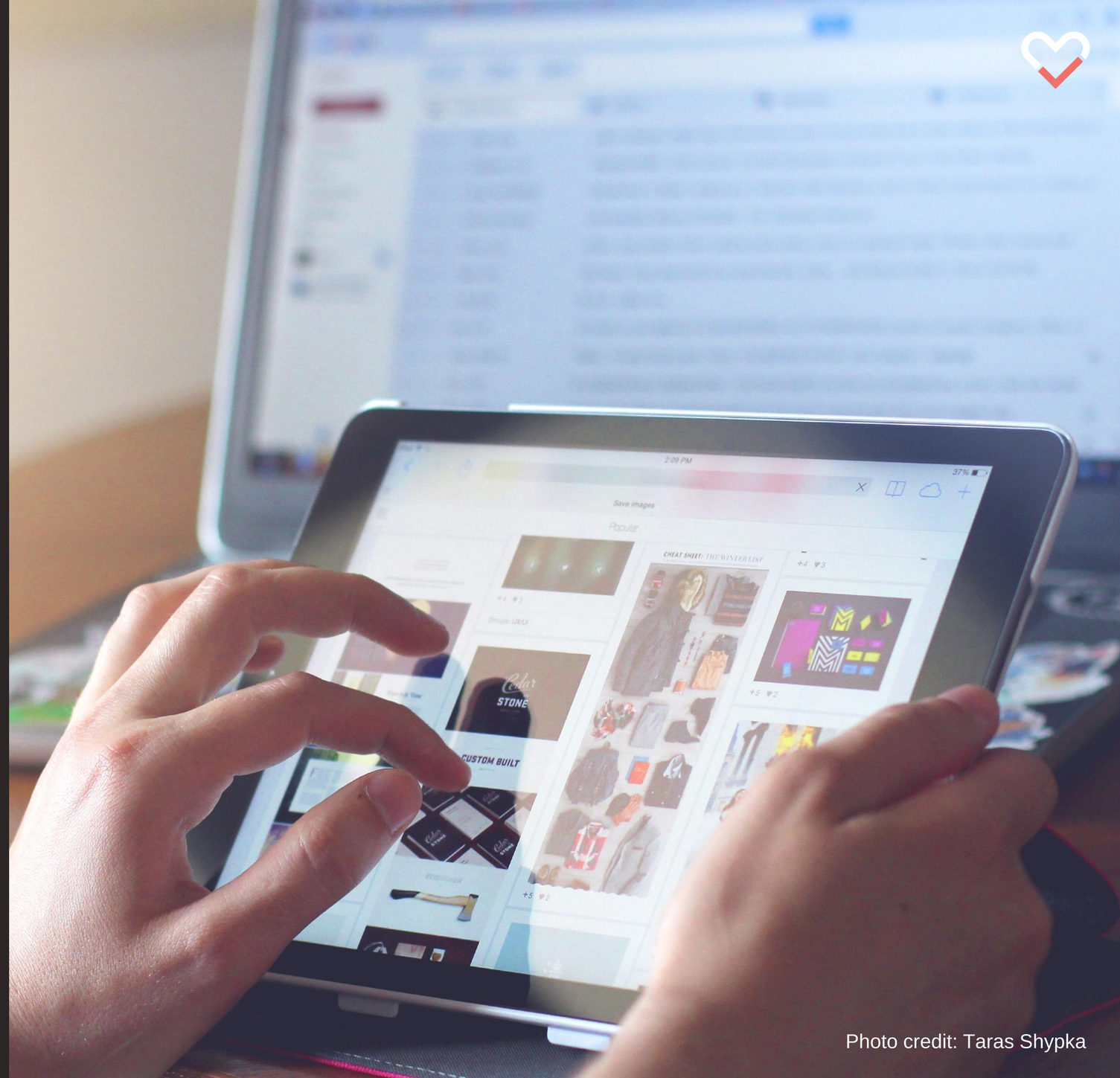


Photo credit: Taras Shypka

It’s time for the homelessness sector to catch up.

Photo credit Eric Fernandez/ The guardian

Scared straight

The ‘scared straight’ programme brings teenagers who are getting into trouble into prisons to show them the harsh realities of life behind bars. It’s such an appealing idea that it has been tried in a number of countries. The problem is ‘scared straight’-style programmes don’t work.

It’s one of the very rare examples where a programme has been tested to see if it worked (it didn’t)- but then the results ignored.

Housing First is one of the few models which has ever been thoroughly evaluated. In other areas – we simply don’t know if our investment is having positive impact.

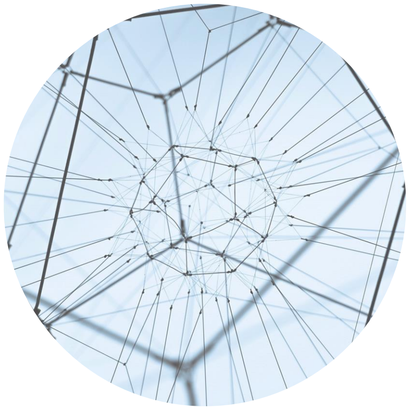
80% rule

reviews in many areas show that most things don't work. This includes many interventions that seem like ‘no brainers’

Our mission is to improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness by ensuring that policy, practice and funding decisions are underpinned by robust evidence.

www.homelessnessimpact.org

Right now we’re working on…

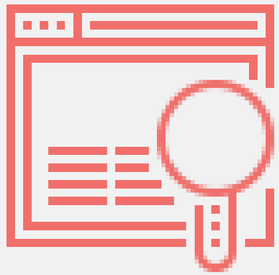


Systematically mapping the landscape of current evidence to make results easier to find and interpret and to identify gaps.

Synthesising existing evidence and developing an outcomes and evidence framework to underpin our efforts

Designing accessible tools to help improve practice as well as the strength of the evidence base.

WHY ARE WE CREATING THESE TOOLS?

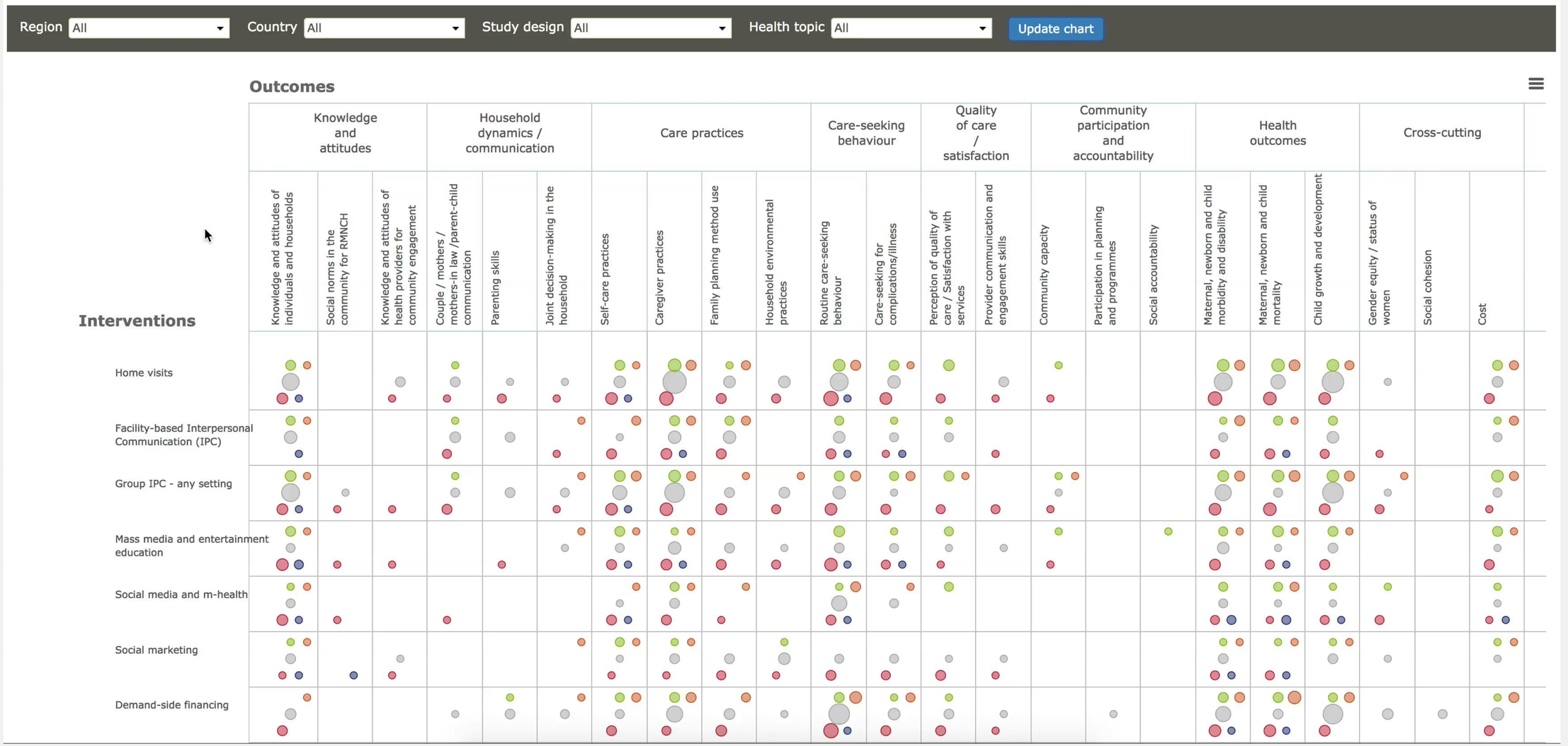


Reliable evidence either doesn’t exist or it isn’t easily accessible.

Interventions proven in one setting may not easily be transferable elsewhere and will require careful adaptation and evaluation.

There’s also gap in data that supports ongoing learning about what works.

Example map


Region All
Country All
Study design All
Health topic All
Update chart
Outcomes
Knowledge and attitudes
Household dynamics / communication
Care practices
Care-seeking behaviour
Quality of care / satisfaction
Community participation and accountability
Health outcomes
Cross-cutting
Knowledge and attitudes of individuals and households
Social norms in the community for RMNCH
Knowledge and attitudes of health providers for community engagement
Couple / mothers in law /parent-child communication
Parenting skills
Joint decision-making in the household
Self-care practices
Caregiver practices
Family planning method use
Household environmental practices
Routine care-seeking behaviour
Care-seeking for complications/illness
Perception of quality of care / Satisfaction with services
Provider communication and engagement skills
Community capacity
Participation in planning and programmes
Social accountability
Maternal, newborn and child morbidity and disability
Maternal, newborn and child mortality
Child growth and development
Gender equity / status of women
Social cohesion
Cost
Interventions
Home visits
Facility-based Interpersonal Communication (IPC)
Group IPC - any setting
Mass media and entertainment education
Social media and m-health
Social marketing
Demand-side financing

INITIAL REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MAP

The good news is there is evidence out there and many things appear to work. But…

1

Most of the evidence comes from North America.

We need more local studies.

2

Multicomponent interventions appear to be the most effective.

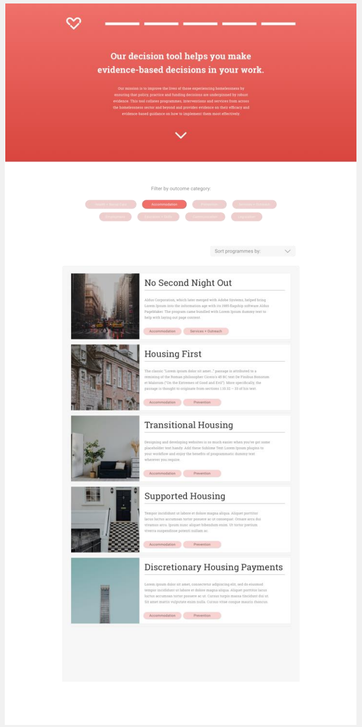
We need to understand better why this is.

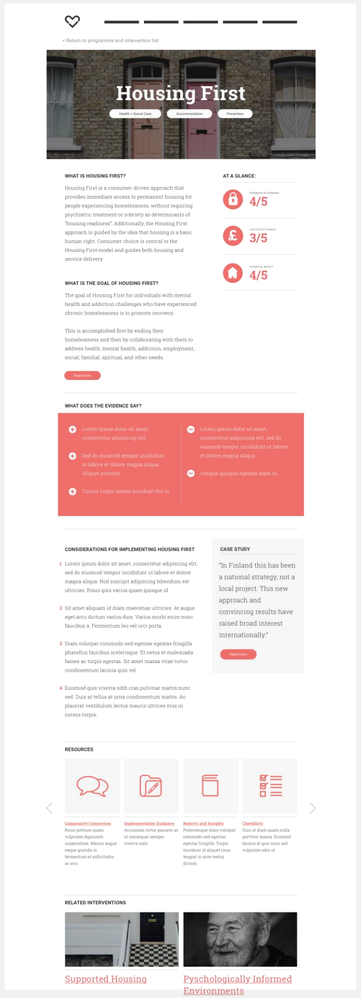
3

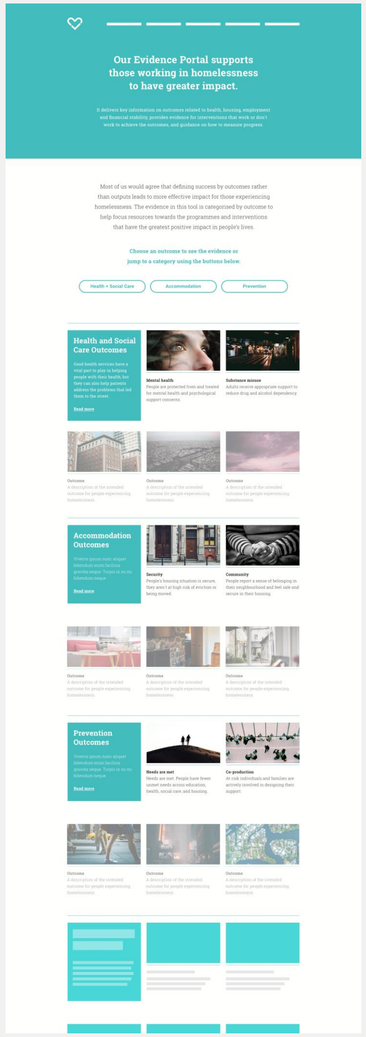
Even if most things seem to work, we can’t do everything.

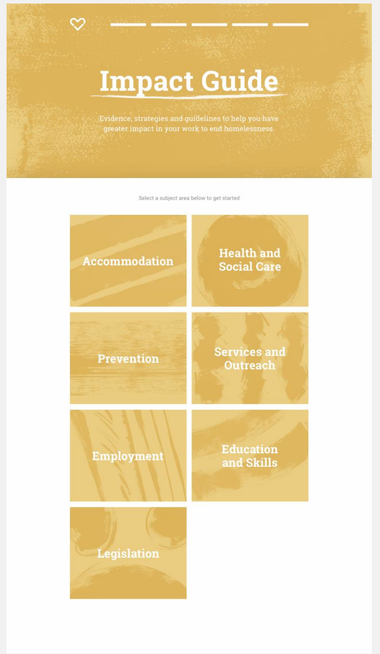
We need to be able to prioritise, especially within complicated programmes.

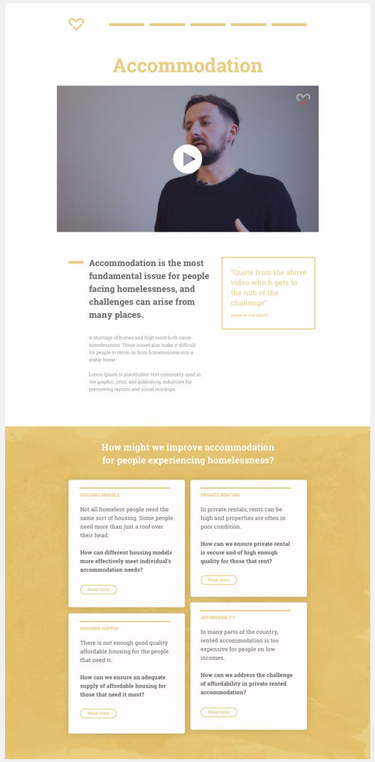
EARLY PROTOTYPES











We‘re asking for feedback on our tools over the coming weeks

We want to know your thoughts on…

1. How do you imagine the maps being used? And where do you see them having the biggest impact?
2. What do the findings feel like? And is there more or less evidence than you expected?
3. What reviews would you like us to prioritise and why?

Survey: goo.gl/fKxsuw

Questions

Thank you.