Engaging Stakeholders in Research: Lessons from the use of Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis (PIPA)

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Outline

- **Background**
- **Application** of PIPA
- **Experiences and lessons learned** from using the approach
- **Implications** for application in **systems thinking and complexity**
Introduction

- **Study setting:** 3 districts in eastern Uganda with poor maternal and newborn outcomes and suboptimal utilization of maternal and child health services

- **Main objective:** Improve maternal and newborn care practices and increase access to MNH services
MANIFEST – Two main components

Community empowerment
- Home visits by VHTs
- Financial preparedness through saving groups & others
- Improved access to transport by working with local providers

Health systems strengthening
- Mentorship
- Support supervision
- Recognition
- Training in Management
- Basic equipment
Introduction to PIPA

- **Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis (PIPA):** Planning, monitoring & evaluation tool designed to help implementers make explicit their theories of change

- **Why did we use PIPA:**
  - To understand stakeholder perspectives about actors who could influence MNH and how they could be engaged
  - To understand what the local stakeholders consider as success & their assessment of the implementation of the project
Introduction PIPA

- PIPA - 5 distinct steps
  - Problem trees
  - Visioning
  - Network perspectives
  - Outcome logic model
  - Impact model
MANIFEST Adaptation of PIPA

- **Two sessions done**
  (midway and at the end)
- **Nested** into a larger meeting with diverse group of stakeholders
- Groups had 5-7 participants and 8-10 participants
- **Session One**: Recap of problems and solutions, visioning, developed network models (3 points) and assessed outcomes
- **Session two**: Developed current network models and assessed outcomes
Visioning

**What success will look like?**

- When we hear of no maternal and child deaths
- When traditional birth attendants close shop
- When we see an increase in 4\textsuperscript{th} antenatal care attendance
- When all women are delivering at health facilities
- When mothers are well prepared for delivery
- When health workers have duty rosters
- When health workers are present on duty at any time
- When drugs and other supplies are available throughout the year
- When all health workers are accommodated at the health facilities
Experiences and lessons learnt

- **Pre testing** of the application of tools is beneficial to ensure all facilitators have similar understanding.
- **Increases collaboration and team work**
  - Allows group to think together, identify challenges, suggest solutions and build a common vision.
  - Allows implementers to plan things that are contextually relevant or to check the existing plans.
Experiences and lessons learnt

Participants invited
- **Type of participants** – Interest in the issue and **awareness/involvement** in issue
- **Diversity** is important – allows you to capture different experiences
- When you **piggy back** on another meeting you cut costs but you may lose diversity

Future Health Systems
Innovations for equity
Experiences and lessons learnt

Evaluation from the eyes of the community

- Allows you to see what they consider success (they decide the indicators)
- Allows team to revaluate how program is performing & to test TOC giving room to change/modify approach
Implications of using PIPA for systems thinking and complexity

- Allows participation of multiple stakeholders in a manner that allows multisectoral collaboration during identification and problem solving

- Demonstrates the complexity that exists within the system and promotes the application of system thinking
Implications of using PIPA for systems thinking and complexity

- **Buy in** for use of the approaches is necessary *globally and locally* to promote use

- Methods need to be reflected in research designs that are funded and period of research funded
Implications of using PIPA for systems thinking and complexity

For maximum benefit

- A system for improved planning, problem identification and solving at local and national levels
- Culture that encourages innovation
- Mechanisms that allow selection of strategic leaders at community, facility, district and national level
References


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