

SETTING UP THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AN ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

As an intrinsic component of the STOP project, stakeholder engagement with shared decision-making aims to bridge the gap between research, translation, and implementation of new evidence in real-world practice settings.

While there is an increasing appetite for a variety of stakeholders to engage in the topic of childhood obesity, it is essential to recognise that some inherent challenges to the stakeholder engagement process exist. To ensure that the work and objectives of the different stakeholders' work is steered towards improving population's health and wellbeing, we need to establish and enforce clear accountability mechanisms while strengthening capacities for engagement and promoting effective participation and joint implementation of priority development actions by different stakeholder groups. Specifically, accountability systems can:

- Be helpful to promote evidence-based outcomes and clarify the necessary tools and processes to support the implementation, management, and evaluation of initiatives.
- Help safeguard against conflicts of interest and ensure the relevant stakeholders hold themselves and others responsible for progress, or lack thereof.

To ensure the positive engagement of stakeholders and their positive influence on public health, three central mechanisms can be identified:

1. Actively engage stakeholders early and across different phases of the research project.
2. Focus on the relationships between different stakeholder groups and establish collaborative and sustained relationships between them.
3. Encourage early and close engagement of the decisionmakers, while acknowledging that differences in power dynamics between and across stakeholder groups might exist.



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