



Principles of Stakeholder Engagement Study

ECSA Best Practices Forum
June 19-21, 2019



In global health implementation science:

Who decides which research questions are prioritized for funding?

Who should decide? Which stakeholders should have a voice?

Project Background

- Funders and researchers often have asymmetric influence in setting research priorities compared to local policy makers, implementers, advocates and other stakeholders.
- The questions and issues that are most pressing to implementers, policy-makers, or the clients they serve are not always asked or studied
- The result is inefficiency, waste, and policies or programs which do not effectively address the needs of the target populations we seek to serve.

ISC Steering Committee Meeting

Proposal for Principles of Stakeholder Engagement in Global Health IS Agenda Setting Processes



2017

Fall 2018



Survey Development/Distribution

Survey distribution at three conferences in 2018: ECSA, WAHO, and HSR

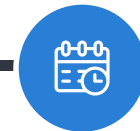
Analysis

Surveys aggregated (n=82) and analyzed using SPSS.



Winter/Spring 2019

Summer 2019

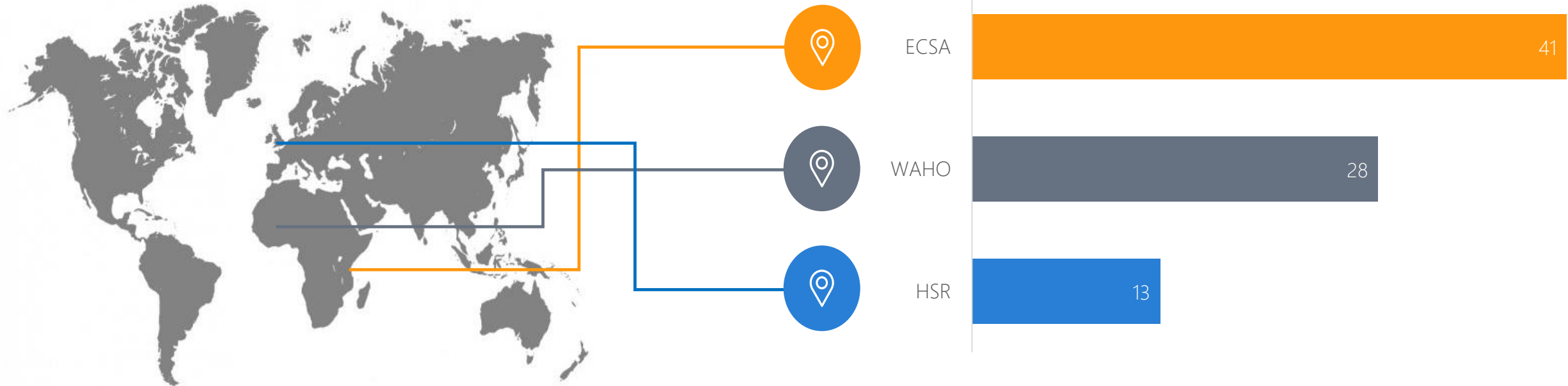


Outcomes and Next Steps

Reporting of 2018 study results to inform the ongoing dialogue; additional survey rounds in 2019



Survey Distribution and Collection



ECSA-HC:

The East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community Best Practices Forum. The **2018 Best Practices Forum** aimed to identify policy priorities and evidence to inform accelerated scale up of best practices in the ECSA region.

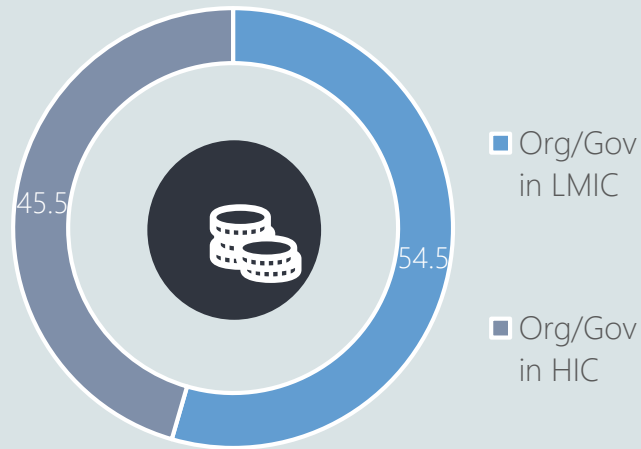
WAHO-GPF:

The West African Health Organisation **ECOWAS Forum of Best Practices in Health**. The **2018 forum** brought together a wide range of stakeholders and sought to promote “multi-sectorality to achieve Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent and Youth (MNCAYH) Health-related Sustainable Development Goals.”

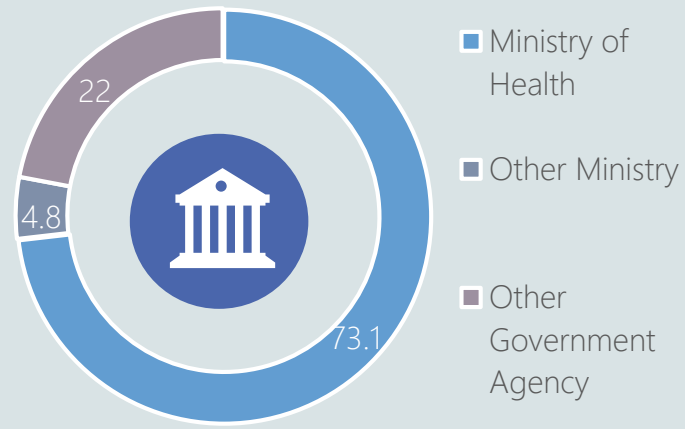
HSR:

The **Global Symposium on Health Systems Research**. The **2018 symposium** was a large gathering of stakeholders invested in generating and using evidence to strengthen health systems. Discussion focused on consideration of how to advance universal health coverage. Sought to advance implementation science and create dialogue with existing and future partners

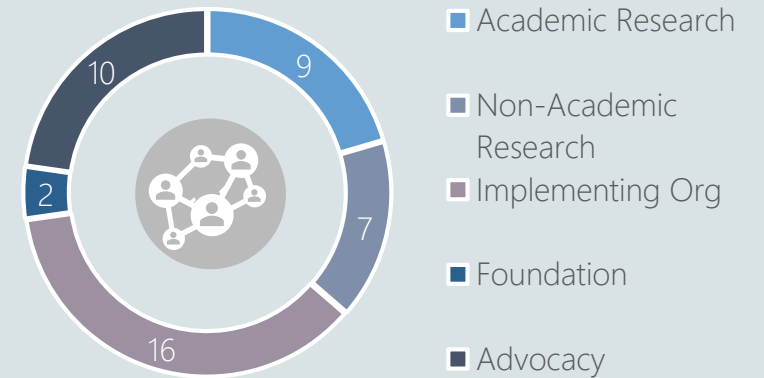
Study Demographics



Primary Source of Organizational Funding (%)



Type of Government Entity (%)



Type of Organizational Entity (n)

Primary Employment of Respondents

GOVERNMENT



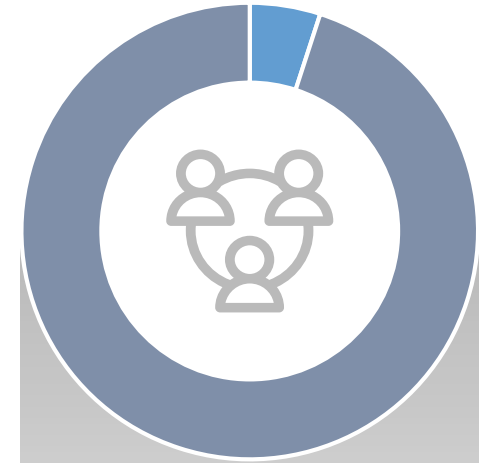
51.2%

NON-GOVERNMENT



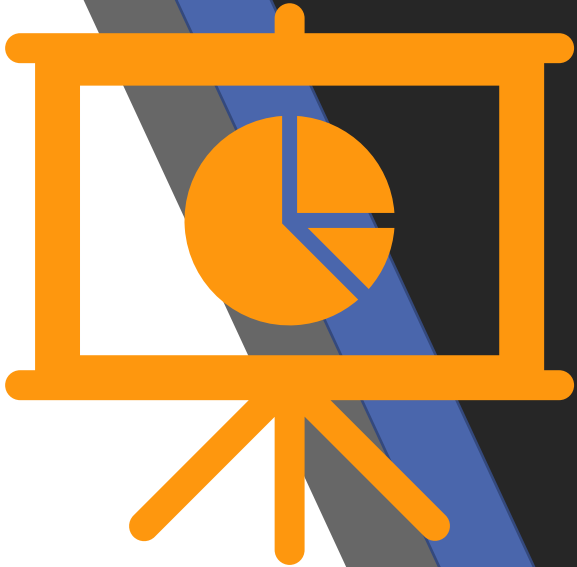
43.8%

MULTI-LATERAL



5%

Before we begin... a survey!



1. Grab your phone
2. Go to www.menti.com
3. Use the code 11 67 84
4. Complete the two survey questions
5. See and compare results

 Create presentation

 Edit presentation

 Help center

How do I add a question to another slide?

Are you stuck or missing updates? [Refresh](#)

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Select a question to show in this slide



In your opinion, how important is it that each of the following stakeholders are engaged in determining research priorities and questions?

 Select



In your experience, how influential are each of the following stakeholders in setting implementation science and research agendas?

 Select

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In your opinion, how important is it that each of the following stakeholders are engaged in determining research priorities and questions?





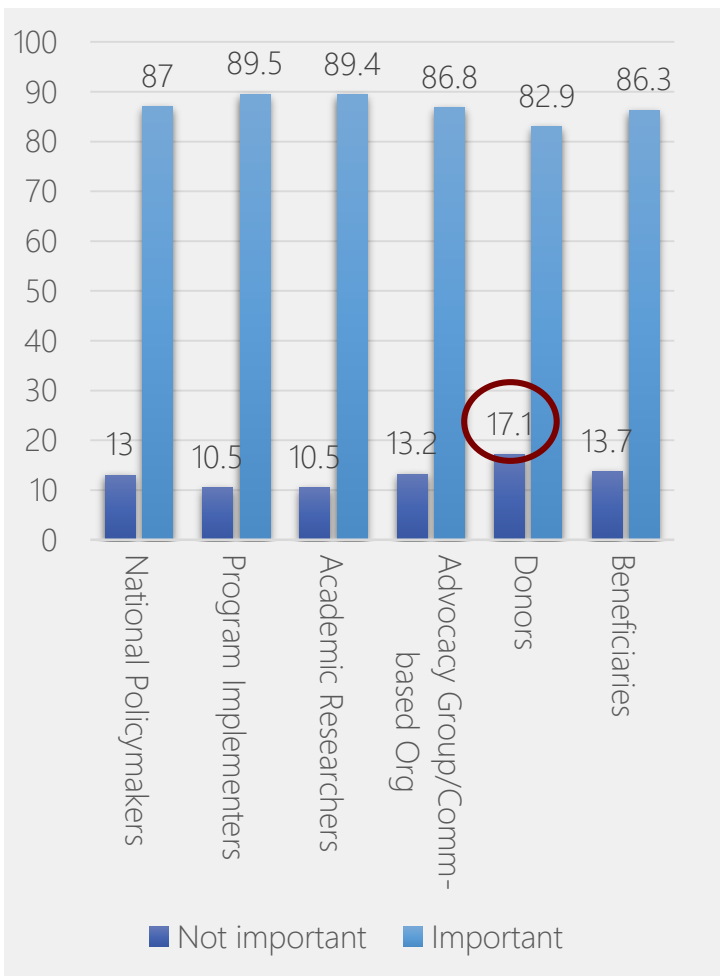
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In your opinion, how important is it that each of the following stakeholders are engaged in determining research priorities and questions?

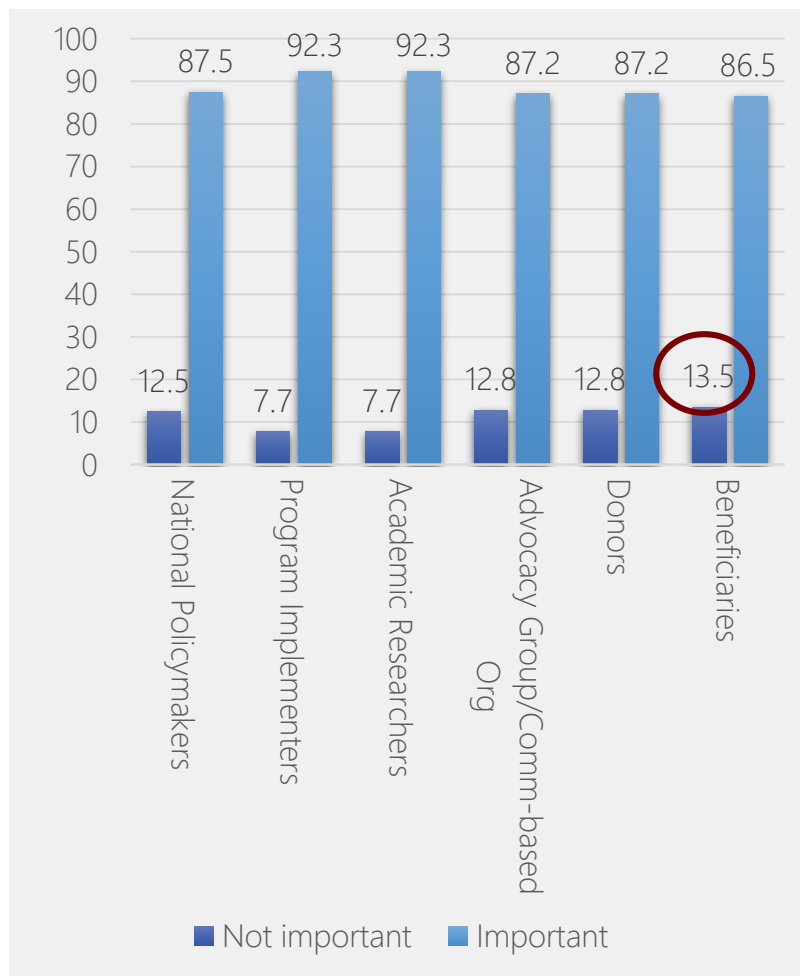
Combined

Valid % (n=77)



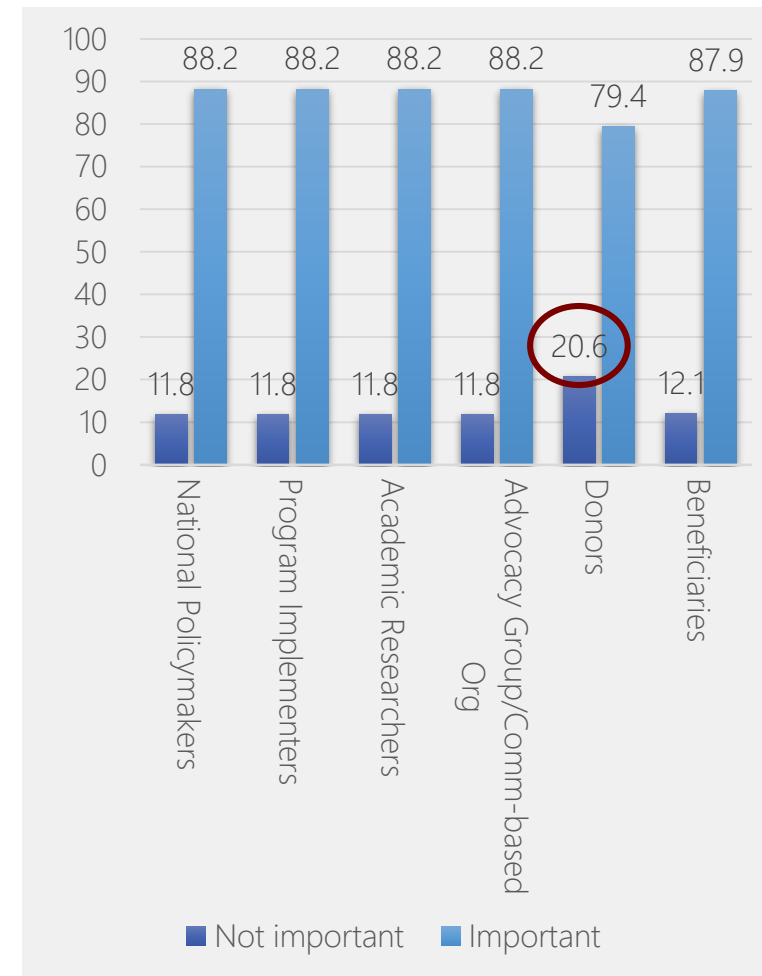
Gov

Valid % (n=40)



NGO

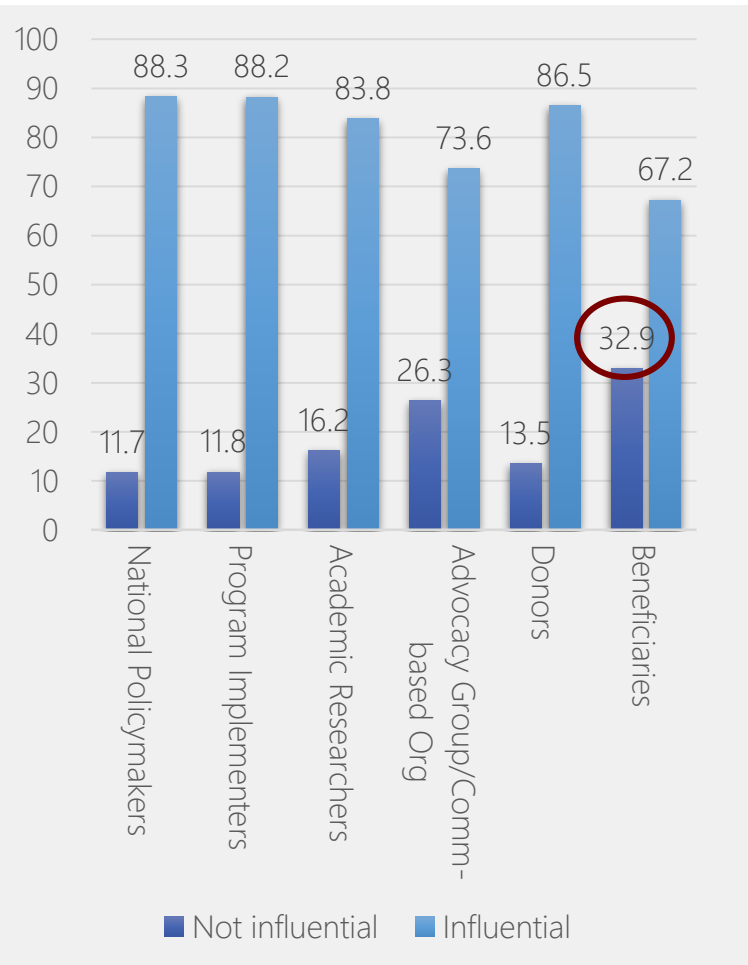
Valid % (n=34)



In your experience, how influential are each of the following stakeholders in setting implementation science and research agendas (i.e. in deciding what research gets done)?

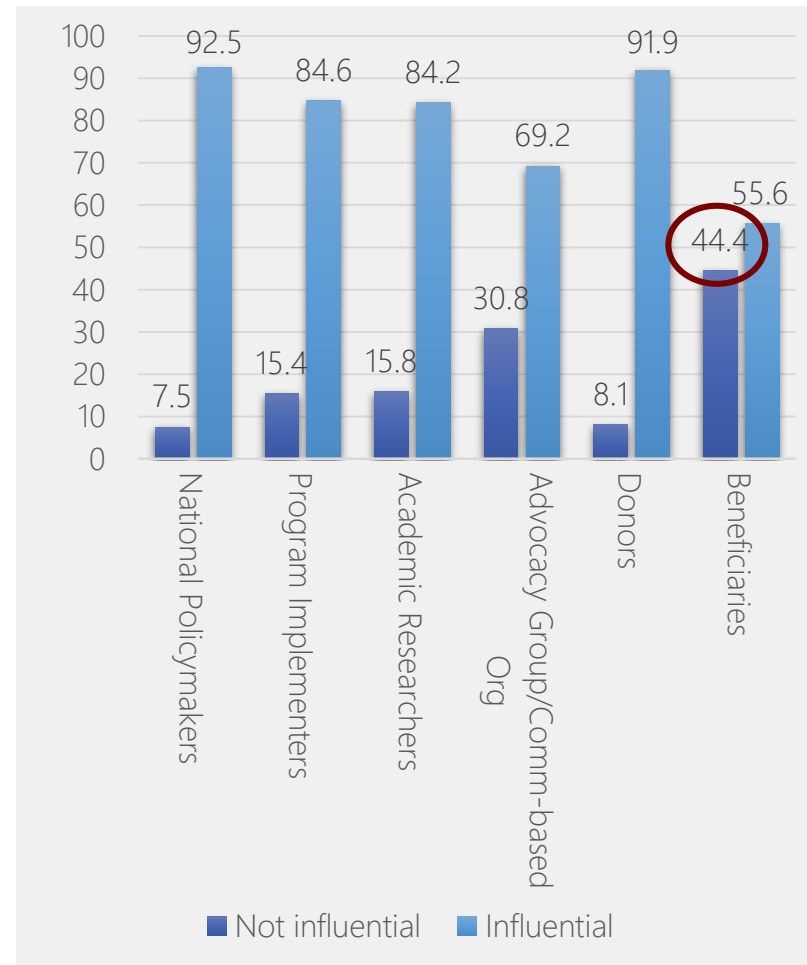
Combined

Valid % (n=77)



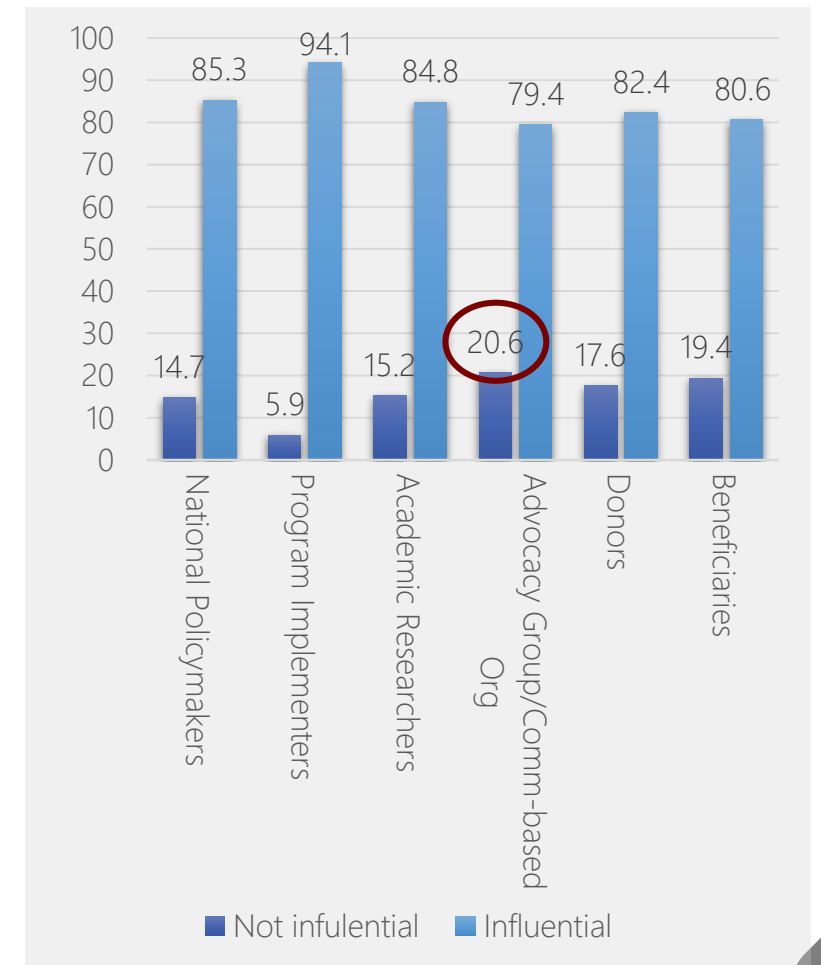
Gov

Valid % (n=40)



NGO

Valid % (n=34)





Results and Implications

The collected data sought to explore the importance of addressing power asymmetry among stakeholders in setting research priorities and agendas. While there seems to be agreement amongst stakeholders that donors should have less relative importance in determining priorities, they have a high level of relative influence in setting of implementation science and agendas.

This information should inform the development of Principles for Stakeholder Engagement in Agenda Setting.

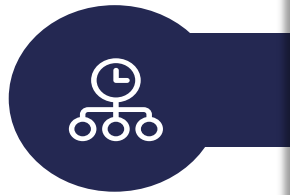
Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in Determining Research Priorities

Overall, **donors were reported as the least important stakeholders in determining research priorities**, although individuals specifically working in government ranked beneficiaries as least important. **Academic researchers and program implementers were reported as most important.**

Influence of Stakeholders in Setting Implementation Science and Research Agendas

Overall, **beneficiaries were reported as the least influential stakeholders in setting implementation science and research agendas**, although individuals specifically working in non-government organizations ranked advocacy groups and community-based organizations as slightly less important than beneficiaries. **National policymakers and program implementers were reported as most important.**

In the future, we should require...



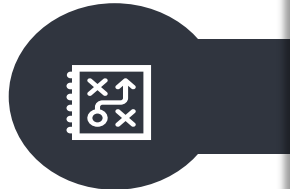
Outline of funding and timeline in protocols

88%



Investment in long-term partnerships

89.2%



Steps from research to implementation are mapped

86.8%



Shared data on open platform

88.2%



Stakeholder Diversity when establishing agenda

88.2%

85.5 86 86.5 87 87.5 88 88.5 89 8



The Principles and Commitments of Stakeholder Engagement

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement... (%)



My overall experience in implementation science is positive

89.5

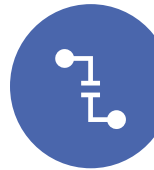
10.5



Research proceeds without examining existing evidence and data

43.9

56.1



Those who use the findings are not engaged until the end

80.5

19.5



I have an equal voice in determining the focus of research

65

35

0 20 40 60 80 100

■ Agree ■ Disagree



Stakeholder Impressions



Results and Implications

This information highlights the areas where more focus is necessary to improve and guide stakeholder engagement in agenda setting.

Stakeholders agree that agenda setting efforts should engage diverse stakeholders throughout the process (e.g. program implementers, academic researchers, national policymakers).

Further, findings (including data) should be made more readily available to stakeholders involved, thereby allowing greater involvement at each stage of research learning.

The following were reported as the *most useful* principles to improve stakeholder engagement in the future:

- Requiring investment in **long-term partnerships**
- Requiring that **all data be shared on an open platform** accessible to all stakeholders
- Requiring a **diversity of stakeholders** when establishing an initial research agenda (e.g. researchers, implementers, advocates, government officials, others), and with coordination at multiple levels (e.g. local, sub-national, national, regional, global)

The following were the stakeholder impressions which reported the *most disagreement*:

- Research proceeds without examining existing evidence.
- I have an equal voice in determining research priorities.



Thank You!



Next Steps...

The Survey on Principles of Stakeholder Engagement in Global Health Implementation Science Agenda Setting Processes has been revised for distribution at forums and conferences in 2019, allowing for year-to-year comparisons of data, as well as evaluation of incorporated stakeholder principles.

If you or a colleague would like to complete this survey now, please scan the QR code or use the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2ITLXZb>

