

Opening the black-box of multisector partnerships: A Theory of Action for implementing One Health at country level

Syed ABBAS¹

¹Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

The complex nature and social-rootedness of EIDs & AMR have prompted calls for multisector governance in the form of One Health approach. However, many have found it difficult to operationalise at national and sub-national levels. In this study, we describe the process of developing a practical framework for assessment and characterisation of One Health which will programme managers to adapt national One Health mechanisms to their respective contexts.

We use a review of academic and programmatic literature to develop a Theory of Action for multisector One Health partnerships that can nest into the Short-term Outcomes identified in the Theory of Change for One Health developed by the Quadripartite. This comprises of five elements: Characteristics; Starting conditions; Collaborative process; Outputs; and Responsiveness. We develop additional attributes to undertake a detailed characterisation of different 'levels' of One Health partnerships. In addition, this Theory of Action allows for multiple outcomes of interest to be recognised and addressed.

We then use the Theory of Action to develop a reflection tool to help country programme managers identify the specific characteristics of their respective One Health partnerships; recognise the differences in capacities and expectations of different partners; and use these insights to identify specific ways to strengthen the collaborative process.

To our knowledge this is the first time a detailed characterisation of One Health partnerships based upon programmatic attributes has been developed. Such a conceptualisation of One Health adds to the existing guidance released by the One Health Joint Plan of Action and can help design, implement and assess locally-relevant multisector partnerships.



'One Health process'

Characterisation

Scale | Scope | Formality | Strength



Theory of Action for Multisector collaboration

