

Working group update

Systems approach to upscaling working group

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Turning the tide: enabling policy-level support for scaling up NCD-related interventions/programs

Securing policy-level support is essential for prioritising, implementing, funding, and sustaining interventions at scale. It is important to understand the real-life challenges, strategies, and processes used to gain such commitments.

We completed 44 interviews with a mix of stakeholders from across 19 funded scale-up studies.

Two step analysis: Thematic analysis to identify broad themes, followed by Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) categorisation to systematically map and identify implementation factors.

Broad themes for challenges:

- Policy engagement requires multiple conversations with the right people.
- Creating champions within the system to drive action from top-down
- Gaining traction at the federal level to assist with accessing the regional level
- Gaining traction at the regional level for implementation.

Broad themes on processes undertaken to secure policy buy-in:

- Information should be bite-size and continuous. Providing meaningful information with a view to slowly ramping up commitments.
- Avoid jargon, use local data, focus on building capacity, and research processes.
- Policymakers respond to conversations around the health issues and burden to individuals and communities due to NCDs (and not the research issues).
- Bring a practical twist: share small wins, early outputs, and find ways of assisting policymakers with their work.

We conclude that:

1. Conversations with policymakers should focus on the benefits that will result from implementing the programs- at individual, community, and health system levels- rather than focusing on the research question alone.
2. Policy buy-in for the scale-up of NCD-related interventions is a slow, continuously evolving process requiring multiple conversations. For scale-up, this is best viewed as an important investment requiring more time and effort than what is usually accorded.