COMPLEX SYSTEMS AND NETWORK SCIENCE FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Conducting a Stakeholder Network Analysis

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Workshop – Introduction to Stakeholder Network Analysis : 13 May 2025

Overview

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Objective 1

- Understand the steps involved in conducting a stakeholder network analysis

Stakeholder network analysis

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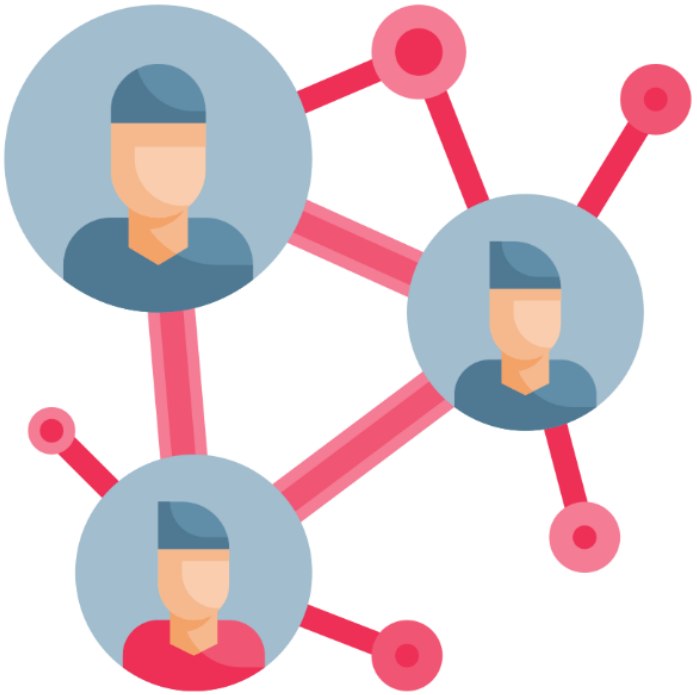
- There are different tools available to help support the conduct of stakeholder network analysis



Stakeholder network analysis

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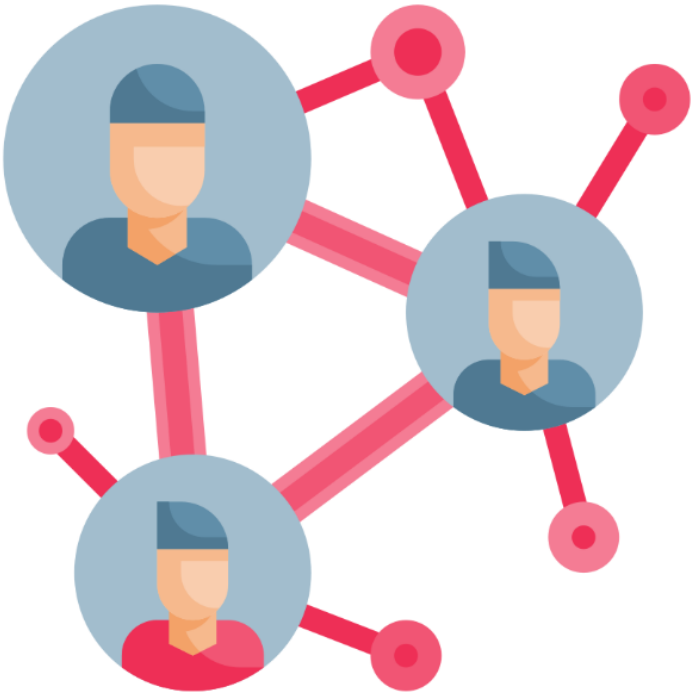
- While many tools for the **design, data collection** and **data analysis** of stakeholder network surveys exist, they are not always free of charge or covering **all three** of these steps



StakeholderNet

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- Developed by QUB/WHO Collaborating Centre for research and training on complex systems and network science for NCD prevention and control
- Web-based tool
- Created to facilitate the **design, data collection** and **data analysis** of stakeholder network surveys

Planning a SNA

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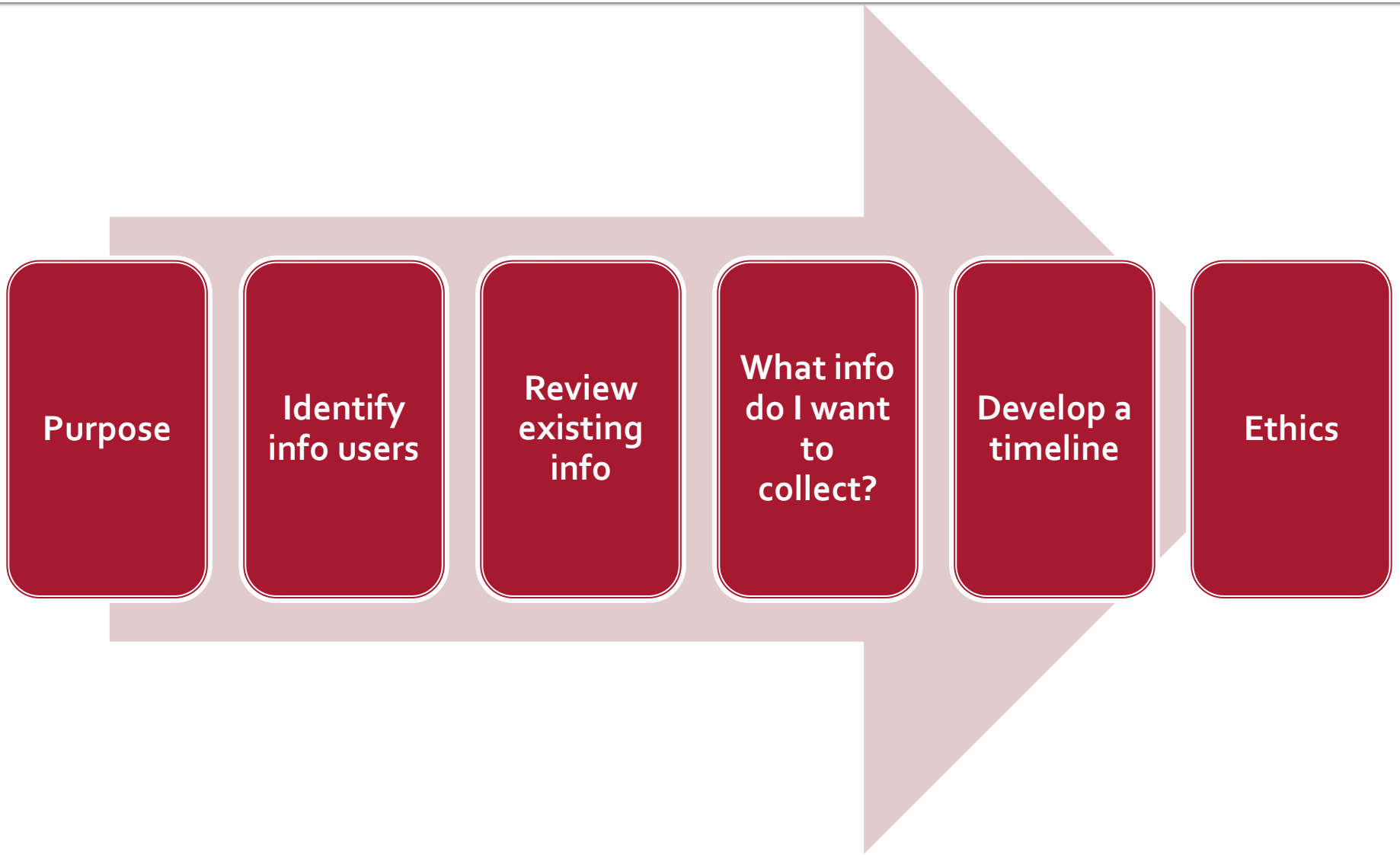

Planning a SNA

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Purpose

- Important to have a clear focus
- Clarify objectives
- Establish parameters of your SNA
- Identify variables to be measured later in the process

Planning a SNA

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Purpose

- Relevant examples of how the StakeholderNet tool can be used:
  - Developing a protocol
  - Providing input for other analyses
  - Informing/updating action plans
  - Providing information to challenge or support policy
  - Guide participatory consensus-building processes

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Purpose

- Map out issues you are attempting to address
  - Create a list of issues, interests, objectives and desired outcomes
  - Prioritise them
- Consider existing knowledge
  - Identify gaps in evidence base and/or own professional knowledge

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Identify info users

- The user group will vary
- User group:
  - Primarily - those who will be involved in data collection
  - Secondarily - those who will directly benefit from data collection
- May be useful to establish a working group of these users who can input into protocol, analyses and strategies for data
- Consider users of the information beyond working groups/how they might access data

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Review existing info

- There may be existing data about the organisations/connections you intend to map
- Understanding what data is in circulation about your target group will help avoid collection of unnecessary/duplicate data
- Identify local sources and inquire about data availability
- These data can supplement or support your SNA (*or render it unnecessary*)

Planning a SNA

What info do I want to collect?

- Quality over quantity
- Carefully consider information you intend to collect
- How do you plan to put this to use?
- Useful to identify a question or range of sub-questions relating to your objectives

Planning a SNA

Develop a timeline

- A network is dynamic, fluid, temporal
- Relationships are not static
- Consider temporality of the project/network you intend on mapping
- Establish a timeline for the process that is:
  - Realistic
  - Achievable
  - Includes all the major steps for conducting a SNA detailed in the StakeholderNet tool

Planning a SNA

Ethics

- Check ethics protocols and requirements in your organisation
- Generally, any research involving human participants (esp. vulnerable groups) requires robust ethical checks
- SNA involves participants nominating connections/providing data regarding these interactions/relationships – can be off-putting
- Having clearly articulated ethical procedures can reassure participants and enhance response rates

Planning a SNA

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Network survey development