Challenges and opportunities for scale up
Different forms of scale up

• Organic / horizontal/ geographical (SASA!)
• Vertical – government involved & institutional change (WHO)
• Functional scale up - Integrating some activities to other programmes (IMAGE)
Challenges – intervention content

• Intervention fidelity/ maintaining quality
  • How to ensure it?
  • How to monitor it?
  • What are the interventions fundamentals/what is core? It is not clear what makes an intervention works

• Intervention sustainability when scaled up
  • How to sustain volunteerism?

• Platforms for scale-up
  • Insufficient efforts to identify existing national platforms (beyond schools)
  • Creating new platforms?

• Short-term follow-up
Challenges – intervention critical enablers

• Too much attention on content of intervention and not enough on “critical enablers”:
  • Selection and recruitment of facilitators
  • Management of the intervention
  • Accountability
  • Training
  • Technical support
  • Costing all aspects of scale up

• How to transition between researcher-driven intervention to a different vehicle for scale-up?
Challenges – stakeholders involvement

• Policy makers involvement
  • Research is not understood by policy makers; too many messages sent by different players; research is not translated in simple language (research uptake not integrated in research protocols); group not homogenous; lack of meaningful involvement of policy makers in the whole process
  • Limited resource allocation to prevention

• Donors involvement
  • Limited in time;
  • More interested in quantitative targets than in fidelity
Enablers

• Synthesizing and packaging research for different audiences (from local chief to international policy maker); balance science and politics
• National policy agenda/Global commitments: SDGs
• Cross-fertilization: Bringing people together
• Identifying fundamentals
• Arguments on cost-effectiveness of scaling up
• Including a vision on scale up during development of scale up
• Existence of platforms: School, NGO forum, economic empowerment programmes
• Anchoring intervention in existing platform or vertical scale up to ensure institutional sustainability
Emerging Lessons & Insights

• Understand that engaging with policy makers is a complex, and *messy* process
• Find ways and strategies to navigate the political process, understanding interests, limitations and non negotiables
• Recognise and respond to the diversity of policy makers in ways that reach them
  • Local versus national
  • Politicians versus administrators, where in administration
• Be technically sound
• Be strategic in how you package and disseminate research findings
• Recognise and build onto our own power as knowledge creators, in ways that do not inadvertently contribute to exacerbating inequalities
• Proactively engage with politics and in politics to shift the terrain of *who* has influence and power
Emerging Lessons & Insights

• Talk in ways that those who have influence will listen
• Use culturally appropriate examples, local language, engage with culture custodians
• Recognise the challenges that donor and policy maker allies have and vice versa e.g. targets
• Understand how government works
• Use economic arguments / value for money
• Operational research key for scale up
• Build relationships – it is all about relationships!