

The Effectiveness of Global Health Networks

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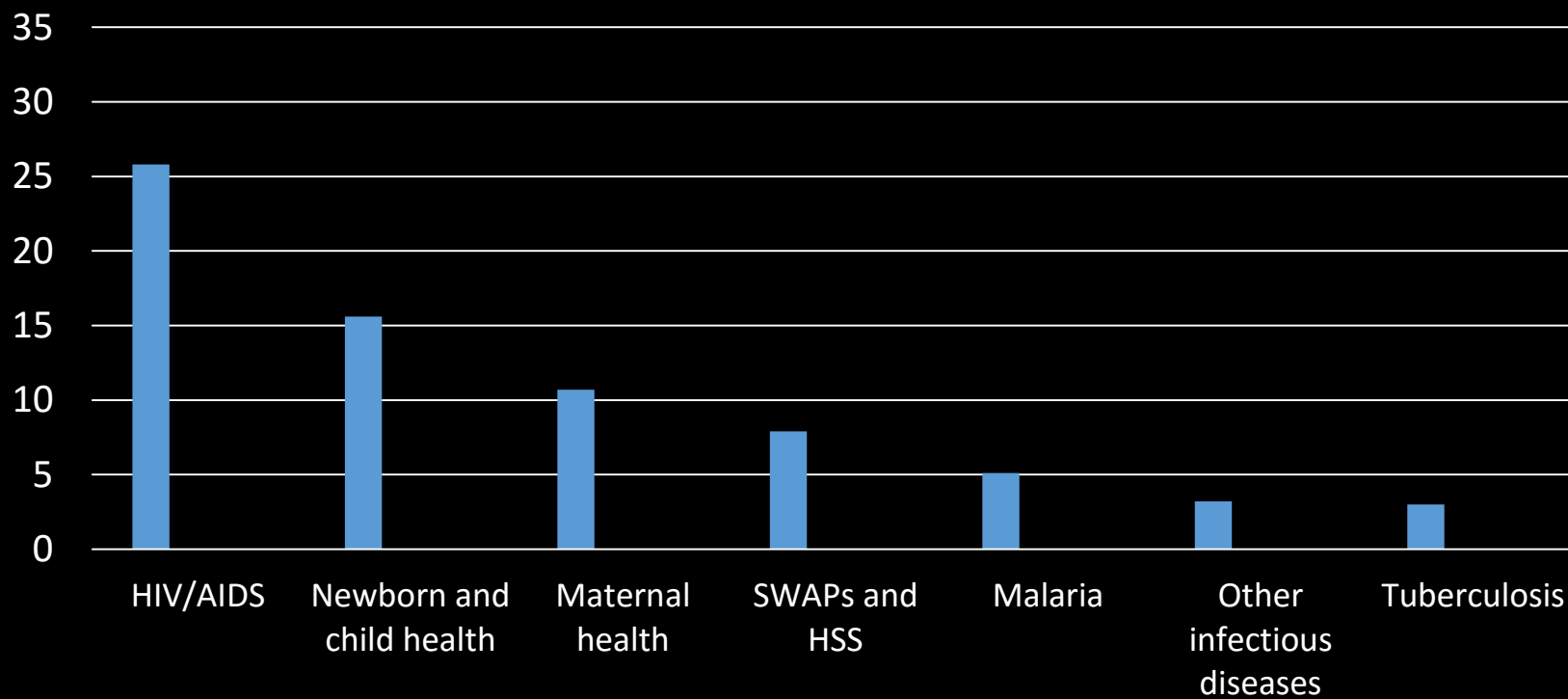
Presentation

- Backdrop
- Design
- Framework
- Core findings on network influence
- Implications



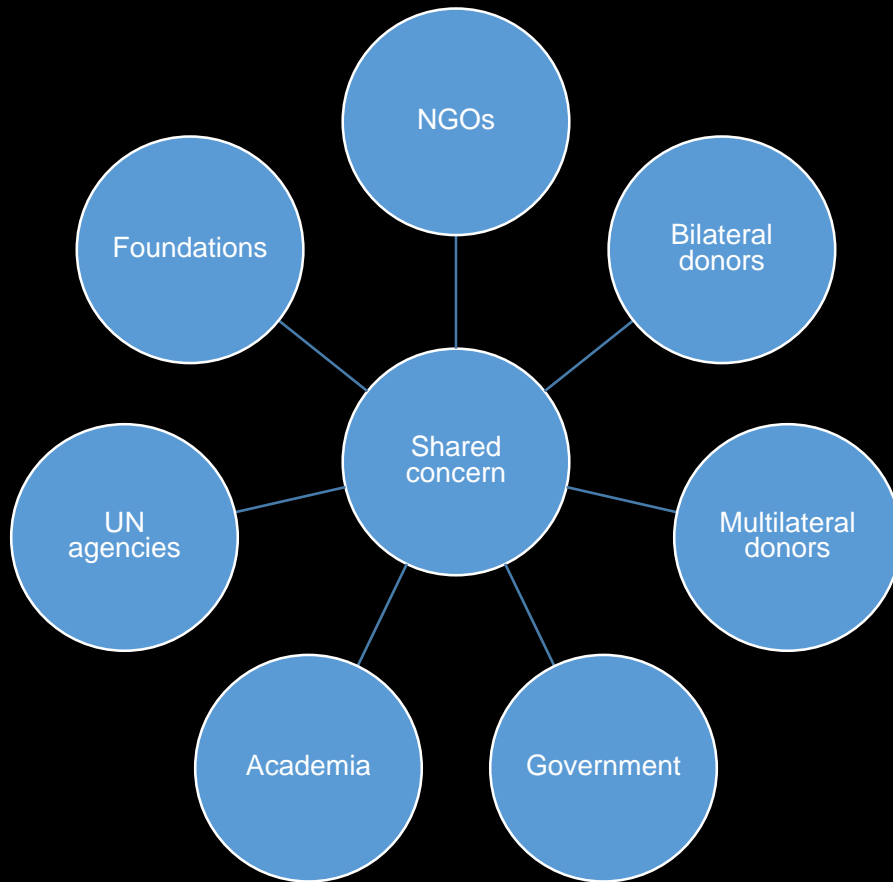
Backdrop: Variance in Policy Attention and Resource Allocation Across Global Health Issues

Percentage of Development Assistance for Health
Cumulative 2000-2013*



*Source: Dieleman et al. 2015. *Lancet*. Development assistance for health: past trends, associations, and the future of international financial flows for health. Published Online. April 13, 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016>. Data are in 2015 US dollars.

Backdrop: Emergence of Networked Governance in Global Health



- Over past 25 years proliferation of global health networks
 - Now exist for most high-burden conditions
 - Not the case a quarter century ago
 - Shift in way global health is governed.
- Global health networks
 - Webs of individuals and organizations linked by shared concern for a global health issue
 - Link multiple kinds of actors
- Example—formal
 - Stop TB Partnership
- Example—informal
 - Surgical conditions

Design: Orienting Questions

- To what extent is variance in policy attention connected to effectiveness of global health networks?
 - Answer not obvious
 - Alternative explanations include crises, donor priorities, individual activity, severity, intervention availability
- If networks make a difference, what is it they do that matters?
- Also asked about emergence and legitimacy



Design: Case Selection and Methodology

- Six global health networks, in three matched pairs.
 - Tuberculosis and pneumonia (diseases)
 - Tobacco and alcohol use (risk factors)
 - Maternal survival and newborn survival (at-risk groups)
- Comparable burden but first in each pair has greater policy traction.
- Methodology
 - Case and comparative studies
 - Process-tracing:
 - Examined mechanisms linking causes and effects, with consideration of alternative explanations
 - Medium-n: merits and limitations for causal inference and generalization



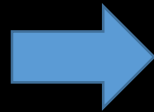
Design: Funnel of Effects

Population
Health

National

Global

Network
Efforts

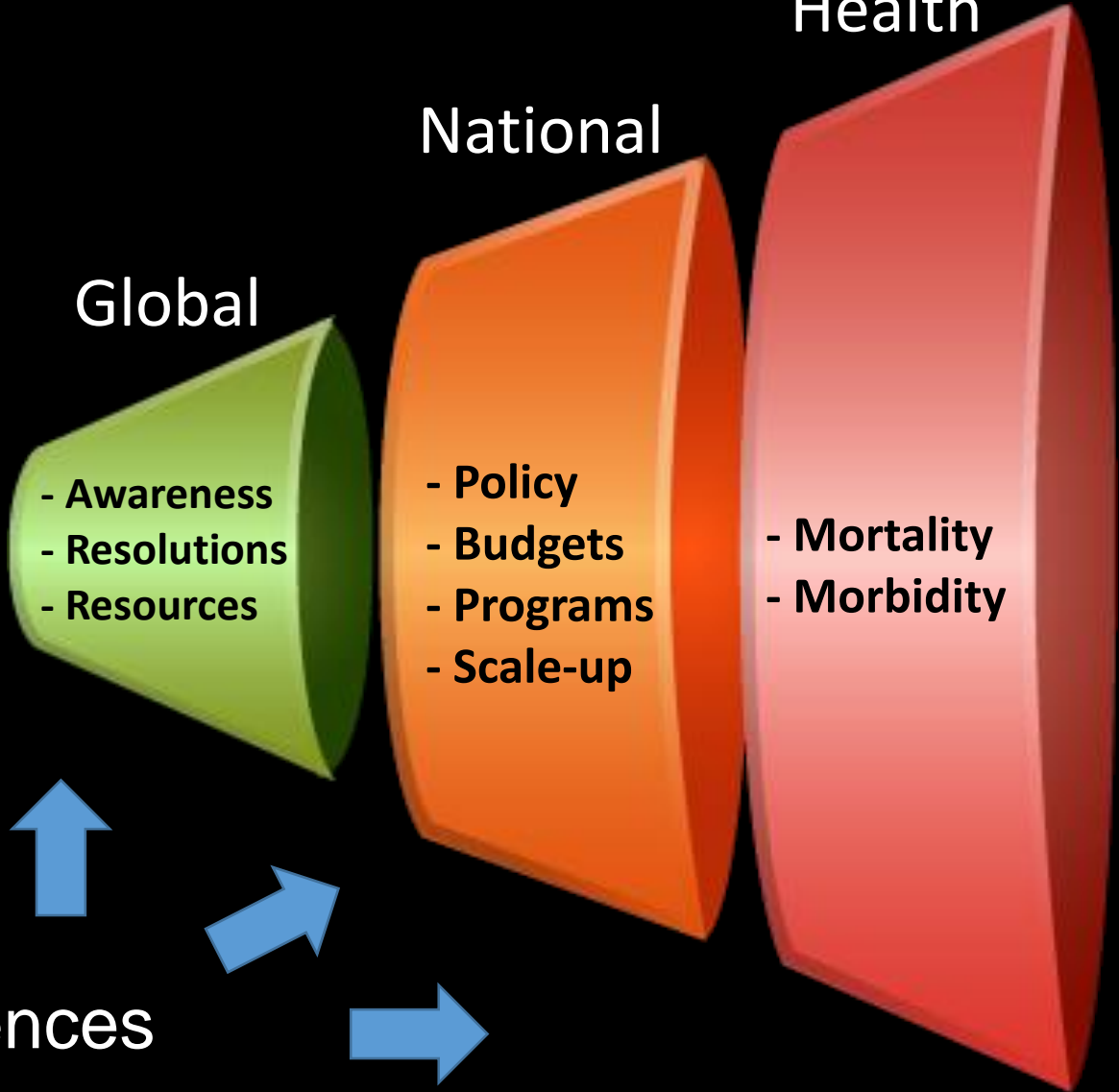
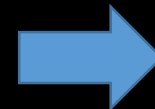


- Awareness
- Resolutions
- Resources

- Policy
- Budgets
- Programs
- Scale-up

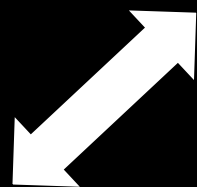
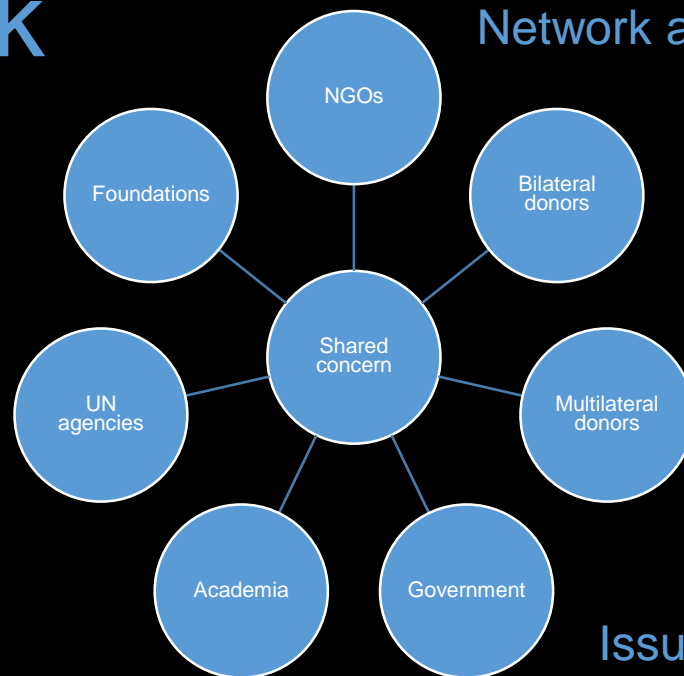
- Mortality
- Morbidity

Other Influences

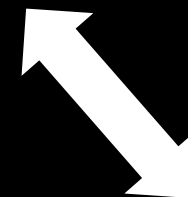


Framework

Network and Actor Features



Policy Environment



Issue Characteristics



Framework

Category	Factor	Example
Network and actor features	Leadership	James Grant
	Governance	Task Force for Child Survival
	Composition	Homogeneity vs. heterogeneity
	Framing strategies	HIV/AIDS as existential threat
Policy environment	Allies and opponents	Tobacco industry
	Funding	For big diseases
	Norms	SDGs
Issue characteristics	Severity	Road traffic injuries
	Tractability	Vaccines
	Affected groups	Children vs. injection drug users

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Core Finding 1: Network Effects Most Pronounced at Global Level

- **Global Effects**

- Building awareness by developing evidence on severity and tractability.
- Contributing to global plans and resolutions.
- Generating financial resources



- **National and Population Health Effects**

- Vary by issue and less certain evidence.
- More difficult to detect, since many influences beyond networks.



Core Finding 2: What Effective Networks Do Construct Powerful Issues Frames

- **Diagnostic**
What is the problem?
- **Prognostic**
What is to be done?
- **Motivational**
Why should it be done?

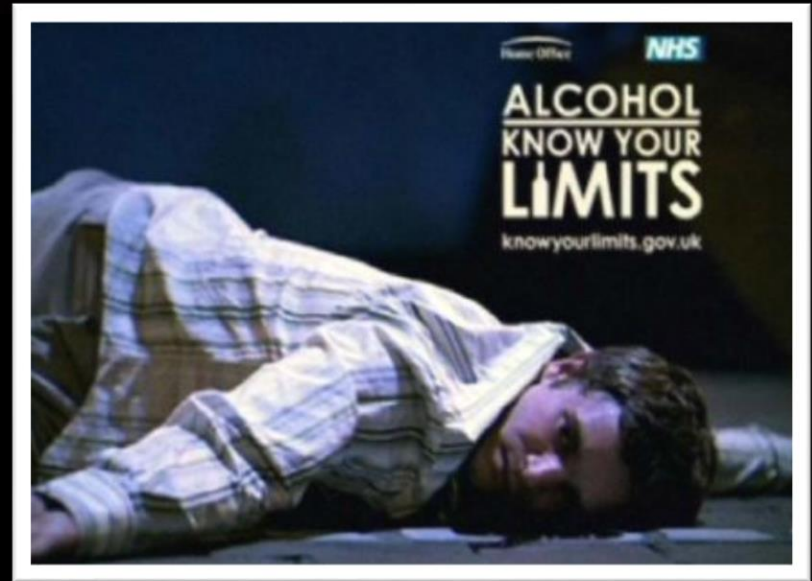


Diagnostic Framing

More Successful
Tobacco: The industry as
vector of disease



Less Successful
Alcohol: An individual or a
public health problem?



Prognostic Framing

- More Successful
 - Tuberculosis: DOTS
- From Lesser to Greater Success
 - Maternal Survival:
Historical disagreements over
intervention strategy.
Subsequently greater
consensus.



Motivational Framing

More Successful

- When positioning connected to social justice or threat.
 - Maternal survival: Social justice.
 - Tuberculosis: Social threat.

Less Successful

When positioning limited to public health arguments.



Maternal Survival: Celebrating Progress and Accelerating Action

Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Core Finding 3: What Effective Networks Do

Build political, not just technical coalitions

- More Successful
 - Maternal survival: From insular and technical to broad political coalition.
- Less Successful
 - Alcohol: Largely individual and Northern-based.
 - Pneumonia: Historically fragmented.



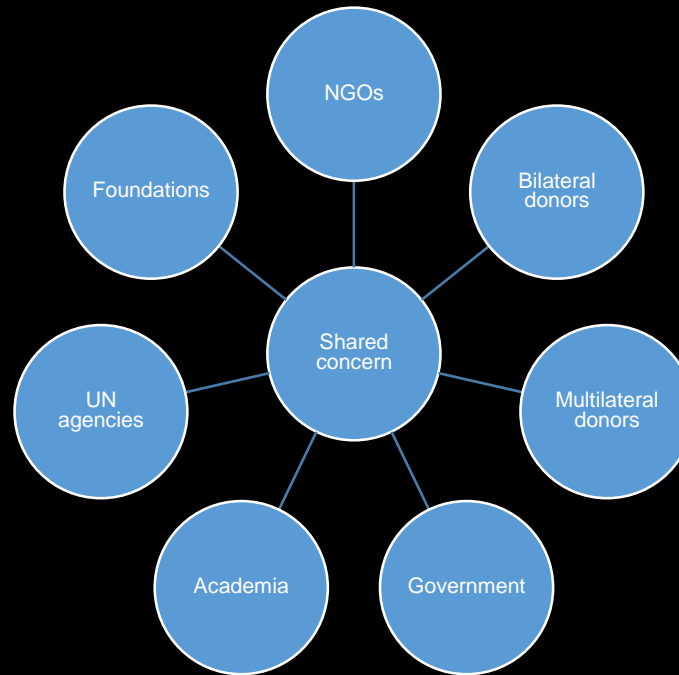
Networks Only a Partial Explanation for Variance in Global Policy Attention, but an Important Influence

Network and Actor Features

Policy Environment



Example: Maternal but not neonatal survival in MDGs



Issue Characteristics



Example: Tobacco use – unequivocal evidence of harm

Considering the Counter-factual

What policy change would have occurred in the absence of networks?

Reiterating Core Findings

- Network effects are most pronounced at the global level
- Effective networks construct powerful issue frames
- Effective networks build political coalitions that extend beyond the health sector

➔ However, networks are only one among many factors shaping priority.



Reasons to Affirm and Question Legitimacy

- Reasons to Affirm
 - Raise attention to neglected issues.
 - Bring expertise to bear.
- Reasons to Question
 - Many dominated by Northern actors; little voice for those most affected.
 - Fragment global health governance.



Future Research: Considering Applicability Beyond Cases, and Causal Weights

Category	Factor	Applicability and Causal Weights
Network and actor features	Leadership	
	Governance	
	Composition	
	Framing strategies	
Policy environment	Allies and opponents	
	Funding	
	Norms	
Issue characteristics	Severity	
	Tractability	
	Affected groups	

Broad Implications of Study

- Challenge to impersonal explanations focused solely on issue characteristics or structural forces.
- Human agency matters.
 - Networks alter social reality, including understanding of the issue
 - Policy attention is historically conditioned but not historically determined
- Optimistic finding for neglected issues.

