



Strengthening Accountability for Health Equity at the Institute of Development Studies

‘Accountability for Health Equity’ is an approach that places relationships of power at the centre of our understanding of how health systems function – or don’t – for all levels of society. Together with our partners, IDS co-produces knowledge on accountability change processes that have the potential to shift health inequities. The ethos of mutual learning is fundamental to our work.

Find out more: bit.ly/Accountabilityforhealth

IDS brings a critical development perspective to accountability for health equity

IDS has been examining accountability as a process driven by competing interests, forms of power and rights for over two decades. The IDS Accountability for Health Equity programme is carried out in collaboration with a wide range of partners and networks across the globe.

The programme aims to bring together strategic actors to build knowledge about what works, and what doesn't, and how best to push the accountability for health equity agenda forward in different political spaces. It also intends to broaden engagement on the topic of accountability for health equity so that it reaches new actors and generates new alliances.

Convening for mutual learning on accountability for health equity

Creating opportunities for mutual learning between countries to generate new alliances and strengthen existing partnerships is fundamental to influence change agents such as global and national-level citizen activists, policy makers, health professionals, and business leaders.

IDS takes a 'learning journey' approach which involves a set of interlinked learning activities running over several months or longer. These are adapted according to stakeholder needs and include: face to face learning exchanges and online dialogues that convene diverse actors from different geographies, sectors and disciplines; a rapid response research service which provides the best available current knowledge and evidence; and online knowledge resources.

Strengthening accountability for health equity through evidence and analysis

IDS works with change agents to co-generate knowledge on accountability gaps, failures and strategies for positive change. IDS' research analyses the interconnection of local, national and global relationships of power and their influence on accountability interventions, and examines new approaches to accountability for health equity that are emerging in different country contexts.

IDS takes a long view of accountability change processes, both in the methods IDS develops to share with action strategists and health practitioners, and in the multi-disciplinary approach IDS takes to understanding the challenges and barriers to positive change.

IDS seeks to better understand how to institutionalise pro-equity accountability relations in national health systems; how to involve private actors in accountability arrangements; how to ensure accountability processes leave no one behind; how decentralisation can deliver for health equity; and how to best map accountability relationships to enable pro-equity actions.

Get in touch

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