

UQ Winter Research Project Description

Project title:	Enacting accountability: the role of non-state actors in global development goals
Project duration:	6 weeks
Description:	<p>Background Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other non-state actors are increasingly providing health services on behalf of or in lieu of, the state making them important actors in achieving global health targets such as those articulated in the Millennium Development Goals or their successors – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This raises the questions how, in what ways, in what contexts and to whom, are non-governmental organisations and other non-state actors accountable for achievement of global goals and how are accountability mechanisms operationalised in practice? What incentives drive (or hamper) non-state actors efforts in contributing to the achievement of development goals?</p> <p>Aim A new global target in the SDGs aims to reduce premature deaths due to NCDs by one third by 2030. Multiple for and not-for profit non-state actors will be influential in the extent to which this goal is met. In this study, we examine the role of non-state actors and ask how and in what ways they can be accountable to contributing to achieving this goal.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify how tools such as global target are expected to promote accountability (and accountability of who to who) and the extent to which non-state actors are included in accountability mechanisms related to global targets. 2) Identify how the chain of results of the accountability intervention (i.e. global targets) are expected to ‘work’ 3) Identify the reported (favourable and unfavourable) outcomes of global targets and at what levels (individual, organizational, societal) and what, if anything, non-state actors are expected to report. 4) Identify the impact of global targets (both positive and negative) on non-state actors involved in international health development?
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	<p>The successful scholar will have an opportunity to work on a project that aims to provide timely information to policy makers to help guide interpretation of progress towards the global goals and to help improve global accountability mechanisms.</p> <p>The successful scholar will develop skills in undertaking systematic literature reviews, data extraction and analysis using realist synthesis – an approach increasingly being used to provide timely information to policy makers and which involves synthesising a wide range of evidence to identify underlying causal mechanisms and explore how they work under what conditions.</p> <p>The scholar will have the opportunity to generate a manuscript under guidance, to submit to an international peer-reviewed journal.</p>

Suitable for:	<p>This project is suitable for students with an interest in global health, international development, political science and the role of civil society and non-state actors in achieving the global development goals. In addition, potential scholars will need to have a demonstrated ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake a structured literature database search• Work to timelines• Produce high quality written work
Primary Supervisor:	<p>Co-supervised by:</p> <p>Dr Hebe Gouda and Dr Jo Durham School of Public Health</p>
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