Stakeholder analysis and engagement: From theory to practice

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Objectives
Time and again we are reminded of the importance of relationships in influencing an agenda - be it in informing research priorities, policy decision-making, or even brokering networks. In this session we will discuss how such relationships can be built, nurtured and leveraged to bridge the “know-do” gap and advance evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM). The objectives are to:

• Discuss the theory of stakeholder analysis and engagement
• Encourage researchers as well as decision-makers to foster trusting relationships with stakeholders
• Explore and potential opportunities for engagement and discuss ways to capitalize on these
• Practically map the power and interest of stakeholders relevant to an issue of interest
• Analyse the stakeholder maps with a view to identify priorities as well as gaps

Brief description of content
This is a practical workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge as well as practice in stakeholder mapping and analysis. It includes discovery sessions, role pays as well as practical output development. Participants will be introduced to key aspects as well as theories that underpin the importance of the exercise. Participants are encouraged to come to the workshops with a clear topic or issue in mind that is relevant to various stakeholders that are important to identify and manage. Each participant or team will produce their own stakeholder analysis based on the identified issue and will receive constructive feedback and ideas from facilitators as well as peers in the workshop.