

HCD PHASES

Tip #1

Tip #2

Tip #3

Tip #4

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Tip #7

Planning

Identify the various disciplines that are critical towards achieving the desired outcome of the intervention. For example, previous interdisciplinary ASRH/HCD programs have leveraged behavioral science, social marketing, gender, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Form consortiums or advisory boards that are reflective of the various disciplines previously identified as essential towards achieving the desired outcome. If creating an advisory board, consider whether compensation is feasible and/or desirable for members who dedicate their time and expertise. Be careful about adding on too many partners or members, as the program design process will become more complex when more disciplines are added.

Ensure the roles and expectations of all contributing members or partners are defined in order to ensure complementarity. Make sure to outline a clear vision for the role that each partner would play and how their expertise would add value to the program effort.

Create an interdisciplinary learning agenda that includes research and evaluation questions of interest relevant to the various partners represented.

Invest time setting norms, forming relationships, and allowing partners to better understand each other's expertise and ways of working, in order to create a solid foundation for collaboration.

To manage large consortiums, prime partners should budget 50-100% more of project management and coordination work than a normal project to ensure all actors are working in a structured and cohesive manner.

Select T-shaped individuals as partners, where the T stands for the combination of a depth of knowledge and experience in their own fields (the vertical bar of the T) as well as their ability to reach out and connect with others and create meaningful collaborations (the horizontal bar of the T).

Research

Develop areas of inquiry that span the topic areas of various relevant disciplines.

Refer to accepted frameworks related to the range of disciplines that are relevant to the desired outcome and ASRH programming.

Prototyping

Allow advisory board members or consortium partners to provide input on the prototyping concepts to ensure prototypes build upon existing learning and evidence from their respective disciplines. They should also provide feedback on the evaluation criteria and data collection tools for each prototype to ensure results from the prototyping phase are well-positioned to support discipline-specific learning and potential for impact.

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Implementation

Budget time and resources to retain advisory board members or consortium partners through the implementation stage to provide discipline-specific expertise to any iterations of the intervention model that have been revealed through process findings.

Evaluation

Consider including a range of outcomes and high-priority questions from relevant disciplines.

Document and disseminate reflections of any disciplines or perspectives that would have been beneficial towards achieving the project outcome but was not integrated due to time or resource constraints.

Conduct a structured reflection process with all members of the consortium to identify successes, tips, and challenges in interdisciplinary collaboration that the sector would benefit from learning.

Across Phases

Build in opportunities for all partners to reflect, offer input, and review evidence after each project phase. This helps ensure that HCD is grounded in evidence and that each partner's expertise is respected and incorporated in the process.

Links to relevant open-source resources (e.g. case studies, checklists, tools, trainings)

Integrating Human-Centered Design in a Multidisciplinary Effort to Address Provider Bias: The Beyond Bias Experience
<https://partenariatouaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BeyondBias-Brief-2-Application.pdf>

Minimum Standards for Disciplinary Engagement
<https://a360learninghub.org/open-source/prototyping/standards-disciplinary-engagment/>

Complexity in Health: Can Design Help Support Interdisciplinary Solutions?
https://www.ghspjournal.org/content/9/Supplement_2/S217

Design And Impact Evaluation of a Digital Reproductive Health Program In Rwanda Using a Cluster Randomized Design: Study Protocol
<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-020-09746-7>

Four Big Insights from HCDEXchange
<https://www.psi.org/2018/02/four-insights-hcd-exchange/>