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Civil society participation in global public-private partnerships for health



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Global governance

- The growth of governance beyond the nation state has been described as ‘one of the most distinct political developments of the past half-century’ (Bexell *et al.*, 2010, p. 81)

Main global health governance actors

- 1) Multilateral organisations
- 2) National aid agencies
- 3) Private foundations
- 4) The private sector and its engagement through public-private partnerships
- 5) Non-governmental and civil society organisations

(Sridhar 2009)

The democratic deficit of PPPs

- Public-private partnership model widely praised as an innovative form of governance
- Critics identify power imbalances within this new form of governance that are eclipsed by the use of the term 'partnership'
- 'Civil society engagement' as a panacea

- Civil society organisations provide “essential voices in a discordant global health conversation often dominated by risk-adverse multilaterals, corrupt governments, and neo-colonial donors” (*The Lancet*, 2016: 1041).
- Civil society organisations as the “catalyst” for the transformations needed to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (Smith et al. 2016)

Civil society participation in global public-private partnerships for health

- How do specific partnerships define 'civil society'?
- What functions do they expect civil society 'partners' to fulfil within global-level decision-making processes?
- Who actually represents civil society within the partnerships' governing bodies?
- What level of formal power do these representatives have relative to other partners? (Storeng and de Bengy Puyvallée 2018)

Methods

- Review of public documents from 18 global public–private partnerships for health, focussing on their operations at the global headquarter level, rather than at the country-level (November 2017).

Table 1: Description of the 18 global public-private partnerships for health studied

Name	Year of initiation	Focus area	Main decision-making body	Number of seats with voting rights	Headquarters location
<u>Aeras</u>	2005	Vaccines against tuberculosis	Board of directors	11	Rockville, Maryland, USA
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi)	2003	Drugs for neglected diseases	Board of directors	13	Geneva, Switzerland
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)	2003	Diagnostic solutions	Board of directors	12	Geneva, Switzerland
International Vaccine Institute (IVI)	1997	Develop new vaccines	Board of trustees	14	Seoul, South Korea
Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)	1999	Drugs for malaria	Board of directors	14	Geneva, Switzerland
TB Alliance	2000	Drugs for tuberculosis	Board of directors	7	New York City, NY, USA
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (gain)	2002	Malnutrition	Board of directors	13	Geneva, Switzerland
Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT)	2013	Research and development on infectious diseases	Board of directors	11	Tokyo, Japan
Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)	1999	Road safety	Steering committee	15	Geneva, Switzerland
Scaling up Nutrition (SUN)	2010	Malnutrition	Executive committee	15	Geneva, Switzerland
The Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves	2010	Air quality	Leadership council	10	Washington, D.C., USA
The Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP)	2001	Handwashing / WASH	Steering committee	9	Washington, D.C., USA
Nutrition International	1992	Malnutrition / micronutrients	Board of directors	12	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Roll Back Malaria	1998	Malaria	Partnership board	14	Vernier, Switzerland
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund)	2002	HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; Malaria	Board	20	Geneva, Switzerland
The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)	2005	Maternal & child health	Board	29	Geneva, Switzerland
Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance	2000	Vaccines	Board	28	Geneva, Switzerland
Stop TB Partnership	2000	Tuberculosis	Board	25	Vernier, Switzerland

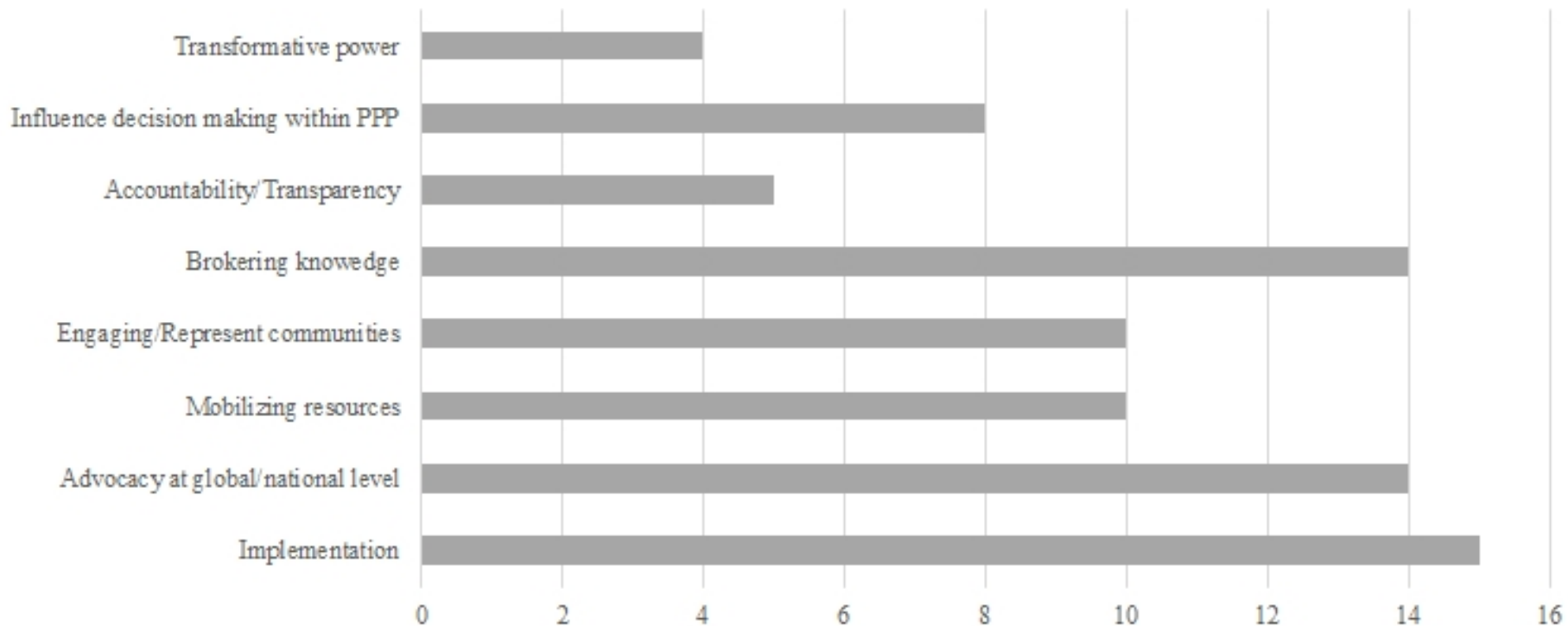
What is civil society?

Table 2. Actors included in partnerships' definitions of 'civil society'

	Affected communities/ patient representatives	NGOs	Advocacy groups	Academia and research entities	Professional organizations	Faith-based organizations
SUN	X	X	X	X	X	
The Global Fund	X	X	X			X
GAVI	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stop TB Partnership	X	X				

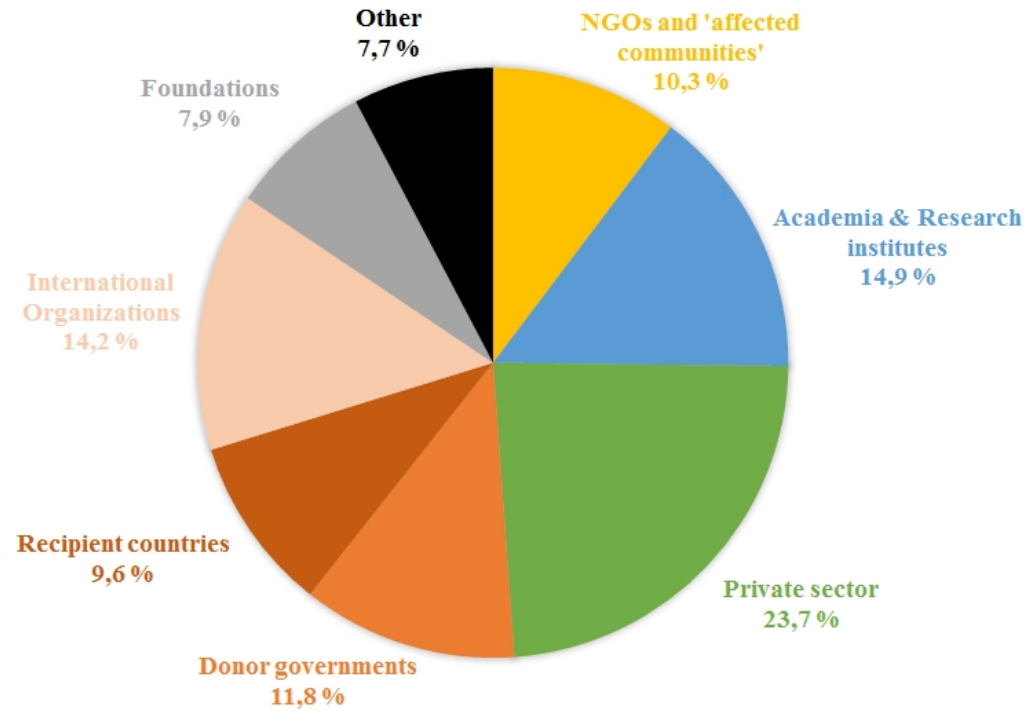
How do PPPs describe civil society partners' roles?

Figure 1: Partnerships' description of civil society partners's role



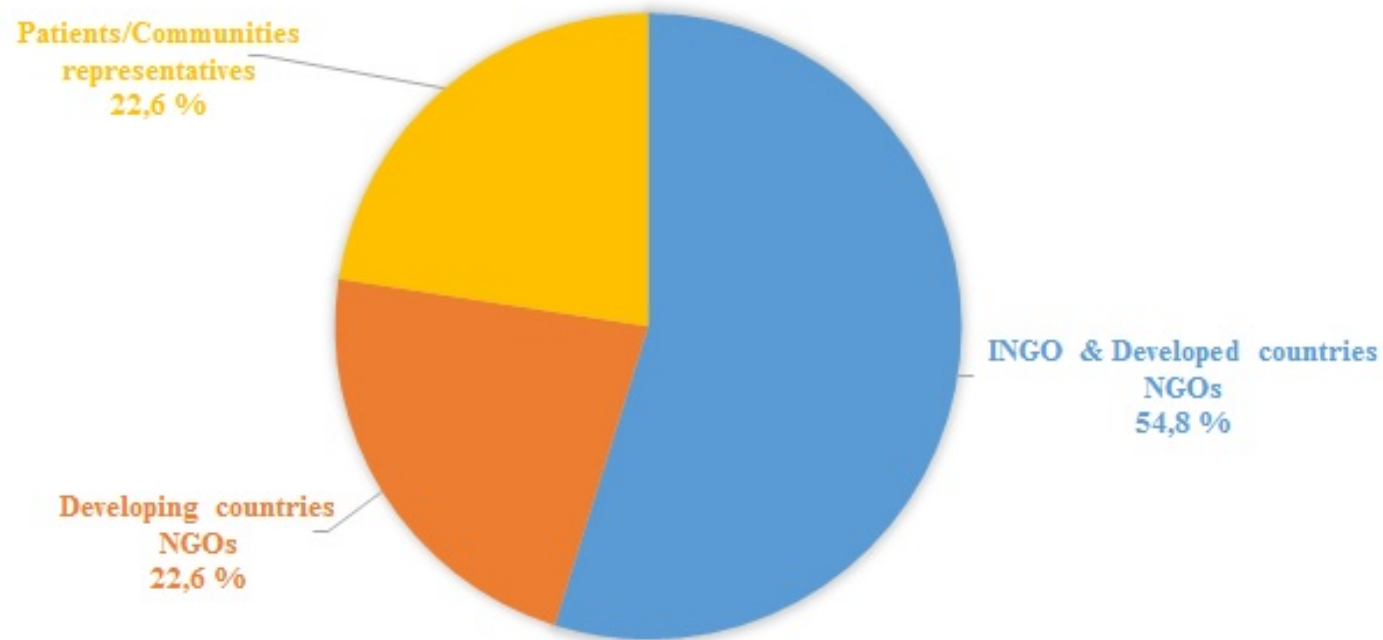
How well are civil society 'partners' represented in decision-making?

Figure 4: Average board composition of 18 major public-private partnerships for global health



Who represents civil society in PPPs?

Figure 3: Institutional affiliation of the partnerships' board members representing 'NGO and affected communities'



Key messages

- Most global public–private partnerships for health emphasize the importance of civil society engagement, but few precisely define civil society or specify civil society’s role within governance processes.
- International NGOs are the main representatives of civil society within health partnership’s global-level governing bodies. They have relatively little formal power compared with private–sector partners.
- Global public–private partnerships emphasize civil society partners’ role in project implementation, advocacy and fundraising, but rarely their role as watchdogs or critical voices in global-level decision-making.



- THANK YOU!

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