

Globalisation and health

Implementing healthy public policy

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The barriers for successful healthy public policy are very obvious in a sense. You know each sector likes to work for itself. Also frequently the measures of success for each sector are only within the sector so the education sector will be asked, you know, 'how many children have you educated and how well?' but it won't necessarily be asked, 'what has been the health impact of that?' and then of course its related to funding because frequently particularly as far as determinants of health goes the funding in relation to the determinants education work, support for mothers with small children etc. will be in a sector that doesn't necessarily then get the political credit for the results. Then of course doing healthy public policy is difficult because many of the results are long-term. First of all the policy process in itself is long-term. You need to get many stakeholders round the table. You need to agree. You probably need to introduce new funding mechanisms for example,

So what we have learnt over the years is that it mustn't be the health sector asking for the accountability. It mustn't be saying 'you do health because of us' but to show that health is important for what you do if you consider health, the work in your sector will probably be easier and better, and then of course that this is about the wealth and the development of the whole society and not just the areas of responsibility of one area of policy or government.