

Living Lab Case Study: Stakeholder Mapping

Producing a stakeholder map has helped us to think about the groups we most want to engage, consider any barriers to engagement and create a practical, meaningful plan for mutually beneficial delivery. Our map was far-reaching:

- Home institution
- UK institutions
- International institutions
- Networks at home and abroad
- Funders at home and abroad



For each of these stakeholders, we identified different motives and influences, ranging from embedding the tool in existing processes at our home institution, to creating new research collaborations with Mahidol University in Thailand and setting up a new campus with Valuing Voices at its centre in Mumbai. These purposes helped us keep our work on track. But having such a range of stakeholders within the scope of a single project, all with different working practices, has not come without its challenges:

1. Over ambition: Trying to achieve too much, which can lead to unrealistic expectations and stakeholder fatigue.
2. Output vs outcome: Focusing on research outputs rather than longer term project outcomes.
3. Lack of practice: Teams may be inexperienced in international collaboration and core skills like facilitation and conflict resolution.
4. Time and resources: Effective engagement is resource-intensive. Contracts are not permanent and projects are short.
5. Range and reach: It can be hard to get the balance right.
6. Different processes: Stakeholders have varying internal timelines, approval processes, and decision-making structures.

We have continued to address these challenges by checking in with our partners regularly and reflecting on what actions to take from those conversations. Keeping the mutual benefits of engagement at the forefront has been key to creating equitable and effective relationships with those who have a stake in the project.