

*The Impact of Health Systems
Research in Supporting In-Patient
Paediatric Services in Kenya's
Primary Referral Hospitals.*

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Degree of Doctor of Science [DSC] in
Medicine

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Taifa Hall

DEDICATION

My Late Son Kizito Wafula

Passed in 2003 [tender age of 20 years]



My Late Brother Paul Albert

Passed in 2000 [young age of 54]



And of course my late parents
The most humble and most family committed **Domasus** and
The Master of Behaviour Correction **Teresia**

Scope of the thesis presentation



Introduction



Rationale and methods for the research and publications



Rationale and conceptualization of the thesis



Findings, Interpretations and Discussions



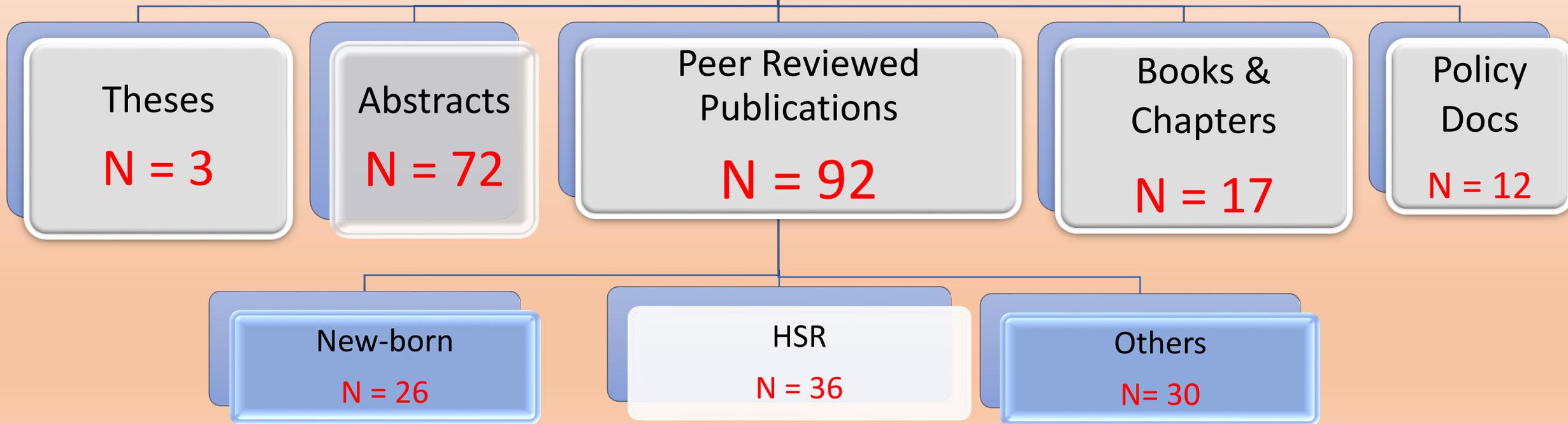
Contribution of the research and thesis to society

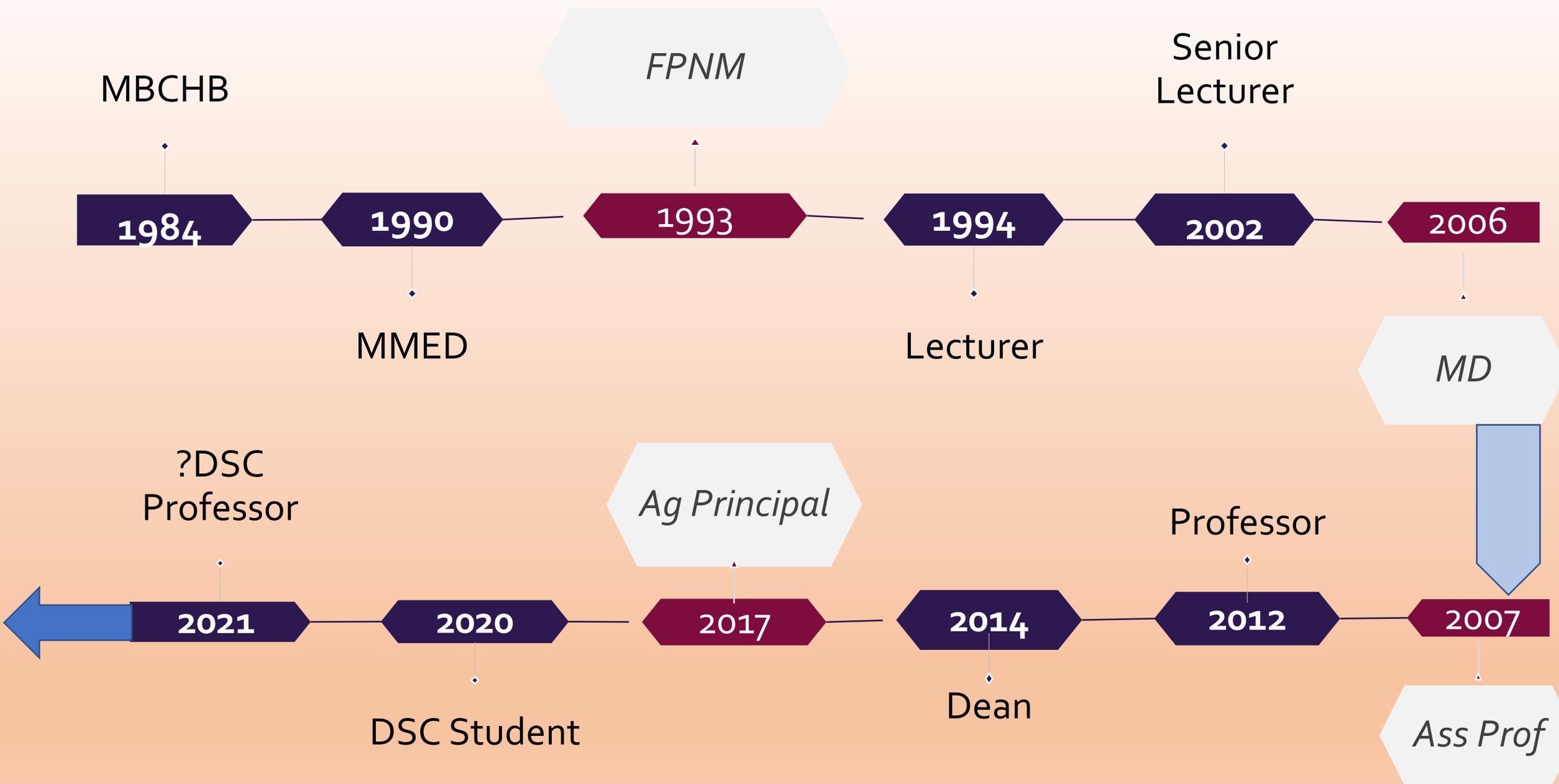
Introduction



LITERARY OUTPUTS by 2020

N=196

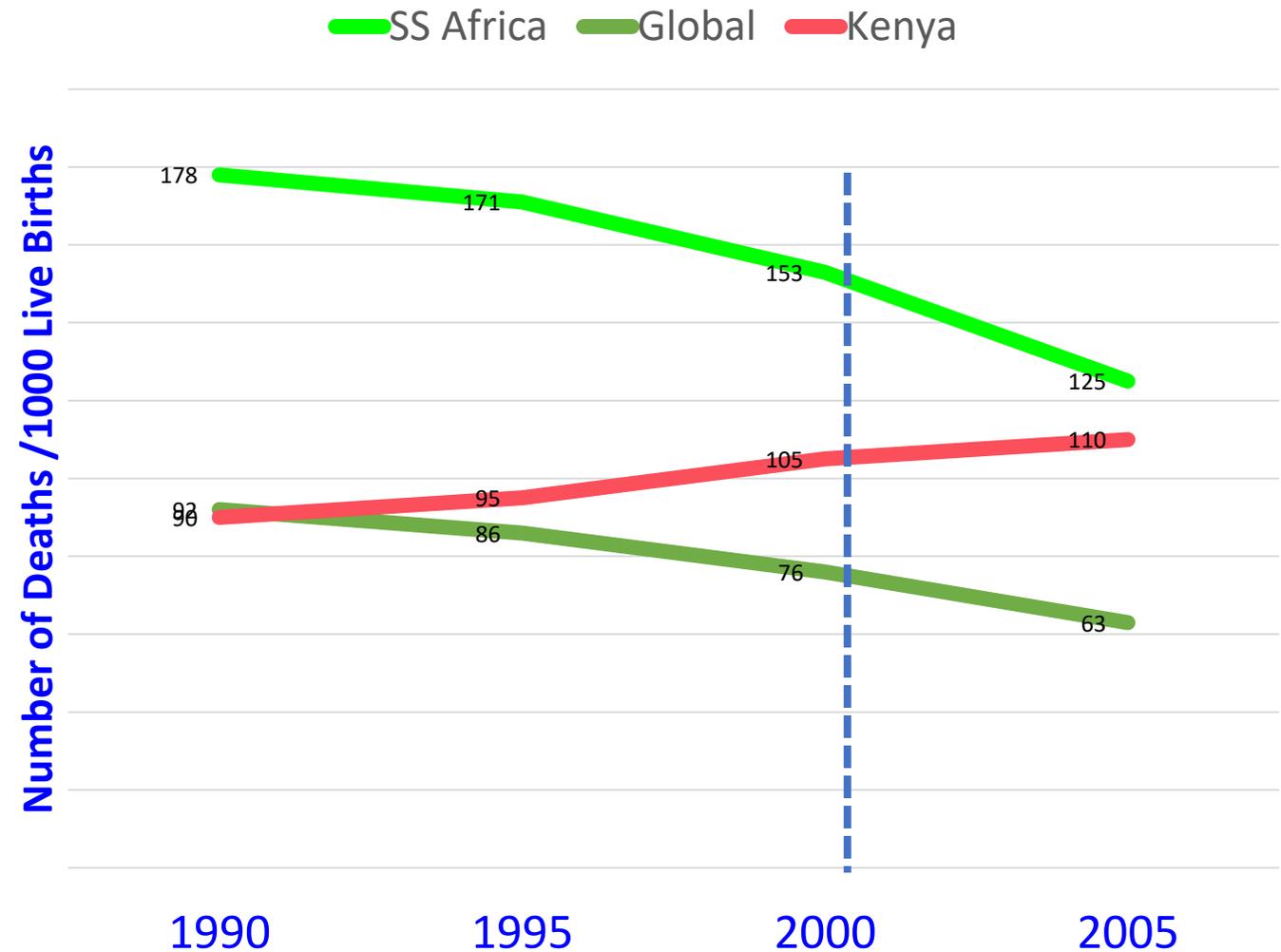




Child survival trends from 1990 -2005

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/child-mortality-report-2018.shtml>,

Source: Welfare monitoring Survey II1994, Situation Analysis of Women & Children 1989 , KDHS 1998, 2003, 2008

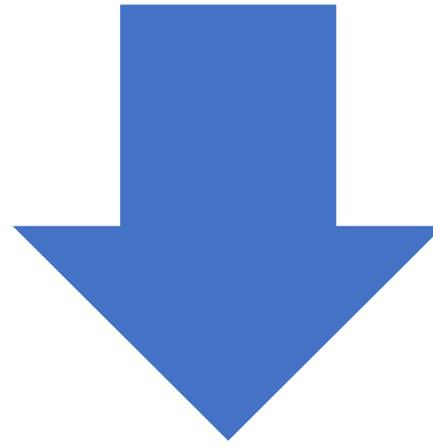


The Millennium Development Goals



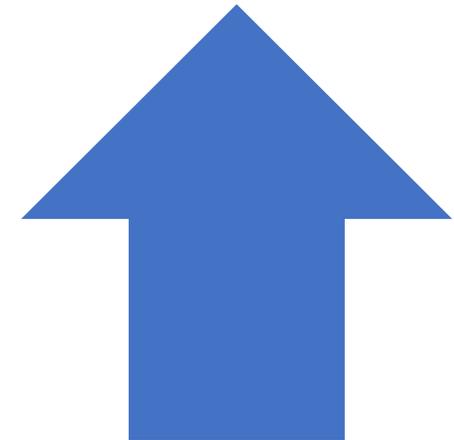
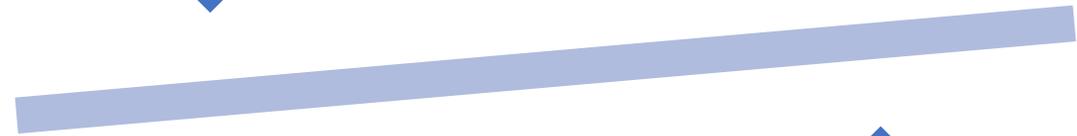
Global Motivation to accelerate reduction of child mortality using research driven interventions





Preventive

Well Supported
Programs



Curative

Weak Health
Systems

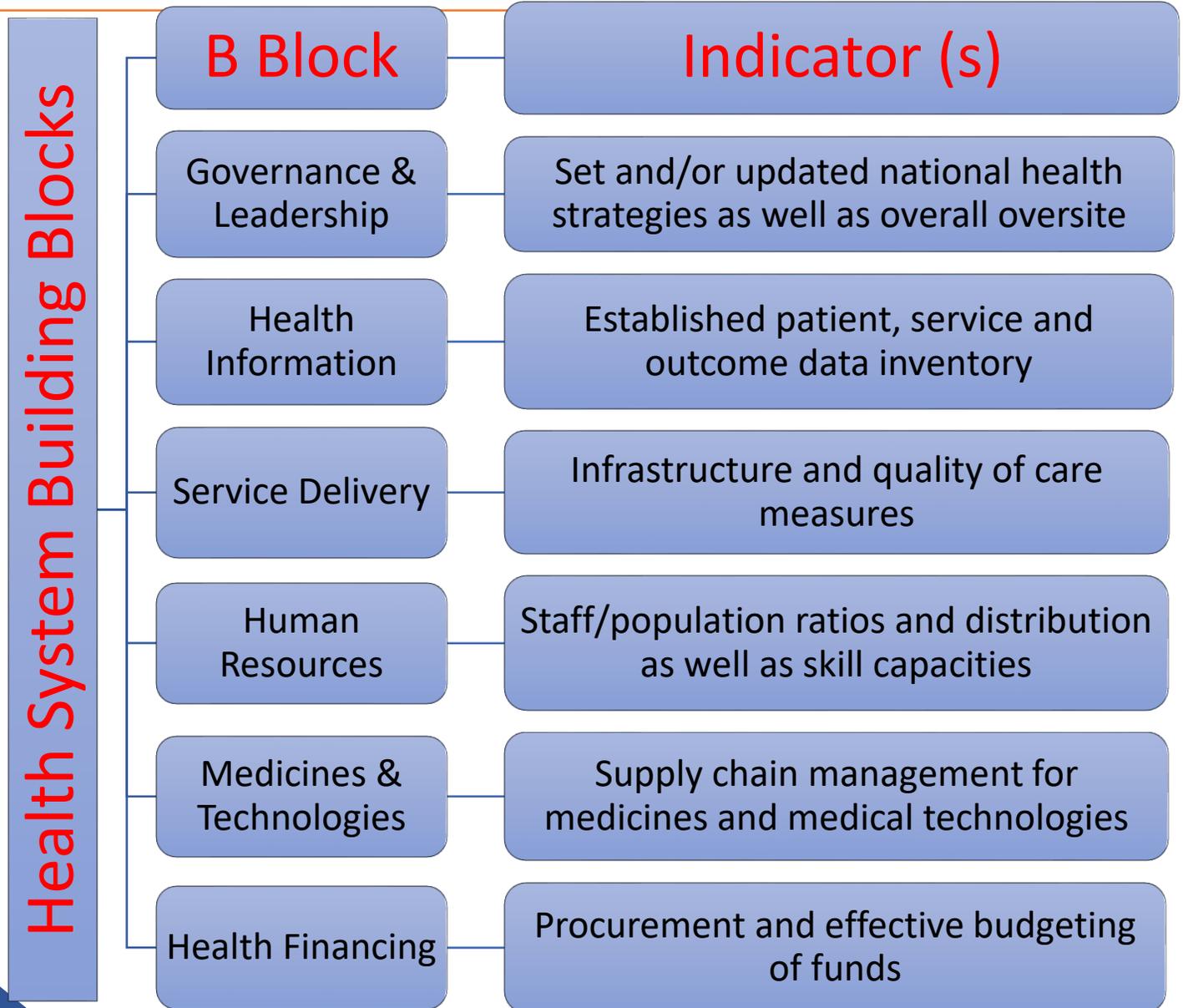
The balance of
global/local interest



Health Systems (HS) refers to all **organizations, people and actions** whose primary intent is to **promote, restore or maintain health**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_system

Health Systems Building Blocks



Linking HS with HSR



HS Performance indicators are situation audits



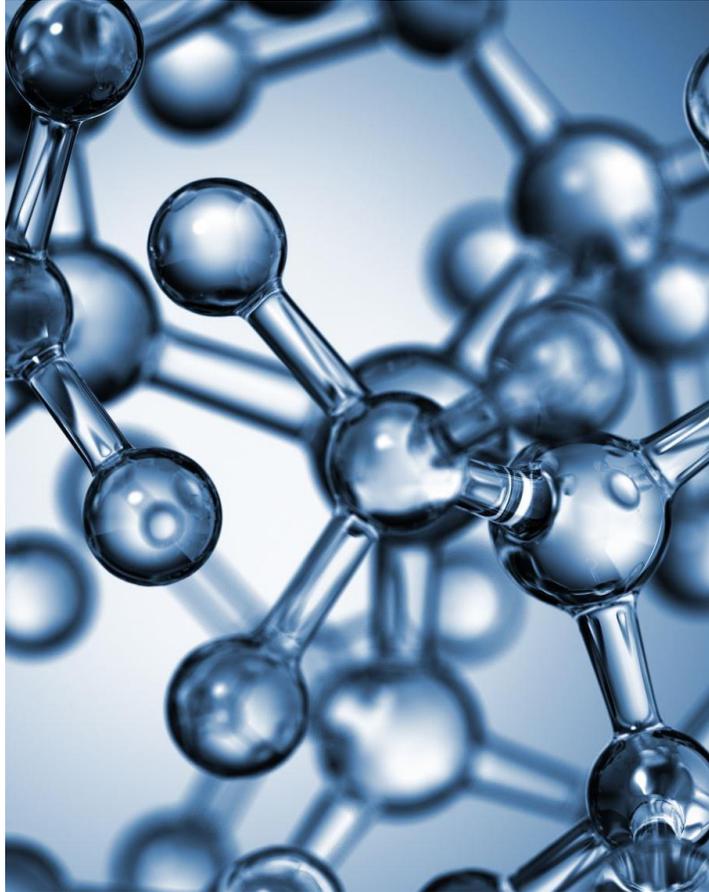
They inform us of structural and process gaps in services provided



Appropriate and adequate response to them requires HSR

http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_backgroundpaperhpsrstrat1.pdf

Health Systems Research

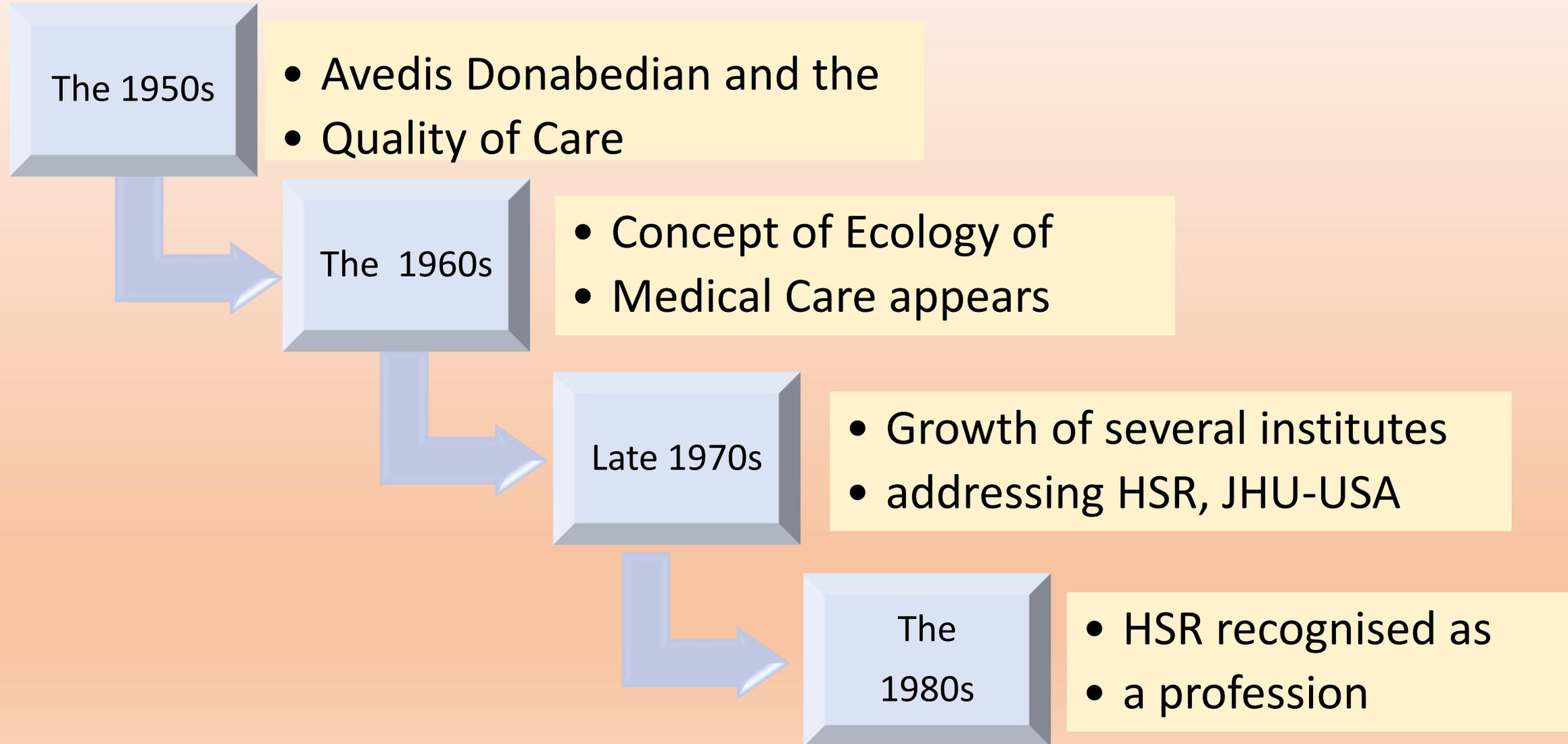


HSR is “a *multidisciplinary* field of health research which studies *governance, financial and delivery arrangements* for health care and public health services”.

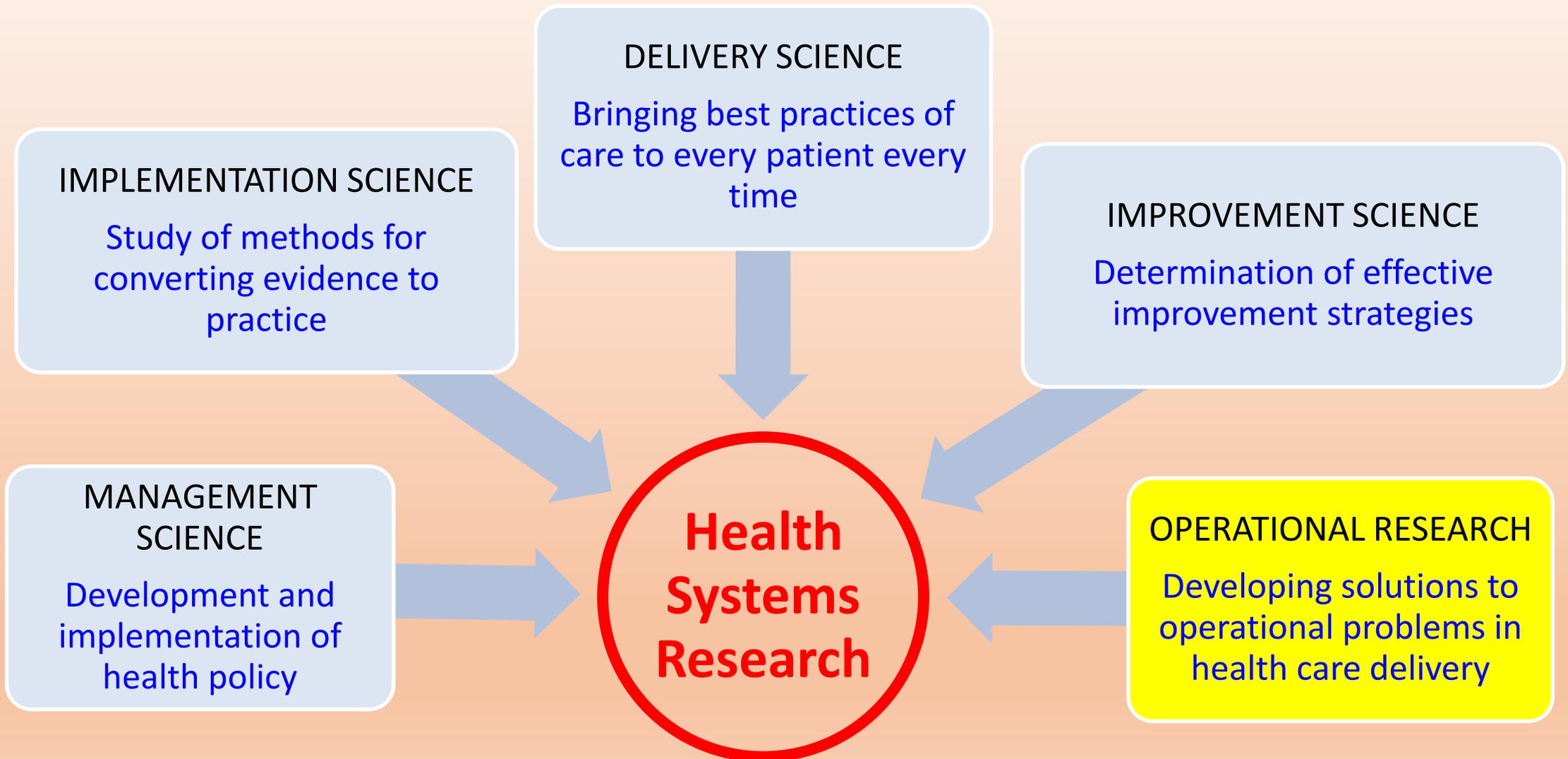
HSR includes implementation considerations for reforming or strengthening these arrangements, and broader economic, legal, political and social contexts in which these arrangements are negotiated and operate.

*The purpose of health systems research is to improve the *understanding and performance* of health systems.*

Evolution of HSR



Sub-theme Definitions





Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, Beijing, China, October 29, 2007

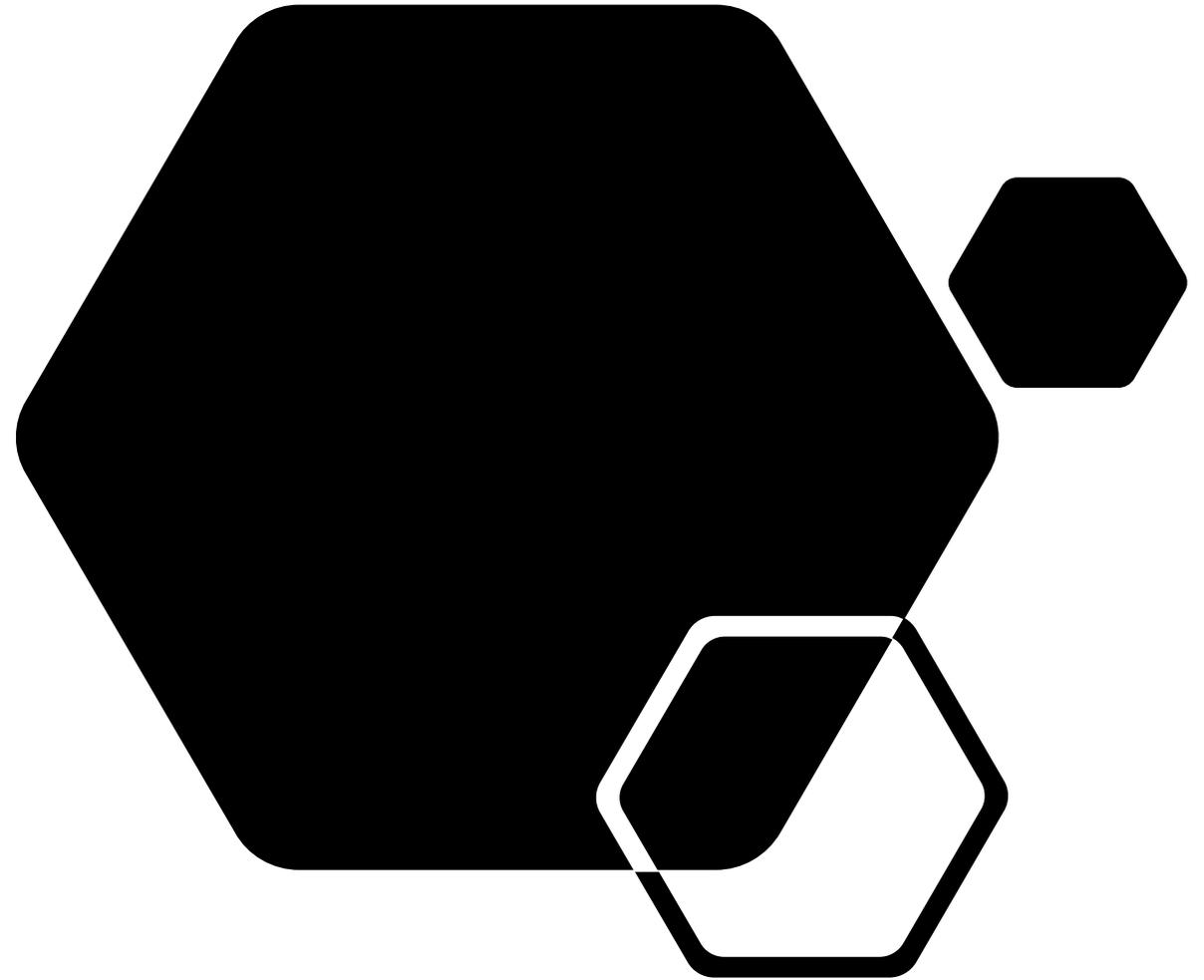
“Something is wrong. For the first time, public health has commitment, resources, and powerful interventions.

What is missing is this: the power of these interventions is not matched by the power of health systems to deliver them to those in greatest need, on an adequate scale, in time.

In part, this lack of capacity arises from the failure of governments all around the world to invest adequately in basic health systems. It also arises, in part, from the fact that research on health systems has been so badly neglected and underfunded. The two go together. So long as investments in health systems are given low priority, research in this area will also be neglected.

In the absence of sound evidence, we will have no good way to compel efficient investments in health systems.”

Objectives and Methods for the Primary Research(es)



Global objectives of the research

The **overall aim** of these research programs was to initiate a culture of Health Systems Research as a tool for enhancement of better child health and survival.

Objective 1

Describe the performance indicators of health systems supporting in-patient care in 1⁰ ref. hospitals

Objective 2

Undertake interventional studies within the auspices of HSR to correct gaps found

Objective 3

Use the findings of the research for enhancement of practice and policy

Study designs

	Type	Section
1	Cross-sectional	HS performance indicator surveys in 2002 and 2015.
		Additional studies measuring uptake of various interventions within the delivery science research
2	Systematic reviews and commentaries	Employed for the commentaries from which health management science portfolio was build
3	Randomized Controlled Trials	Used in all the implementation and improvement sciences works

Selection of Interventions Study Hospitals

Hospital	Malaria transmission setting	Antenatal HIV prevalence	Infant Mortality per 1000	Catchment population poverty [∞]	Annual paediatric admissions
Intervention	Highland	High*	70	50 - 70	5,000
Control	Highland	High	>100	50 - 70	4,500
Intervention	Intense	High	>100	50 - 70	3,500
Control	Intense	High	>100	50 - 70	2,500
Intervention	Low	Mod**	40	35	3,300
Control	Low	Mod	40	35	1,800
Intervention	Arid	Mod	70	50 - 70	1,700
Control	Arid	Mod	70	50 - 70	1,100
>10%*, 5-10%** , Income <\$2/day % [∞]					

Intervention Methods

Multifaceted Intervention For Implementing CPG

Interventions	
1	6 monthly performance surveys
2	Verbal feedback after each survey
3	Written feedback of survey findings
4	Training (based on WHO ETAT)
5	Dissemination of CPGs
6	Dissemination of job aids
7	3 Monthly supervisory visits
8	On-site problem solving capacity
9	Introductory seminar on the CPGs

Sequence of deployment		
Timing	Intervention group	Control group
Baseline	1 – 8	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
6 months	1 - 3, 7 & 8	1, 3
12 months	1 - 3, 7 & 8	1, 3
18 months	1 - 3, 7 & 8	1, 3

Training Methods

STRATEGY	METHODOLOGY
Behavioural change model	Didactic sessions in followed by repeated interactive learning sessions.
Adult learning theories	Active participatory learning in small group interactive sessions
Social influence theory	Involvement of local experts in development of the tools and training facilitation by credible individuals thereby building trainee trust.
Diffusion of innovation theory	Extensive training to create a critical mass of people supporting the new practices.
Health education model [3 strategies]	Predisposing (best practice lectures, Enabling (practise of skills and Reinforcement (feedback on personal performance).
Reflection	Problem-based audit , local evidence supported feedback , small group learning through role-play ending with post course evaluation .

Policy engagement process for new-born care

Phase 1

Defining expected standards of care

Reviewing existing policies

Initial stakeholder identification

Phase 2

Determine access gap [burden and access to facilities]

Determine effective coverage gap [access & quality]

Explore impact of missed care on effective coverage

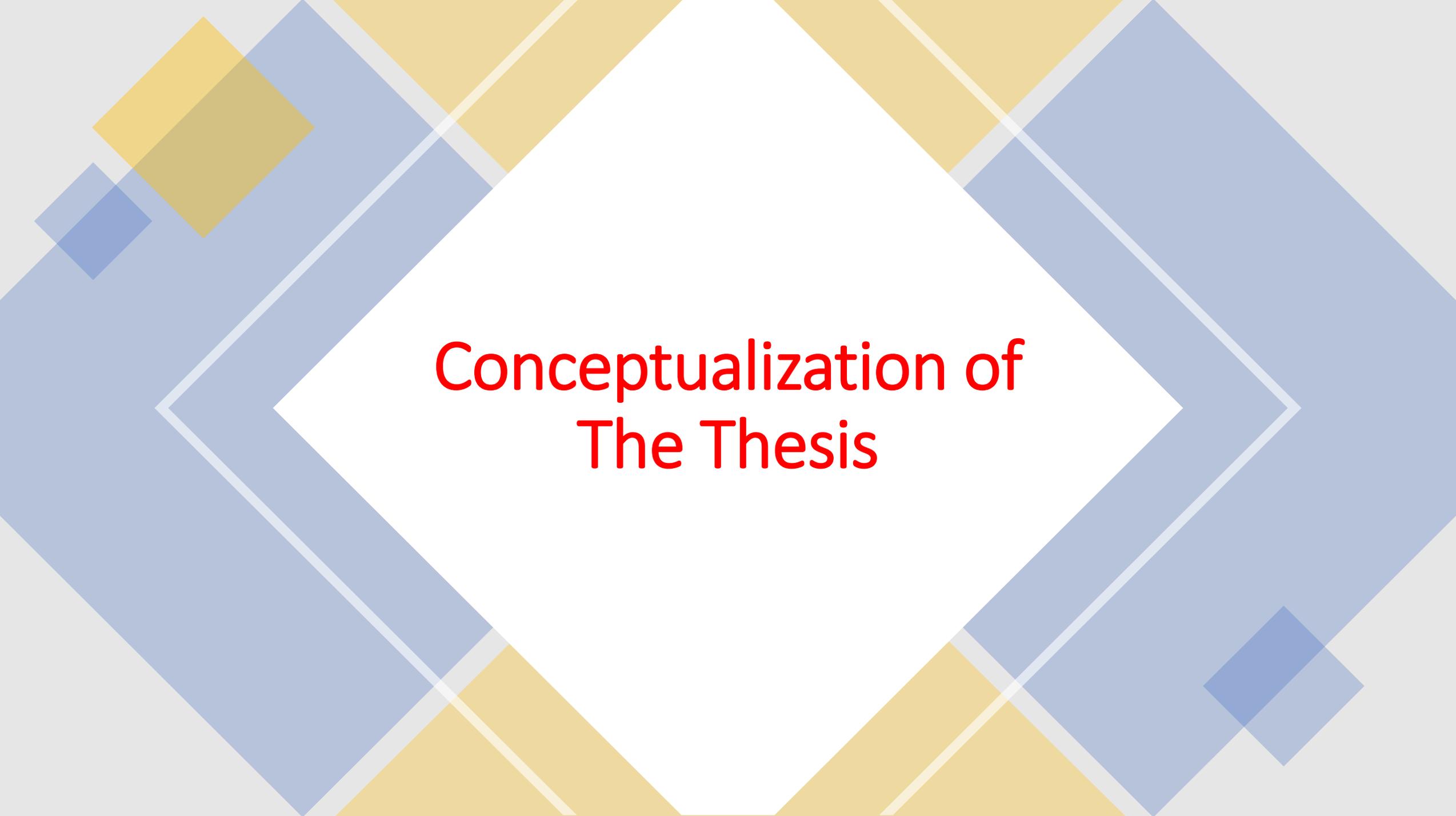
Phase 3

Presentation and discussion of findings

Develop policy options for better care

Policy for creating health care assistant position

Development of a strategy research testing effects of HCA



Conceptualization of The Thesis

Rationalization

1

Provide a thematic narrative of >18 yrs work in HSR supporting child health

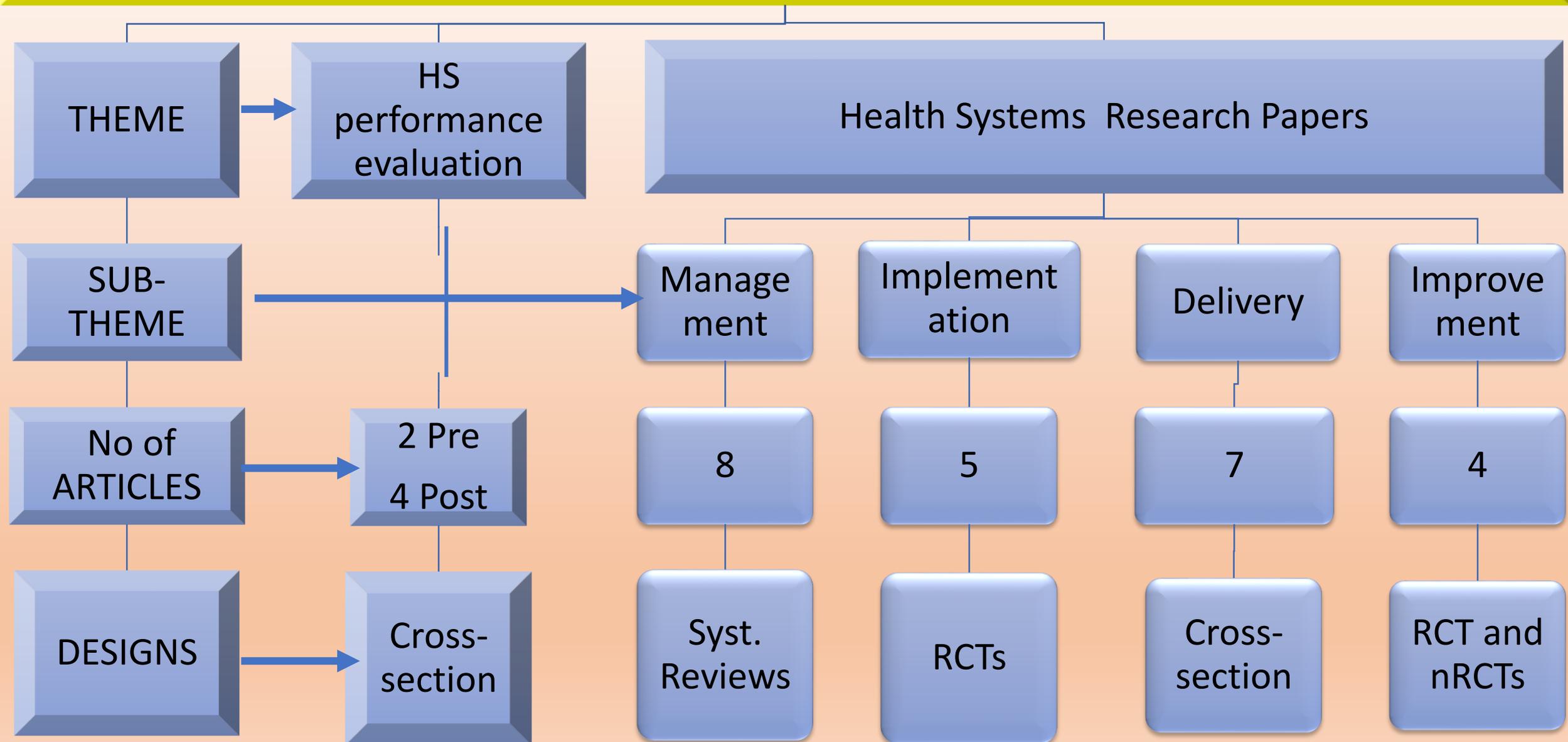
2

Analyse and Report the impact of HSR based interventions in improving care of children admitted in Kenya

3

Share Kenya's HSR experiences and outputs as tools usable by others in L&LMICs

PUBLICATIONS COMPRISING THE THESIS



Basis of classification of the research categories

Classification	Design	Justification for classification
HS Performance	Cross-sectional	Descriptive studies simply quantifying the presence of relevant the indicators
Management	Commentaries and non-comparative interventional	Review of existing norms in policy development. Reporting development of policies and guidelines and development processes
Implementation	Cluster/parallel/simple randomised trials	Papers reporting proof of acceptability and impact of locally developed tools
Delivery	Prospective cross-sectional	Observing changes in guideline uptake and service delivery preparedness using real time data
Improvement	Controlled trials	Reporting prove of value of improvement brought about by delivery modifications.

DEVELOPING THE THESIS

Performance of Health Systems supporting in-patient care

2002 Survey
Governance
Service Delivery
Health Information

Corrective
Interventional
research in

Management
science

Implementation
science

Delivery science

Improvement
science

Improved
governance

Enhanced
service delivery

Established HIS
infrastructure

Proof of concept
by a survey in
2014-2015

Showcasing
innovative research
approach for LMICs

Thesis

Summarizing
contributions
to literature

Suggesting
Contribution towards
improved childhood
mortality

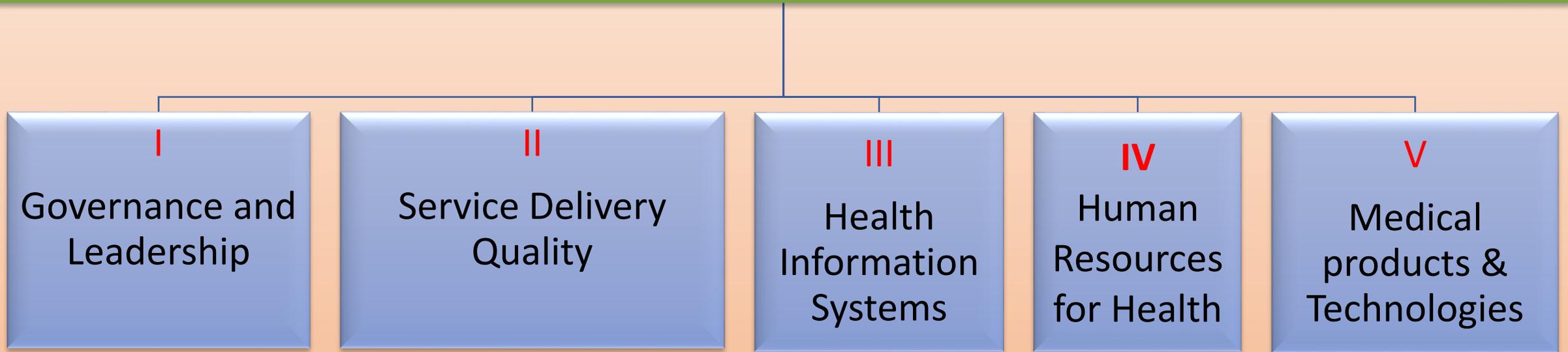
Findings,
observations,
interpretations and
discussion



State of HS supporting in-patient care in 2002

Data from 14 district hospitals spread across Kenya describing

Performance indicators based on WHO building blocks



1. *Assessment of inpatient paediatric care in first referral level hospitals in 13 districts in Kenya.* Lancet. 2004; 363:1948-1953.
2. *Delivery of paediatric care at the first-referral level in Kenya.* Lancet. 2004; 364:1623-1629.

Leadership & Governance

Administrative Structures

Present though functional state not determined

Availability of Statutory policies

Not displayed hence utilization not in evidence

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Almost none found in any of the facilities

Service Delivery Quality

Proportions of babies/children deemed to have received clinical care according to existing protocols

Basic Care (weight) 35%

Standard Observations (HR, RR, Skin Colour) 51%

Critical Signs (reduced consciousness, laboured breathing and circulatory failure) 37-76%

Service Delivery Quality

Proportions receiving Lab Tests and treatment according to guidelines

X-Rays
[Pneumonia]
0%

Blood Sugar
[Danger Signs]
0%

Spinal Fluid
[Meningitis]
0%

Malaria Parasite Slide
88%

Haemoglobin
Interpretation
27%

Antibiotic dosing
56-70%

Malaria treatment
5%

Blood Transfusion
10%

Care of SAM
0-32%

Health Information Systems

Responsible for capturing and reproducing all data including clinical info to assist in efficient care

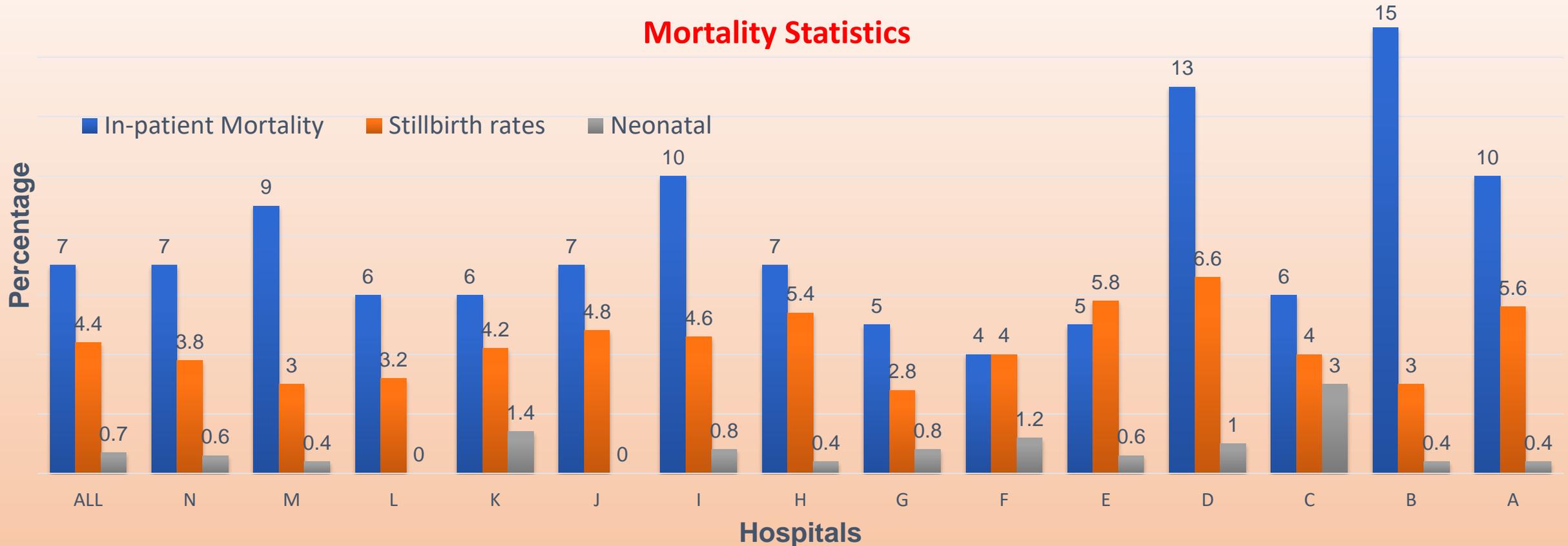


Most of The Patient Files
Had Very Little Clinical
Information



Non-Standard
Abbreviations Were
Common Making Accurate
Inference Difficult.

Health Information Systems



Case fatality rates;

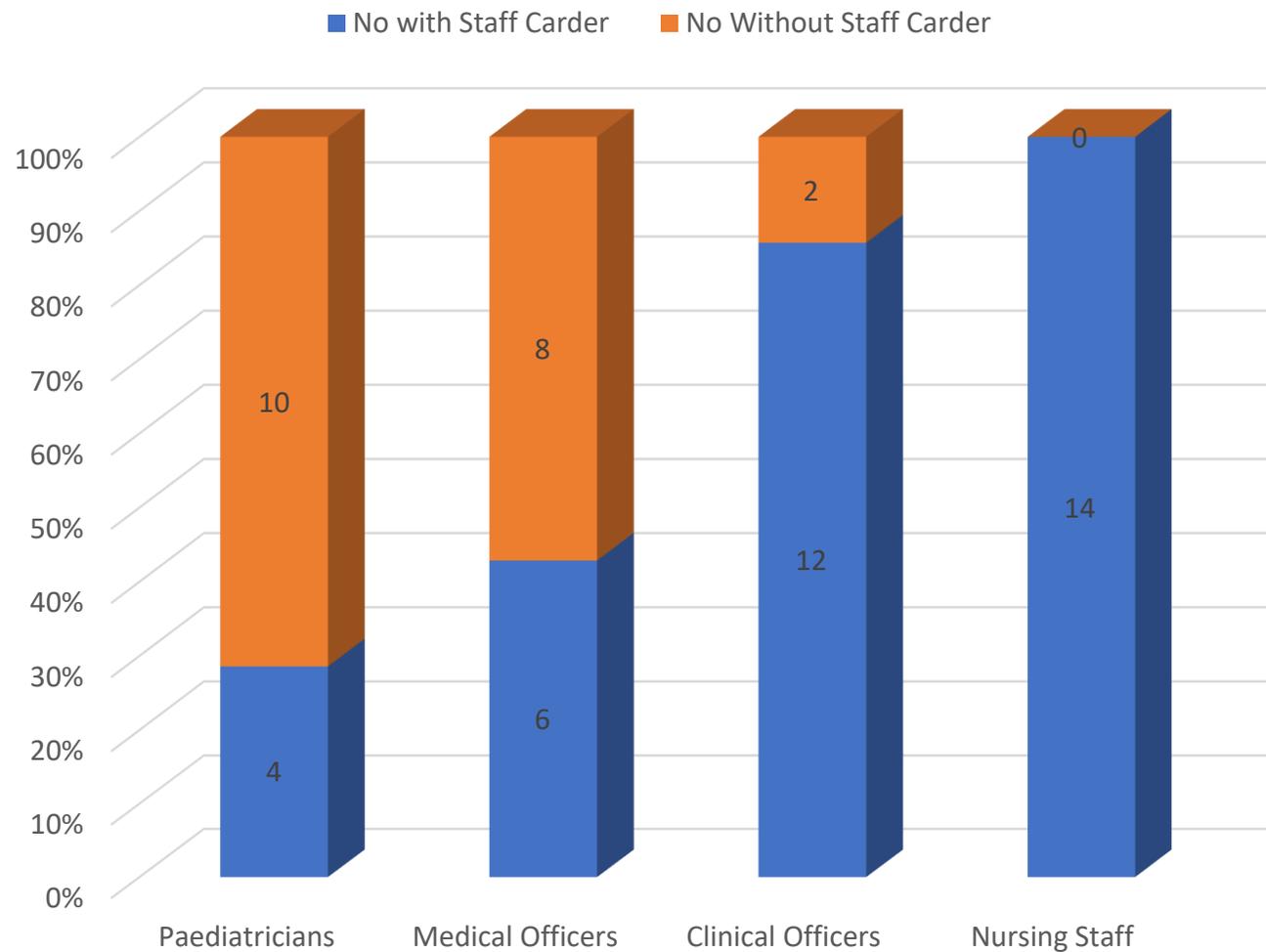
Malaria: 5% (2–10), Anaemia: 7% (3–46), Pneumonia: 6.5% (2–20)

Diarrhoea: 6% (3–21), Neonatal Sepsis 26% (16-55)

Human Resources for Health

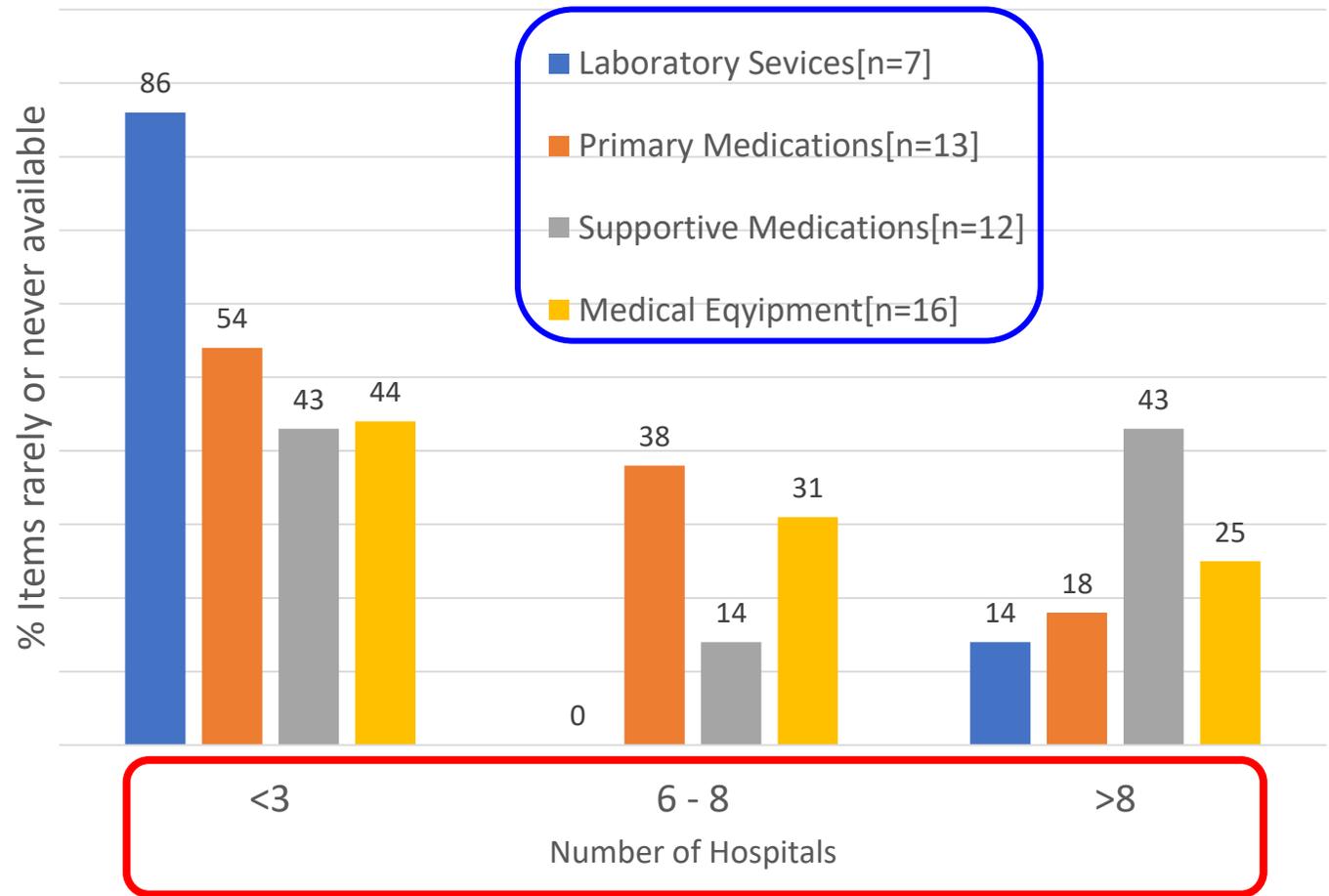
Distribution of Human Resources

Availability of Clinicians Providing Care in the 14 Hospitals



Availability of Medicines and Medical Products

Stock-out Rates



Reflections on the state of HS in 2002

Leadership and Governance

- Clinical care governance was poor as determined by absence of policy and practice
- guideline documents in all the 14 hospitals

Service Delivery & Quality

- Satisfactory Infrastructural preparedness but poor Clinical Practice Guideline(s) utilization

Health Information Systems

- Consistently poor clinical records' quality making retrospective analysis very unreliable.

Human Resources for Health

- Inadequate numbers and distribution

Medicines and medical technologies

- Major stockouts in some hospitals



The 2002 survey confirmed that the health systems in place were not adequately supporting paediatric in-patient care in primary referral hospitals



With focus on Governance and Leadership, Health Delivery and Health Information Systems a Series of HSR studies were undertaken in response



The studies were in the sub-themes of Management, Implementation, Delivery and Improvement Sciences

Transition
from
evaluation
to
intervention

Management Science Research

Defined as the Development and implementation of health policy through evidence based research [Speaks to the Leadership and Governance Building Block]

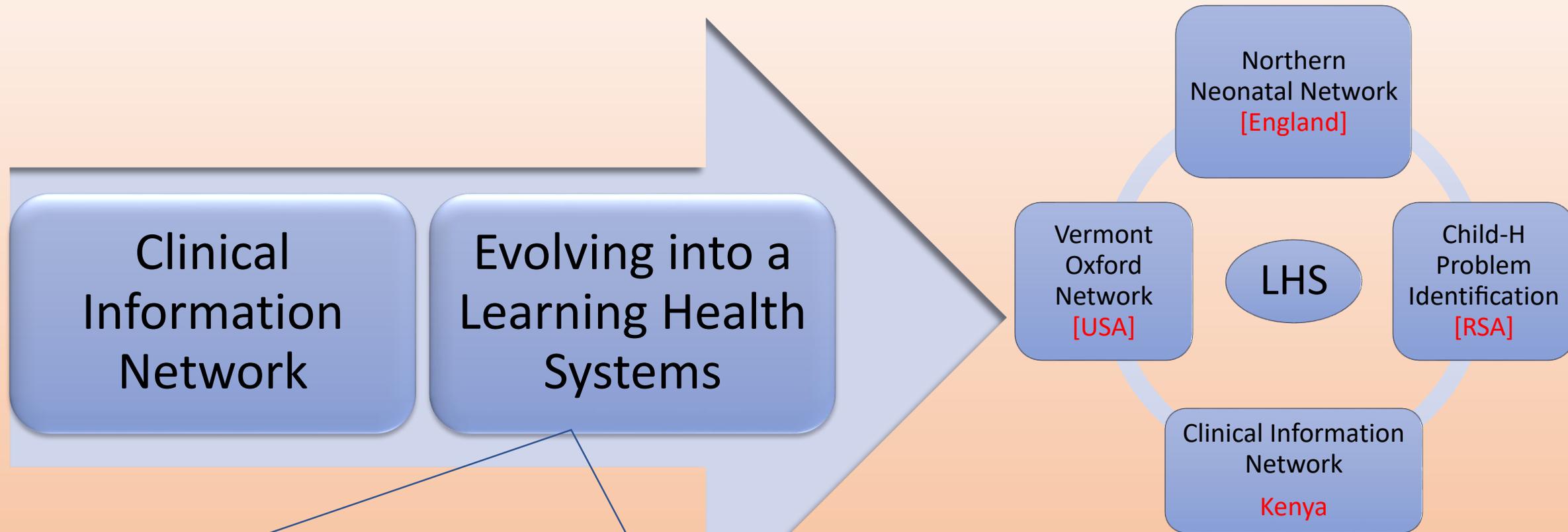
The findings report;

I
Established Quality Data Infrastructure

II
Developed Clinical Practice Guidelines

III
Initiating Policy development

Reliable data enhancing research for Policy and practice



Learning health systems (LHS) are **healthcare systems** in which knowledge generation processes are embedded in daily practice to produce continual improvement in **care**. Quality improvement at the point of **care** for each patient using new knowledge generated by research; research done in routine **healthcare** settings. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_health_systems]

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Primary conditions	Supportive care
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Malaria Quinine; Artesunate2. Pneumonia; 1st line therapy, Amoxicillin3. Meningitis; 1st line, steroids4. Diarrhoea; Zinc5. Neonatal Sepsis; Gentamycin Once Daily6. Sickle Cell Disease; Hydroxyurea	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Feeding the malnourished2. Feeding the preterm; Initiation timing , Breastmilk fortification and feed increments.3. Respiratory care for pre-terms; Caffein and Continuous Positive Airway Distention
Treatment of emergencies	Disease Prevention
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Anticonvulsants for children2. Anticonvulsants for New-borns3. Glucose for hypoglycaemia4. Fluid bolus for the severely ill5. Neonatal resuscitation initial and revised	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alcohol hand rubs for infection control2. Chlorhexidine cleaning for the umbilical cord3. Antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent infection in high-risk new-borns

Developing policy for nursing care

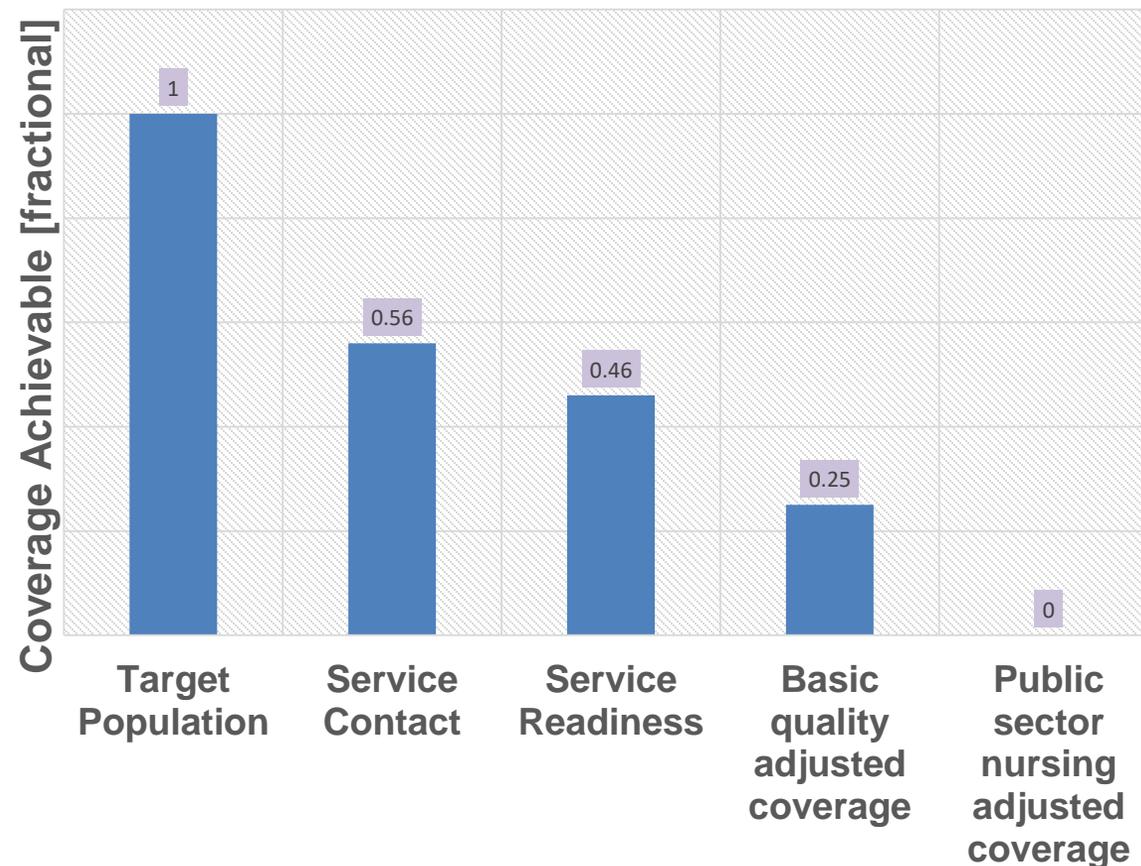
Nurses are the primary clinicians for new-borns in many hospitals

Given their small numbers; There is need to confine them to clinical duties

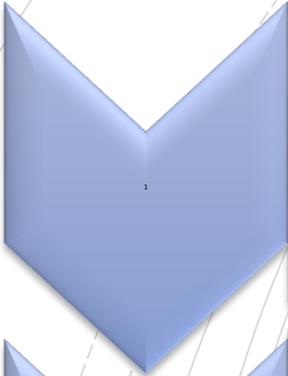
Policy Proposal

Task shift more manual duties to less skilled workers

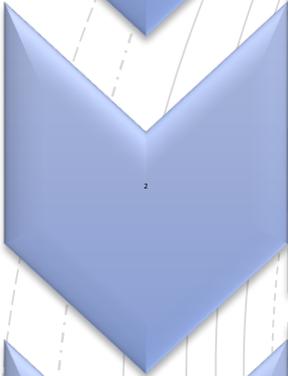
Estimates of access to quality of care in Nairobi for the estimated 21,966 sick new-borns likely to need in-patient care in the year 2018



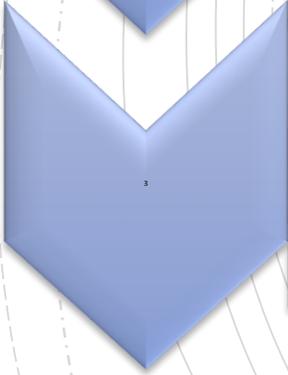
Reflections on management science work



1 An opportunity exists for clinical uses of the CIN platform beyond in-patient paediatric care. The work has potential to expand in specialty as well as geographic coverage.



2 CPGs should locally developed or extensively domiciled and introduced through stakeholder engagement using appropriate training methodologies.



3 There is also an opportunity to build on the policy development example given here for other interventions.

Implementation Science Research

Study of methods for converting evidence to practice

The Products

1. BMC International Health and Human Rights 2006, 6:9
2. PLoS Medicine | www.plosmedicine.org 1 April 2011 | Volume 8 | Issue 4 | e1001018
3. Implementation Sci. 2019; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih>

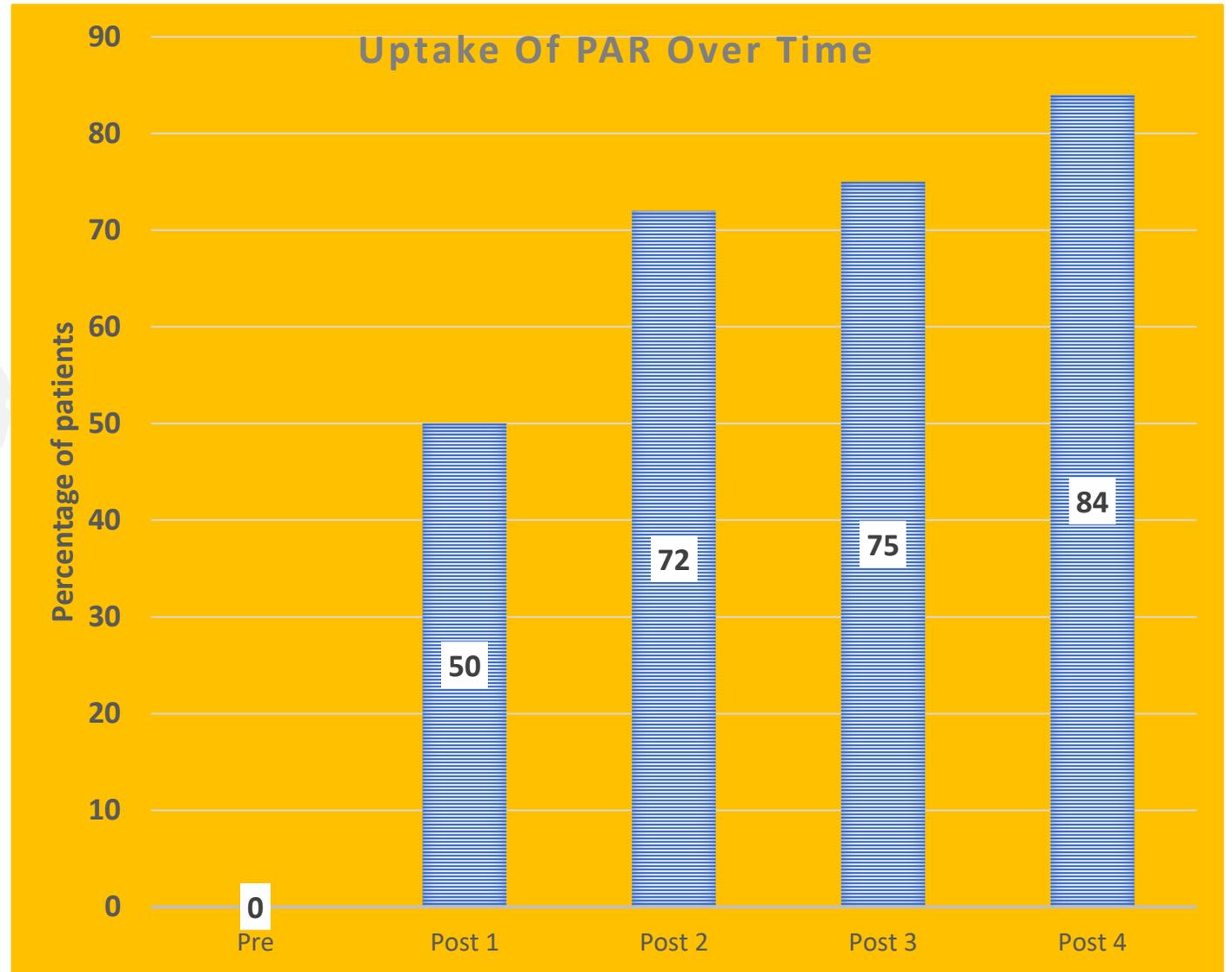
The outputs;

Establishing utility of a new tool; PAR

Introducing CPGs using implementation science methodology

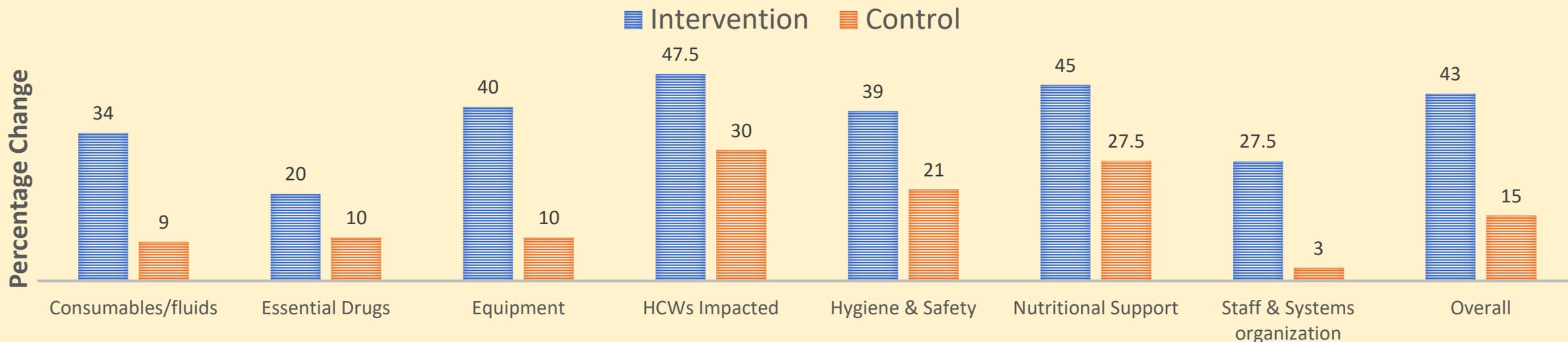
Establish and use an innovative approach to enhance utilization of CPGs

Introduction of Structured Paediatric Admission Record



Impact of introduction of CPGs using Multi-Faceted Implementation Approach

Structural Indicators of Change After Intervention



Process Indicators [Improvement in use of care guidelines]

Completion of admission assessment **up 54%**

Antibiotics Accurate dosing **up 15%**

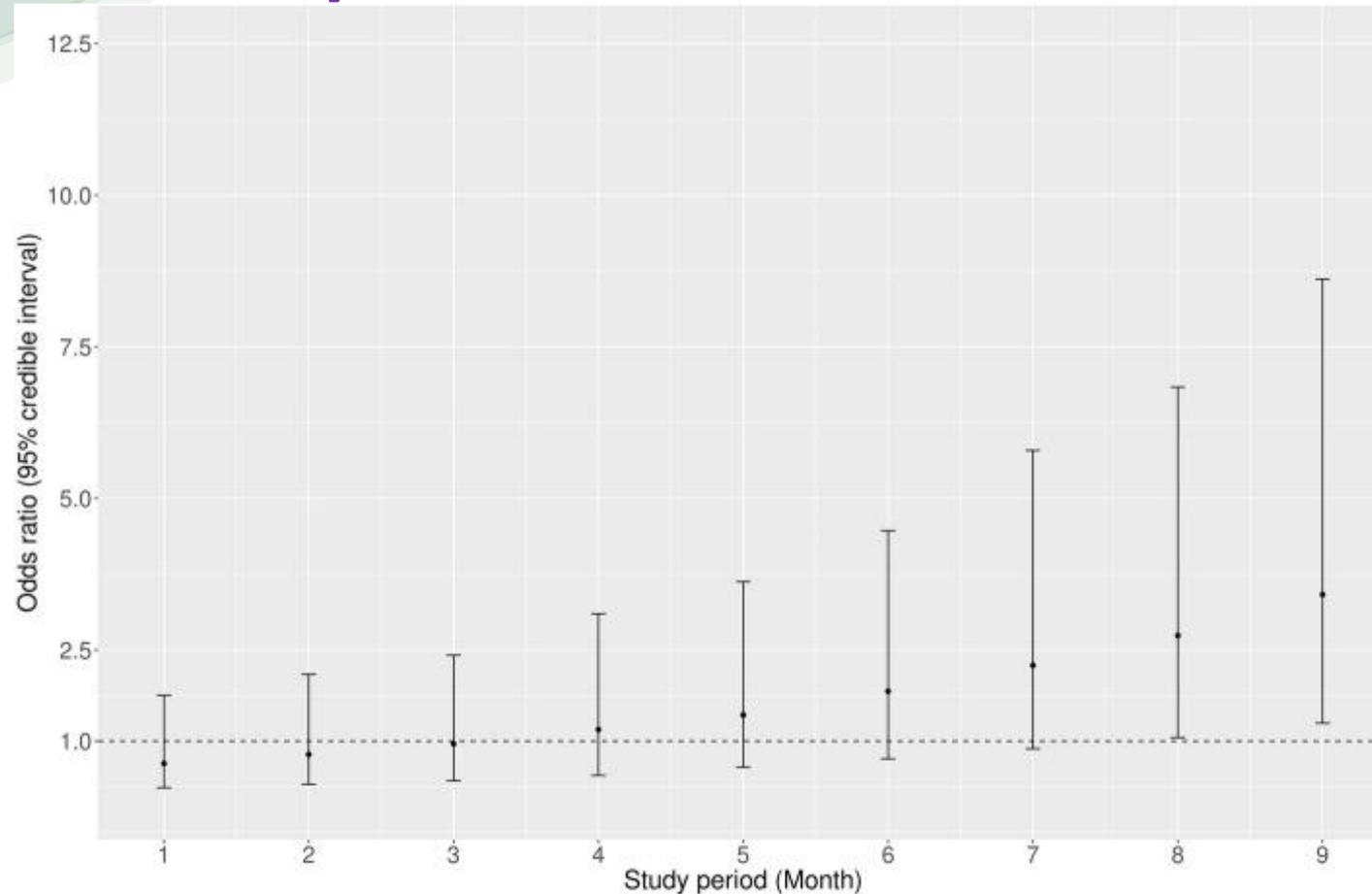
Antimalarial Accurate dosing **up 24%**

Antibiotic Errors **down 4-fold**

Antimalaria Errors **down 7-fold**

Use of audit and feedback for pneumonia guideline uptake

There was no significant impact on correct classification [P= 0.855] and occurrence of treatment change [12.6% versus 12.6%].



There was evidence of increasing impact over longer period
 $1.14 < 1.25 < 1.36$,
 $P < 0.001$

Reflections from implementation research

01

The PAR proved to be an essential practice and implementation research tool

02

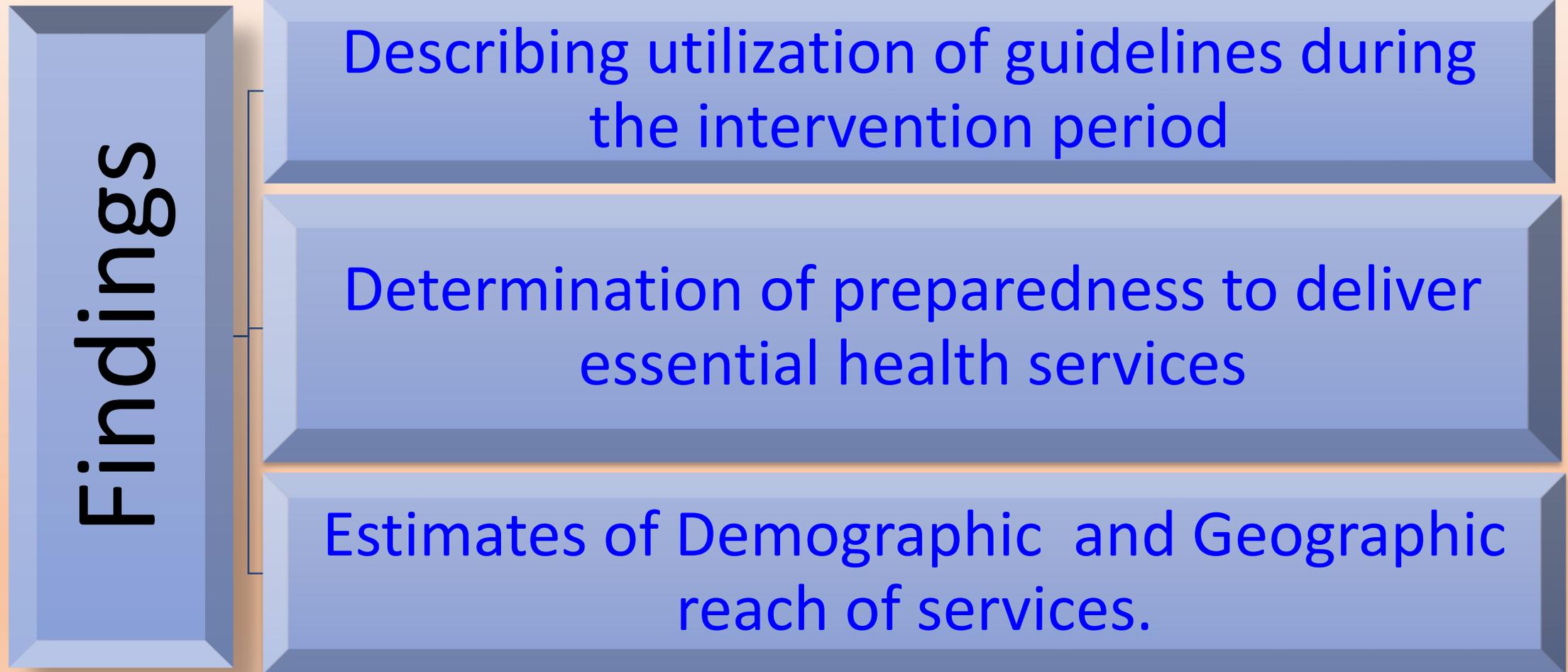
Value of Multifaceted approach for CPG introduction good though Impact is un-even

03

Audit feedback as an intervention may be effective but needs considerably longer time

Delivery Science Research

Bringing best practices of care to every patient every time



1. ADC. 2015; 100(1):42-7 , 2. PAMJ; 2014 www.panafrican-med-journal.com

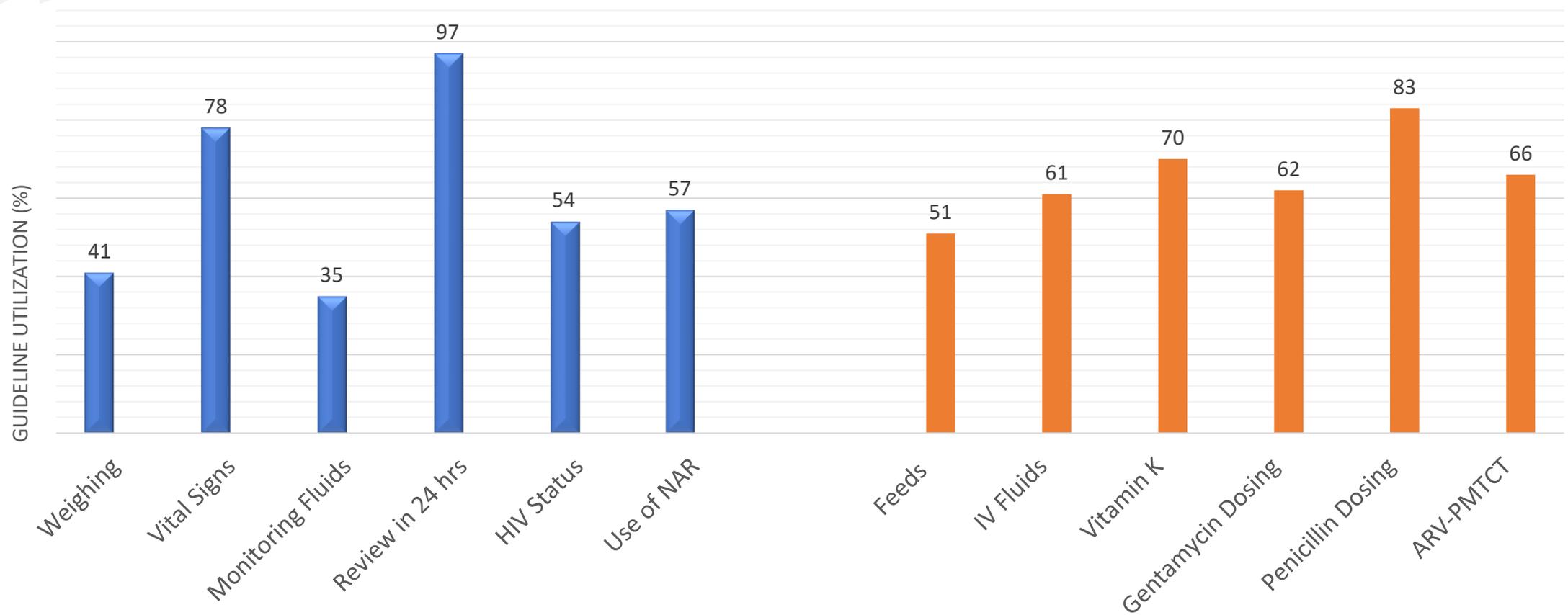
3. EAMJ; 2014; 91:13-20. , 4. PLoS One. 2015, 30;10(3): e0117048.

5. Trop Med Inter. Health, 2009; 14(10): 1165-1172 ,

6. PLOS ONE | <https://doi.org/10.1371> , 7. BMC Medicine (2018) 16:72

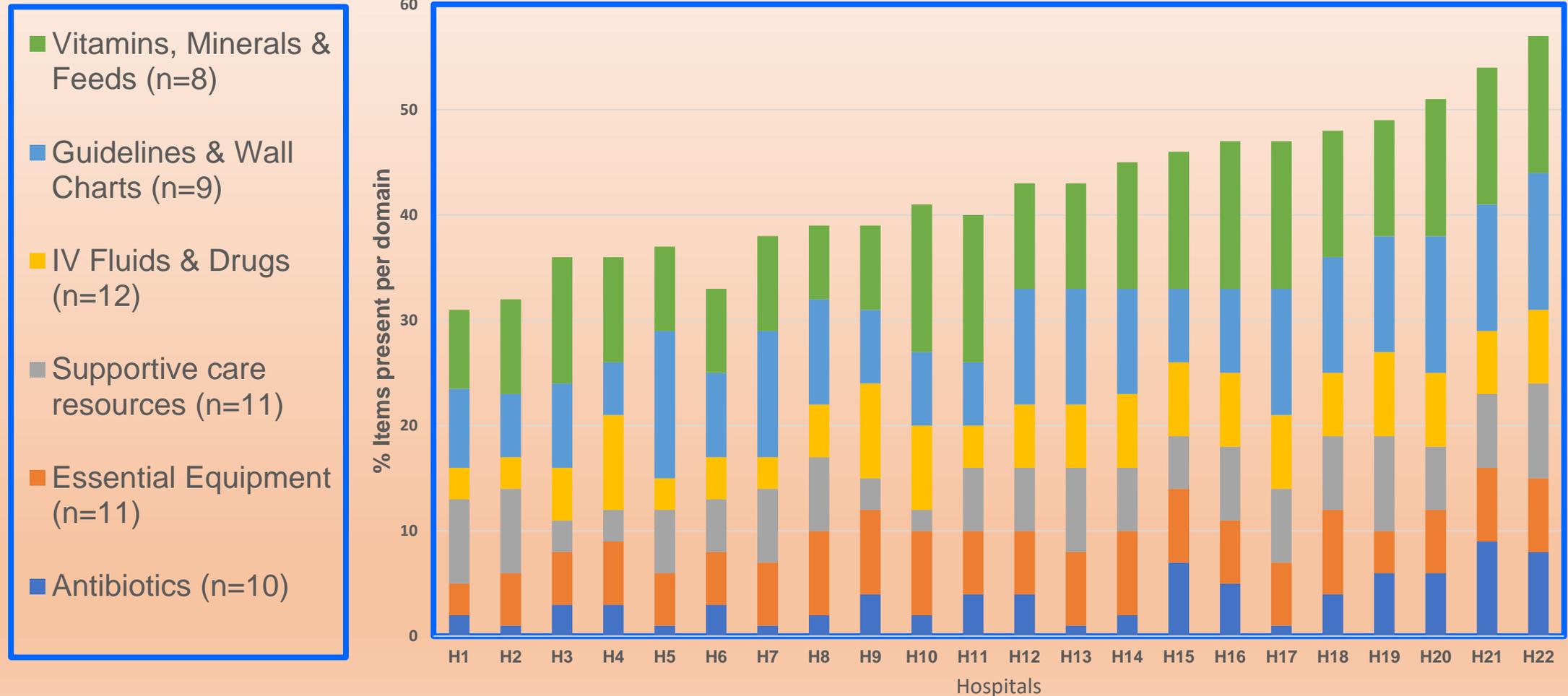
Guideline utilization

Clinical Care, Feeds and Medication for New-born Care CPGs in 22 Internship Training Institutions



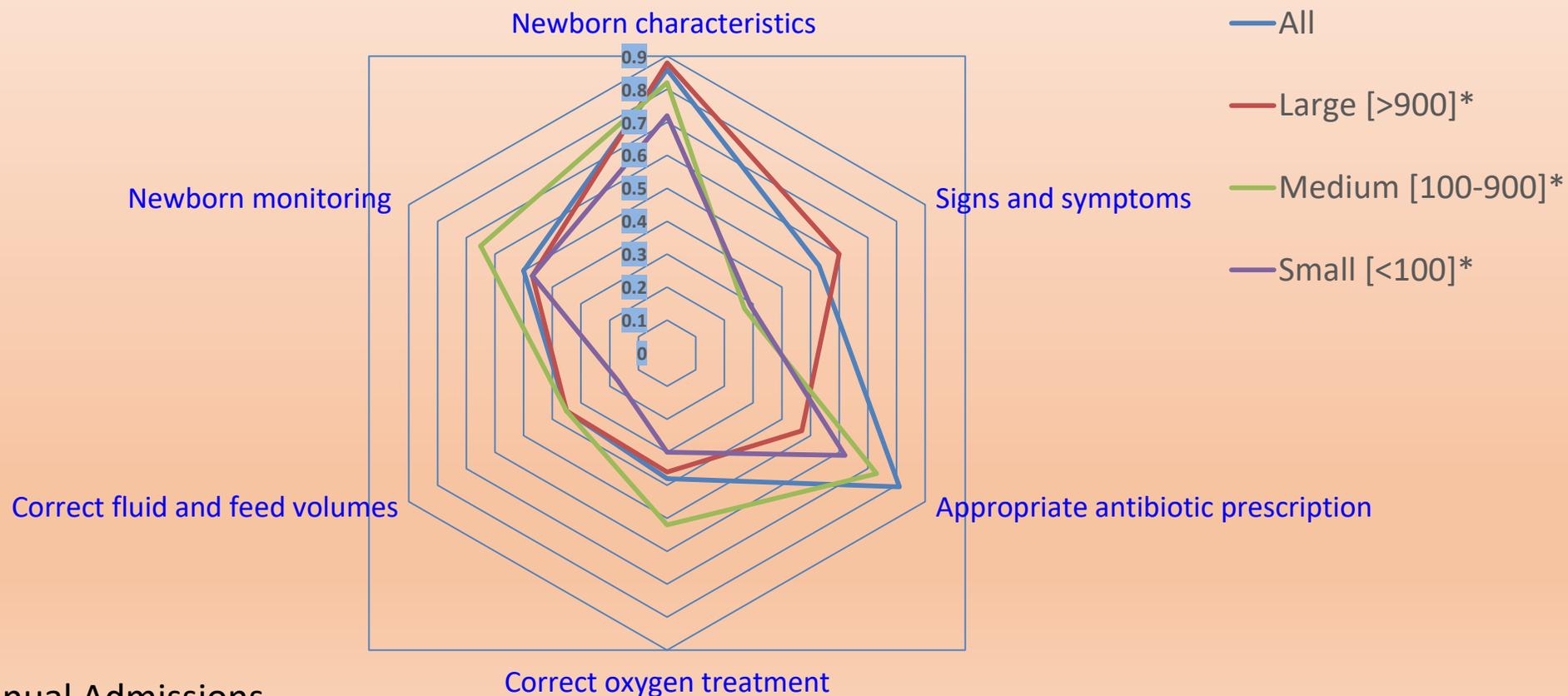
Structural-capacity to deliver care in primary referral facilities

Cumulative availability of 61 essential items in 22 hospitals



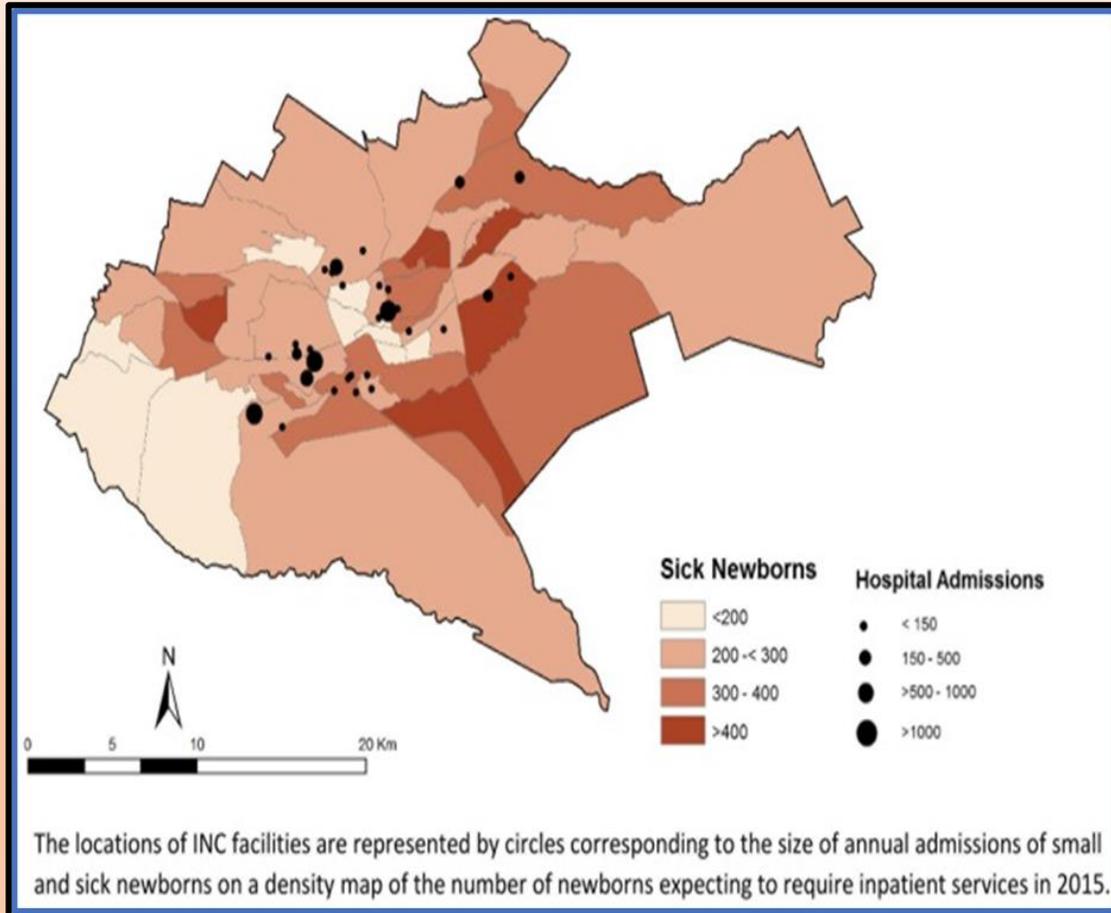
Process-capacity to deliver new-born services in Nairobi County

Radar plots for process domain scores by facility size (annual admissions)

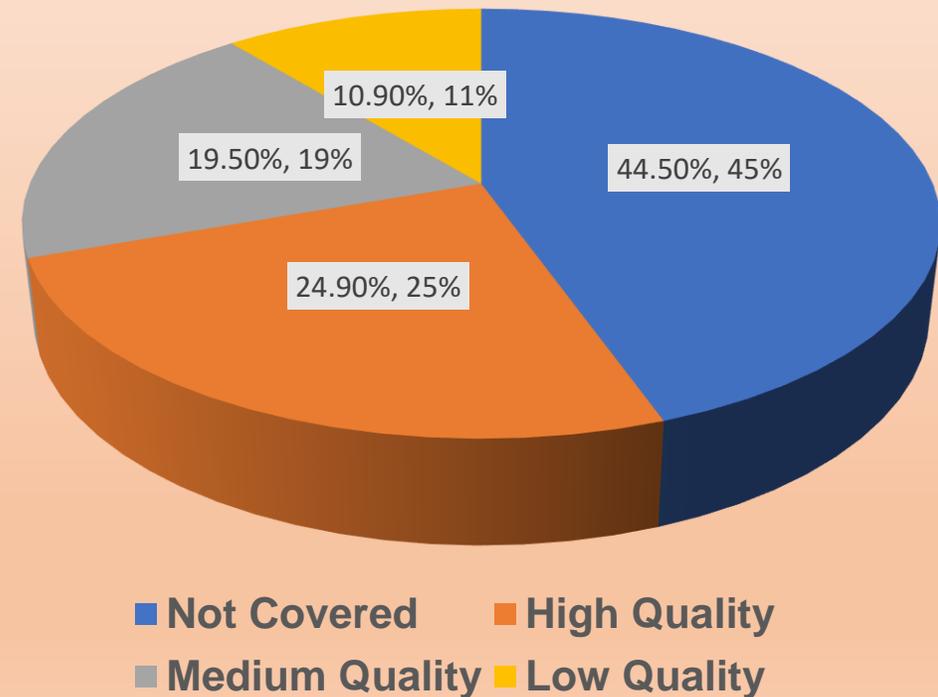


* Annual Admissions

Geographic and demographic coverage



Coverage of neonatal in-patient services for new-borns who need in-patient care in Nairobi (modelling for 2014-15 year)





Reflection on Delivery Science

1. Measuring Quality of Care

- New-borns in the more rural and urban hospitals

2. Structural and Process preparedness

- Structural preparedness

3. Coverage of Services

- Variation of preparedness in rural hospitals
- In-equity in population and geographic reach of new-born services in Nairobi County.

Improvement science

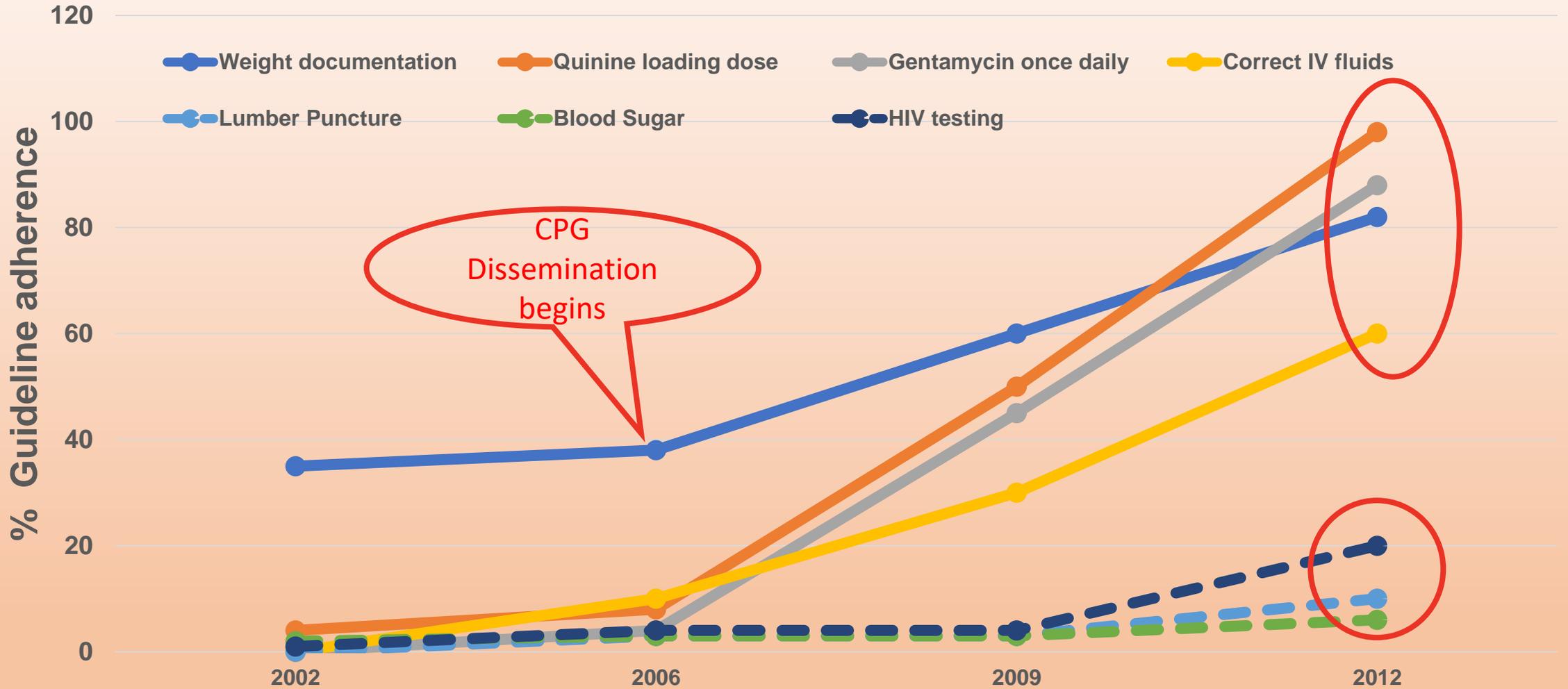
Determination and enhancement of effective improvement strategies for health interventions through research

Demonstrating Improvement in the utilization of CPGs over a time period

Describing the Impact of **ONE** Day New-born Resuscitation Training

Testing the appropriateness of **new WHO guidelines** on Pneumonia Care

Trends of CPG utilization over time period of 11 years

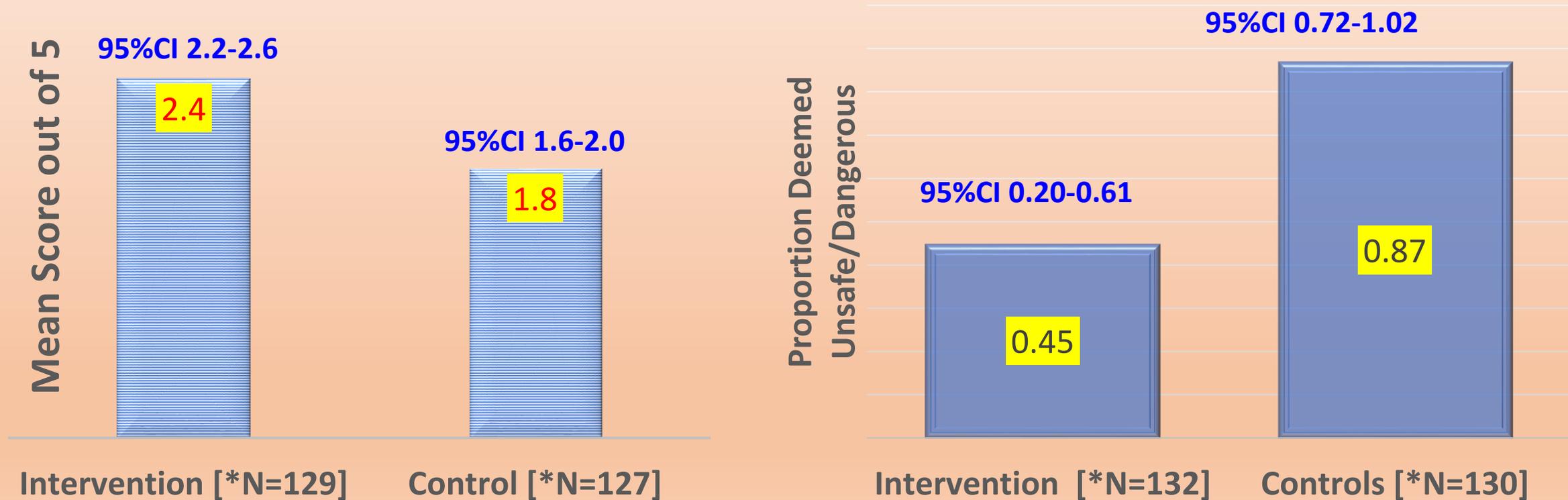


Impact of 1 Day New-born Resuscitation Training

Intervention group trained 3 weeks earlier than the controls

Comparing Resuscitation Scores; Scaled as Poor=1 & Perfect=5

Comparison for unsafe/dangerous practices



*Episodes of resuscitation

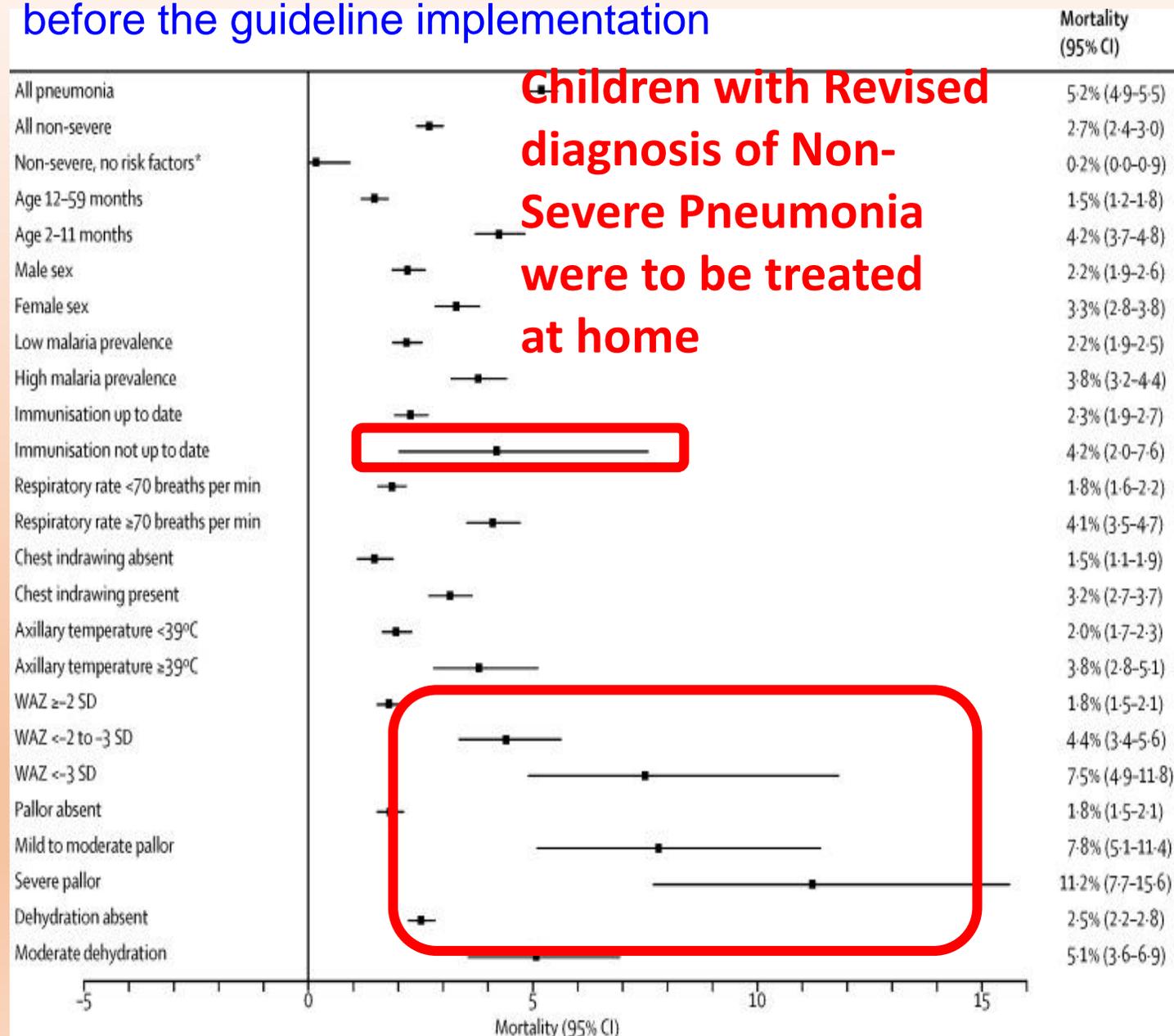
Testing appropriateness of new WHO guidelines on Pneumonia Care

The WHO introduced new guidelines for classification of pneumonia in 2013

These involved a major shift in diagnosis and treatment

We sort to determine appropriateness of the change

Risk factors for death based on new WHO pneumonia classification; based on a cohort of 6000 babies admitted before the guideline implementation



Reflections on Improvement Research

Progressive, though asymmetrical, improvement in uptake of key process guidelines demonstrated over 11 years

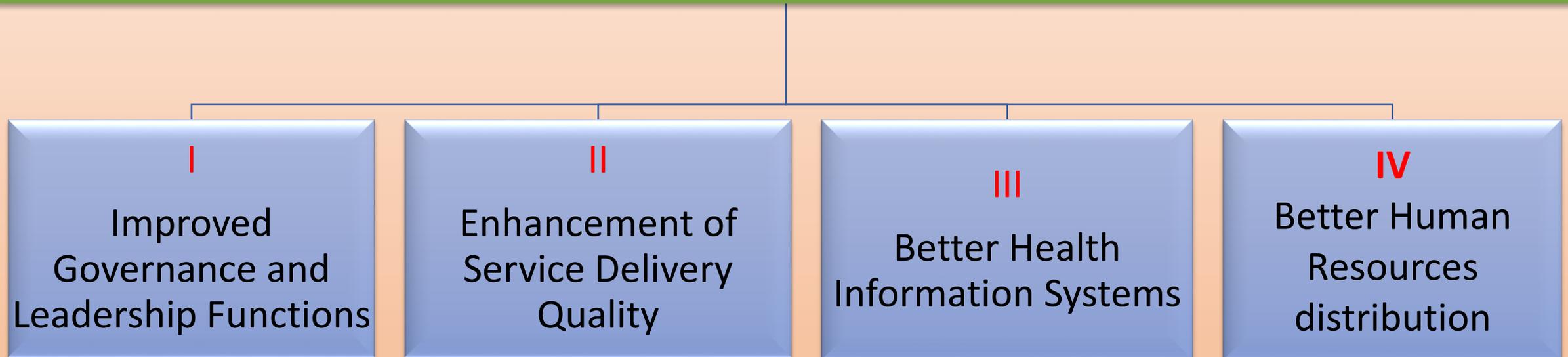
Process improvement (using 1 day new-born resuscitation) was attained with seemingly sustainable short term efficacy

Local data driven critical appraisal of new Pneumonia Treatment Guidelines introduced as an improvement

State of HS supporting in-patient care in 2015

Data from 13 district hospitals spread across Kenya describing

Performance indicators based on WHO building blocks



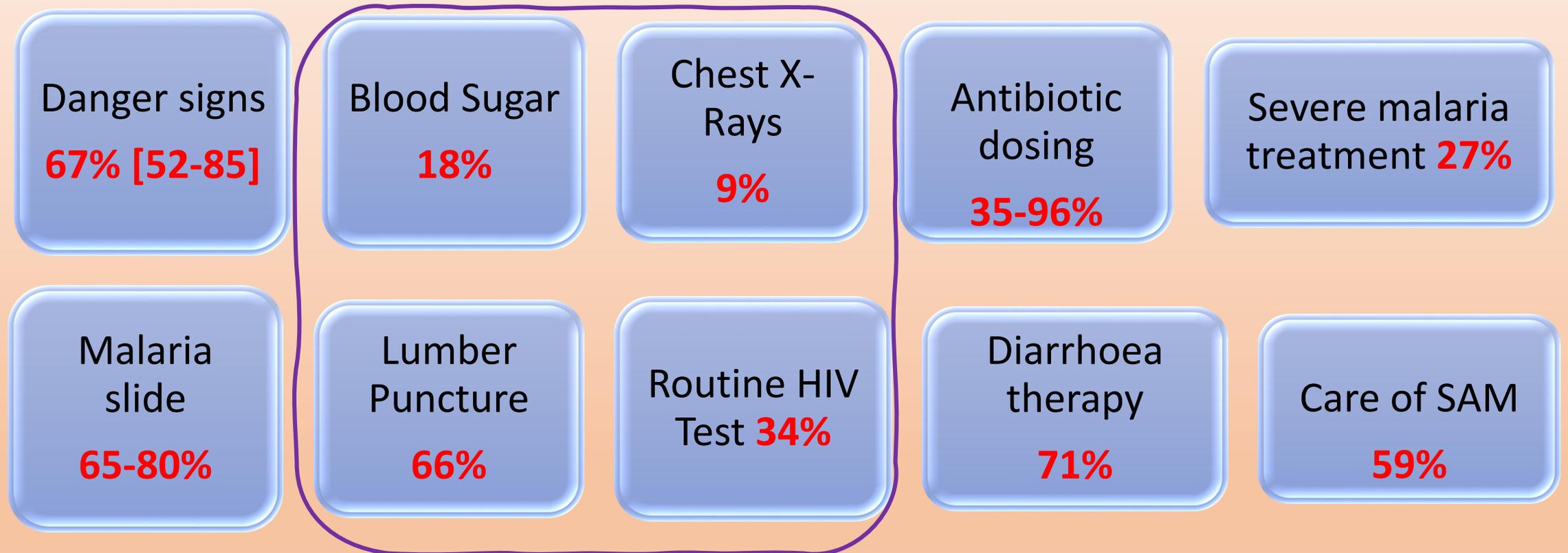


Improved
Governance and
Leadership
Functions
Nationally

- Universally deployed **Clinical Practice Guidelines** in health facilities including faith based and those classified above primary referral level.
- Move towards **acceptance and adoption** of policies developed locally.

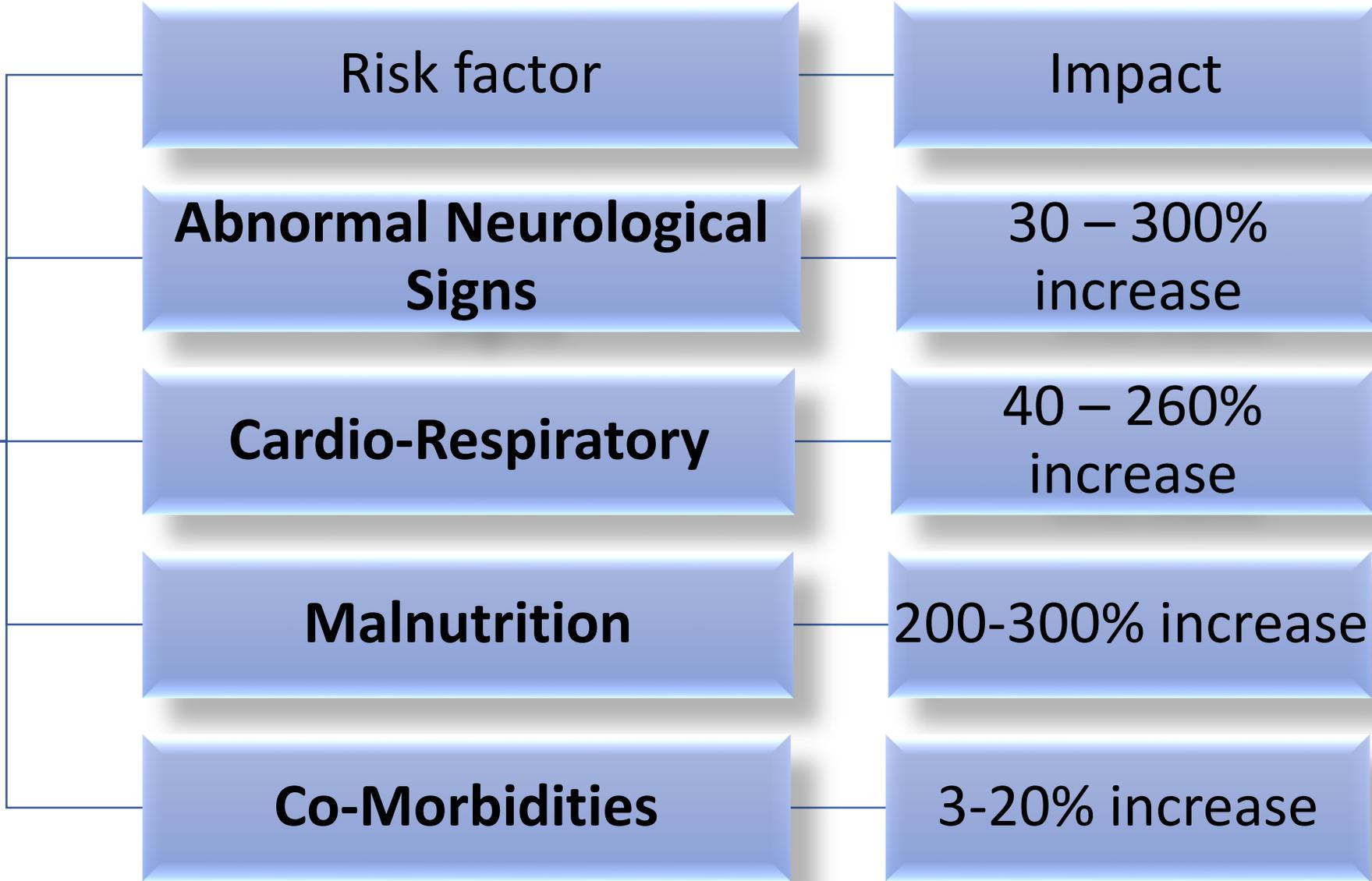
Service Delivery Quality

Rates of guideline driven laboratory and prescription services



Health Information Systems

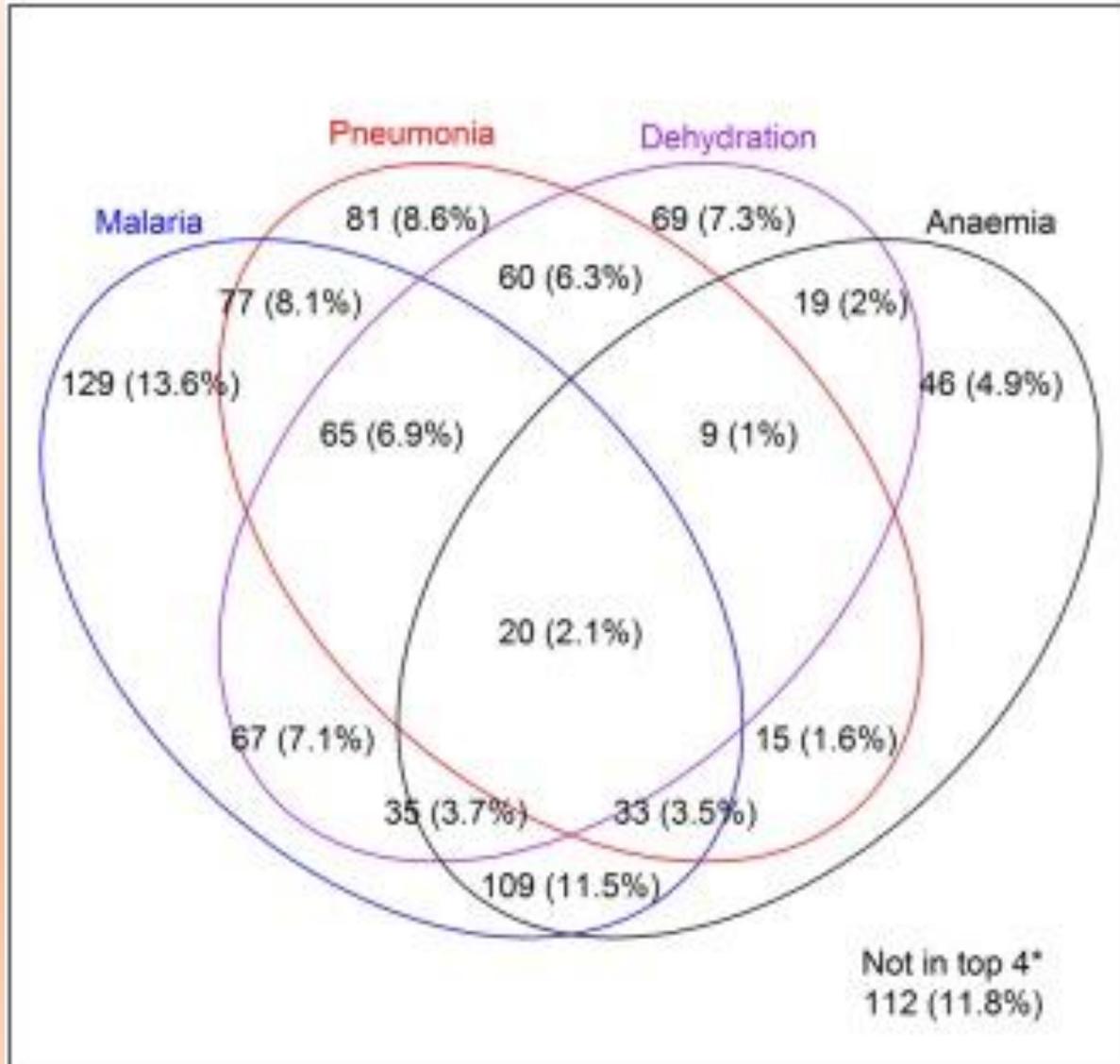
Predictors of all course mortality



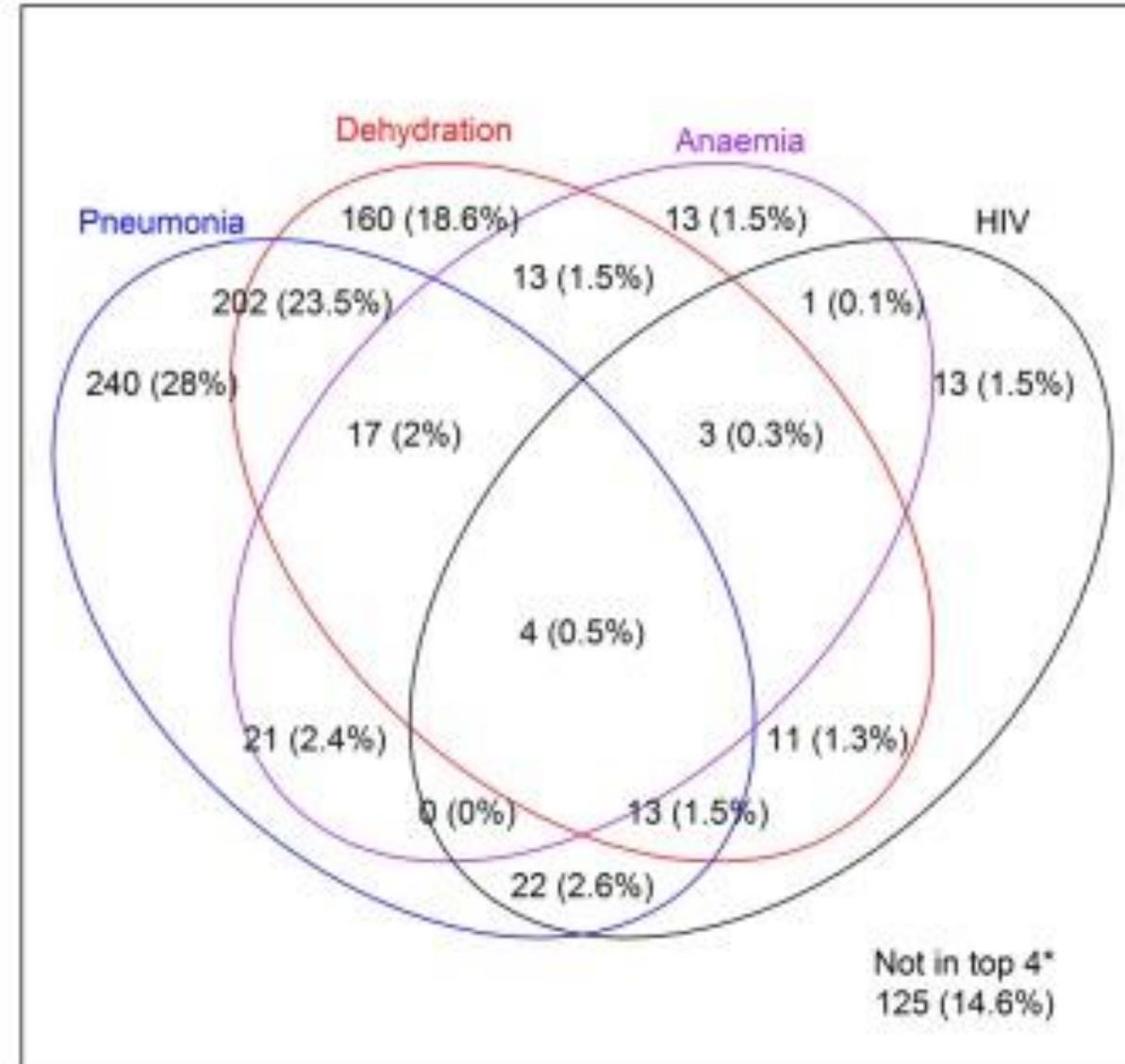
High Quality Mortality Data Now Available

Capturing causes of mortality granulated for multiple cause with Venn diagrams

High malaria prevalence

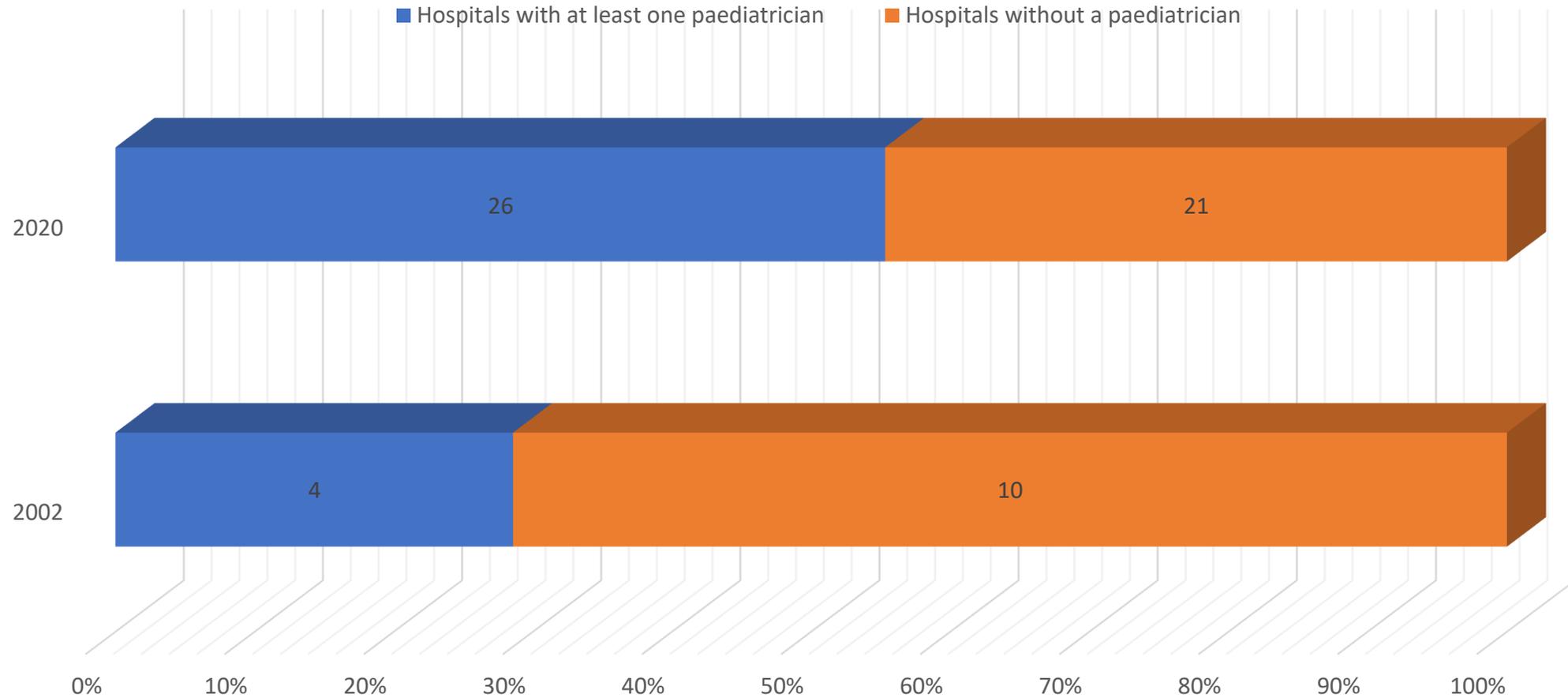


Low malaria prevalence



Improving Human Resource Distribution

Availability of paediatricians in primary referral hospitals (N (%))



Reflections on State the Health Systems 2015

1

- Improved Governance and Leadership Functions Nationally
- Impacting on all key HS-BB

2

- Positive Strides in Service Delivery Quality

3

- Significantly enhanced Health Information Systems advising
- care

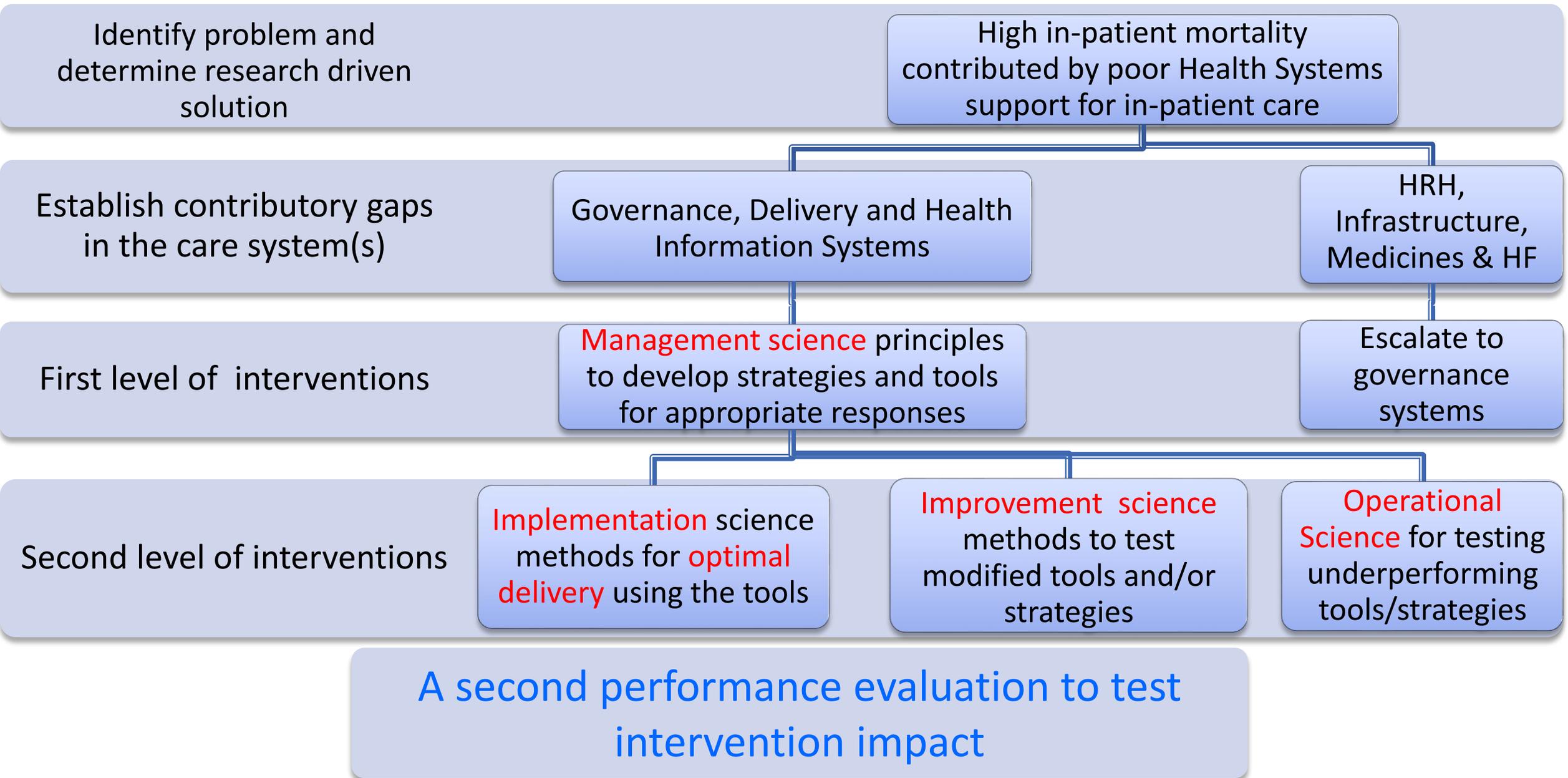
4

- Some visible improvement in Human Resource Distribution



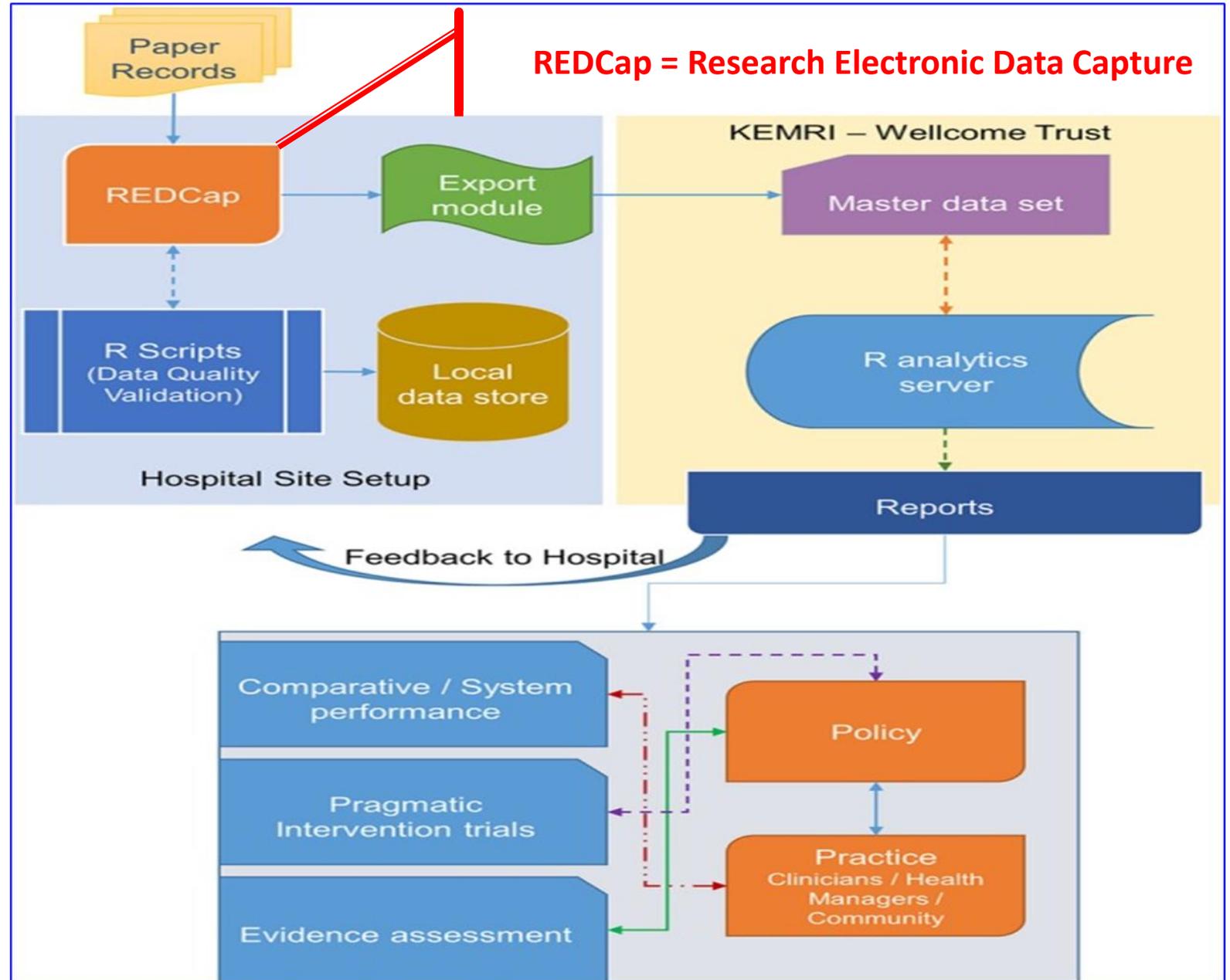
Contribution of the research and thesis to
science and society

ELUCIDATING THE VALUE OF SYNCHRONIZED HS-RESEARCH



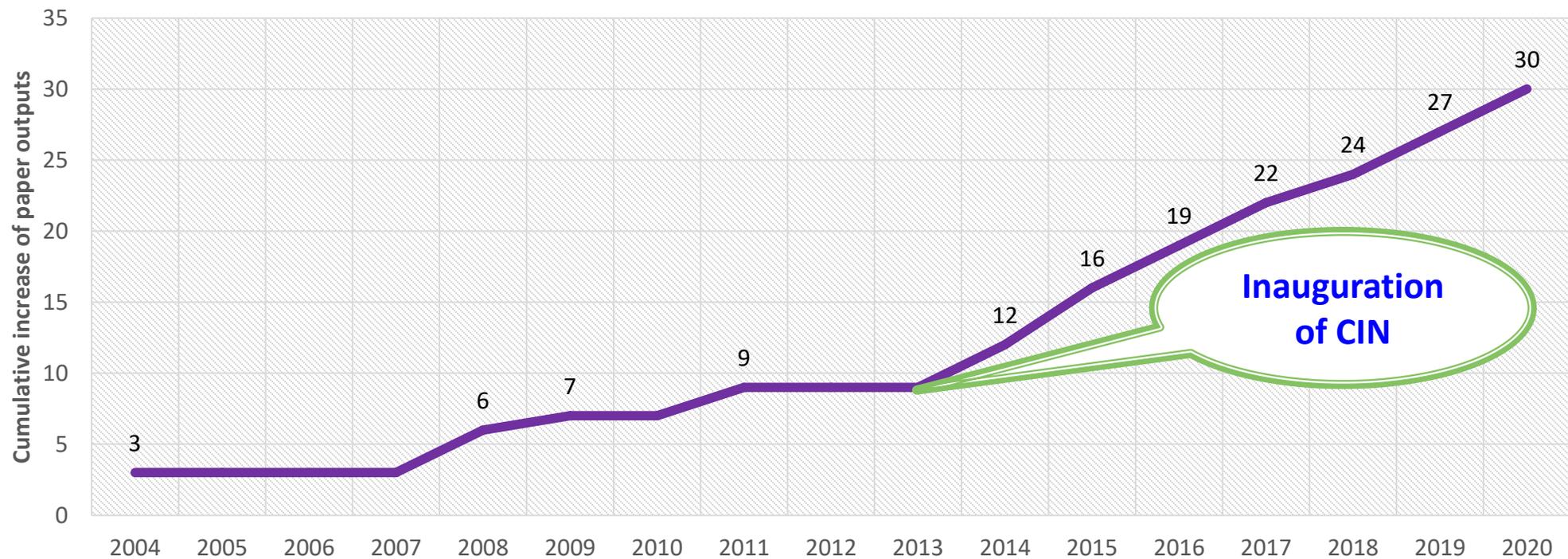
Creation of Data Collection Infrastructure

Anatomy and Physiology of the Clinical Information Network

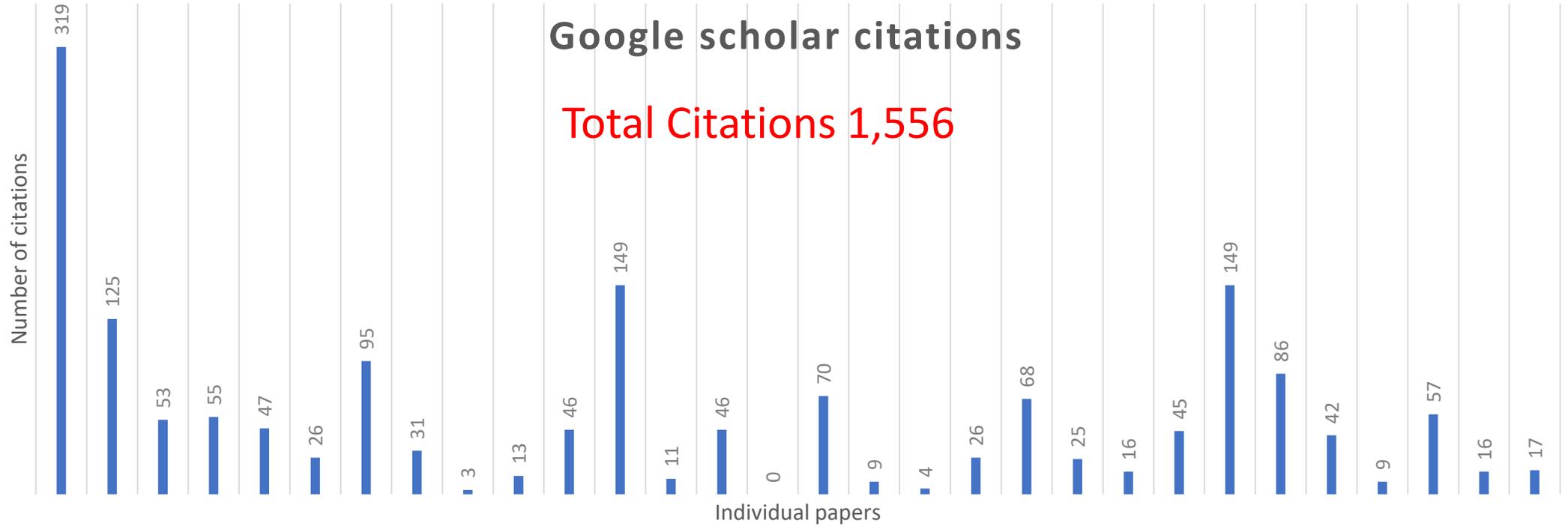


Building and Disseminating Knowledge

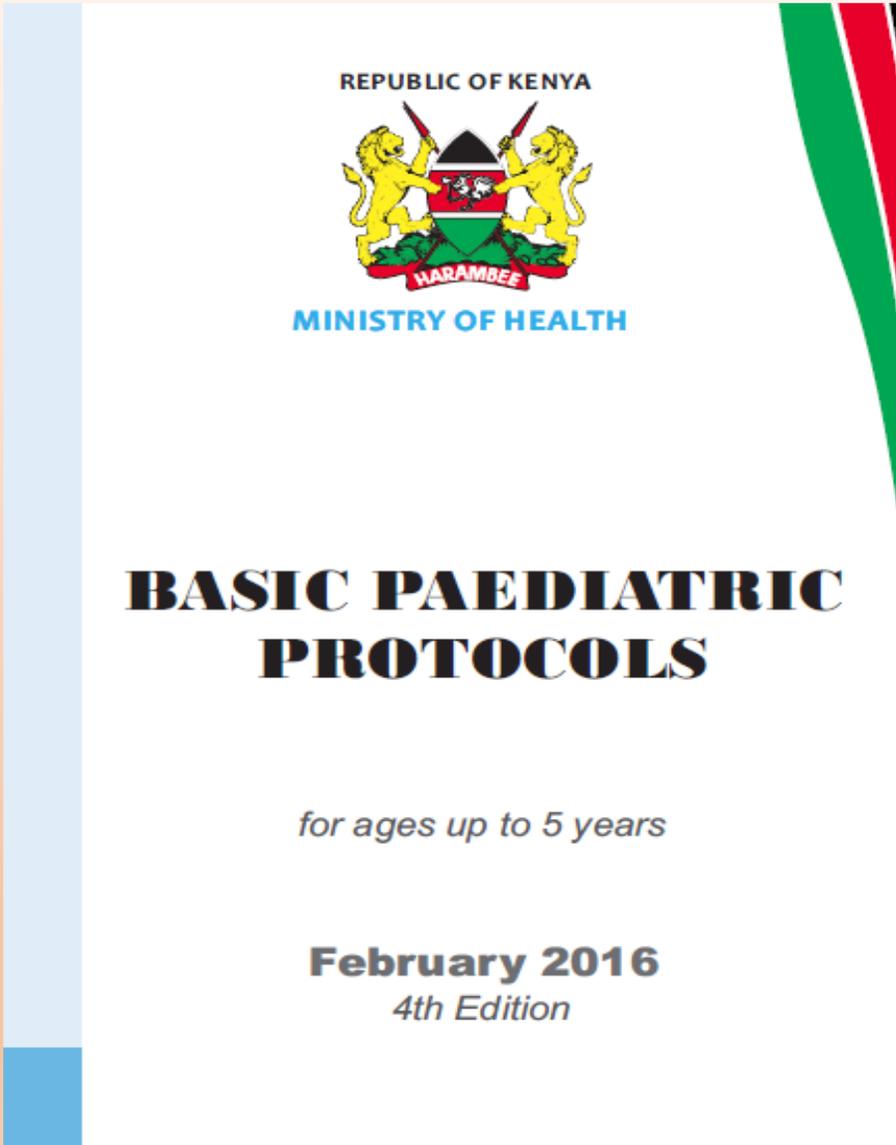
Annual accretion of the HSR publications



Building and Disseminating Knowledge

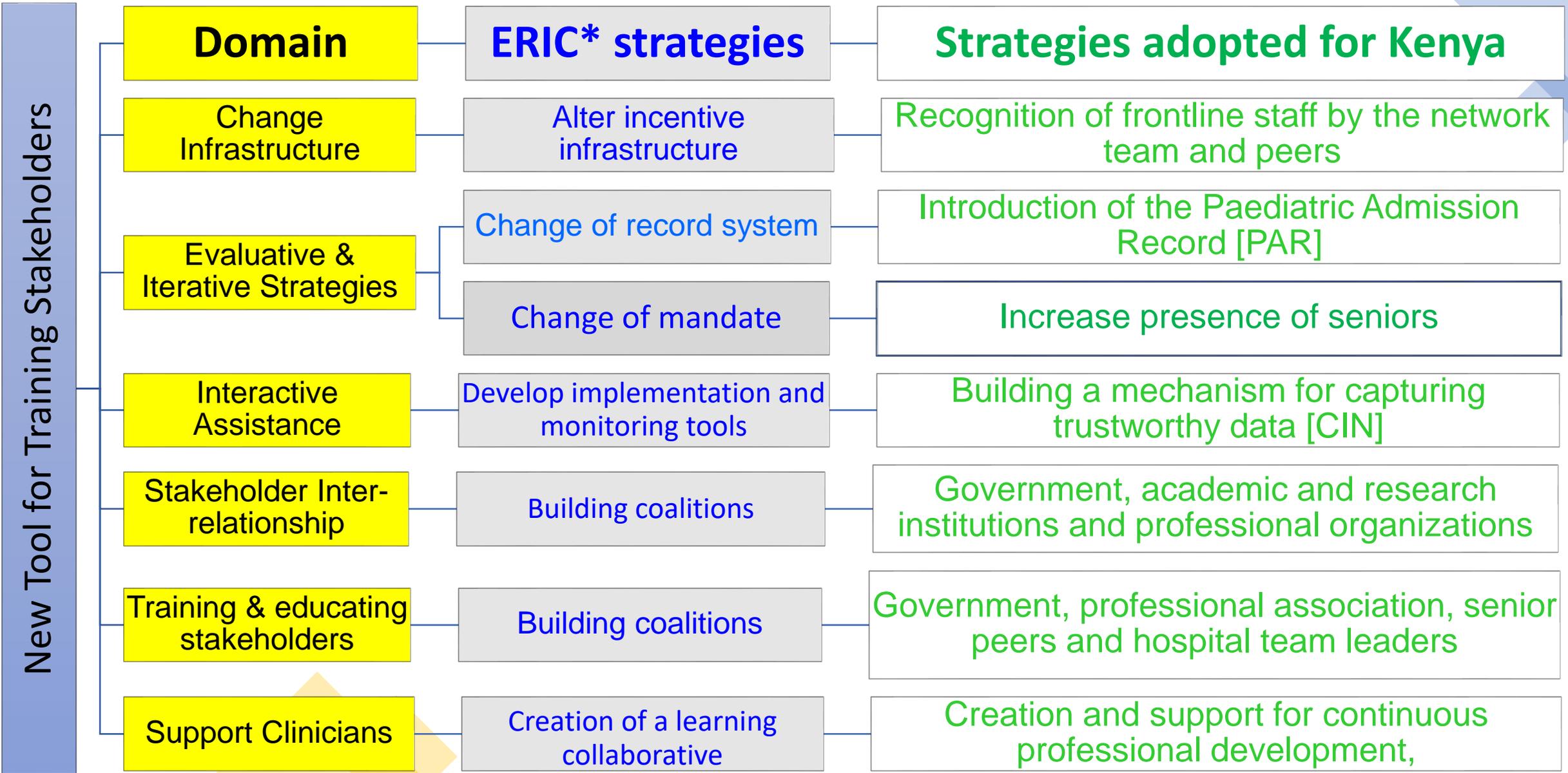


Improving practice



Adopted by all government facilities while many faith based as
and private hospitals are presently upscaling use

Innovations in training to support buy in and uptake of CPGs



*Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change, 2015

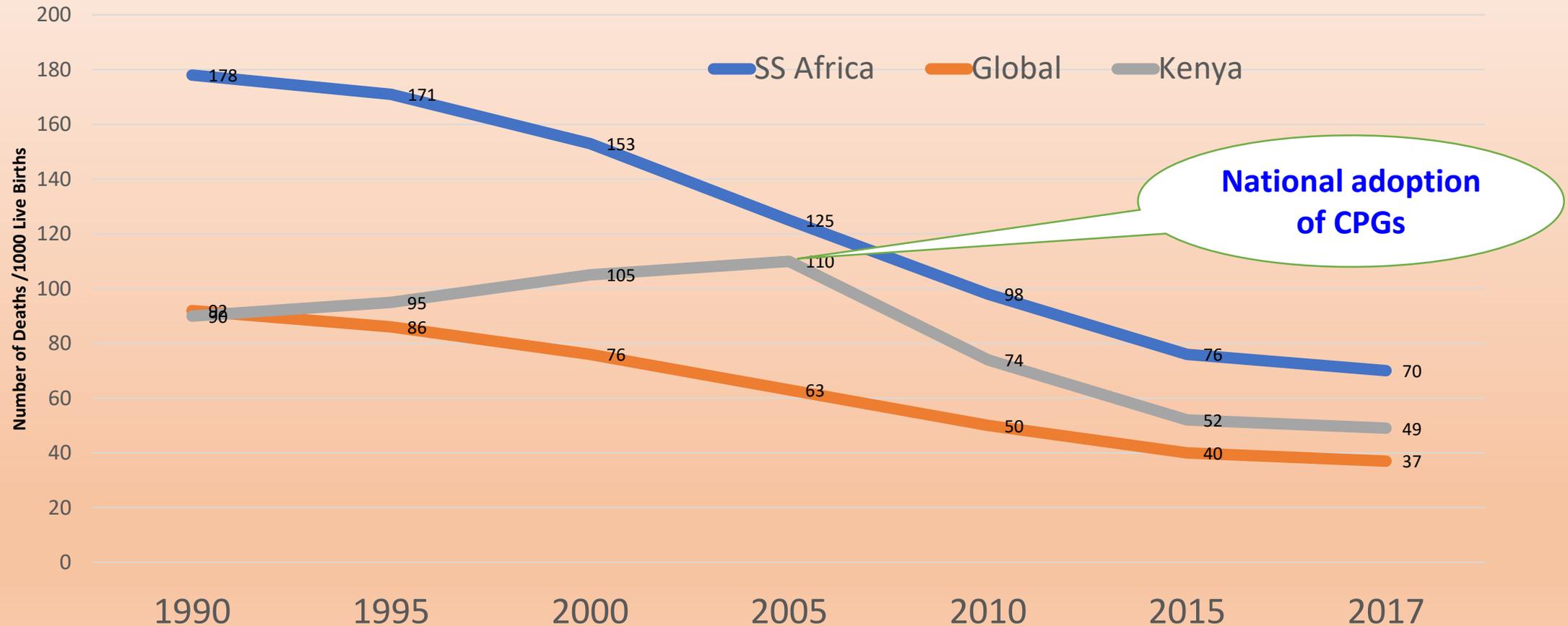
Advising policy

The Basic Paediatric Protocol booklet is now supported by Ministry of Health policy while being included in undergraduate curricula since 2008

Advisory on pilot introduction of influenza vaccine due insufficient has created an environment of using evidence to advise important public health decisions

Task shifting of more manual duties to less skilled workers to allow nurses concentrate on skilled clinical inputs

Probable contribution towards the MDG 4 achievements



THOSE WHO HAVE MADE PIVOTAL DIFFERENCE ON MY PATHWAY TO THIS END



Dr James Nyikal



Prof James Kaggia



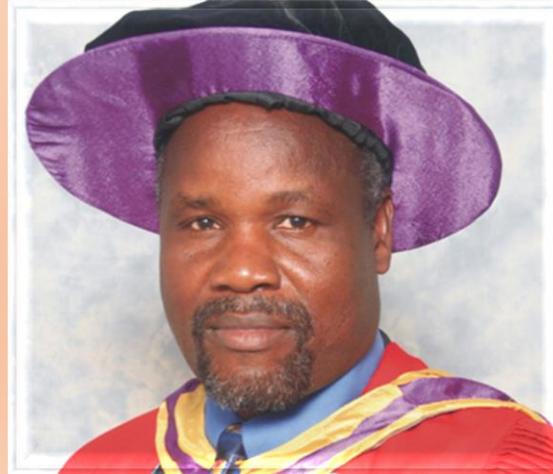
Prof Francis Onyango



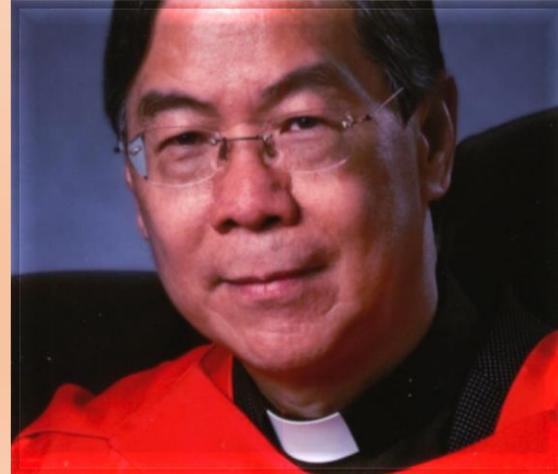
Prof RN Musoke



Prof Nimrod Bwibo



Prof Dominic Makawiti



Prof Victor YU



Prof Mike English

And the Family; Providing support without measurable indicators



The Locations of the thesis theme publications

1	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15194254/
2	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15519635/
3	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18495913/
4	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27398232/
5	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28153020/
6	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28584069/
7	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28584069/
8	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16857044/
9	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21483712/
10	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30832678/
11	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22078071/
12	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26996797/
13	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25138104/
14	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25237411/
15	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26862631/

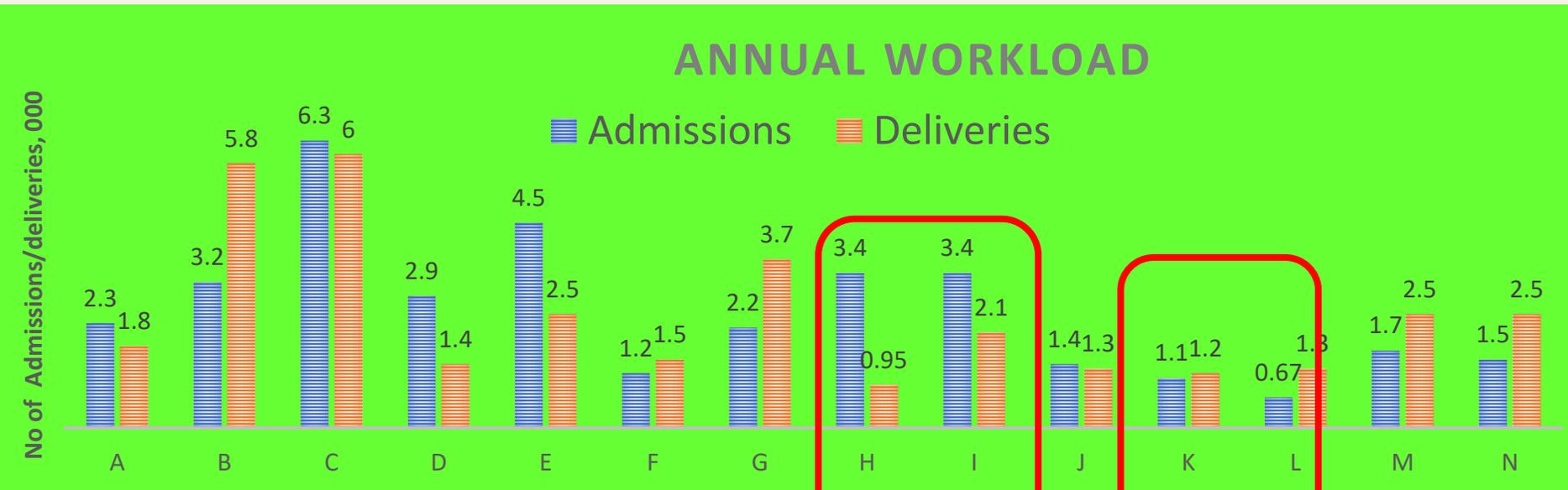
16	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25822492/
17	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19695001/
18	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29702700/
19	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29783977/
20	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24482351/
21	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18270586/
22	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29241618/
23	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29179872/
24	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27070913/
25	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32133169/
26	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30502070/
27	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26662925/
28	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25841436/
29	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32554508/



Asanteni
Thank you
Merci
Obrigado
Xièxiè nǐ
Gracias



Service delivery preparedness [Workload and Infrastructure]



Hospitals with adequate support infrastructure out of 14

Electricity
N=7

Water
N=9

Ambulance
N=9

Staff hand washing
N=8

Carer hand washing
N=4

Structural Capacity to deliver New-born in Nairobi City County

Structural Domain	No. of Items
Infrastructure	3
Lab Tests	9
Hygiene Equip	14
Equip & Drugs for Safe Delivery	37
Resuscitation Equipment in the Delivery Room	20
Essential Equip in NBU	18
Fluids & Feeds in NBU	8
Essential NBU Drugs	17
TOTAL	126

Structural capacity of 31 new-born Units in Nairobi measured as % of the 126 items present in working order

Number & Types of Hospitals

