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Relevance of Implementation Science in Health Professions Education

Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education

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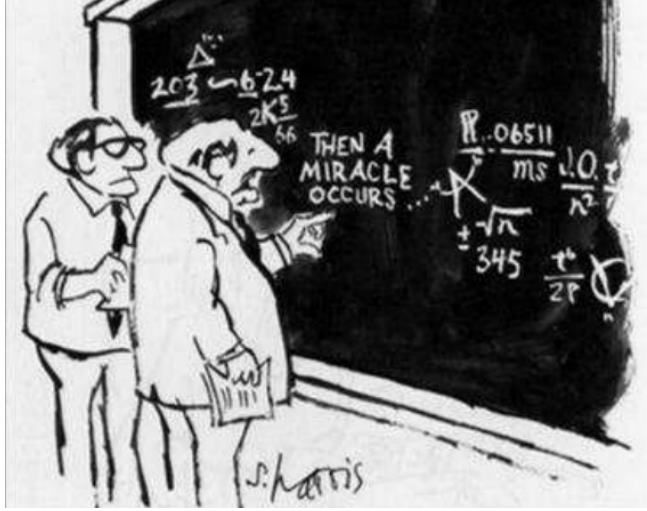
Overview

Main Objective: Discuss the importance of implementation science in the health professions education, relating to the needs of an aging population.

Structure:

- Present the need for implementation research;
- Define implementation research;
- Discuss contextual factors, implementation strategies and outcomes;
- Present an argument for capacity building in implementation research.

Lack of Implementation Know-How



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two…"

Funds

Know-how

Sciences

Discovery science for the creation and improvement of medical products

Medical Products

Development of medical products that can improve health outcomes

Health

Improvement of health outcomes following the implementation of medical products

A Formal Definition

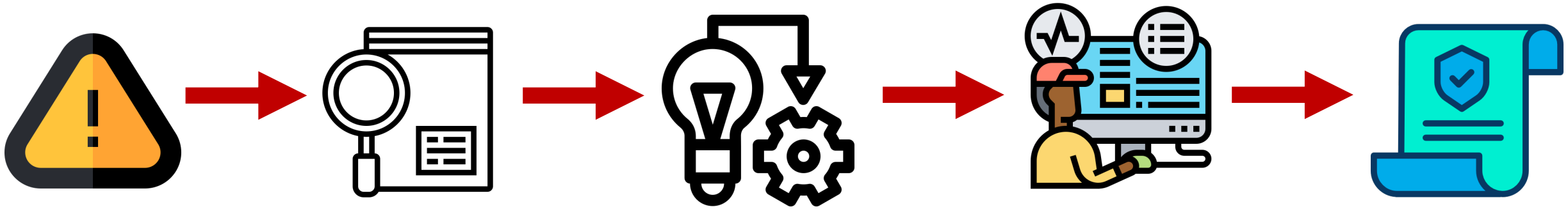
"**Implementation research** is defined as the scientific study of the use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based health interventions into clinical and community settings to improve individual outcomes and benefit population health."

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)

USAID

PAR-19-274: Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01 Clinical Trial Optional). https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-274.html. Accessed June 10, 2021.

Evidence-based Decision-Making



Implementation science informs this process – it allows us to understand how best to implement known evidence according to the local, regional, and global context in order to improve health outcomes.

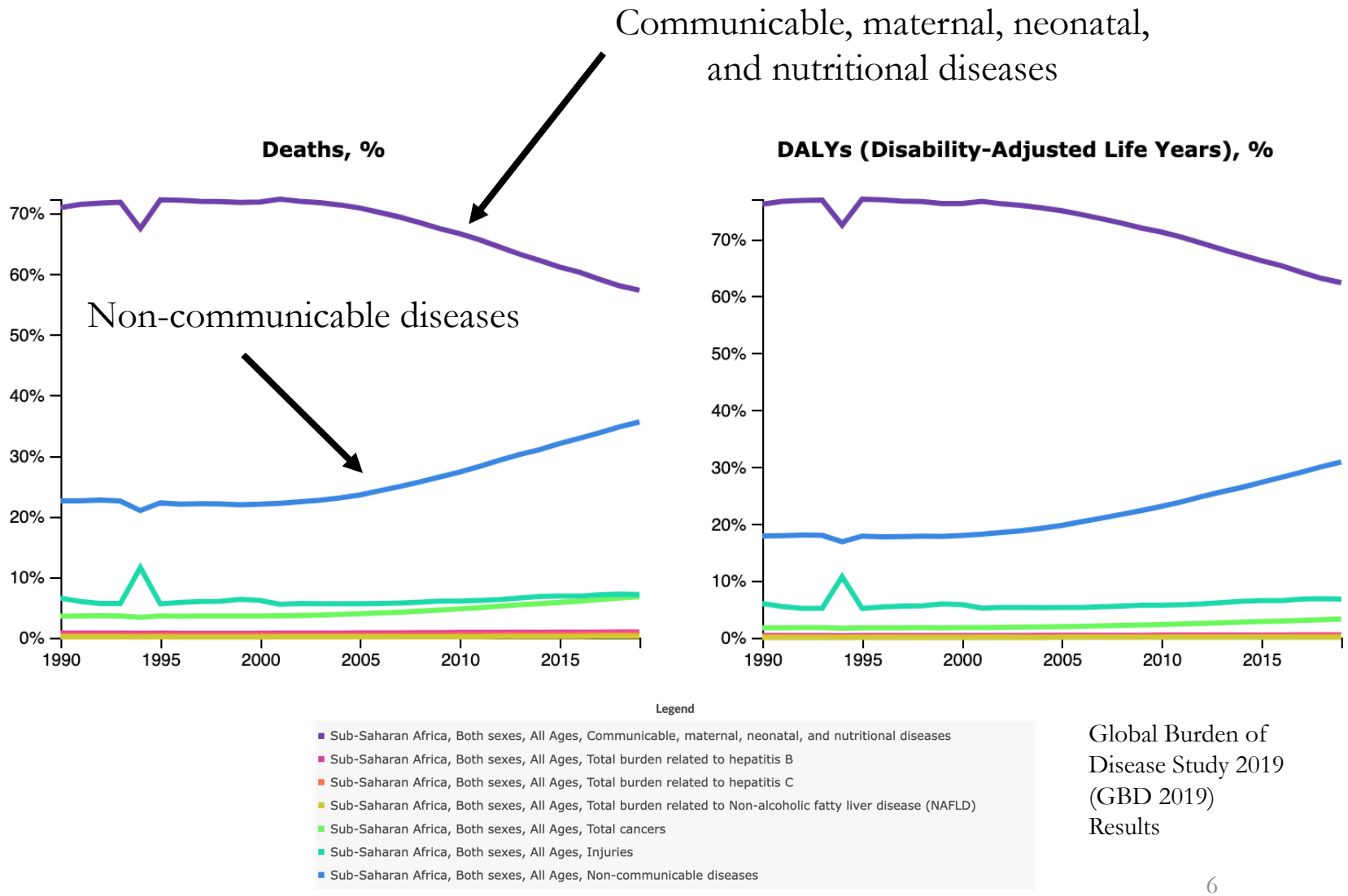
Icons from Freepik, Eucalyp on FlatIcon

Addressing Challenging Contextual Factors

Example of challenging contextual factor: Longer lives increases incidence of NCDs in SSA

Strategies to address this:

- Health awareness & prevention
- Long-term & end-of life care



Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 (GBD 2019) Results

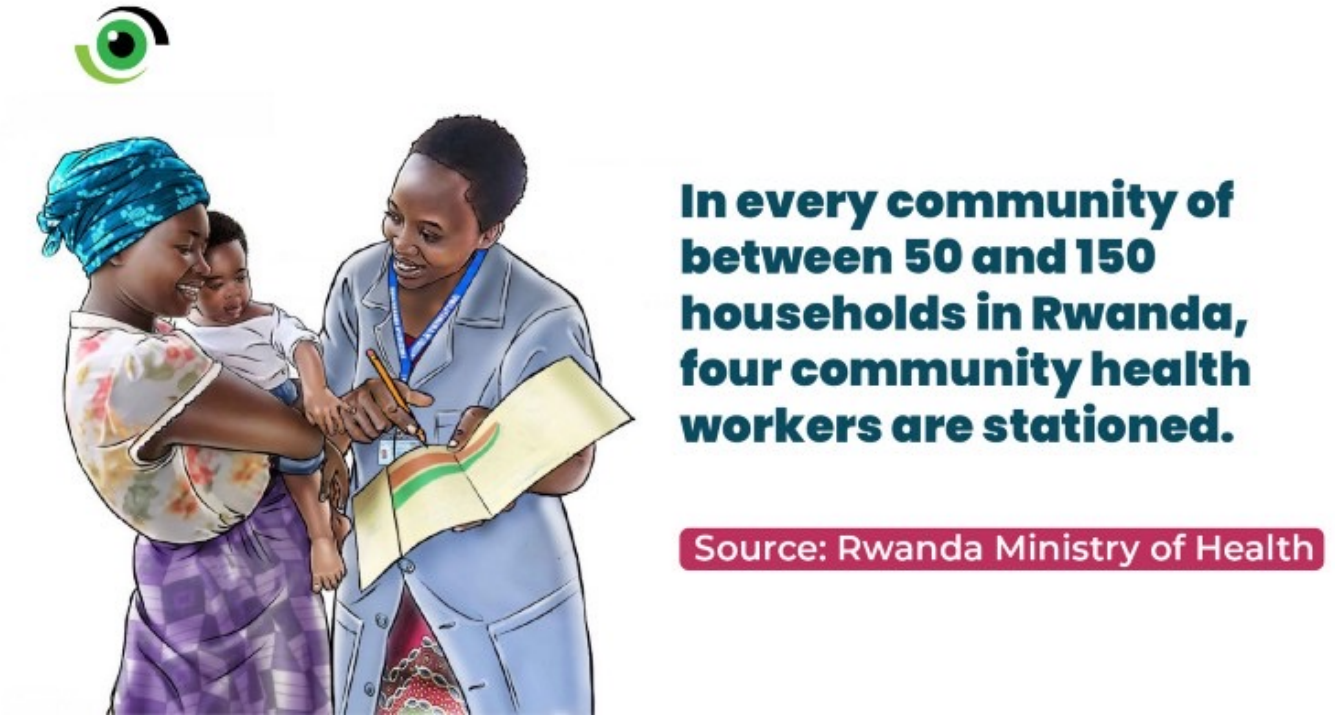
http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool
https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/investing-surgery-closing-global-health-gap

Leveraging Facilitating Contextual Factors

Example of facilitating contextual factor: Strong community health worker program (example of Rwanda)

Strategies leveraging this:

- Drug distribution at the community level
- Follow-up of chronic patients by CHWs



Implementation Outcomes

Appropriateness

Acceptablity

Appropriateness

Cost-effectiveness

Coverage (reach)

Effectiveness

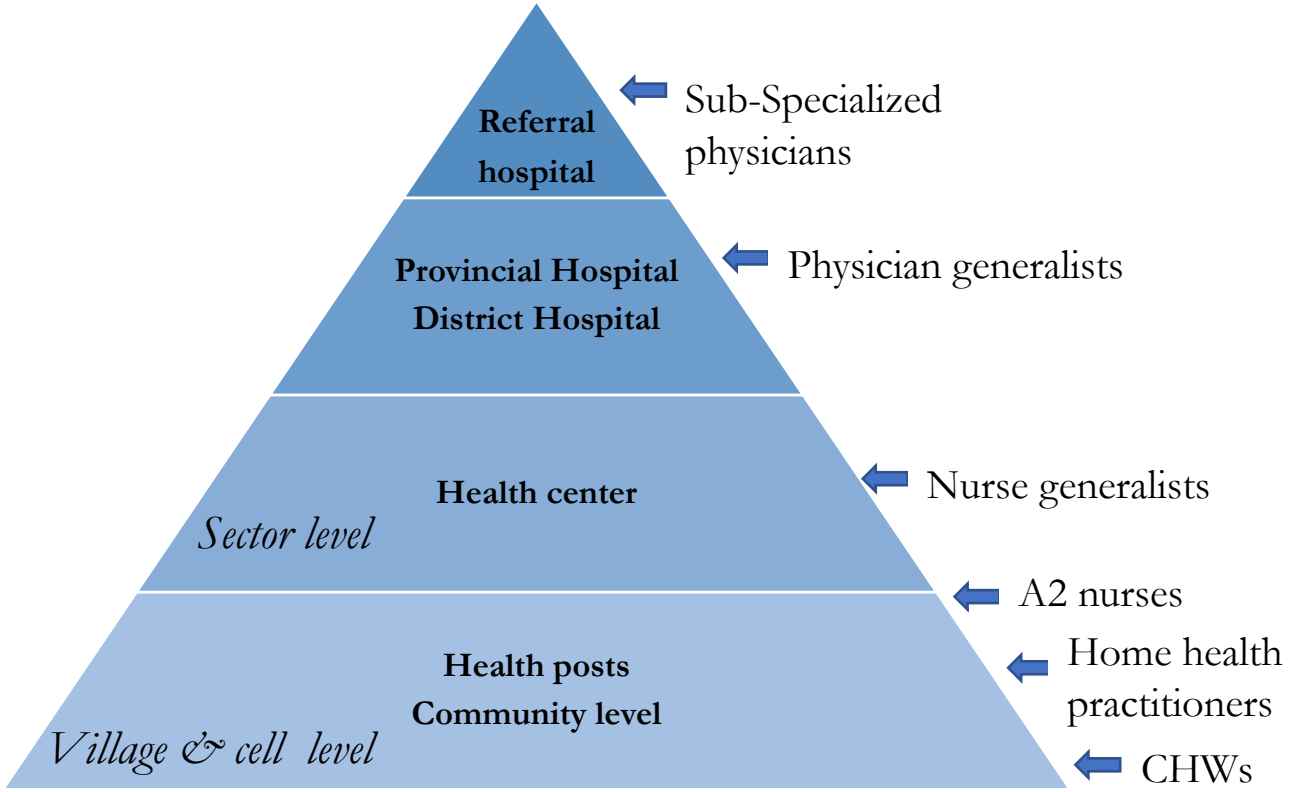
Equity

Feasibility

Fidelity

Sustainability

Incorporating IR Capacity Building at all Levels

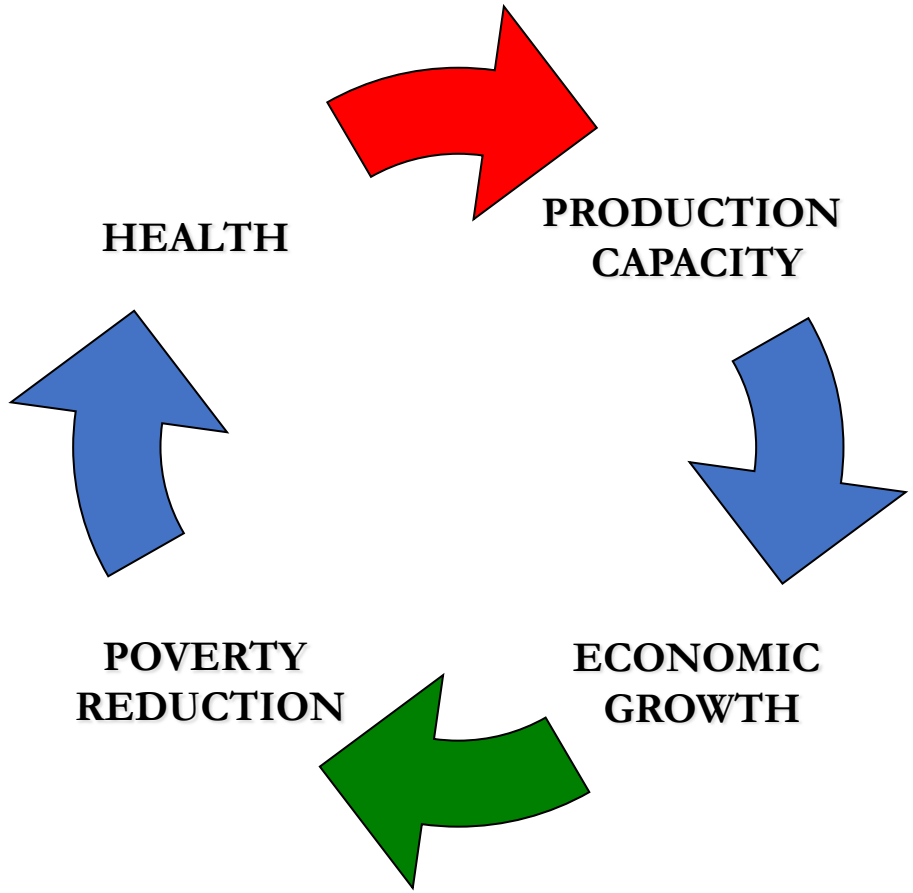


Structure of Rwanda's Health System

A country with a health workforce capable of doing research and implementing known evidence-based interventions will have a strong health system and will be ready to respond to new challenges such as the health needs of an aging population.

Economic Argument for IR Capacity Building

Capacity building in research and specifically in IR helps us use all known EBIs and implementation strategies. This is key to strengthening health systems and ultimately contributes to economic development.



Thank you!