

CHALLENGES OF CONDUCTION HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH IN RESOURCE POOR SETTINGS: Funding and generalizability of findings

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Outline

- Background
- Health System frameworks
- Health Systems actors
- Challenges HS studies
 - Context & coverage (?Generalizability)
 - Coverage (?Funding)
- Conclusions



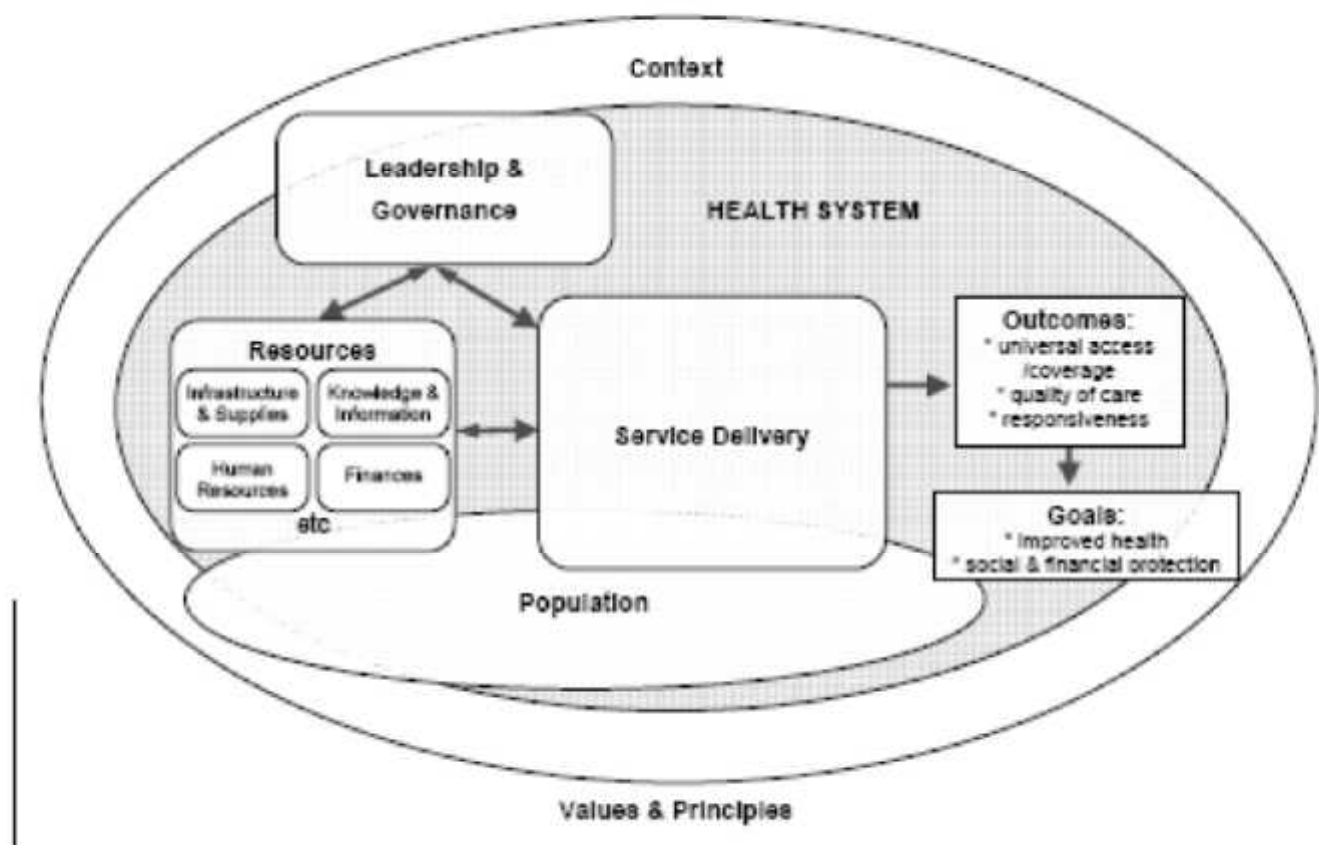
Background

Imagine a country with NO health system
And you are consulted to develop one!

- The WHO (2007) defines health system as:
“All organizations, people and action whose primary intent is to promote, restore or maintain health”
- WHO defines health: “mental, physical and social wellbeing”; i.e. beyond sickness!
- System: “interconnected parts, organized for a purpose”

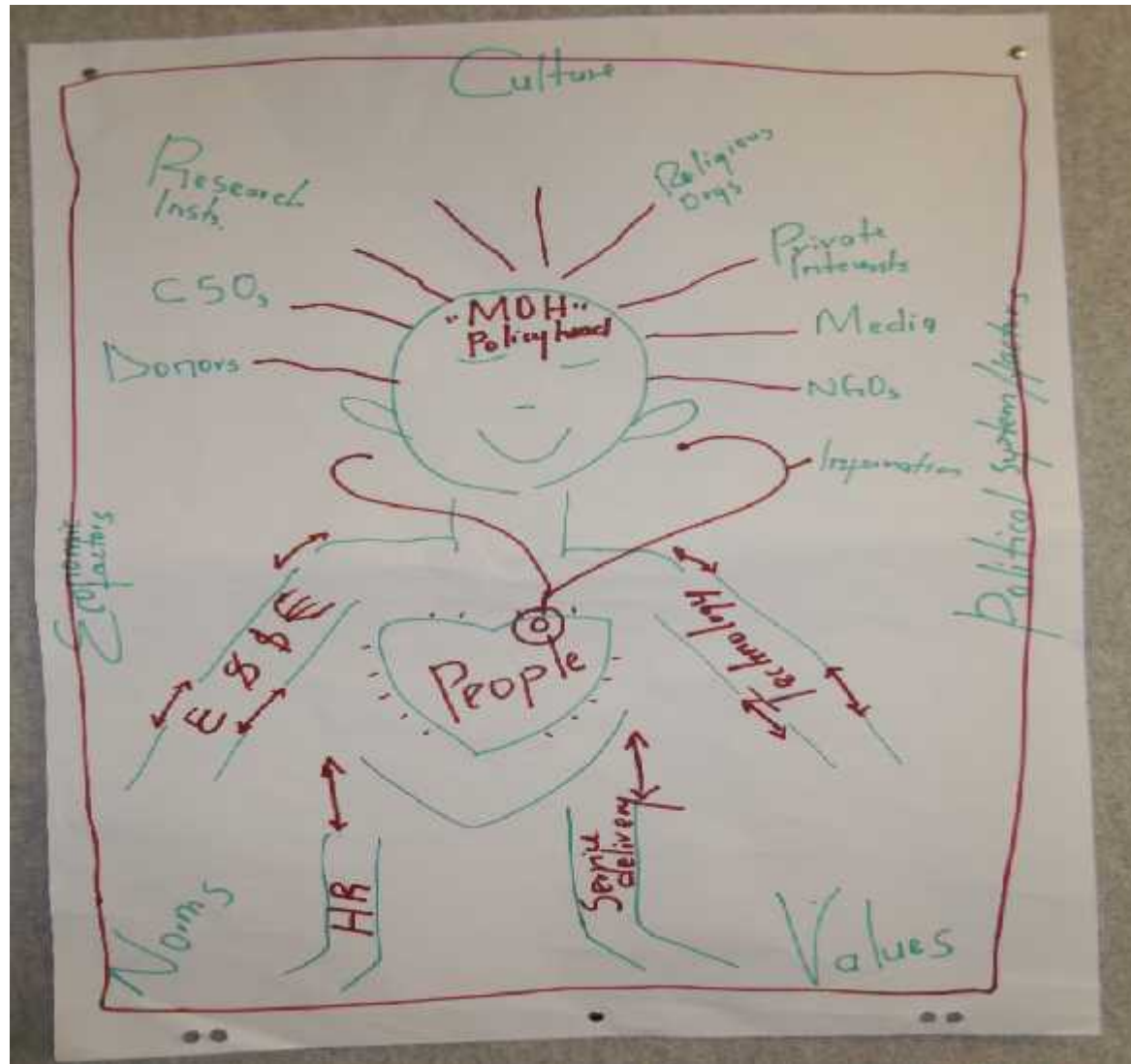
Health Systems frameworks

Figure 1. The health system dynamics framework in its generic form

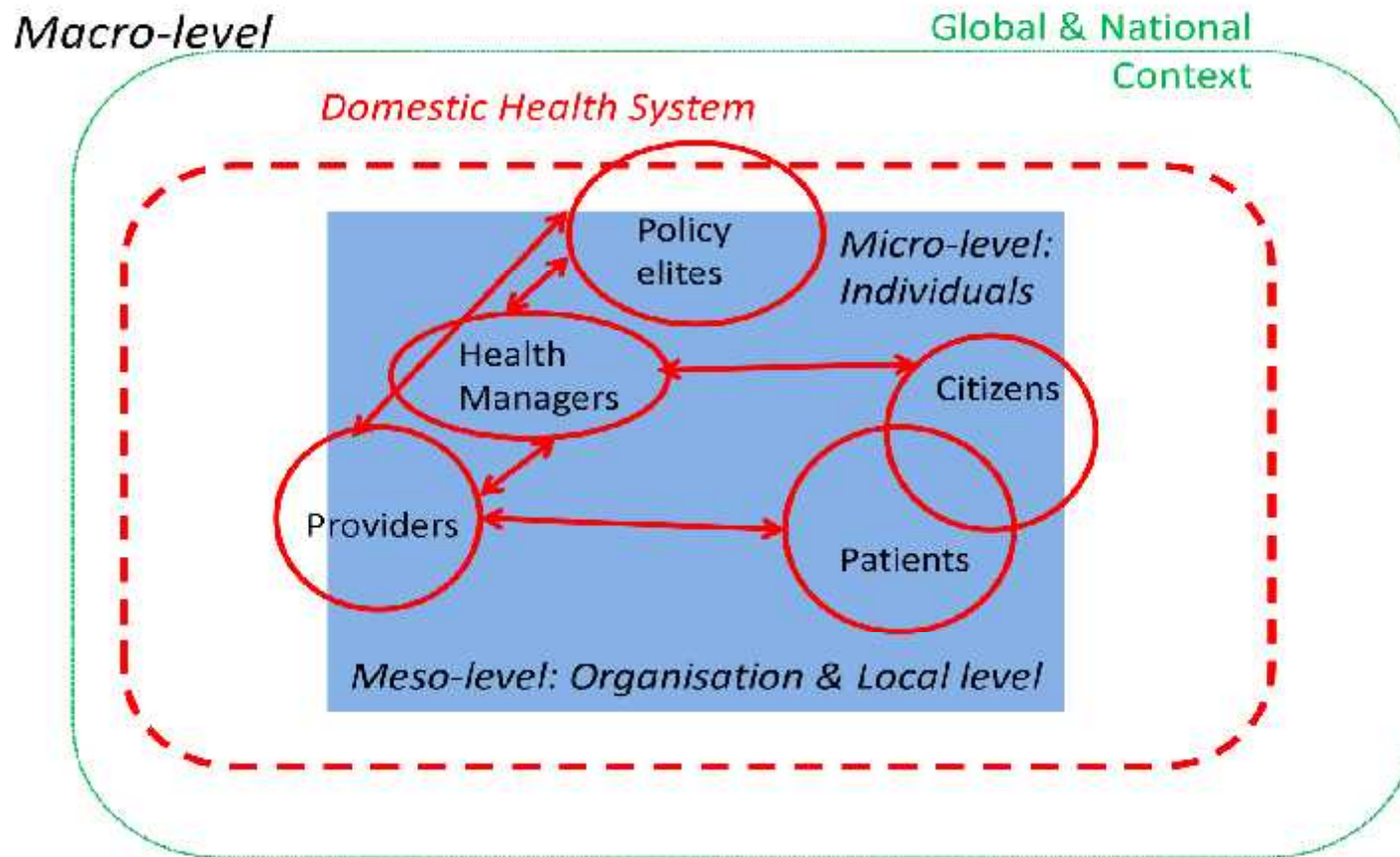


Van Olmen et al. 2010

Health system actors, power & relations (Drawing the Health System)

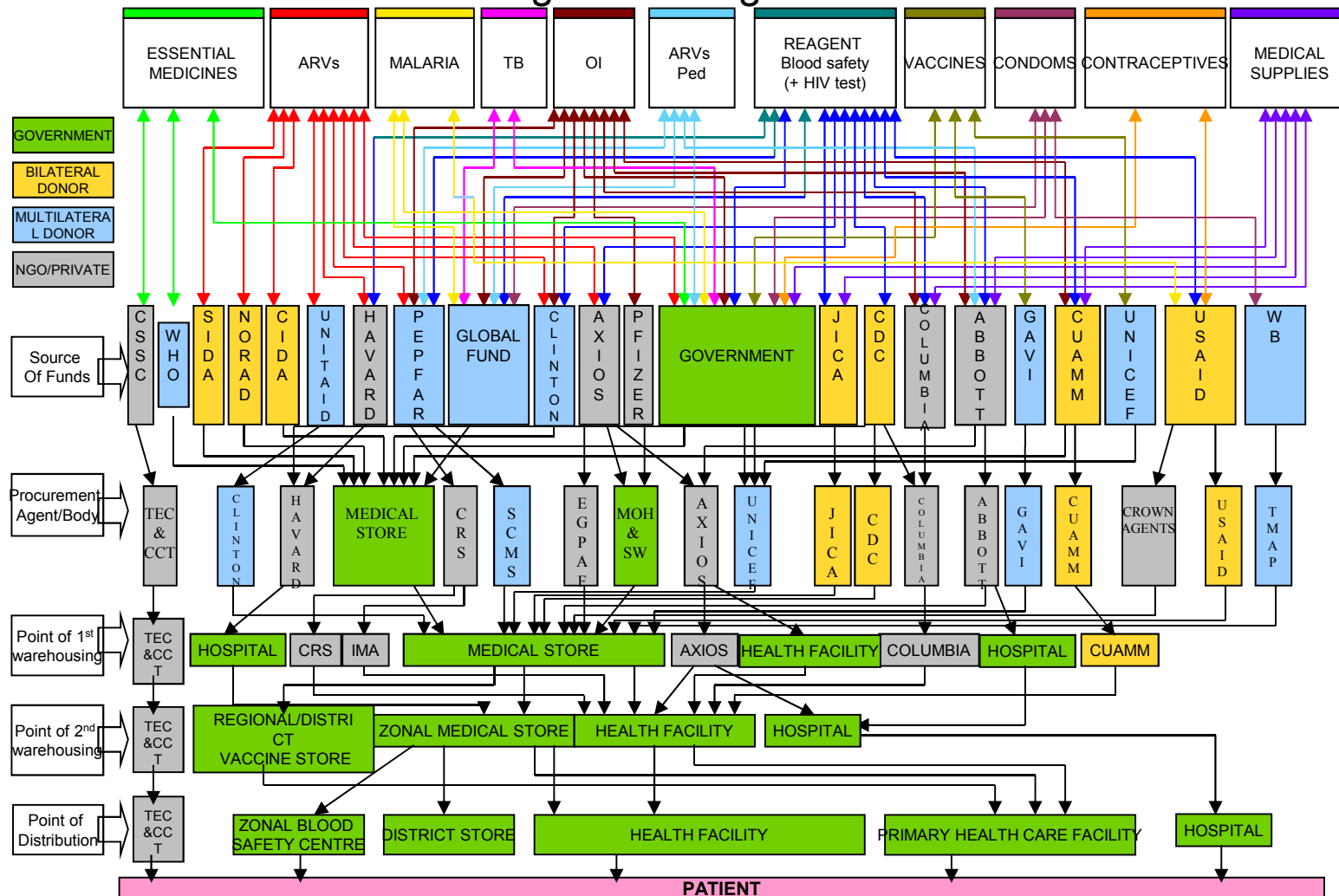


Health system actors, power & relations: Micro, Meso and Macro levels

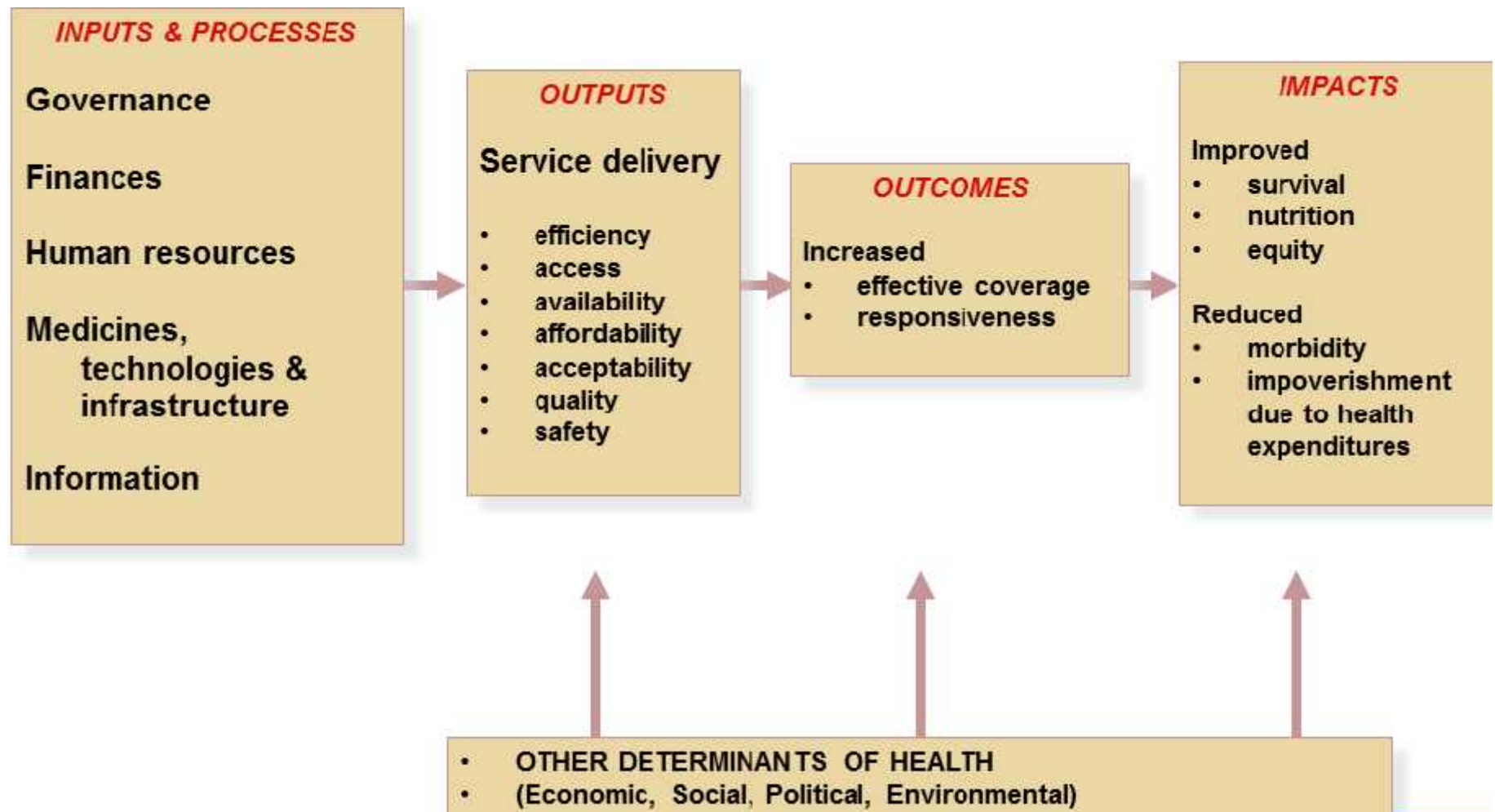


HS actors- example of medical & technologies

Medicines & Technologies building block – Tanzania 2007



The whole picture (simplified) & study focus...



Modified from: WHO Everybody's business, 2008 & Health Metrics Network Framework, 2008

Examples of collaborative works

Automated statistical reports online



Challenges in HS studies (1)

- Its our mandate to transfer knowledge & what works in one area to another
 - Understanding of context becomes necessary
 - Social studies (the “why & how”) offers the best approaches
 - Takes time and has resources implications
 - Limited funding limits inclusion of other groups (e.g. location, cultural, etc... affecting generalizability of findings

Challenges in HS studies (2)

- HS issues may mean different to different actors

- a "profit making system" from the perspective of private providers
- a "distribution system" from the perspective of the pharmaceutical industry
- an "employment system" from the perspective of health workers
- a "market system" from the perspective of household consumers and providers of health-related goods and services
- a "health resource system" from the perspective of clients
- a "social support system" from the perspective of local community
- a "complex system" from the perspective of researchers / evaluators
- a set of "policy systems" from the perspective of government
- a set of "sub-systems" from the perspective of the Ministry of Health

- Difficult to harmonize - Intervening in one area sometimes leads to more questions than answers

Conclusions

- HS activities involves a range of actors
- Actors have different expectations from the HS
- HS components are interconnected and dependent on each other
- HS studies should:
 - address multiple components,
 - different angles
 - increase representativeness of actors



Thank you