

Evaluation of health outcomes: What can we learn from public health

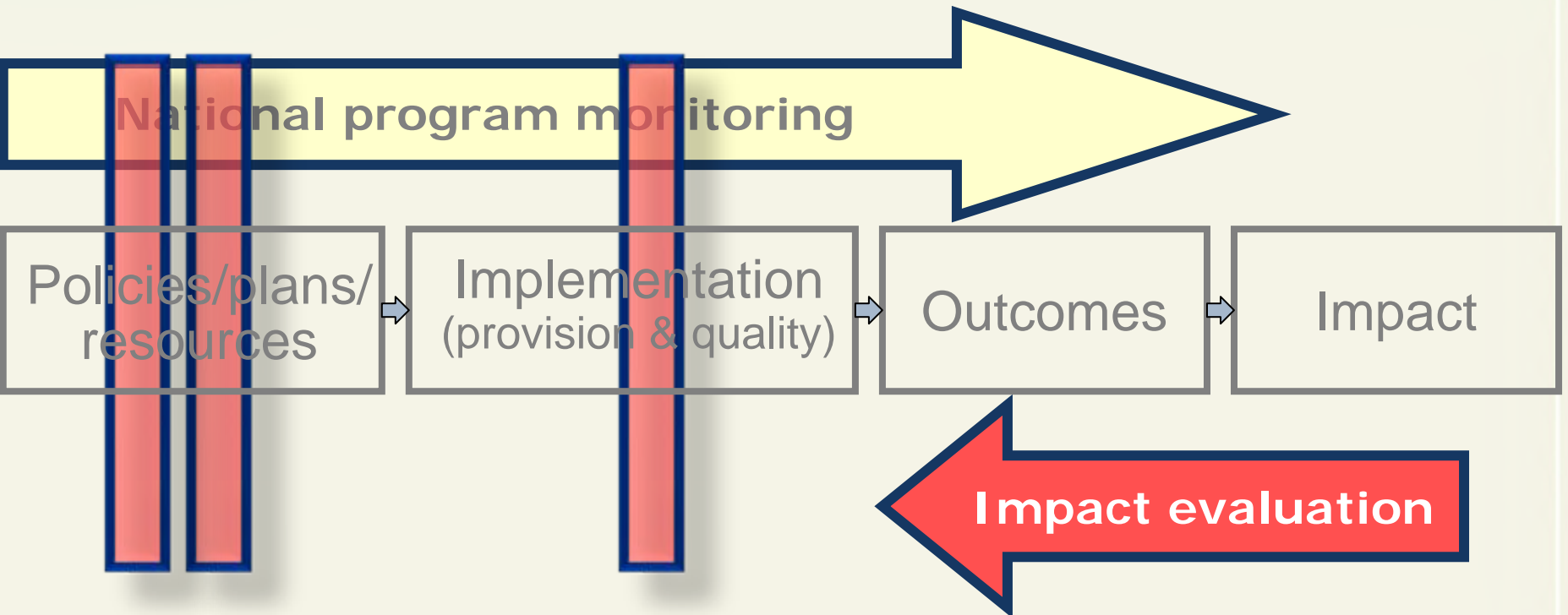
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Terminology

Term	Definition
<i>Evaluation</i>	rigorous, science-based collection of information about program activities, characteristics, outcomes and impact that determines the merit or worth of a specific program or intervention
<i>Monitoring</i>	routine tracking and reporting of priority information about a program and its intended outputs and outcomes...to assess whether resources are spent according to plan and whether the program is resulting in the expected outputs

National monitoring and impact evaluation are complementary



Evaluation purpose

(Black R et al, 2008)

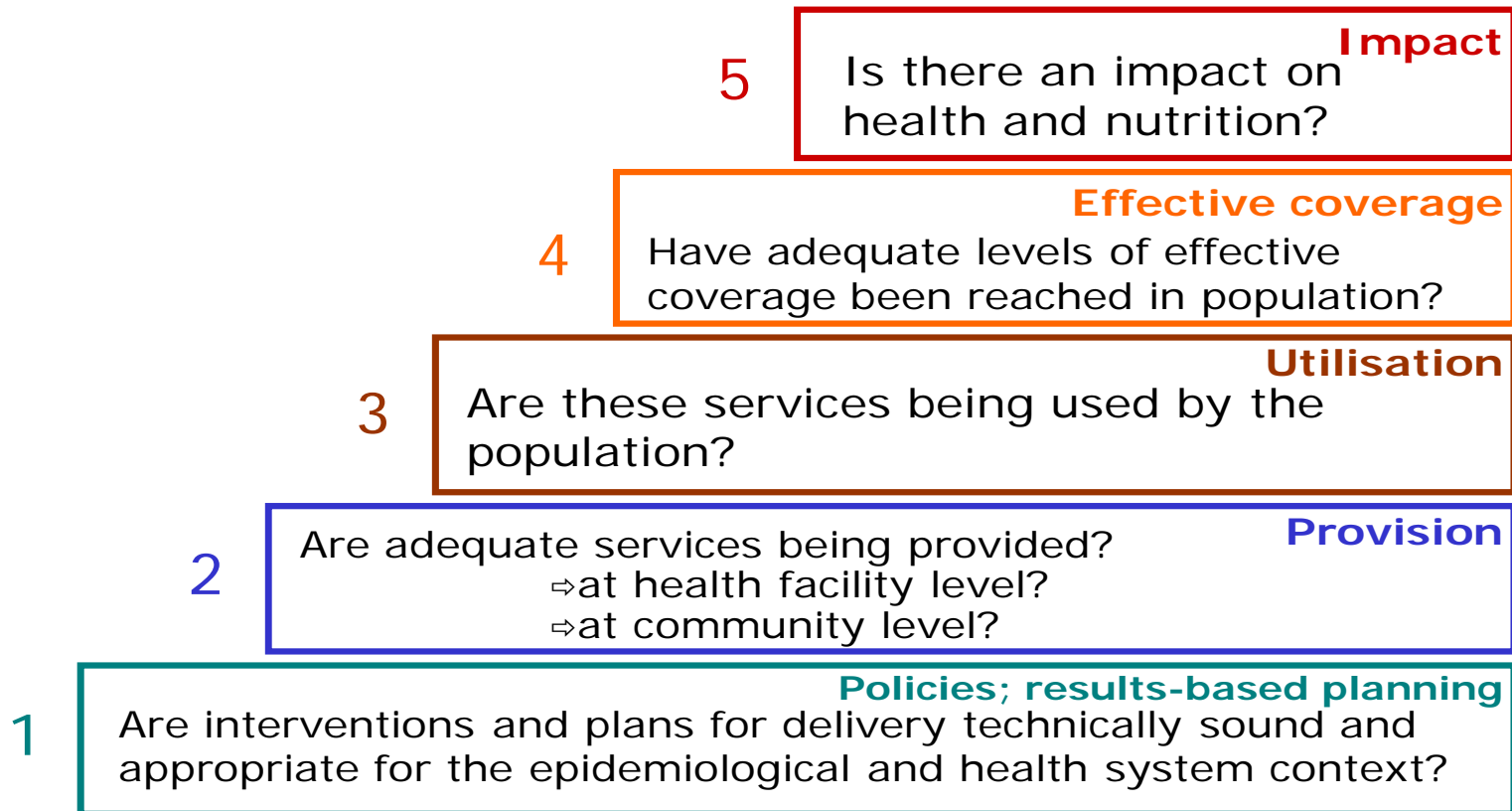



design

Purpose	Primary question	Type of inference	Design implications
Proof of program efficacy or effectiveness	Is any measured effect on performance or health due to the implemented program?	Probability	Controlled trial usually randomizing clusters, e.g. health service areas, to program or not
Demonstration of likely program effectiveness	Is any measured effect on performance or health likely due to the program rather than other influences?	Plausibility	Concurrent, non randomized clusters with program or not; before-after or cross-sectional in program areas and non-program areas

Steps in Evaluation

A step-wise approach to evaluation
at country level





Evaluating Equity in Health Outcomes

- Socio-economic, as well as urban/rural, ethnic, religious, gender, inequalities in coverage of health interventions well documented
- Implications for evaluations may include:
 - Data by geographical area to assess targeting
 - Utilization, coverage, health status data by SES etc
 - Measurement of wealth that is reliable and comparable
 - Sample size, study design needs
 - Assessment of program effects on inequities over time

Operational Considerations

- Need for external team with independent funding
- Close interaction with program implementers from the beginning e.g. impact framework, design, feedback, interpretation
- Coordination with national plans and data collection efforts
- Dissemination in country and internationally

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