



# “Real-Real World” Evidence to understand the Use of Health Information Systems for Decision Making

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Funded by:  
**BILL & MELINDA**  
GATES foundation

RACHEL BRIDGE

**HOW TO  
MAKE A  
MILLION  
BEFORE LUNCH**



# Disclosure

## Founding source:

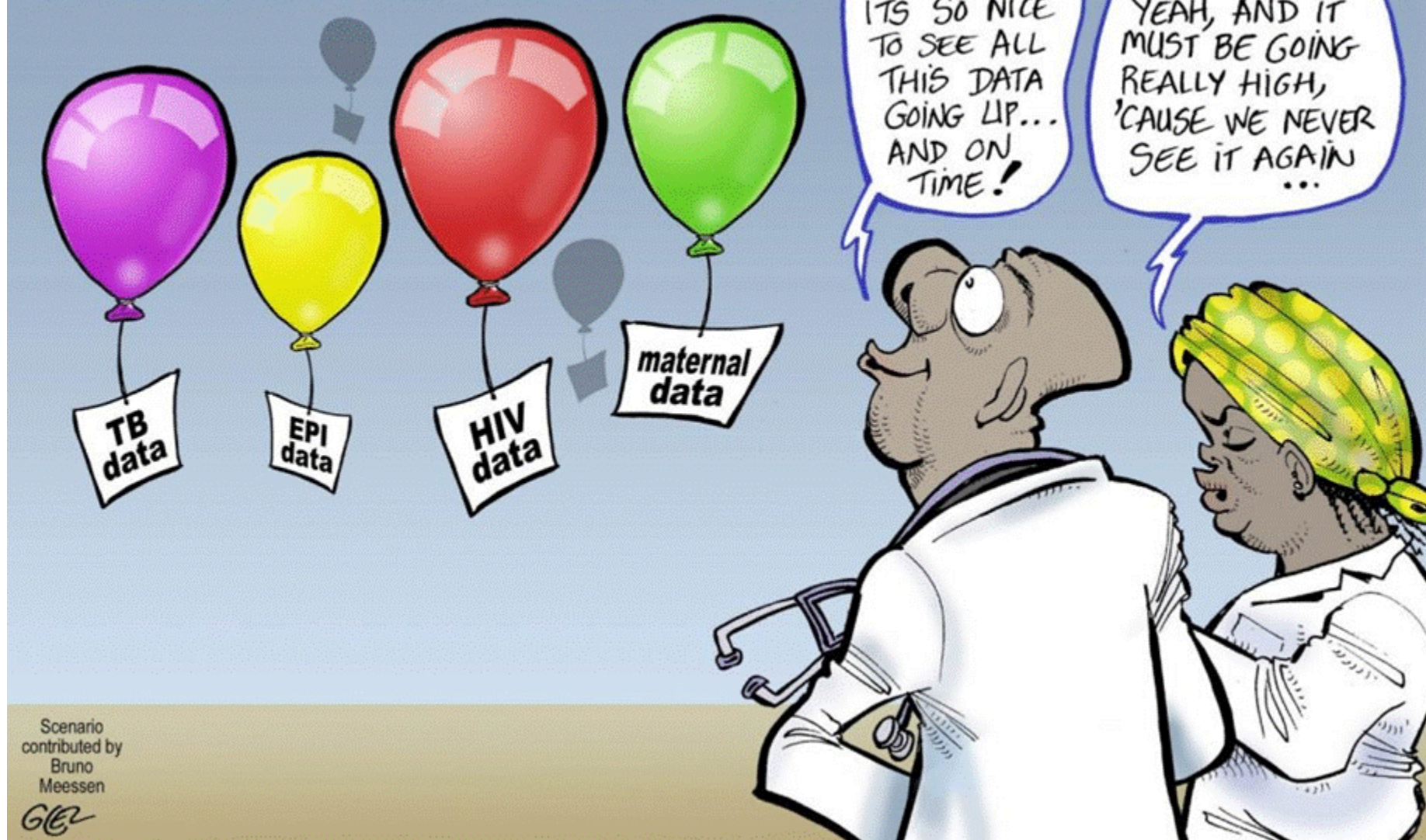
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

## Conflict of interest :

- I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation.
- One of our co-authors works at the funding agency

# The problem

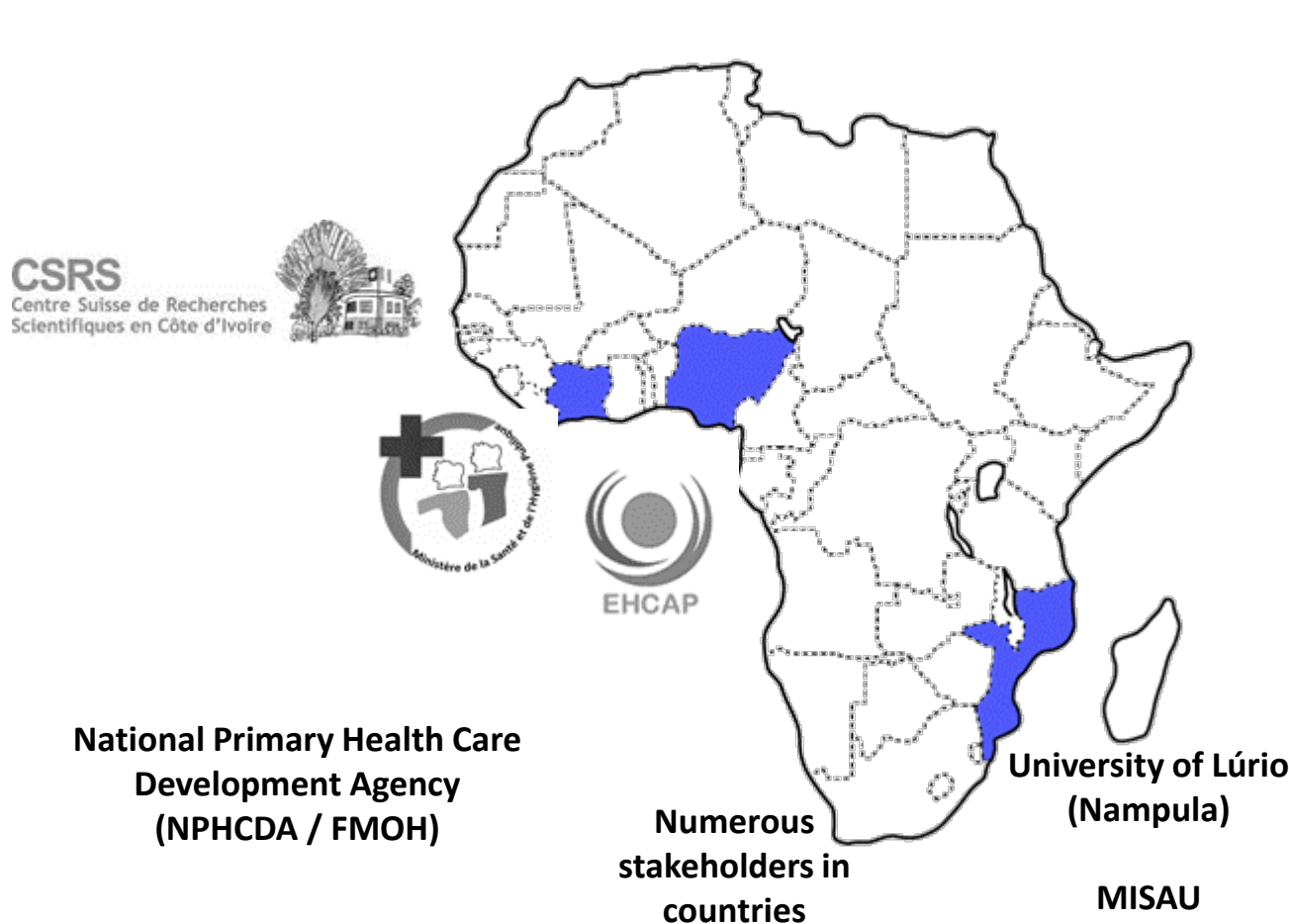
## The helium effect - view from the frontline





To test the effects of  
**innovations in paper-based** health  
information systems in  
**data quality, data use** and **health  
outcomes.**

# The partnership



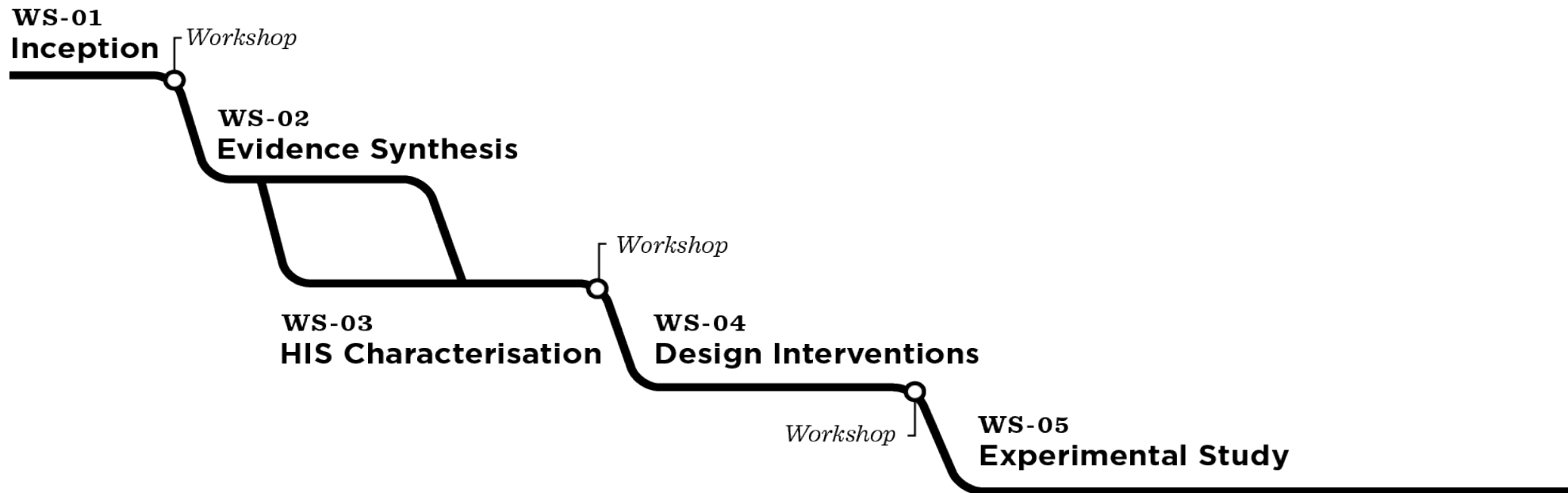
- Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH)
- Biostatistics (Epidemiology and Public Health)
- Medicines Research
- Project Administration Unit



**25 to 30 EXPERTS! in 7 countries**

**Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

# The plan



Workstream 06: Policy Advocacy will occur throughout the project.

0 MONTHS

12

# The effectiveness systematic review



## The 'effectiveness' systematic review

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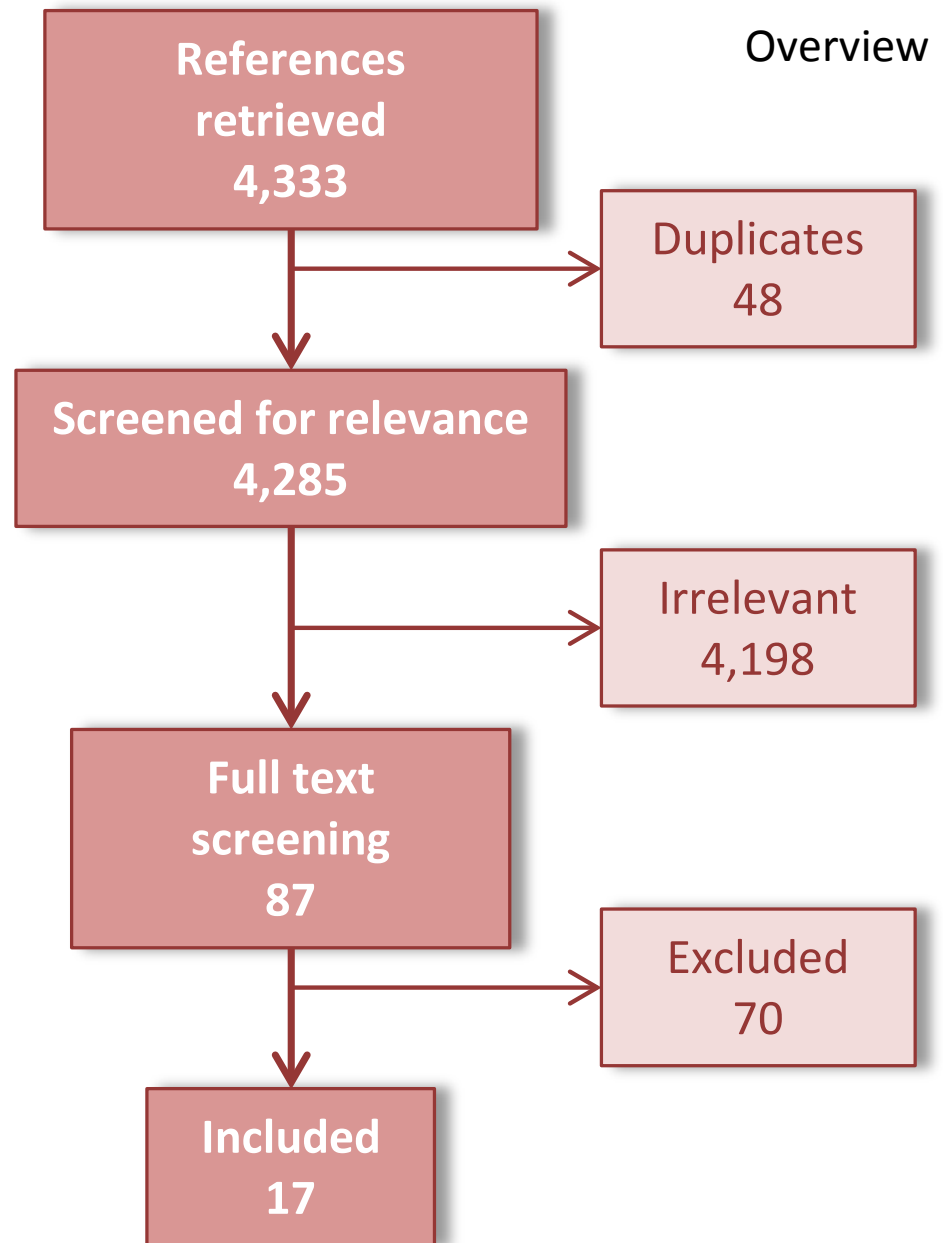
**P** when **health care providers** use  
**I** **innovative Health Information Systems**  
**C** as compared to **regular** Health Information Systems  
**O** do **data quality, use** or **health outcomes** improve

*in PHC in LMIC*

# The 'effectiveness' systematic review

## Interventions:

- Training on recording
- EHR
- Problem oriented record
- Redesign immunisation card
- SMS reminders



## Data quality

discrepancies in data sources, completeness

## Data use

knowledge, identification of outliers, system 'usability', adherence to guidelines

## Health outcomes

clinical episodes identified, vaccinations, nets protection, mothers' enrolment, viral suppression

## Other

time spent, workload, satisfaction

- Innovations are in the side of '**electronic**' (not in the side of paper) or mixed (e.g. **reminders**)
- Most of the studies reported **numerous outcomes**
- **We could still learn from electronic systems.**

**The mistake  
(yes, mistake)**

We thought we knew

what

**health information systems**

~~are~~ mean

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RWE:

“information on health care that is derived from multiple **sources outside typical clinical research settings**, including electronic health records (EHRs), claims and billing data, product and disease registries, and data gathered through personal devices and health applications”.

Sherman et al. 2016 *The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

**Back to the ~~desk~~  
field**







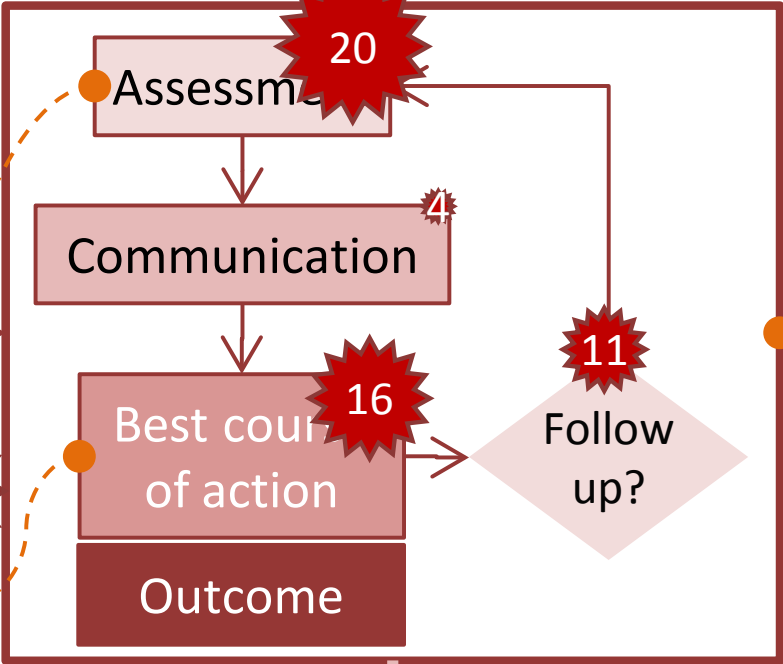
# PRIMARY DECISIONS (Community / Health facility)

**Knowledge** **14**

- Regulations
- Guidelines
- Peers' advice
- Own experience
- Tacit...

**24**

Technical audit



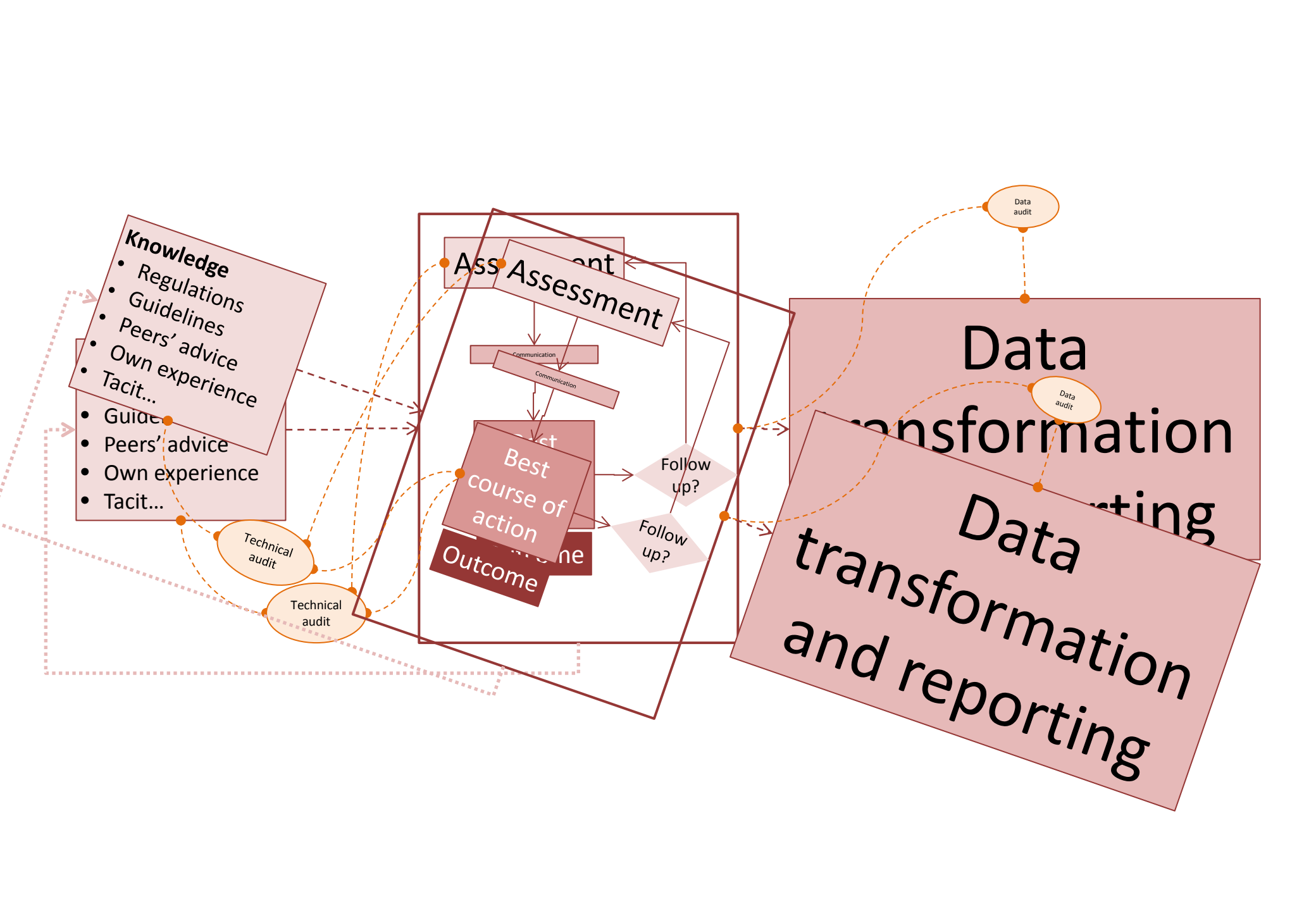
**5**

Data audit

**42** Recording

Data transformation and reporting

**41** Reporting



**What have we  
learned?**

## Conclusions

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- It is not (only) a matter of the **type of study**, but of what **we miss** without field-experience;
- It is not (only) a matter of **understanding interventions**, but of understanding **people** (making decisions) affected by them;
- It is not (only) a matter of **research partnerships**, but of **listening** to partners

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RRWE:

“information on health care that is derived from **the direct observation of human events using appropriate methods**, including human-centred design, behavioural approaches and other disciplines outside the health sector”.

*PHISICC's team - 2017*

## The inspiration

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it is not about paper tools

it is not about parts of information systems

it is not about the best quality data

**It is about PEOPLE, improving their lives\***

through better decisions on what affects them

informed by adequate data

carefully recorded by health workers

in paper tools

\* Especially, the most vulnerable





Thanks to:

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Health services users, health workers, Ministries of Health, Research partners and stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Nigeria.

**T4A**