

# Applying implementation science methods for the control of food and waterborne infections

Swiss TPH - IMPACT



EMORY

ROLLINS  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH

Matthew C. Freeman, MPH PhD

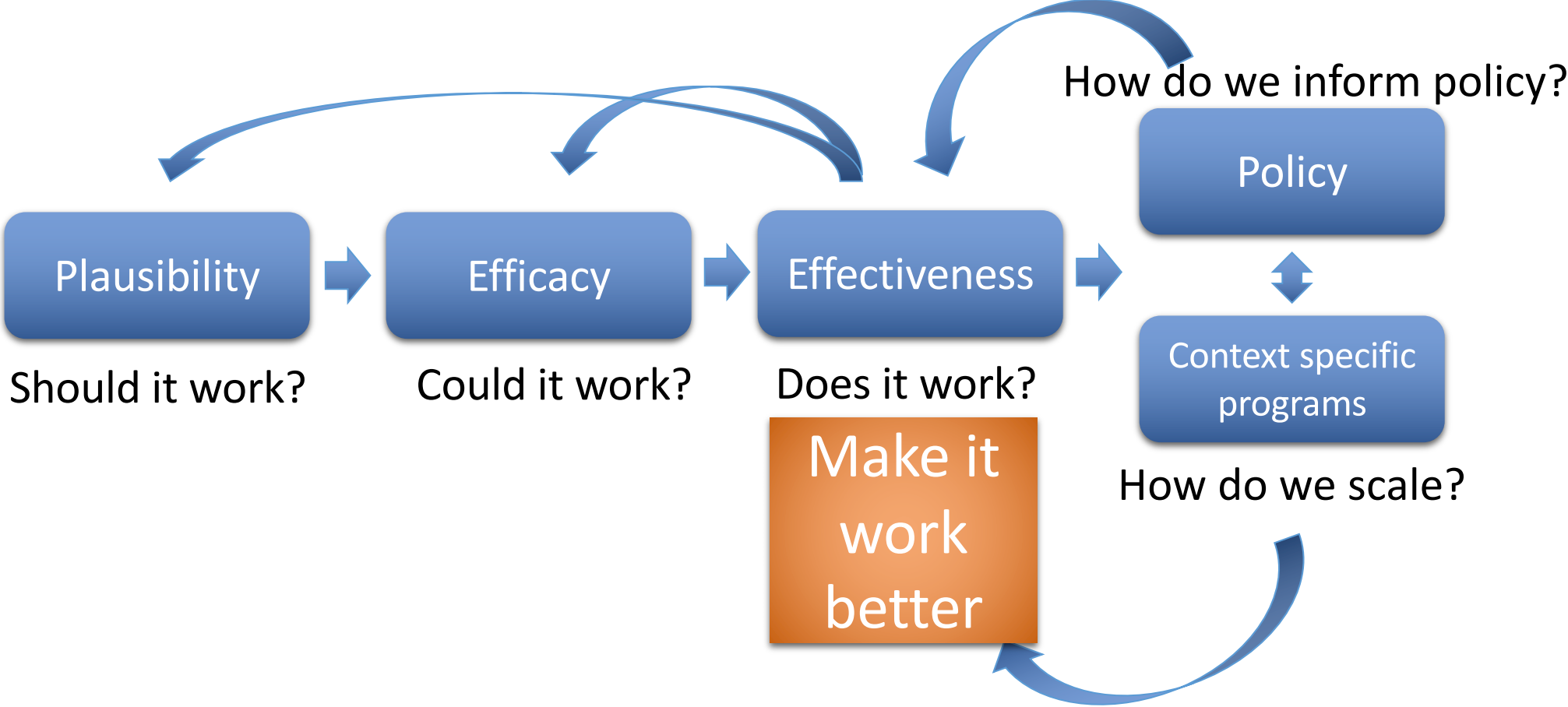
Asa Griggs Candler Professor

Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health

[www.FreemanResearchGroup.org](http://www.FreemanResearchGroup.org)

[Matthew.Freeman@emory.edu](mailto:Matthew.Freeman@emory.edu)

# Successful delivery of at-scale interventions to reach impact



Adapted from Glasgow et al. 2012

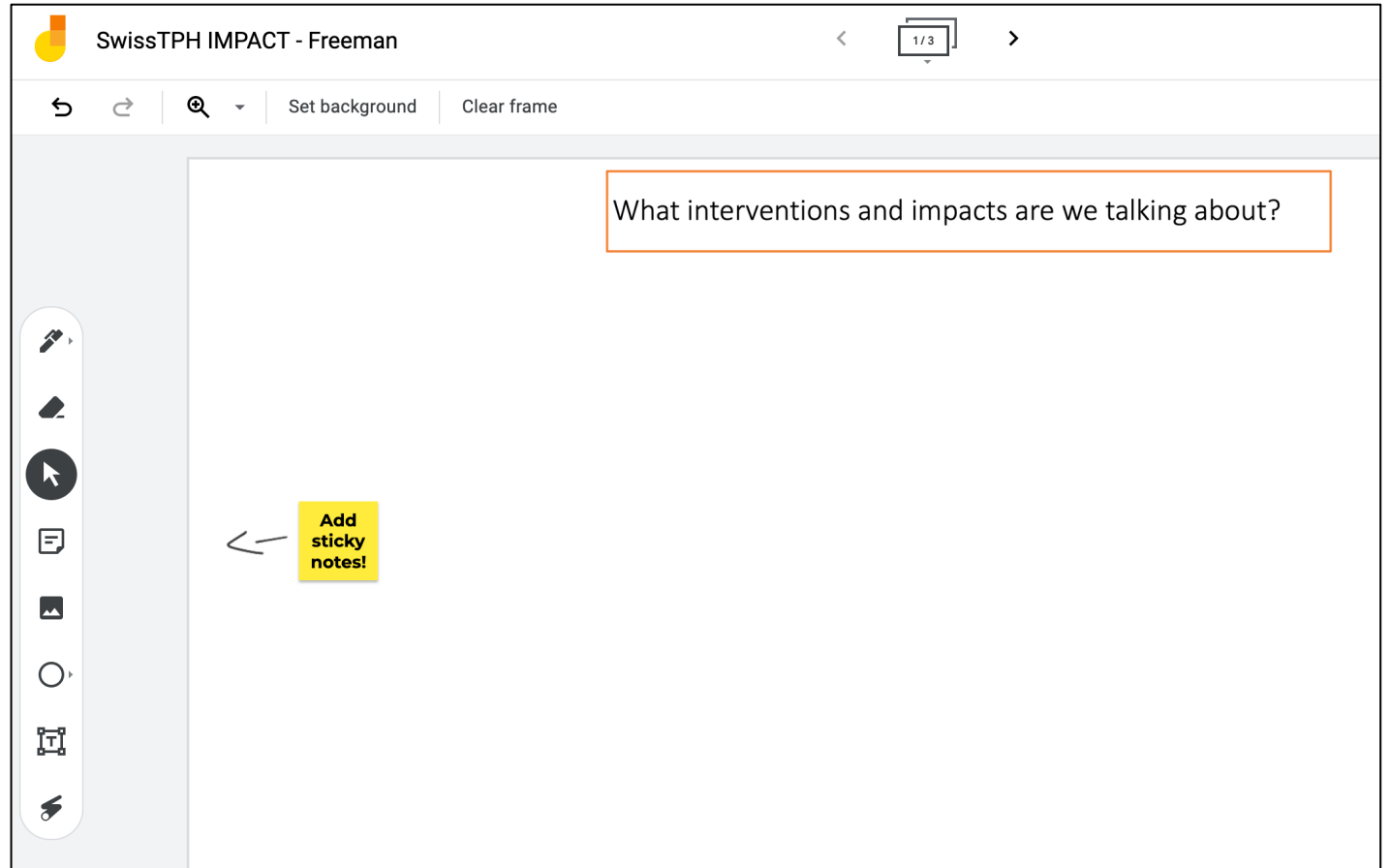
# Talk objectives

1. What is WASH and what are the key challenges facing the sector?
2. How can implementation science be applied for the control of food and waterborne disease in low and middle-income countries
3. What are the priority challenges and opportunities to WASH implementation research

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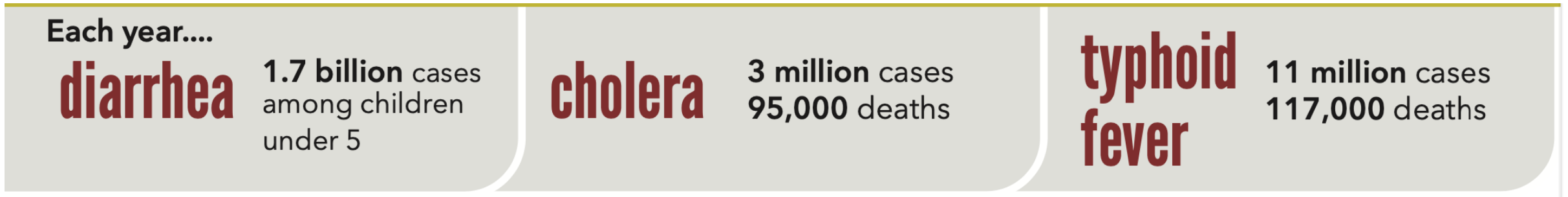
# What interventions and impacts are we talking about?



➔ <https://l.ead.me/bd6rSh>

# Diarrhea caused 1.3 million deaths in 2015

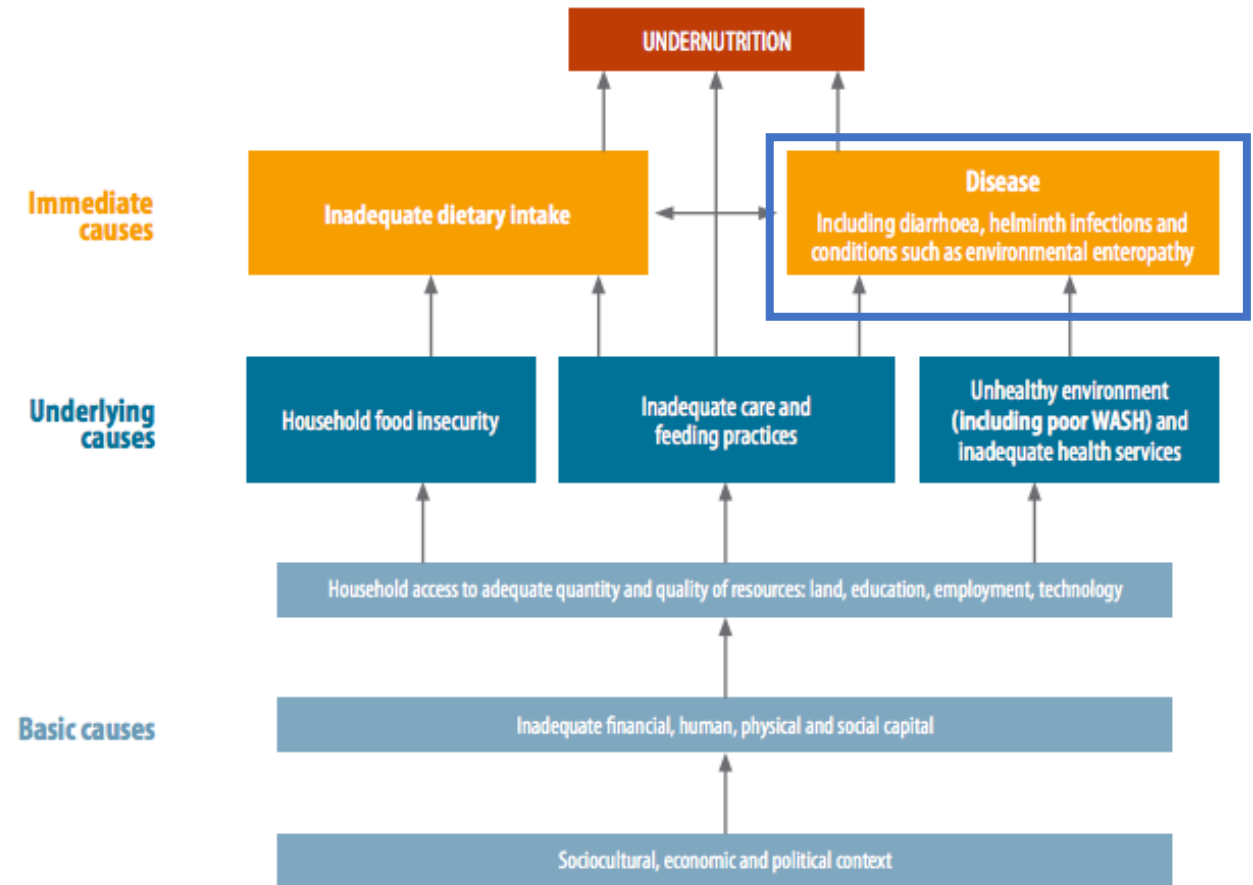
- ~500,000 deaths in children < 5 year old
- 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death in children



# Undernutrition is a major public health problem

- ~690 million people globally are undernourished
- 21.3% children stunted in 2019
- Avoiding fecal exposure and enteric infection is critical


Fig. 3. Conceptual framework of the causes of undernutrition, including aspects of WASH and diarrhoea (adapted from UNICEF, 2013)



# WASH-related disease Meta-analyses

International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health 220 (2017) 928–949

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect


 International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijheh](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijheh)

Review

The impact of sanitation on infectious disease and nutritional status: A systematic review and meta-analysis


Matthew C. Freeman<sup>a,\*</sup>, Joshua V. Garn<sup>a</sup>, Gloria D. Sclar<sup>a</sup>, Sophie Boisson<sup>b</sup>, Kate Medlicott<sup>b</sup>, Kelly T. Alexander<sup>a</sup>, Gauthami Penakalapati<sup>a</sup>, Darcy Anderson<sup>a</sup>, Amrita G. Mahtani<sup>a</sup>, Jack E.T. Grimes<sup>c</sup>, Eva A. Rehfuess<sup>d</sup>, Thomas F. Clasen<sup>a,e,\*</sup>



## Assessing the impact of drinking water and sanitation on diarrhoeal disease in low- and middle-income settings: systematic review and meta-regression

Jennyfer Wolf<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Annette Prüss-Ustün<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Cumming<sup>4</sup>, Jamie Bartram<sup>5</sup>, Sophie Bonjour<sup>1</sup>, Sandy Cairncross<sup>4</sup>, Thomas Clasen<sup>6</sup>, John M. Colford Jr<sup>7</sup>, Valerie Curtis<sup>4</sup>, Jennifer De France<sup>1</sup>, Lorna Fewtrell<sup>8</sup>, Matthew C. Freeman<sup>6</sup>, Bruce Gordon<sup>1</sup>, Paul R. Hunter<sup>9,10</sup>, Aurelie Jeandron<sup>4</sup>, Richard B. Johnston<sup>1,11</sup>, Daniel Mäusezahl<sup>2,3</sup>, Colin Mathers<sup>12</sup>, Maria Neira<sup>1</sup> and Julian P. T. Higgins<sup>13,14</sup>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

 **NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

The Effect of Hygiene-Based Lymphedema Management in Lymphatic Filariasis-Endemic Areas: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Meredith E. Stocks<sup>1,2</sup>, Matthew C. Freeman<sup>2</sup>, David G. Addiss<sup>1\*</sup>


OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

 **MEDICINE**

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Soil-Transmitted Helminth Infection: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Eric C. Strunz<sup>1\*</sup>, David G. Addiss<sup>1</sup>, Meredith E. Stocks<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Ogden<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Jürg Utzinger<sup>4,5</sup>, Matthew C. Freeman<sup>2</sup>

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online


 **MEDICINE**

Effect of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene on the Prevention of Trachoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Meredith E. Stocks<sup>1,2</sup>, Stephanie Ogden<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Danny Haddad<sup>4</sup>, David G. Addiss<sup>3</sup>, Courtney McGuire<sup>1</sup>, Matthew C. Freeman<sup>1\*</sup>

1 Department of Environmental Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, 2 International Trachoma Initiative, Taskforce for Global Health, Decatur, Georgia, United States of America, 3 Children Without Worms, Taskforce for Global Health, Decatur, Georgia, United States of America, 4 Emory Eye Center, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America

*Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg*  
doi:10.1093/trstmh/tru056



Human diarrhea infections associated with domestic animal husbandry: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Laura D. Zambrano, Karen Levy, Neia P. Menezes and Matthew C. Freeman\*



# WASH-related disease Meta-analyses

**Table 1**

Adverse health outcomes that are at least partly attributable to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene behaviours.



Global WASH-attributable disease burden not quantified	Global WASH-attributable disease burden estimates available	
Health outcomes	Health outcomes	Main WASH exposure
Arsenicosis	<b>Ascariasis</b>	sanitation
Cyanobacterial toxins	Cancer (bladder)	drinking water
Fluorosis	Dengue	water resource management/water bodies
Hepatitis A, E	<b>Diarrhoeal diseases</b>	drinking water, sanitation, hygiene behaviours*
Lead poisonings	Drowning <sup>d</sup>	recreational water/water bodies
Legionellosis	<b>Hookworm disease<sup>a</sup></b>	Sanitation
Leptospirosis	Japanese Encephalitis	water resource management/agricultural practices
Methaemoglobinaemia	Lymphatic filariasis	water resource management/water bodies
Neonatal conditions and maternal outcomes	<b>Malaria<sup>d</sup></b>	water resource management/water bodies
Poliomyelitis	Musculoskeletal diseases	drinking water
Scabies	Onchocerciasis	water resource management
Spinal injury	<b>Protein-energy malnutrition<sup>a,b,c</sup></b>	drinking water, sanitation, hygiene behaviours*
	<b>Respiratory infections<sup>c</sup></b>	hygiene behaviours*
	<b>Schistosomiasis<sup>a,b,c,d</sup></b>	drinking water, sanitation, hygiene behaviours*, water resource management/ agricultural practices/recreational water
	<b>Trachoma<sup>a,c</sup></b>	sanitation, hygiene behaviours*
	<b>Trichuriasis<sup>a</sup></b>	Sanitation

The listed diseases are based on prior work (Prüss-Ustün et al., 2016, 2008). Health outcomes quantified in this article are written in bold. \*hygiene behaviours include hand hygiene(diarrhoeal diseases, protein-energy malnutrition, trachoma), face hygiene (trachoma), food hygiene (hookworm) and bathing (schistosomiasis).

# WASH-related disease

## Not just infectious outcomes

**PLOS WATER**

OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED

RESEARCH ARTICLE

**Water, sanitation, and women's empowerment: A systematic review and qualitative metasynthesis**

Bethany A. Caruso, Amelia Conrad, Madeleine Patrick, Ajilé Owens, Kari Kvitén, Olivia Zarella, Hannah Rogers, Sheela S. Sinharoy

Published: June 7, 2022 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pwat.0000026>

 Social Science & Medicine  
Volume 217, November 2018, Pages 121-134

Review article

**Exploring the relationship between sanitation and mental and social well-being: A systematic review and qualitative synthesis**

G.D. Sclar, G. Penakalapati, B.A. Caruso, E.A. Rehfuess, J.V. Garn, K.T. Alexander, M.C. Freeman, S. Boisson, K. Medlicott, T. Clasen

CORRESPONDENCE | VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12, E1617, DECEMBER 01, 2019

## Gender data gaps represent missed opportunities in WASH

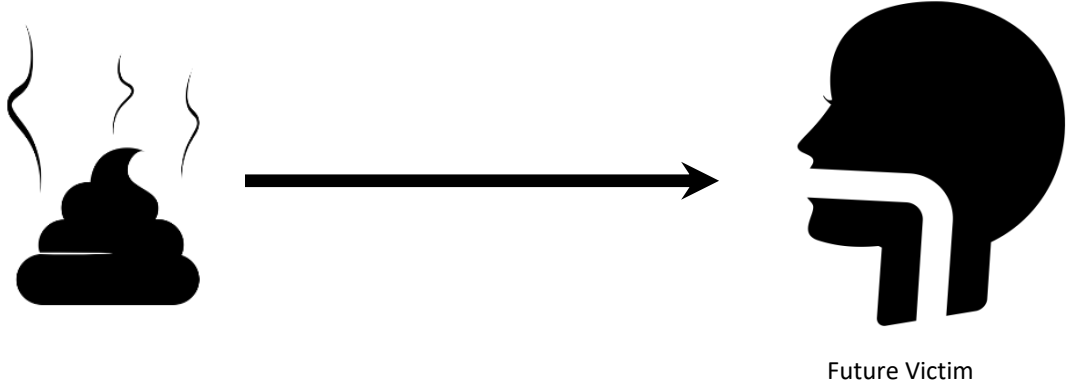
Bethany A Caruso • Sheela S Sinharoy

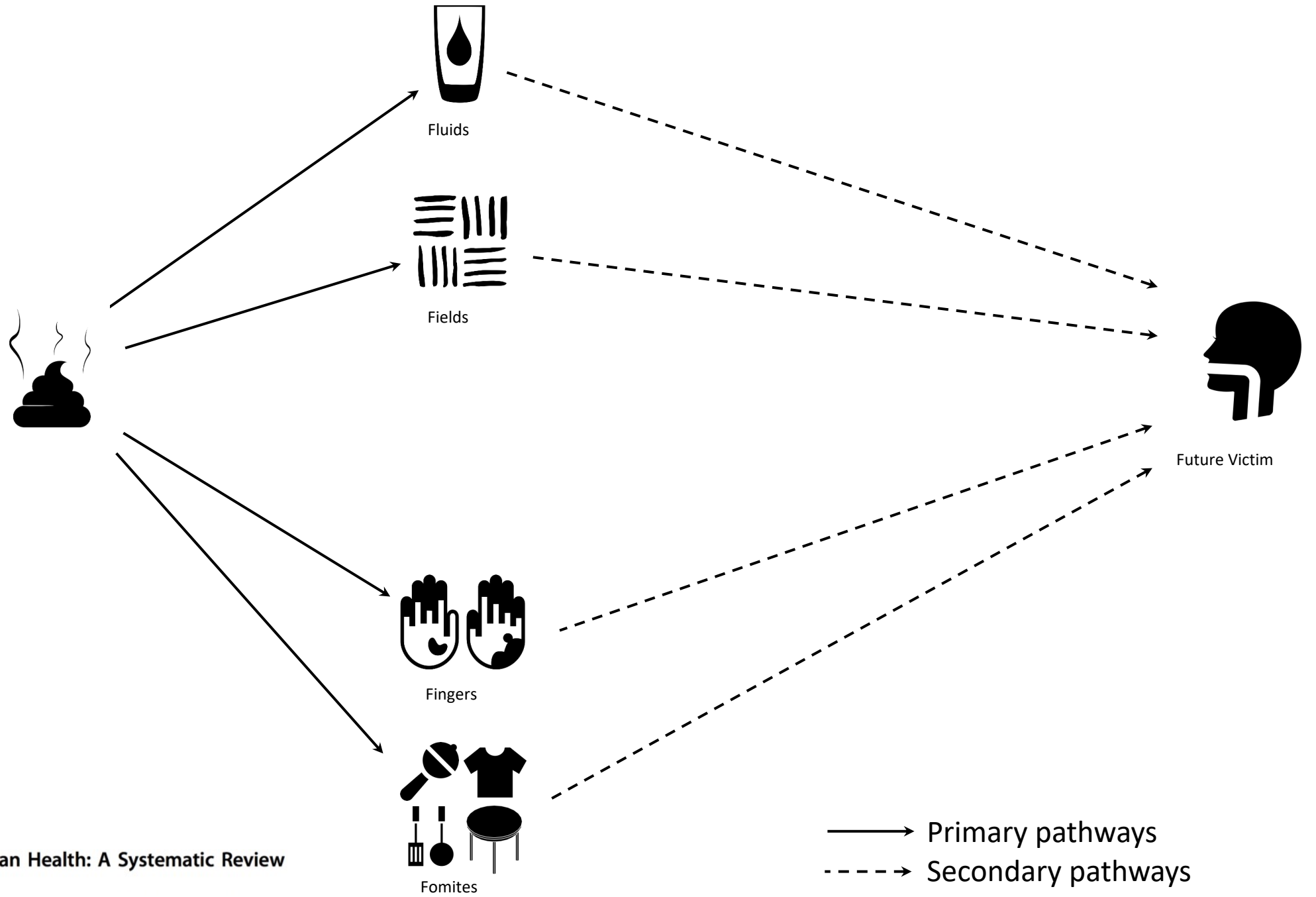
THE LANCET  
Global Health


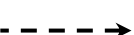
Open Access • Published: December, 2019 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(19\)30449-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(19)30449-8)

# Food and waterborne diseases

How do children get exposed to fecal pathogens?

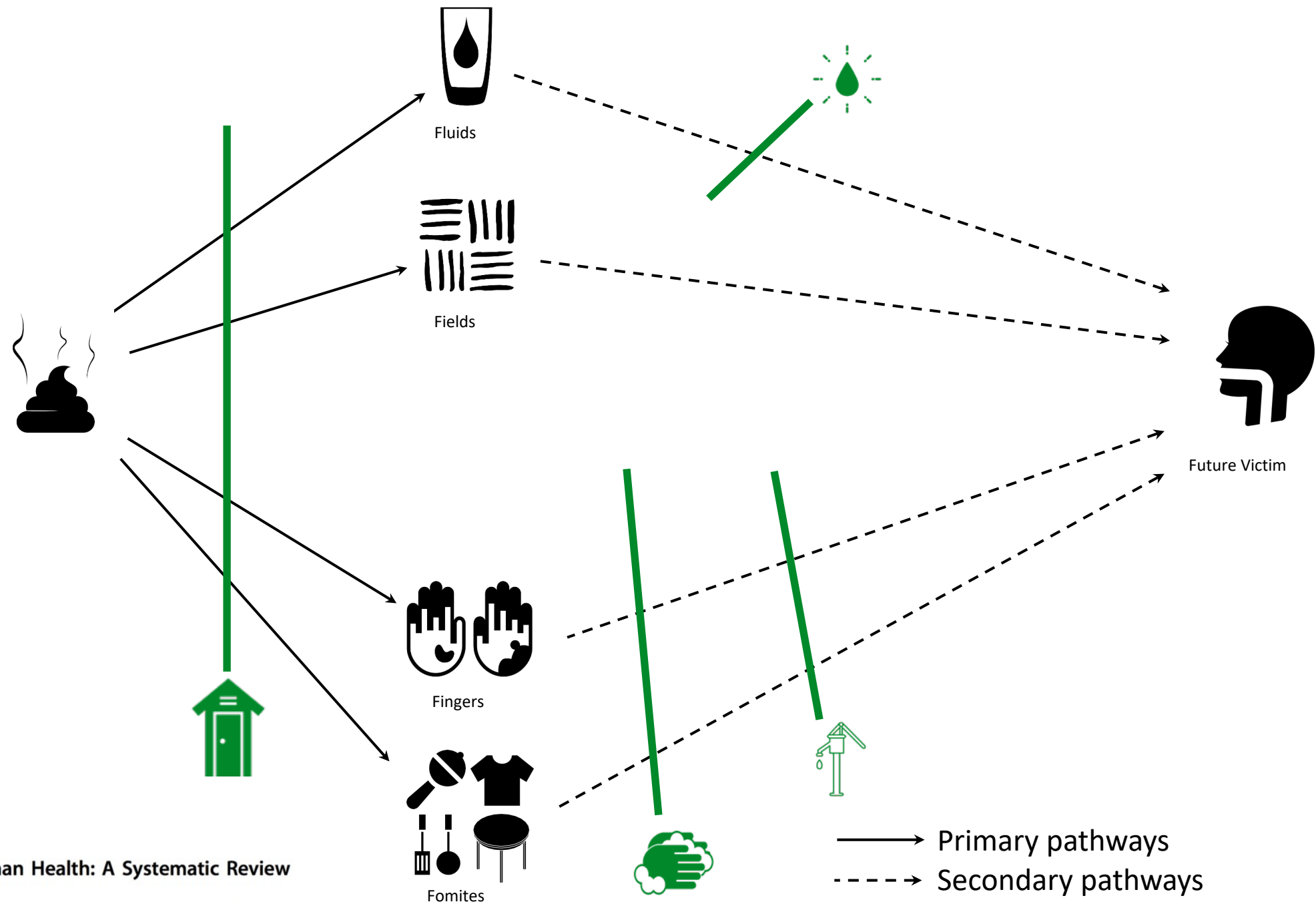




 Primary pathways  
 Secondary pathways

**Exposure to Animal Feces and Human Health: A Systematic Review and Proposed Research Priorities**

Gauthami Penakalapati, Jenna Swarthout, Miranda J. Delahoy, Lydia McAliley, Breanna Wodnik, Karen Levy, and Matthew C. Freeman\*



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# WASH-related illness

## Improved WASH can prevent diarrheal diseases

### Communities

Identifying WASH challenges and implementing solutions in households, schools, and other community settings can help prevent diarrhea, cholera, typhoid fever, or some antibiotic resistant infections.



Improve access to safe community water systems and household water treatment



Manage fecal waste using new approaches

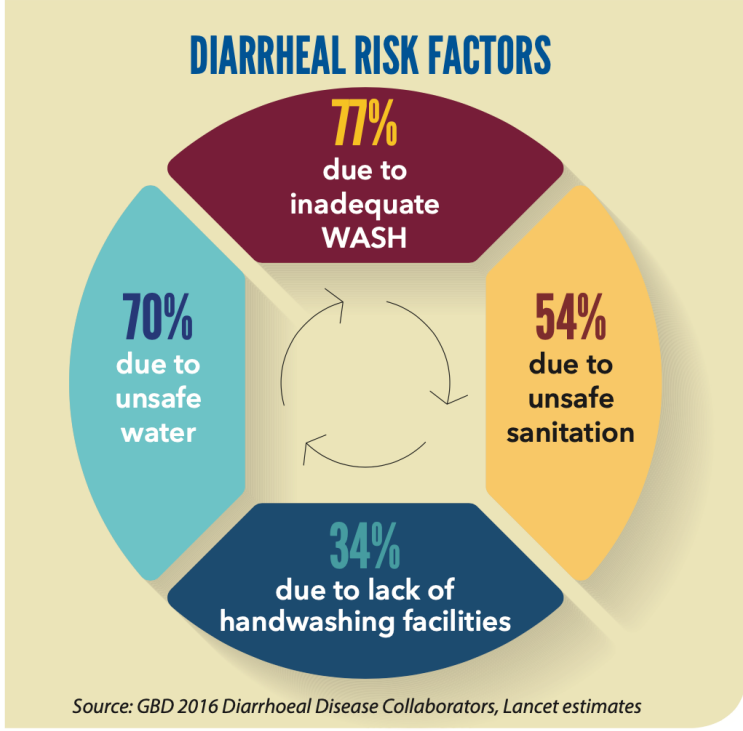


Increase access to and use of handwashing facilities

Safe Water

Sanitation

Hygiene



# WASH Benefits & SHINE RCTs

What pathways are most effective at reducing diarrhea and stunting?

		WASH-B Bangladesh	WASH-B Kenya	SHINE Zimbabwe
Stunting	IYCF	YES	YES	YES
	WASH	NO	NO	NO
Anemia	IYCF	YES	YES	YES
	WASH	NO	NO	NO
Diarrhea	IYCF	YES	NO	NO
	WASH	YES	NO	NO

IYCF: integrated young child feeding

# What are the issues with WASH delivery?

*And which can be addressed with IS?*

## **1. Hypothesis is incorrect?**

- But we think the biological plausibility is strong

## **2. Coverage: Is higher coverage needed, due to the role of indirect transmission**

- Household-level targeted interventions do not account for infection pressure

## **3. Adherence: Interventions must have higher uptake and consistent use/behavior**

- Interventions are poorly designed and delivered for the communities they are trying to serve

## **4. Completeness: WASH as commonly delivered is necessary but not sufficient for impact**

- Interventions were insufficient to clean up highly contaminated environments enough to impact health
- Need greater control of pathways to see health gains



# What are the issues with WASH impact?

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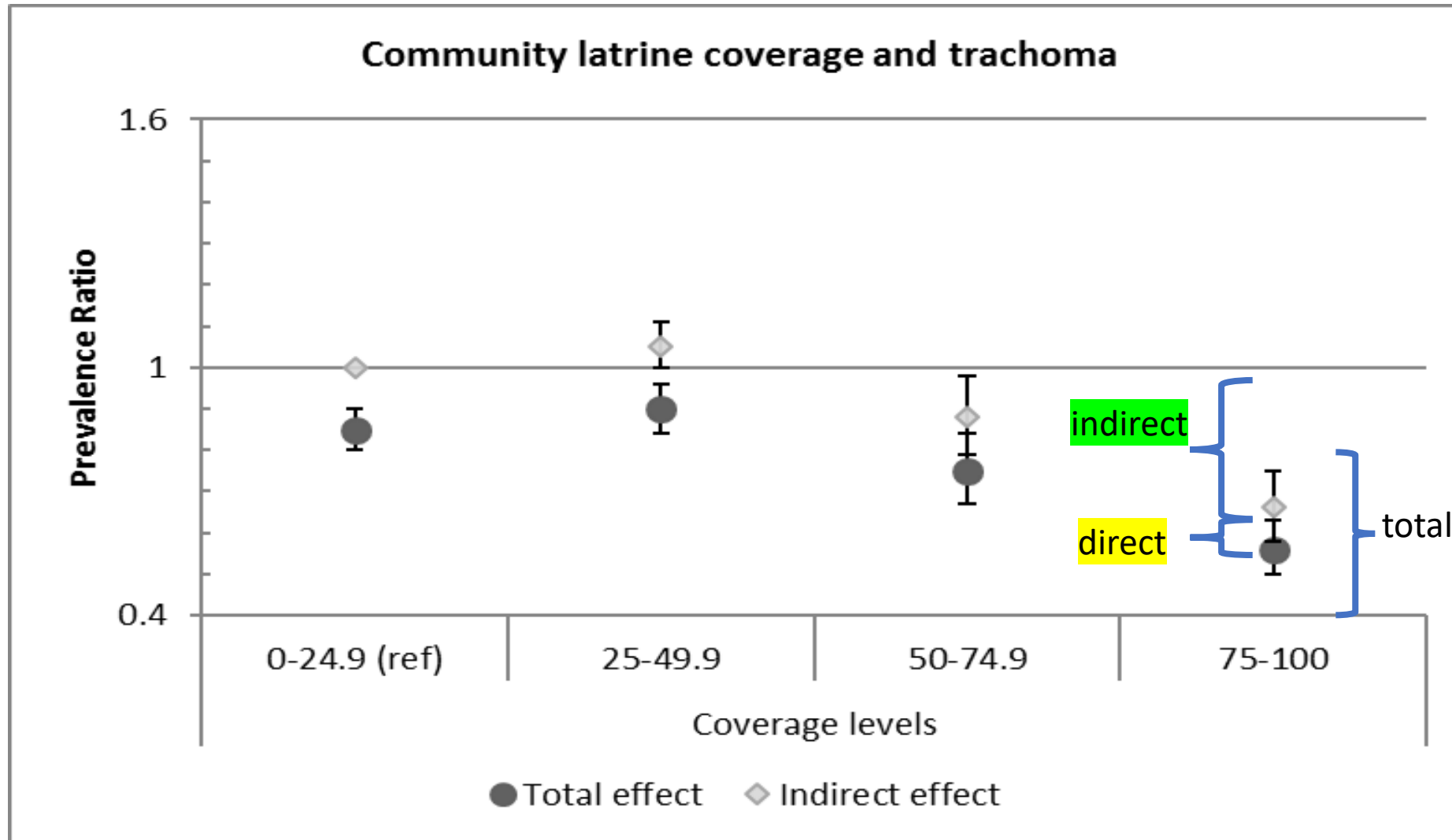
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- Interventions were insufficient to clean up highly contaminated environments enough to affect linear growth?
- Need greater control of pathways to see health gains

# Coverage Impact of sanitation on trachoma

Indirect effects are more important!  
Coverage > 50% leads to decreased trachoma



- **Indirect effects:** community coverage of toilets
- **Direct effects:** household owning a toilets

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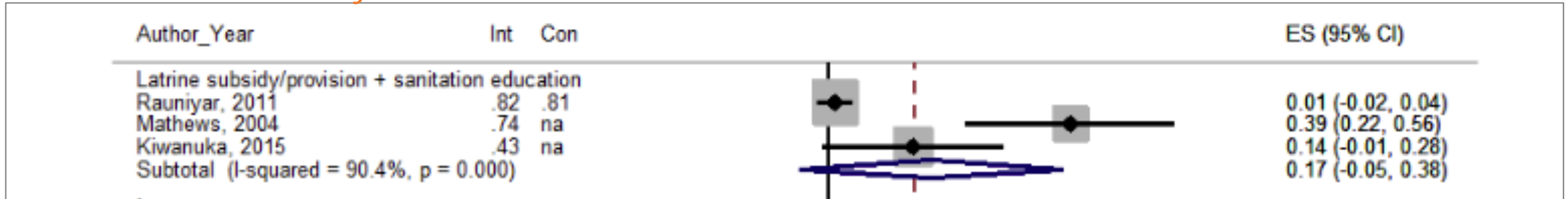
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# Challenges to adherence

## Systematic review of the evidence



International Journal of Hygiene and  
Environmental Health

Volume 220, Issue 2, Part B, April 2017, Pages 329-340



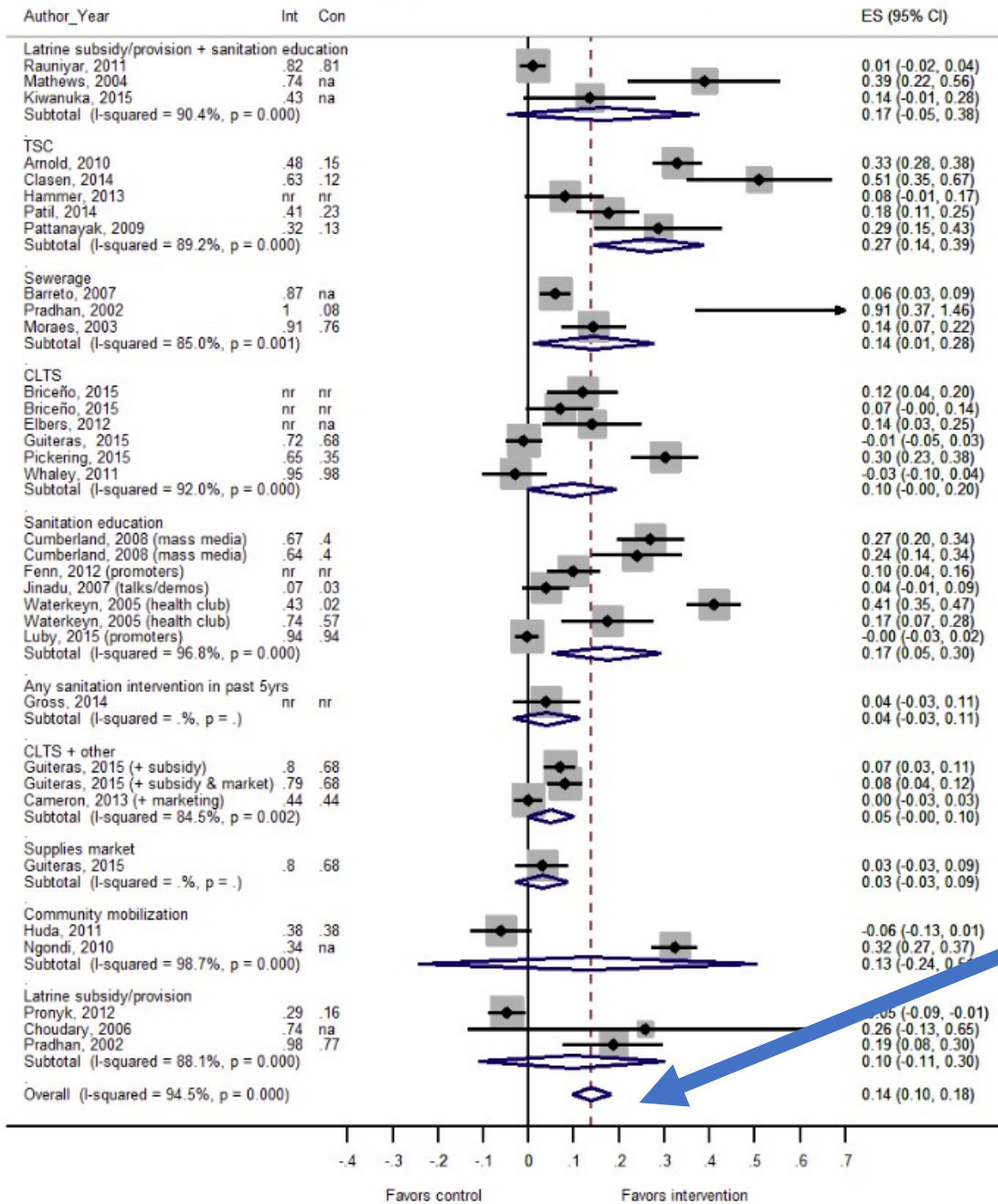
Review

## The impact of sanitation interventions on latrine coverage and latrine use: A systematic review and meta-analysis ☆

Joshua V. Garn <sup>a</sup>, Gloria D. Sclar <sup>a</sup>, Matthew C. Freeman <sup>a</sup>, Gauthami Penakalapati <sup>a</sup>, Kelly T. Alexander <sup>a</sup>, Patrick Brooks <sup>a</sup>, Eva A. Rehfuess <sup>b</sup>, Sophie Boisson <sup>c</sup>, Kate O. Medlicott <sup>c</sup>, Thomas F. Clasen <sup>a</sup>

**N= 28 studies**

# Change in Coverage



# Adherence challenges with sanitation interventions



International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health  
Volume 220, Issue 2, Part B, April 2017, Pages 329-340



Review

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**Overall difference: 14%**  
(95% CI: 10%, 18%)

**N= 28 studies**

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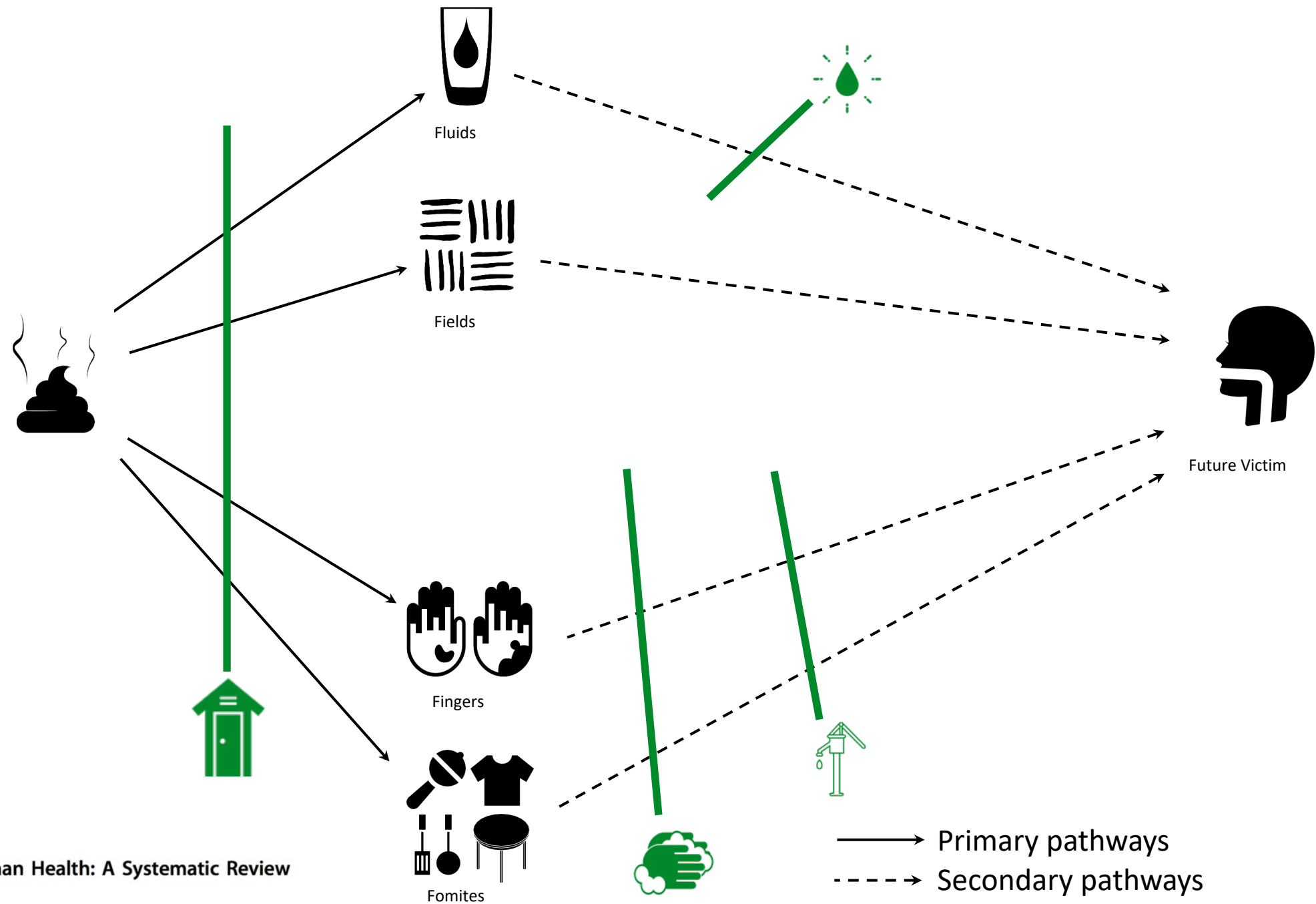
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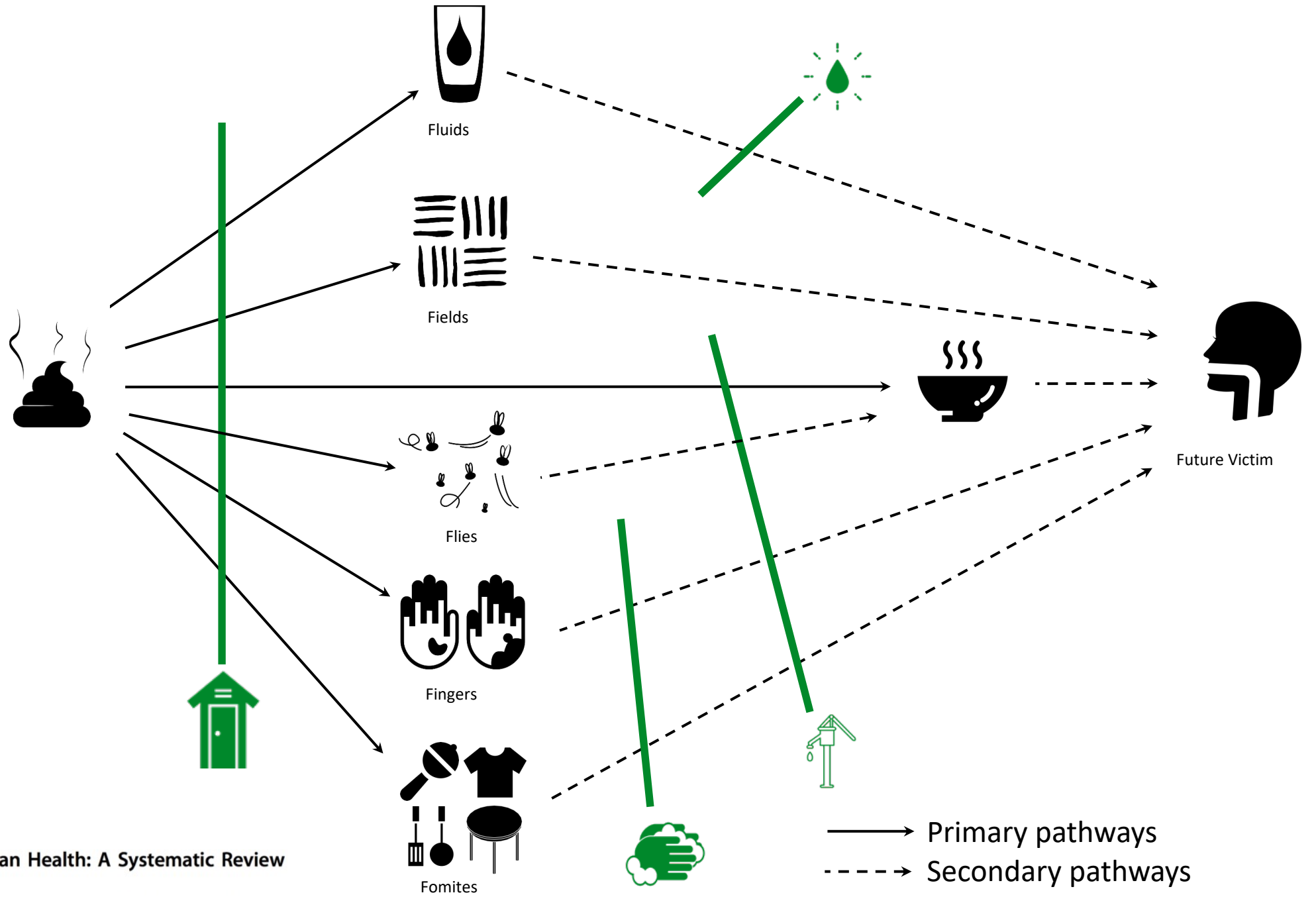
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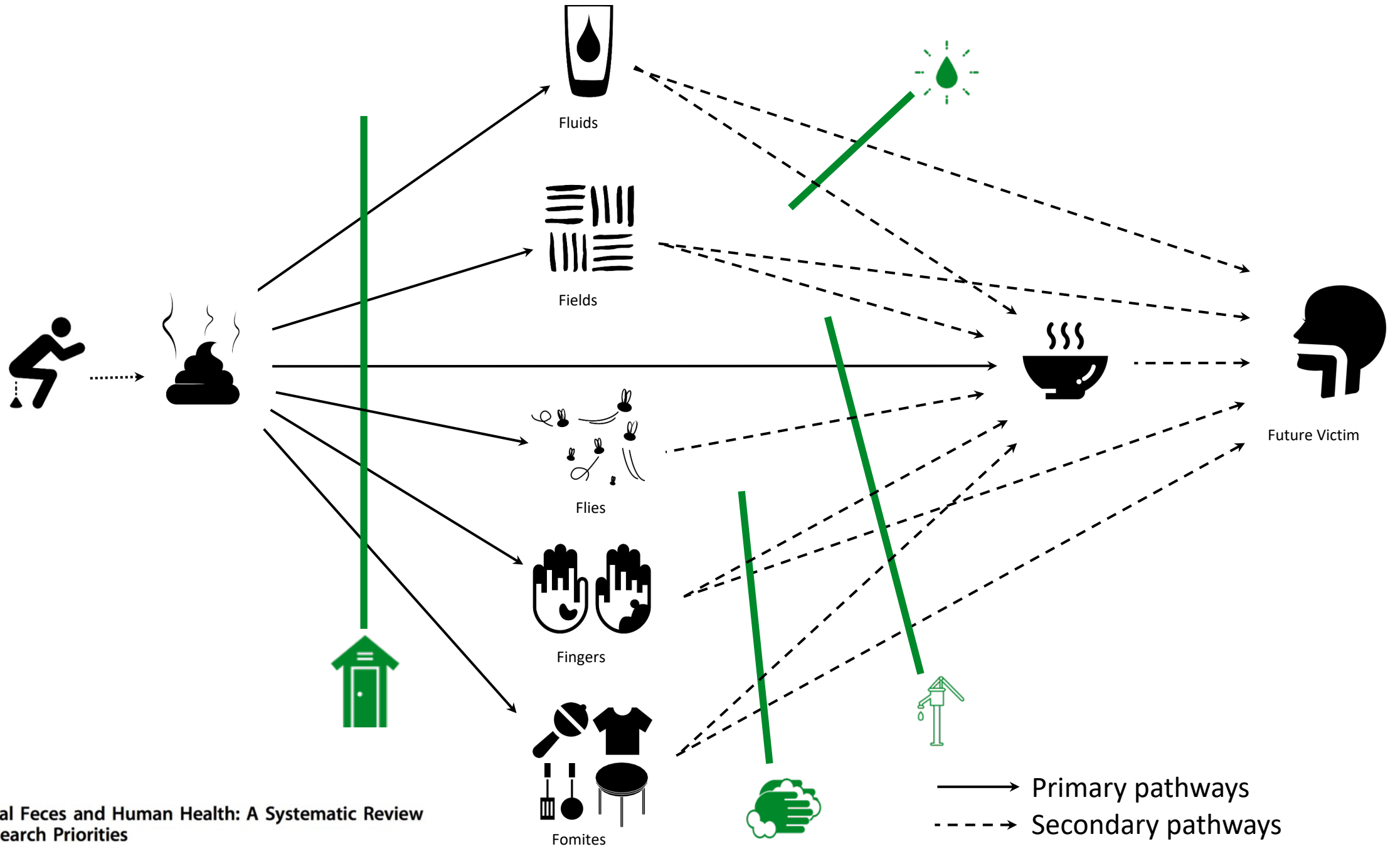
———> Primary pathways  
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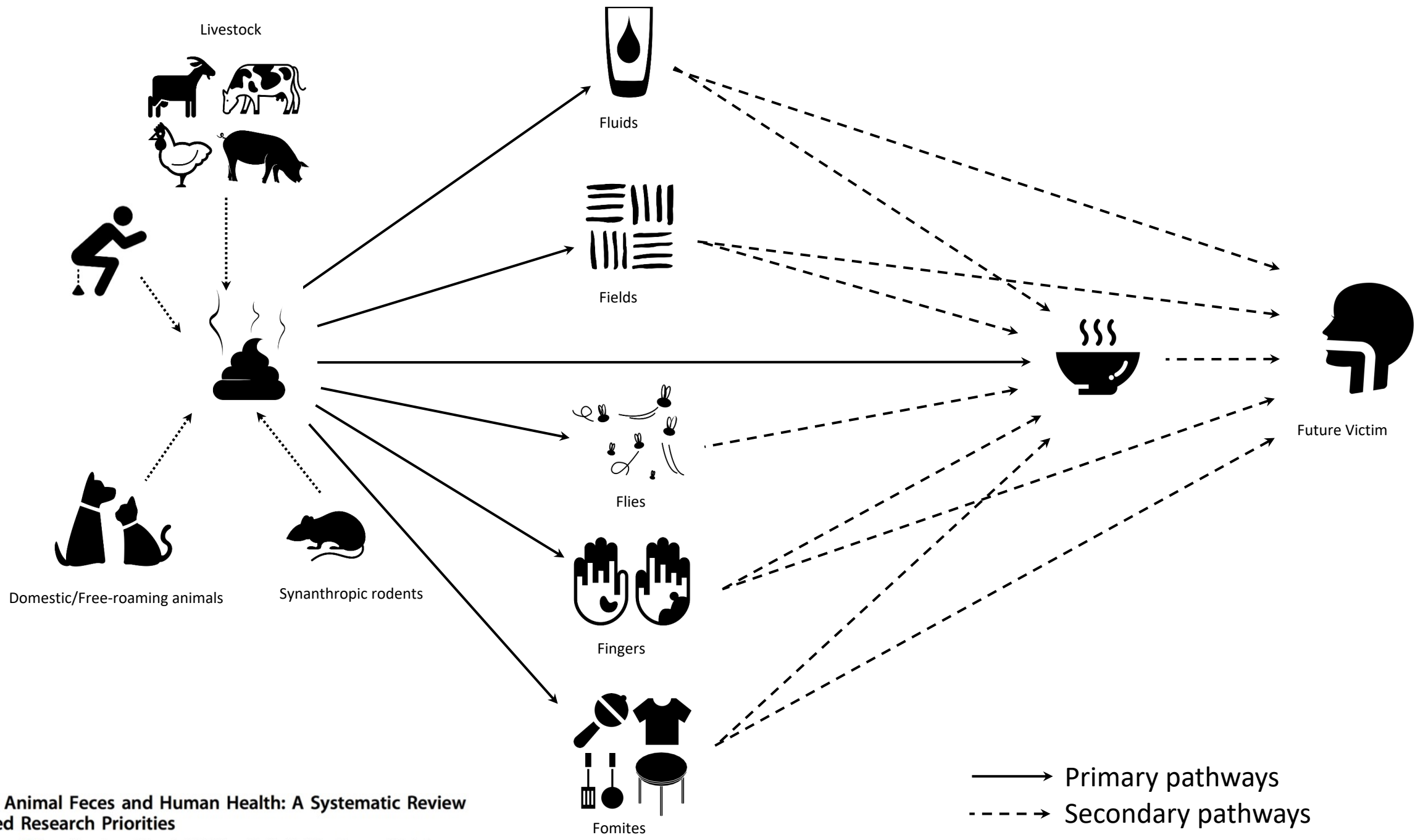
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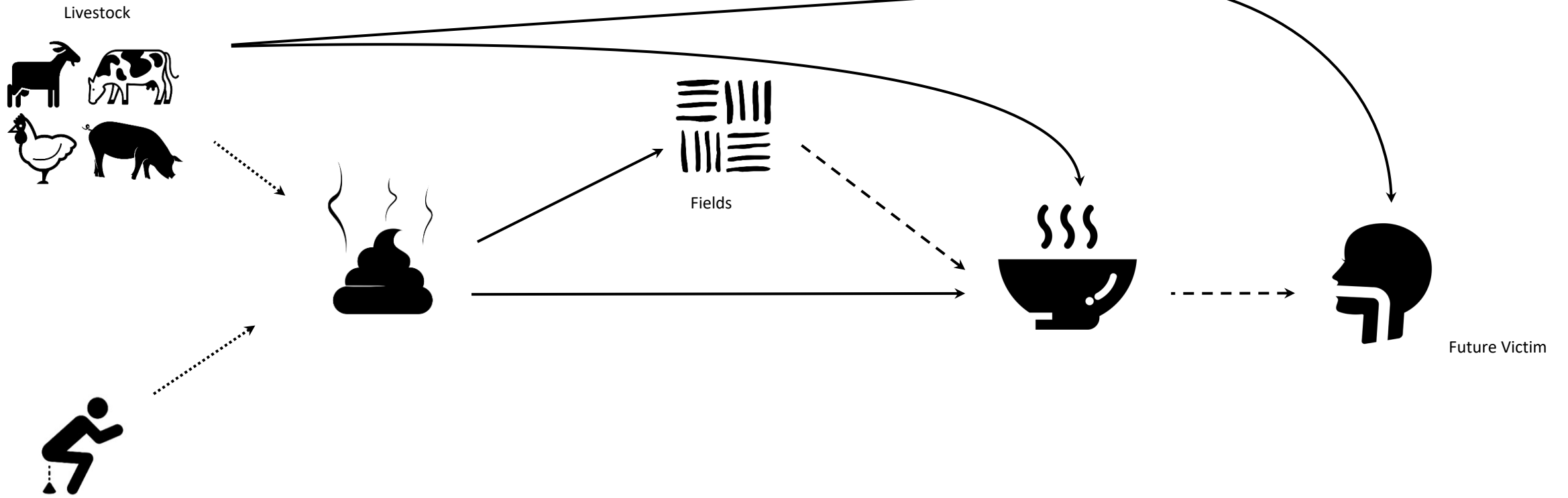
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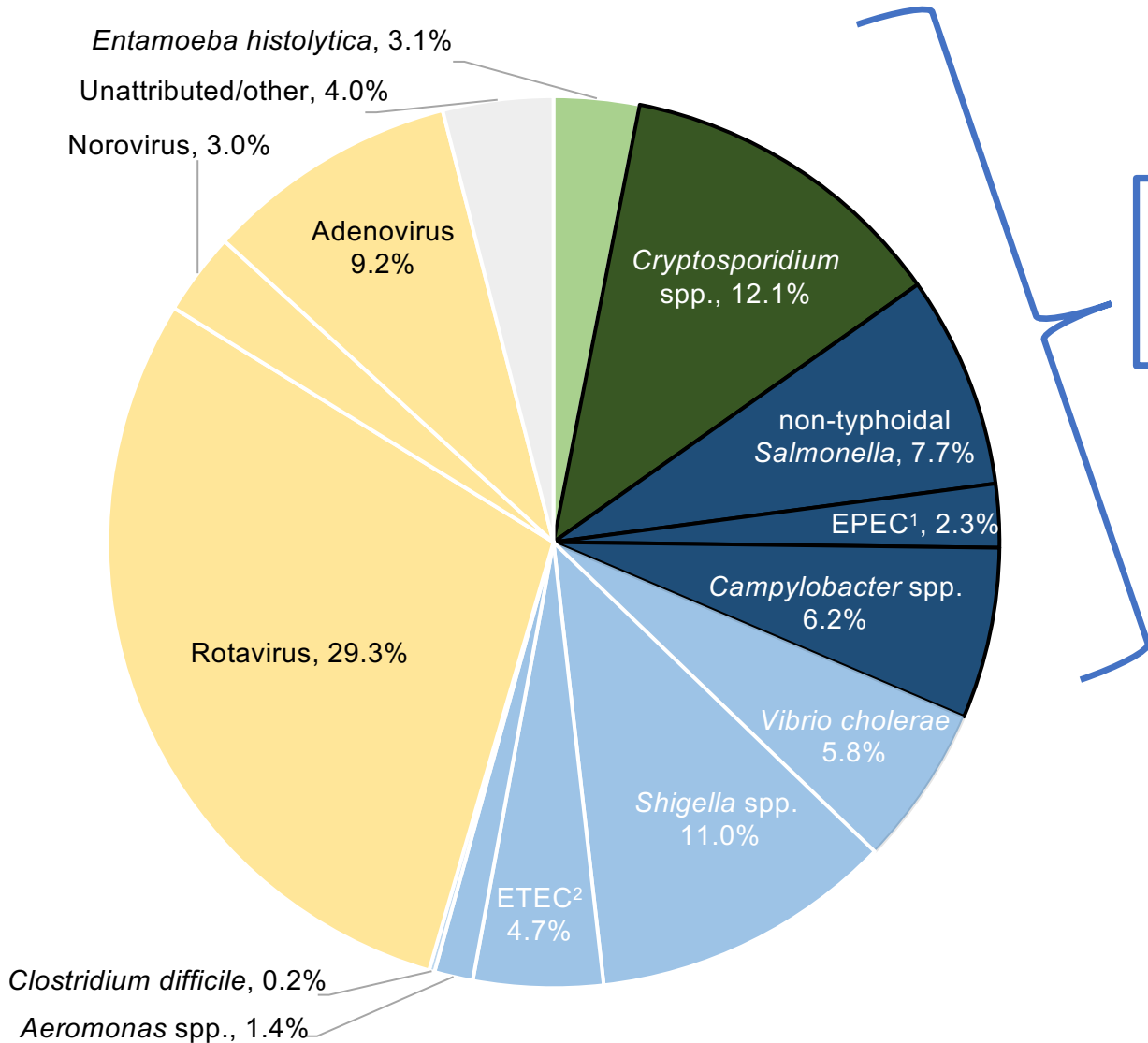
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————> Primary pathways  
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# Attributable fraction of diarrhea deaths in children <5



**28.3%** of pathogens potentially transmitted via animals

**LEGEND**

Transmitted in animal feces

■ Bacteria ■ Protozoa

Minimal/no transmission in animal feces\*

■ Bacteria ■ Protozoa ■ Viruses

\*or transmitted only by primates/aquatic animals

1. Typical and atypical Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) combined; only atypical EPEC is transmitted in animal feces  
 2. Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) has animal hosts; zoonotic strains are not infectious to humans

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# WASH and its many challenges

- An intervention in search of an impact?
1. Complex innovation and implementation requirements;
  2. Limited external validity of interventions;
  3. Inconsistent development sector objectives; and
  4. Diverse service providers working at multiple levels

Vol. 129, No. 6 | Commentary



Environmental Health Perspectives

## **The Applications of Implementation Science in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Research and Practice**

Sabrina S. Haque and Matthew C. Freeman 

<https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP7762>

**Based on what you know so far, what do you think are the key implementation challenges?**

**How do you think these challenges can be addressed with implementation science?**

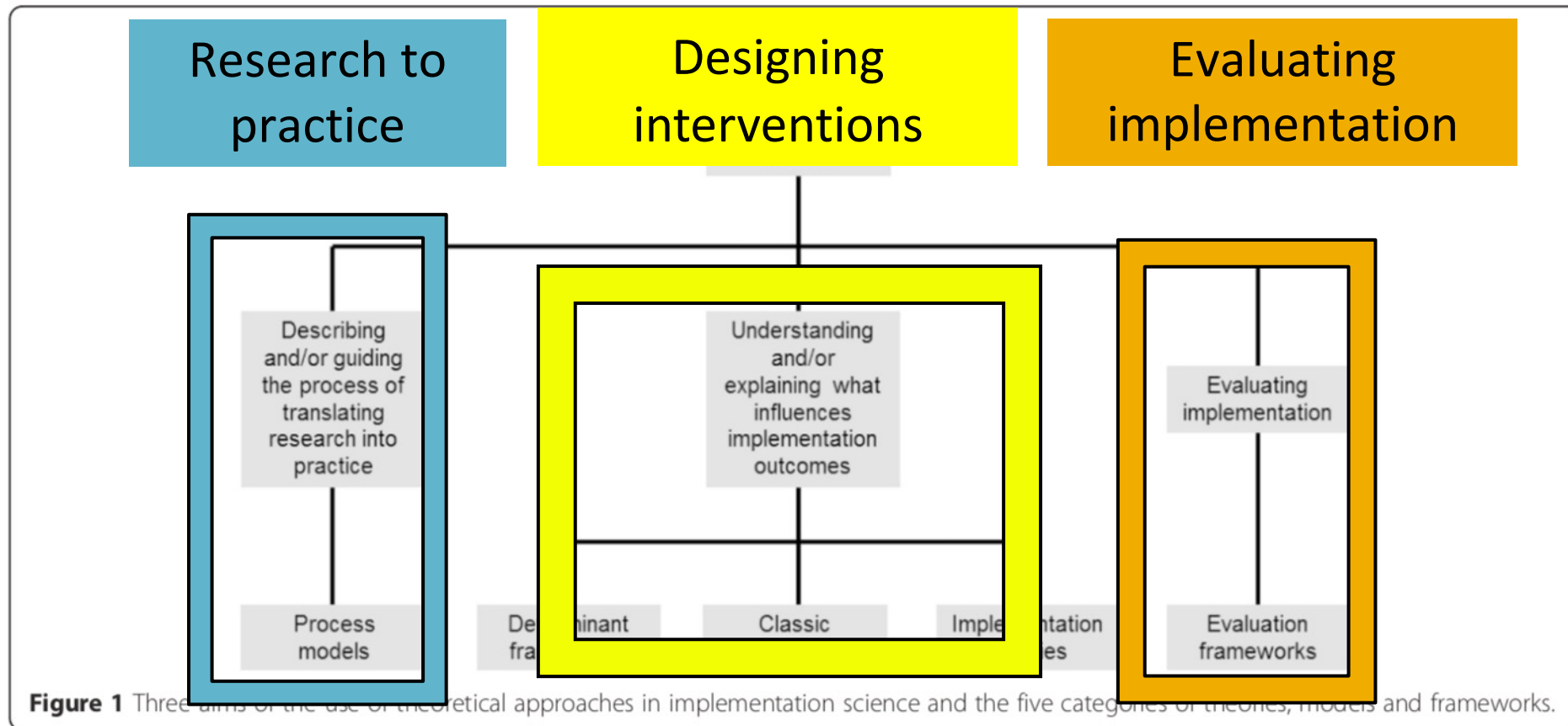


**➔** <https://l.ead.me/bd6rSh>



# What IS offers: Theories and Frameworks

- Application of a range of theory and frameworks in intervention design, evaluation, and knowledge translation and adaptation
- Promotes structure and shared language
- 5 categories IS theories/frameworks/models (Nilson 2015):



# Theories and Frameworks for WASH

Research to  
practice

- Rarely applied

Designing  
interventions

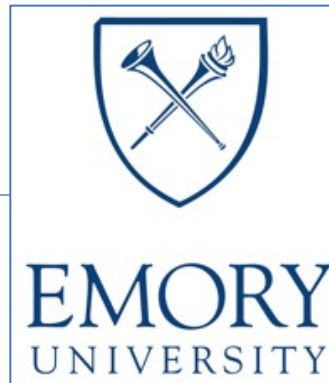
- Limited application of theory
  - Socio-ecological
  - RANAS
  - IBM-WASH
- A few examples:
  - CFIR
  - COM-B

Evaluating  
implementation

- Basic process evaluations
- Few hybrid designs

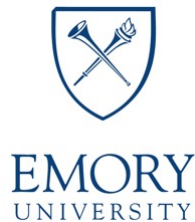
# Two quick examples

Designing and testing an integrated WASH interventions








# Chakrouk Makare: Designing and testing an integrated WASH and nutrition intervention

- Location: Western Kenya
- Design a behaviour-centered package of integrated behavior change messages and low-cost interventions
- Test its effectiveness on sustained behaviour change.



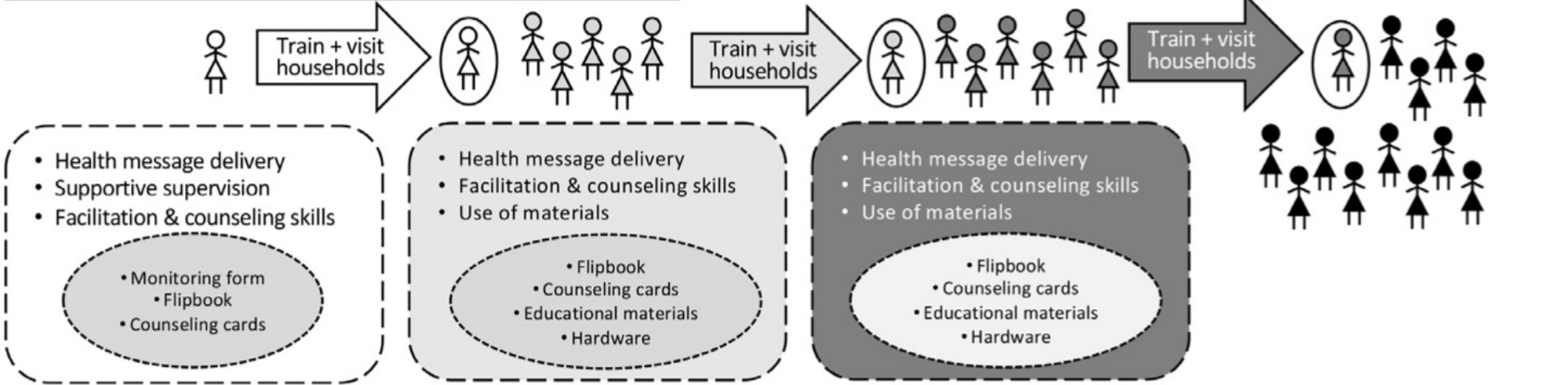
BMJ Global Health

**Impact of a demand-side integrated WASH and nutrition community-based care group intervention on behavioural change: a randomised controlled trial in western Kenya**

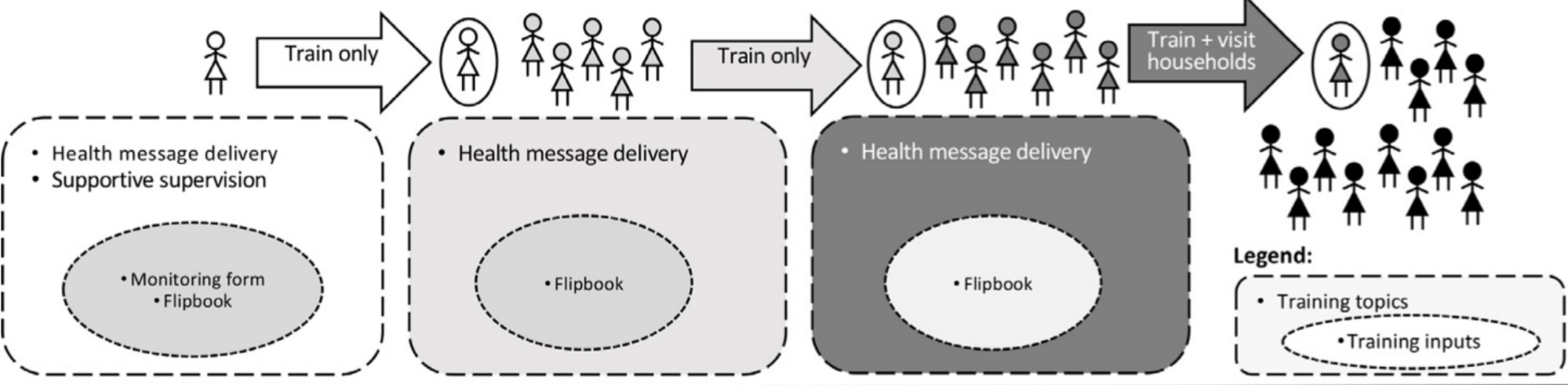
Matthew C Freeman ,<sup>1,2</sup> Anna S Ellis,<sup>1</sup> Emily Awino Ogutu,<sup>2</sup>  
Bethany A Caruso ,<sup>2</sup> Molly Linabarger,<sup>2</sup> Katie Micek,<sup>1</sup> Richard Muga,<sup>3</sup>  
Amy Webb Girard ,<sup>2</sup> Breanna K Wodnik ,<sup>2</sup> Kimberly Jacob Arriola <sup>4</sup>

Implementing organization      CHVs & Social workers      CGVs in care groups      **Neighbor women in NWGs**

**Chakruok Makare**



**Standard Care Group approach**



CHV: Community health volunteers; CGVs: care group volunteers; NWGs: neighbor women groups

# Chakrouk Makare: Designing and testing an integrated WASH and nutrition intervention



**Table 4** The impact of the intervention on primary behavioural outcomes

Primary outcomes	Baseline		Endline		Risk double difference %, (95% CI)*
	Int. N=134	Control N=133	Int. N=126	Control N=121	
1. Households with hygienic food prep area	5 (4)	3 (2)	45 (36)	12 (10)	21 (4 to 39)
2. Households who store food hygienically	13 (34)	17 (52)	22 (43)	14 (34)	27 (0 to 55)
3. Households with a functional handwashing station	4 (3)	12 (9)	44 (40)	0 (0)	44 (30 to 58)
4. Households with a safe play environment for children 6–24 months of age	15 (24)	23 (32)	40 (69)	24 (47)	31 (37 to 58)
5. Pregnant and lactating women who consumed 5+ food groups in previous 24 hours	22 (27)	17 (21)	34 (52)	17 (32)	15 (–5 to 35)
6. Children 6–24 months who consumed 4+ food groups in previous 24 hours	20 (30)	23 (32)	32 (55)	19 (37)	21 (–4 to 45)
7. Caretaker fed thickened porridge to child	1 (2)	2 (3)	82 (68)	14 (12)	57 (47 to 68)

\*Risk double difference calculated using generalised estimating equations is the difference between treatment and control at endline, controlling for baseline values, accounting for community-level clustering.

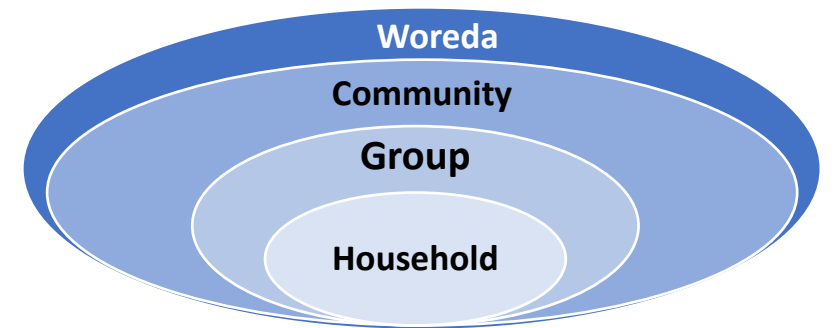
# Andilaye: Designing and testing a sanitation and hygiene intervention



- **Design for scale** a behaviour-centered package of **holistic** preventive sanitation and hygiene interventions
- **Test** its effectiveness on **sustained behaviour change** and **health**.

## Outcomes

- Mental well being
- Focus on sustaining behaviors
- Sanitation & water security security
- Complimented the existing health extension program of the MoH



# Andilaye intervention

## 3 Key behaviours of Interest / 11 practices



### Theme 1: Sanitation



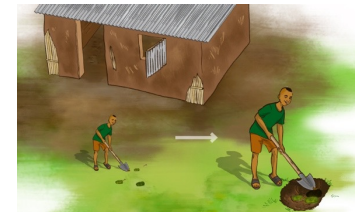
1. Construct a long-lasting latrine that is comfortable and hygienic
2. All household members use a latrine every time they defecate
3. Immediately dispose of children's feces into the latrine
4. **Repair your latrine** whenever it is damaged
5. Upgrade your latrine so it becomes more long lasting, comfortable, and hygienic
6. Close your pit when it becomes full and reconstruct a new latrine

### Theme 2: Personal hygiene



7. All household members wash their hands with water and soap or soap substitute AFTER handling animal and human feces, even children's feces
8. All household members wash their hands with water and soap or soap substitute BEFORE handling food
9. All household members **wash their faces** with water whenever they are dirty and use soap when it is available

### Theme 3: Household environmental sanitation



10. Keep **all animals separated from the house**
11. Keep the household compound clean by **disposing of all animal feces** and other waste on a DAILY basis

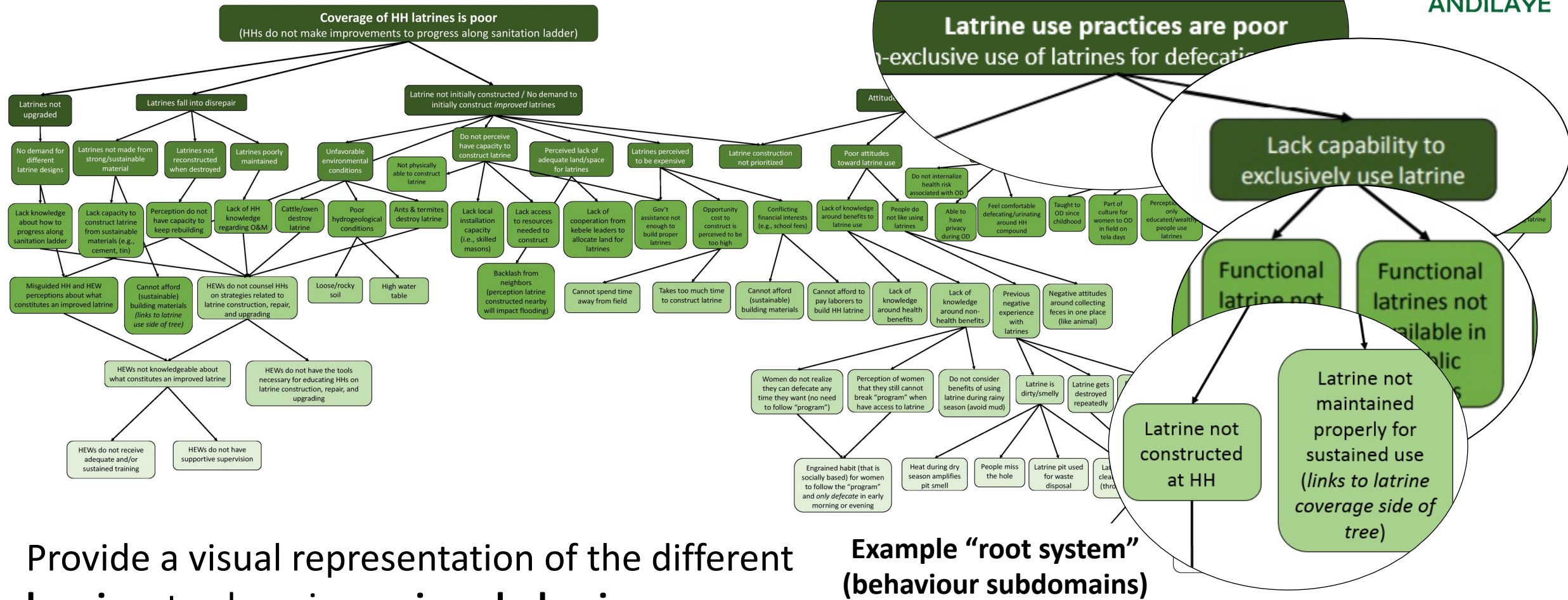


# Problem trees

## Applied 3 behaviors theories



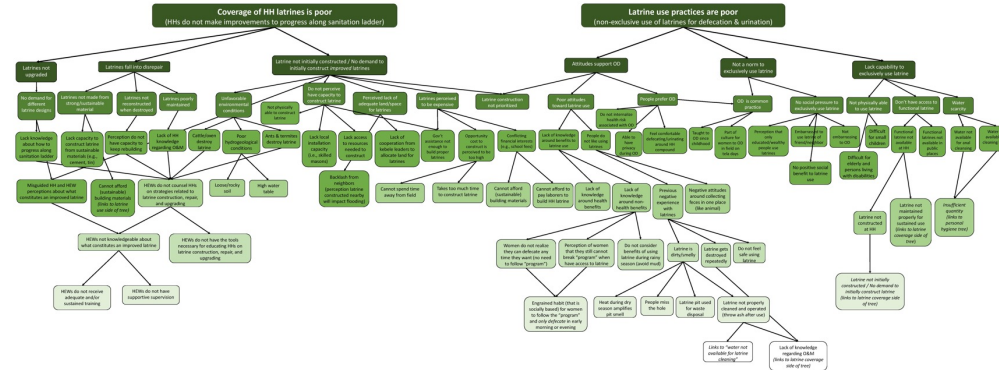
PROBLEM TREE - SANITATION



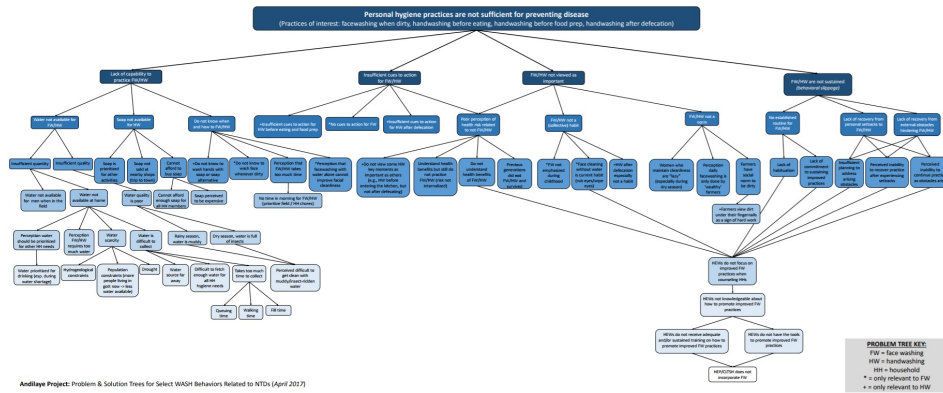
# Problem trees



## 1. Sanitation

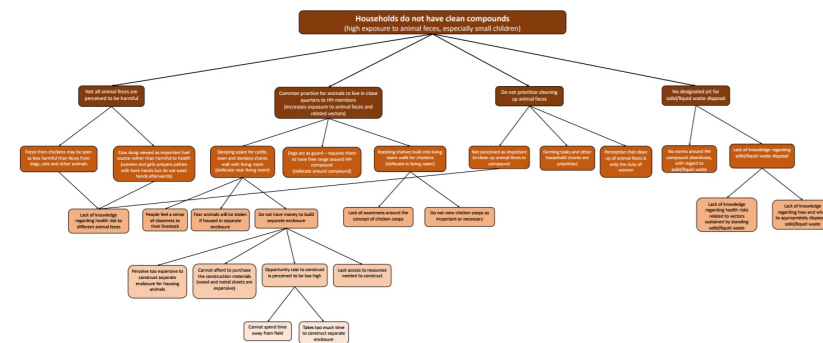


## 2. Personal Hygiene



Andilaye Project: Problem & Solution Trees for Select WASH Behaviors Related to NTDs (April 2017)

## 3. Household Environmental Sanitation



# Andilaye intervention

## WDAL 'Good Job!' Flipbook – Example 'facewashing'



- ❖ Recognition of barriers  
(barrier identification)



*Face-washing requires collecting more water, which is a burden*

- ❖ Solutions to barriers  
(barrier planning, action knowledge)

WASHING FACE WITH  
WATER AND SOAP



*Face-washing only requires a handful of water! (break the barrier misconception)*

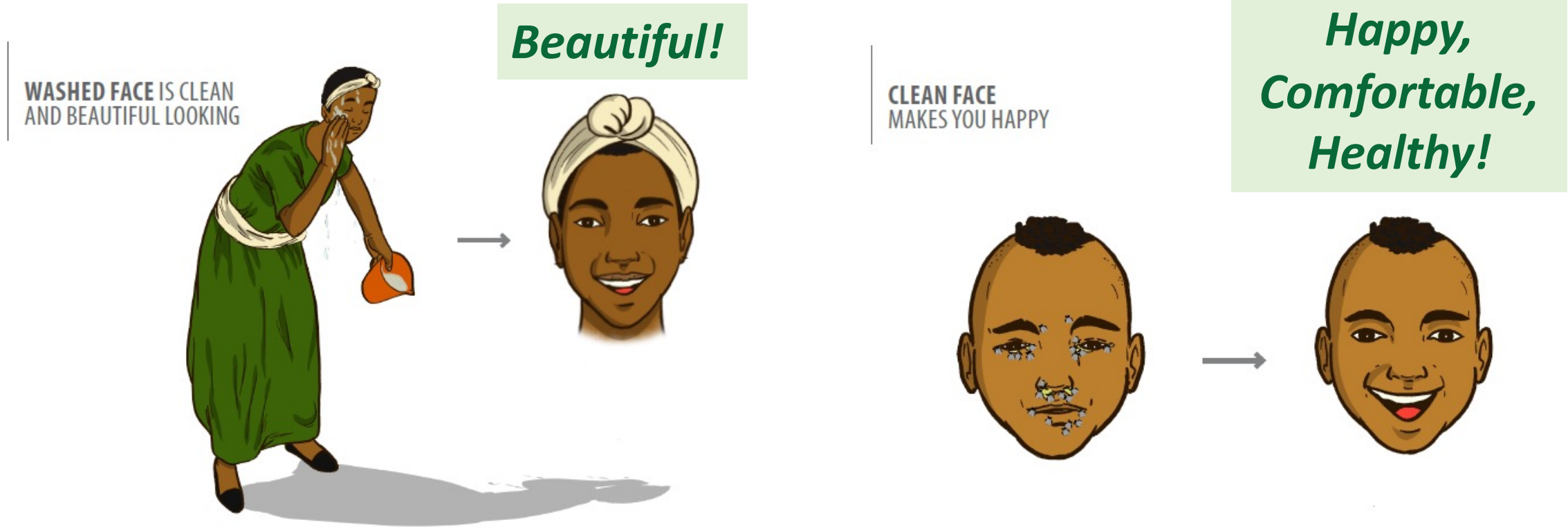
Empirically derived drivers and barriers

# Andilaye intervention

## WDAL 'Good Job!' Flipbook – Example 'facewashing'



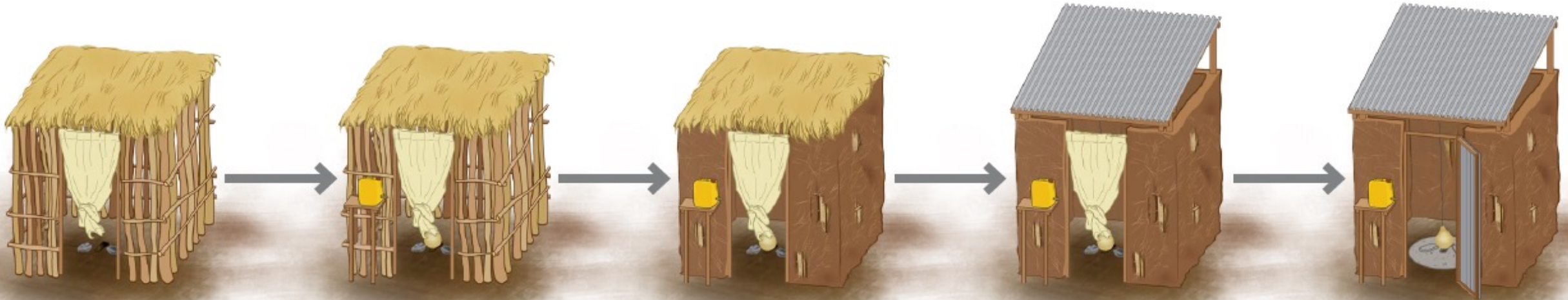
### ❖ Benefits to the behaviour (health and non-health motives)



Empirically derived drivers and barriers

# Andilaye intervention

AWDAL 'Good Job!' Flipbook – Example 'latrine upgrades'



- 1) *Comfort*
- 2) *Hygiene*
- 3) *Durability*

Incremental improvement: upgrading latrine

# Andilaye intervention

## Andilaye Household Goal Card

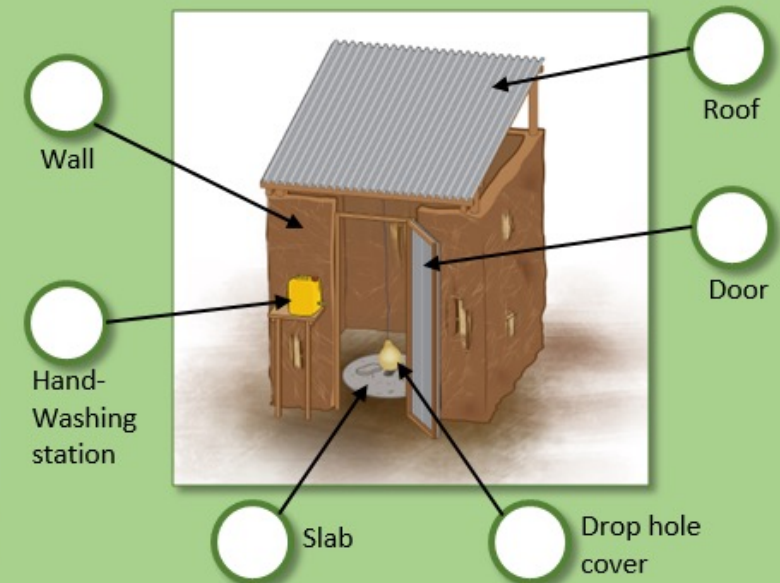
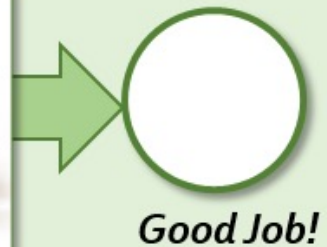


- ❖ Used by caregiver during counseling visit to set household goals towards achieving WASH behaviours

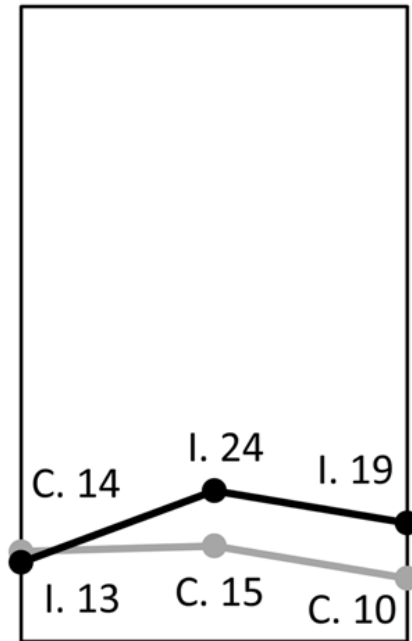
- ❖ Goal card acts as commitment and reminder

- ❖ Promotes accomplishing goals through incremental improvements

1. My household has a long-lasting, comfortable, hygienic latrine at all times



**(S3)** Presence of drop hole cover in the latrine



**Legend:**

B = Baseline  
(March to April 2017)

M = Midline  
(March to April 2018)

E = Endline  
(March to May 2019)

I = Intervention



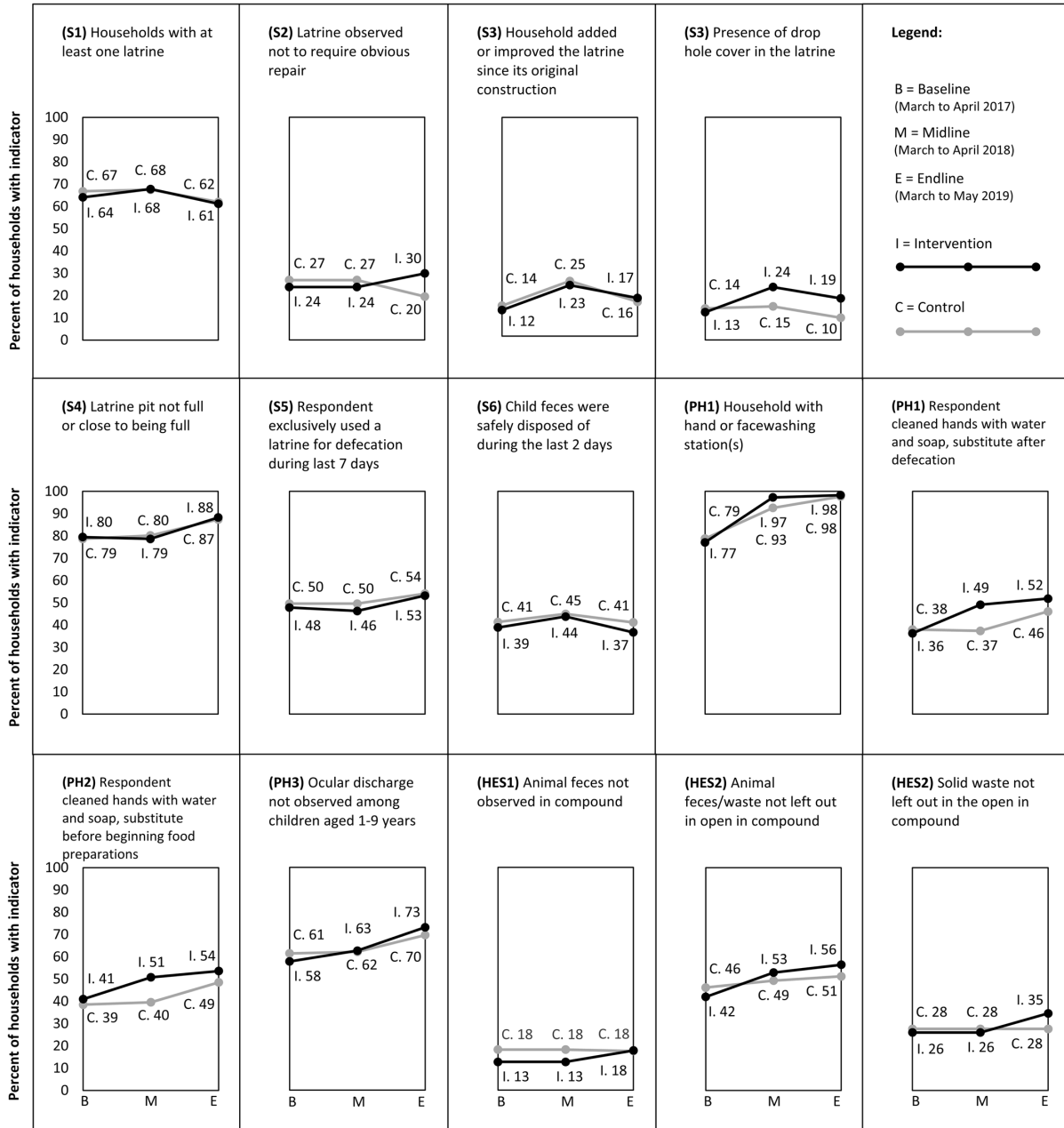
C = Control



RESEARCH ARTICLE **PLOS GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

The impact of a demand-side sanitation and hygiene promotion intervention on sustained behavior change and health in Amhara, Ethiopia: A cluster-randomized trial

Matthew C. Freeman<sup>1\*</sup>, Maryann G. Delea<sup>1</sup>, Jedidiah S. Snyder<sup>1</sup>, Joshua V. Garn<sup>2</sup>, Mulusew Belew<sup>3</sup>, Bethany A. Caruso<sup>4</sup>, Thomas F. Clasen<sup>1</sup>, Gloria D. Sclar<sup>1</sup>, Yihewew Tesfaye<sup>5</sup>, Mulat Woreta<sup>3</sup>, Kassahun Zewudie<sup>3</sup>, Abebe Gebremariam Gobeze<sup>3,6</sup>



WASH behavioral themes: Sanitation (S), Personal Hygiene (PH), and Household Environmental Sanitation (HES)

# Basically no effect on anything!

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# Talk objectives

1. What is WASH and what are the key challenges facing the sector?
2. How can implementation science be applied for the control of food and waterborne disease in low and middle-income countries
3. What are the priority challenges and opportunities to WASH implementation research

# WASH and its many challenges

- An intervention in search of an impact?
1. Complex innovation and implementation requirements;
  2. Limited external validity of interventions;
  3. Inconsistent development sector objectives; and
  4. Diverse service providers working at multiple levels

Vol. 129, No. 6 | Commentary

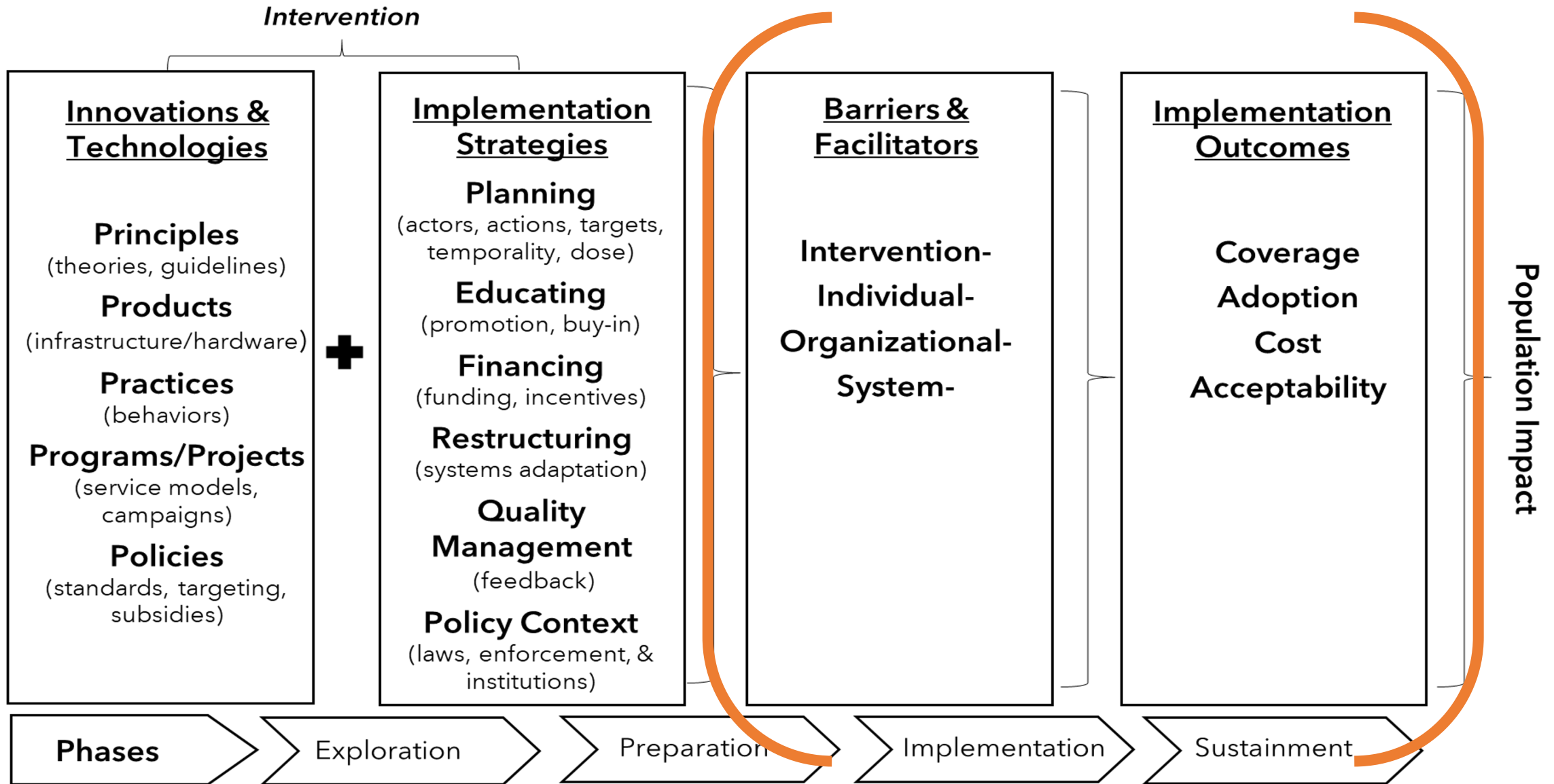
**ehp** Environmental Health Perspectives

## **The Applications of Implementation Science in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Research and Practice**

Sabrina S. Haque and Matthew C. Freeman 

<https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP7762>

# Focus on intervention development?



Haque and Freeman et al. 2021 - adapted from Proctor et al. 2009 and builds on concepts from Brown et al. 2017; Powell et al. 2012; Powell et al. 2020

# WASH and its many challenges

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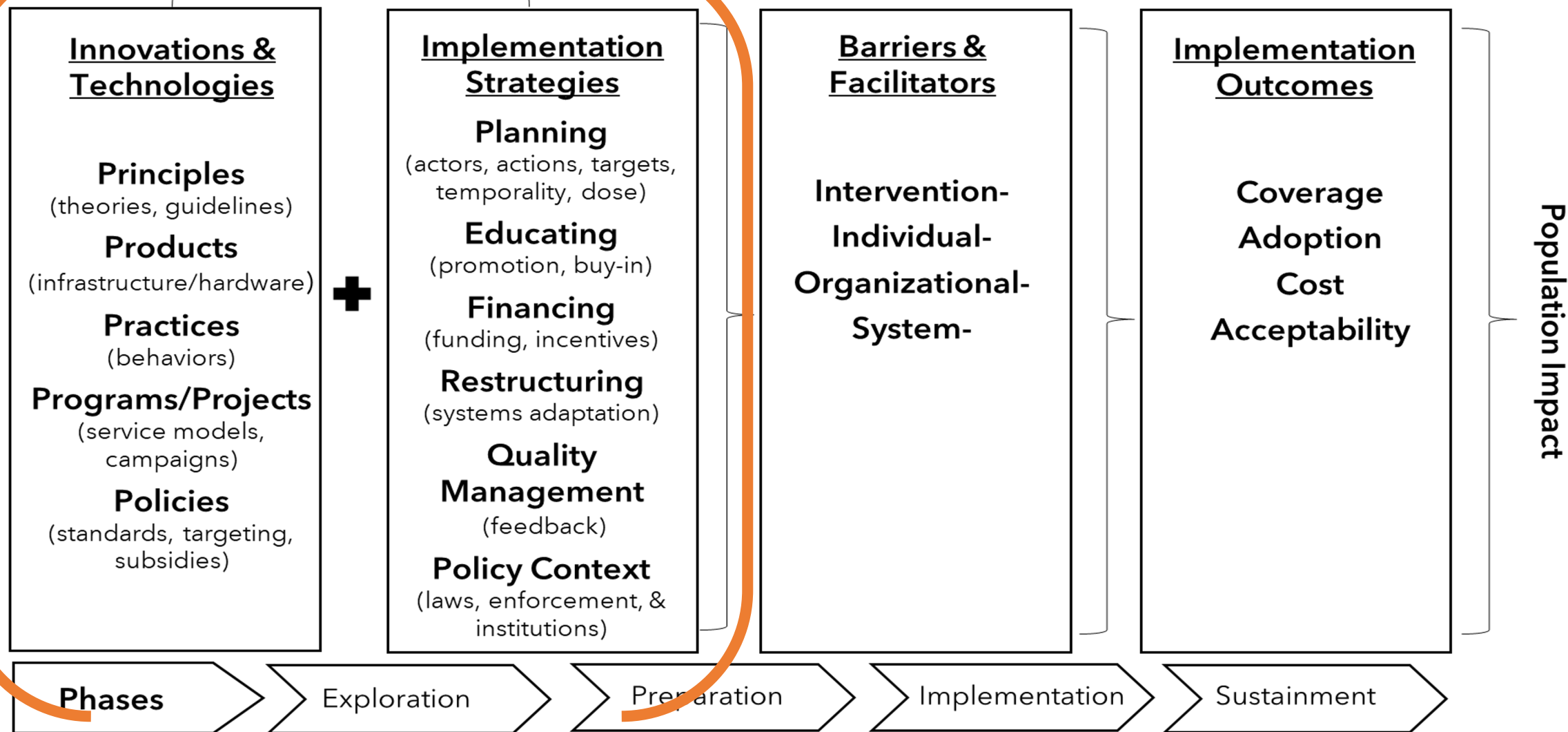
# Research questions

## Efficacy or effectiveness:

- What pathways are most effective at reducing diarrhea and stunting?
- What intervention(s) work *BEST*

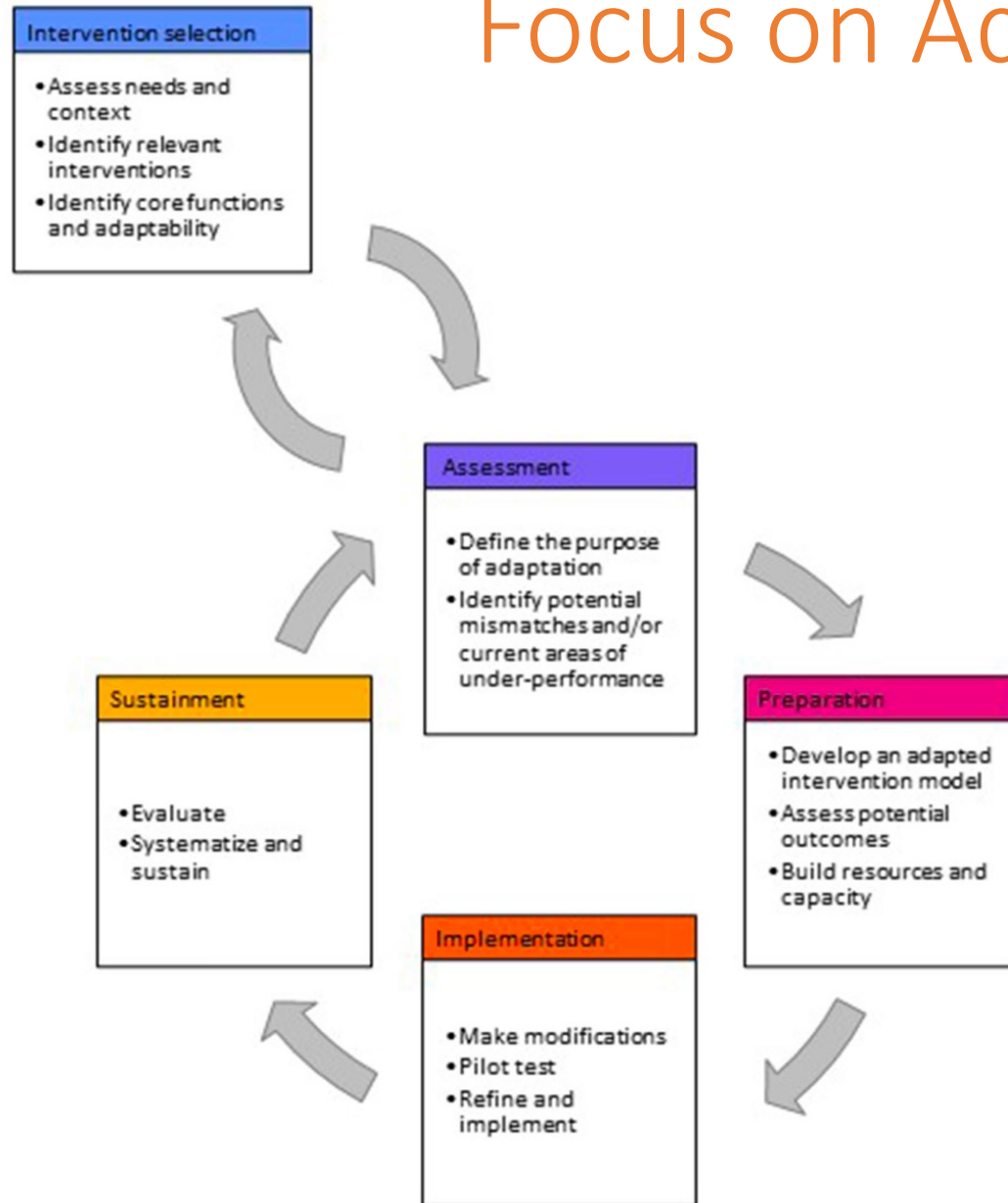
# Focus on intervention development?

## Intervention



Haque and Freeman et al. 2021 - adapted from Proctor et al. 2009 and builds on concepts from Brown et al. 2017; Powell et al. 2012; Powell et al. 2020

# Focus on Adaptation?



## Adaptation of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Interventions: A Model and Scoping Review of Key Concepts and Tools

Darcy M. Anderson<sup>1\*</sup>, Sarah A. Birken<sup>2,3</sup>, Jamie K. Bartram<sup>1,4</sup> and Matthew C. Freeman<sup>5</sup>

**FIGURE 1** | Steps for adaptation in WASH programs. Model is informed by adaptation models by Movsisyan et al. (15), Kirk et al. (16), and Escoffery et al. (17) and refined based on case studies of adaptation in WASH (18–20, 41–67).

# Focus on better evaluation approaches?

- Evaluation methods on **how** an intervention works rather than just **if** an intervention works
  - Rigorous understanding of the “how” helps us optimize and scale interventions
  - Lower reliance on traditional randomized-control trials, more flexible evaluation designs
  - Theory vs. implementation failure
- Emphasis on context
  - Aims to improve generalizability and assessment of “contextual fit” of interventions
- Research is multi-stakeholder and demand driven
  - Research questions are aligned with interests/needs of implementers and answered under real-world conditions
  - Foster shared ownership to promote the uptake of research findings
  - Improve the transfer of scientific skills for building local organizational research capacity

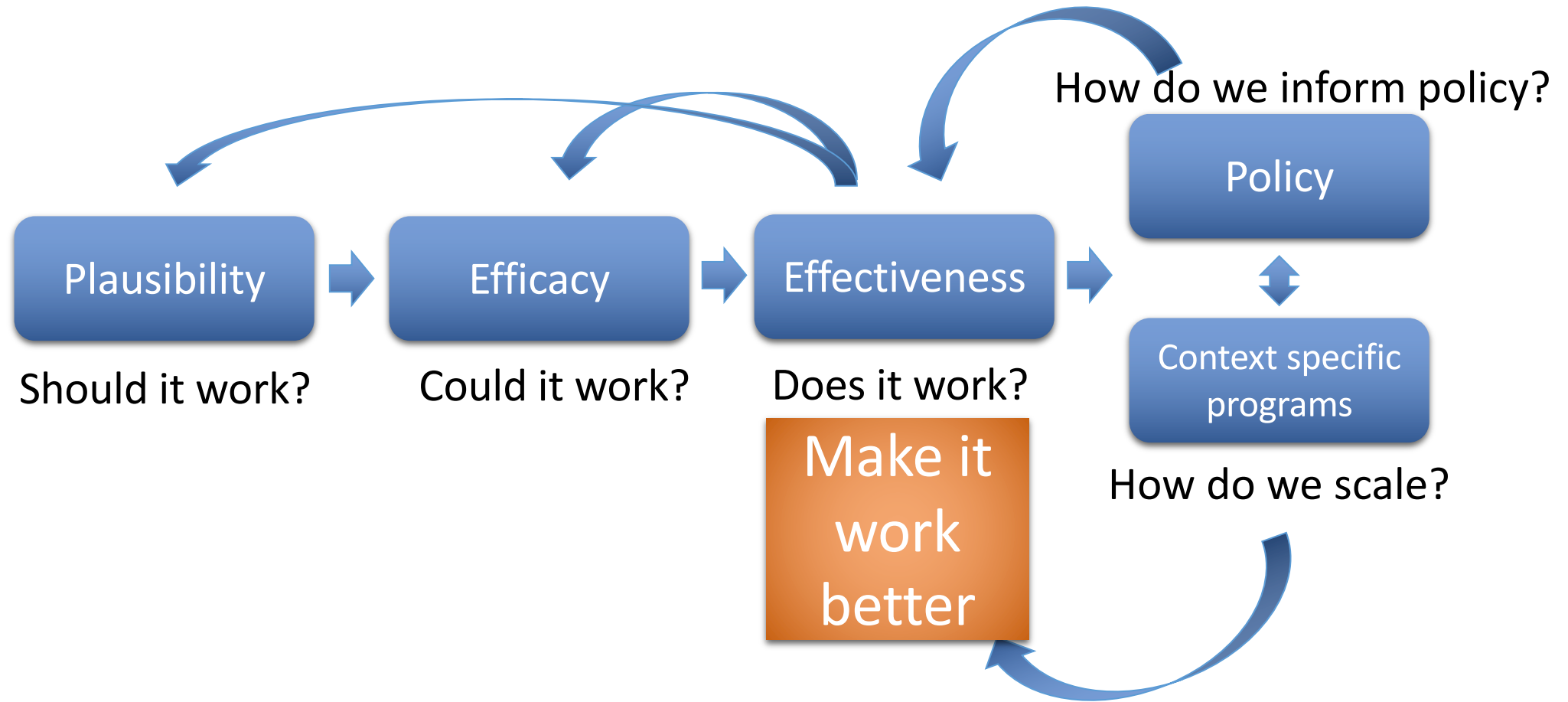


# Actionable challenges

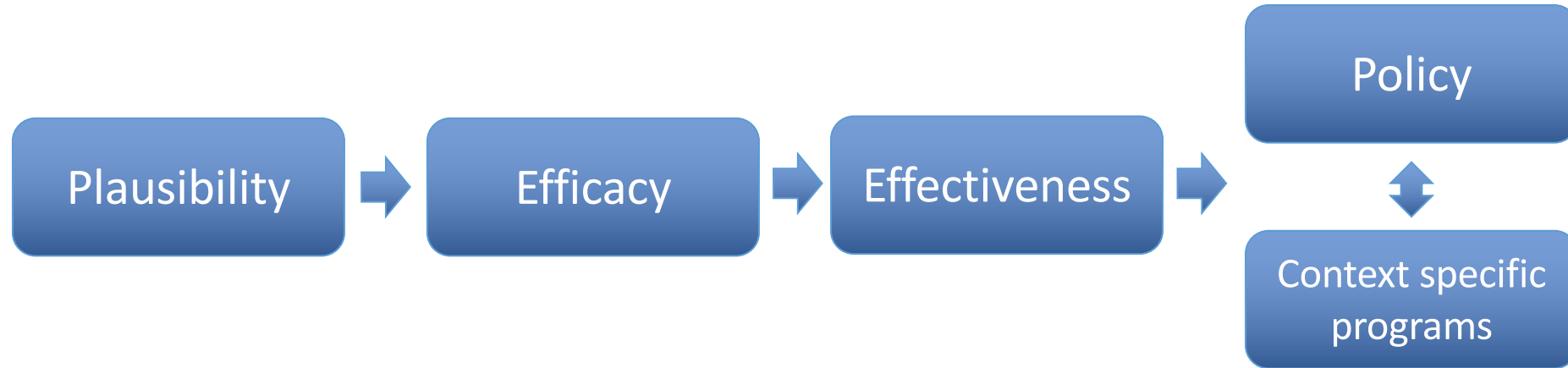
related to design, delivery, evaluation, and dissemination

1. Poor understanding and assessment of context
2. Minimal application of behavioral theory
3. No standard approaches to document intervention strategies and delivery
4. Minimal funding implementation research

# Successful delivery of at-scale interventions to reach impact

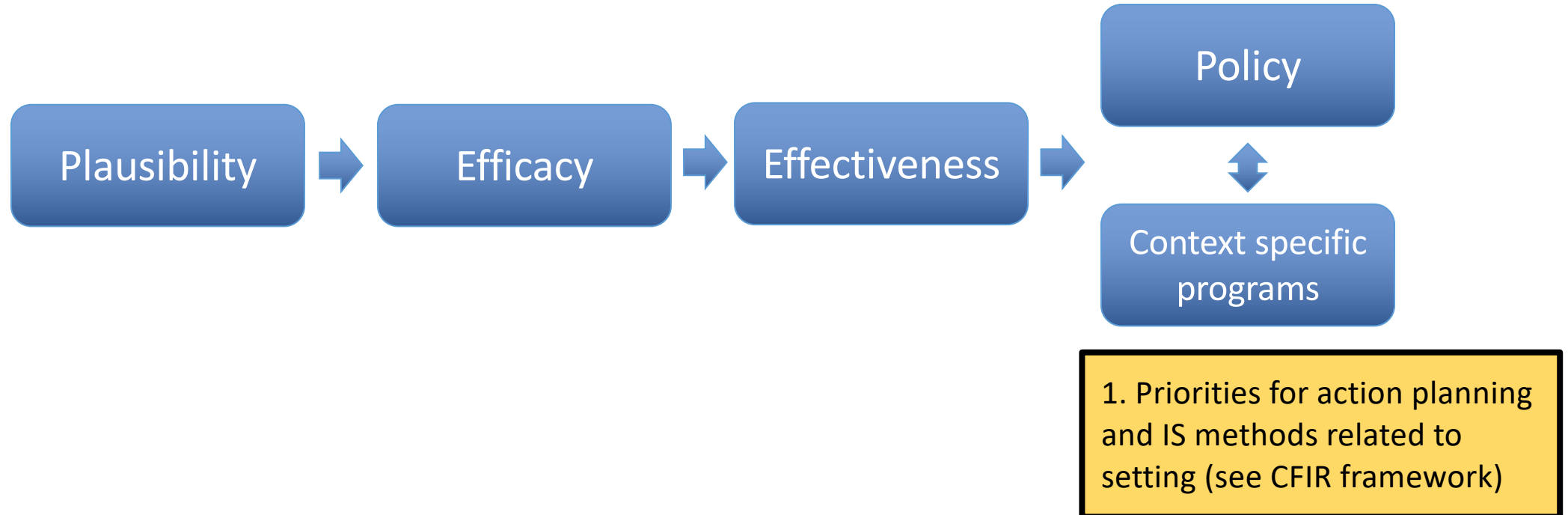


# IS priorities for WASH



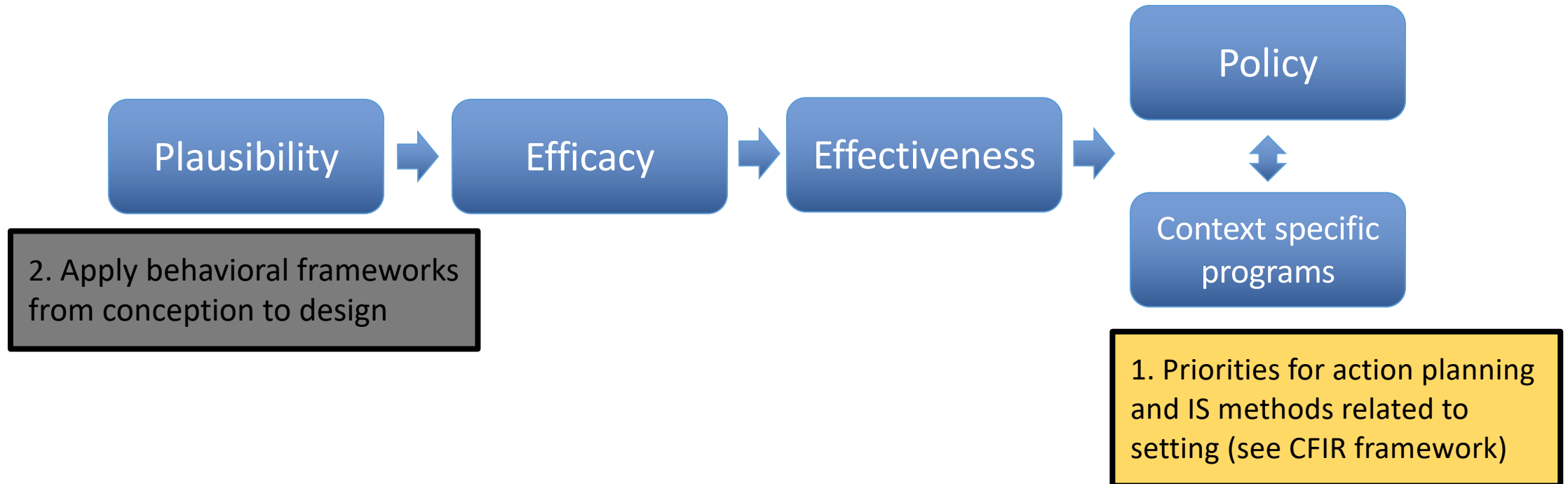
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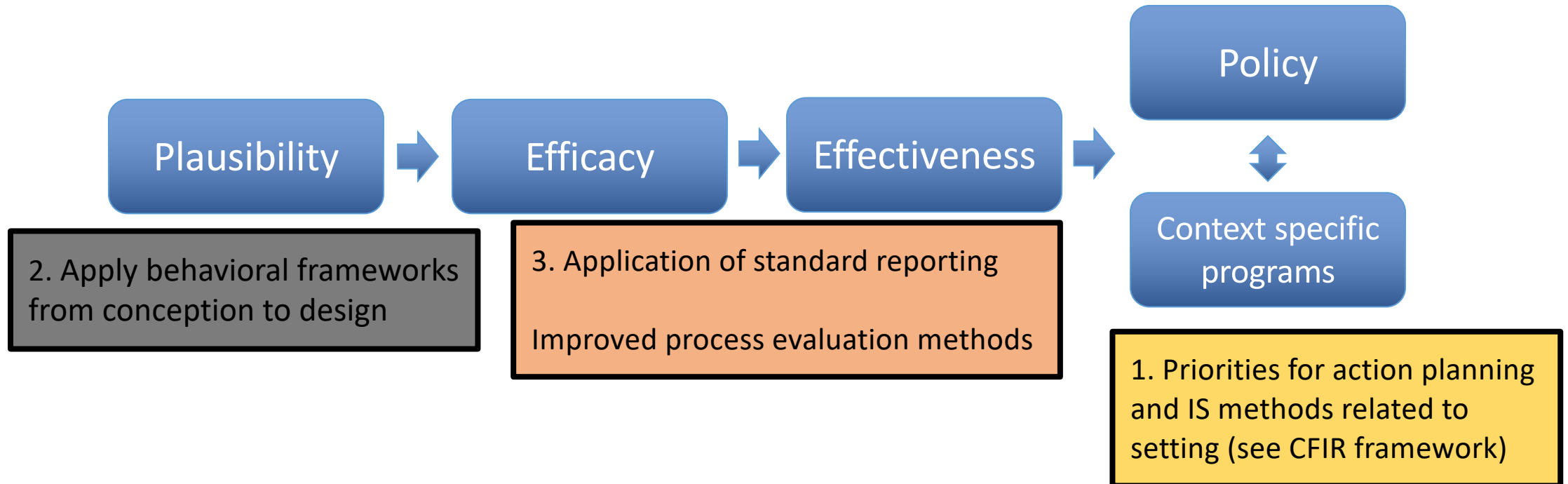
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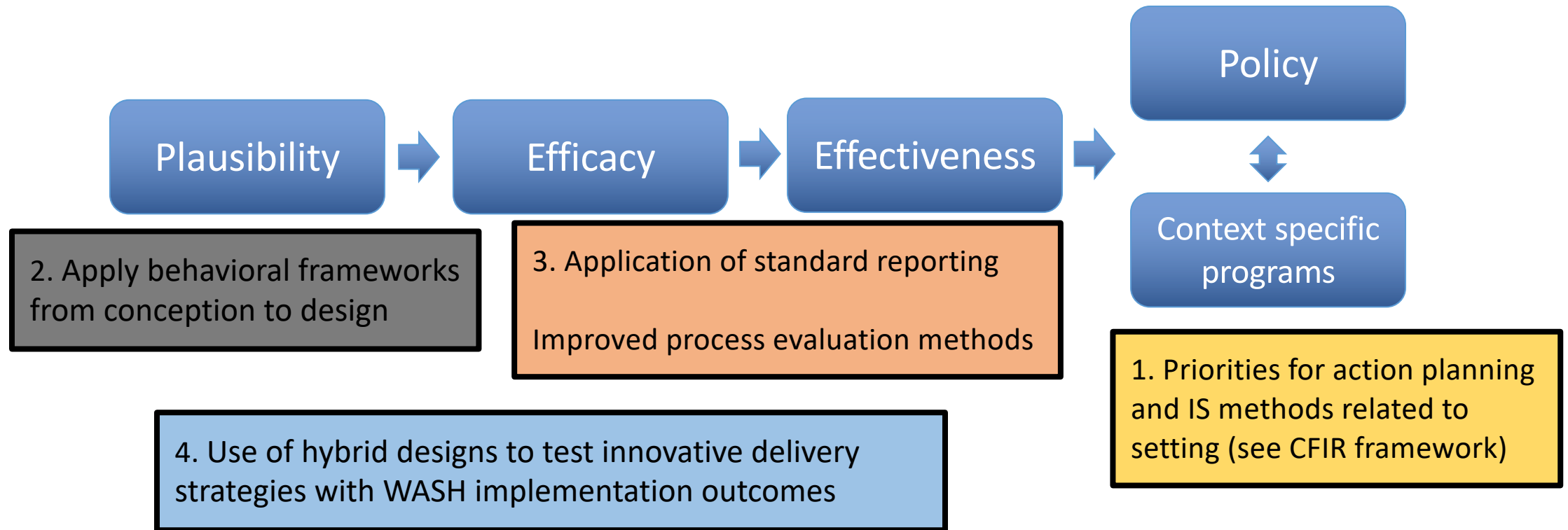
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# Priority solutions to address WASH evidence gaps

1. Priorities for action planning and IS methods related to setting  
(see CFIR framework)

2. Apply behavioral frameworks from conception to design

3. Application of standard reporting

Improved process evaluation methods

4. Use of hybrid designs to test innovative delivery strategies with  
WASH implementation outcomes



**What should the sector prioritize for implementing IS for control of food and waterborne disease?**



**→** <https://l.ead.me/bd6rSh>