



The Strategic Approach

Working with Countries to Strengthen
Reproductive Health Policies and Programmes

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The Strategic Approach:

A process that Countries can use to

- ▲ Identify and prioritise their needs for reproductive health policy and programme development
- ▲ Test appropriate interventions to address priority needs and scale up successful initiatives



Elements of Quality of Care In FP Services

- Broad range of appropriate technologies
- Counselling and information to meet clients' needs
- Technically competent service delivery
- Respectful interpersonal relations
- Appropriate follow-up for clients
- Provide or offer links to other RH services

Adapted from J. Bruce, "Fundamental elements of the quality of care: a simple framework", *Studies in Family Planning*, 1990 Mar-Apr; 21(2):61-91



Why A Strategic Approach?

- Weaknesses of past approaches
 - Often neglected user perspectives/needs
 - Limited attention to quality of care
 - Insufficient attention to capability of the service delivery system to provide quality of care
 - Failed to address the complex relationships between technologies and services
 - In the case of family planning
 - focused on demographic objectives
 - technology driven, focused on introduction of single technologies

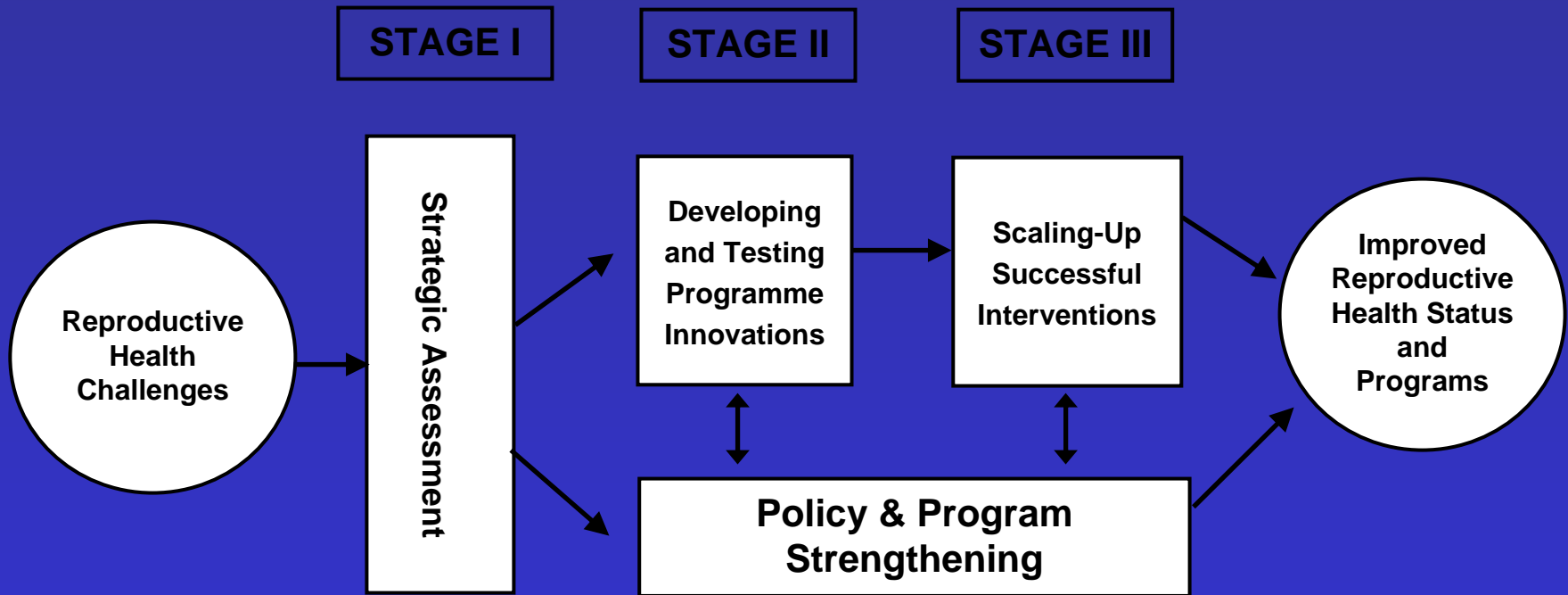


Strategic Approach: Three Stages of Work

- ▲ Stage I Strategic Assessment
- ▲ Stage II Testing Interventions
- ▲ Stage III Scaling-up and Expansion

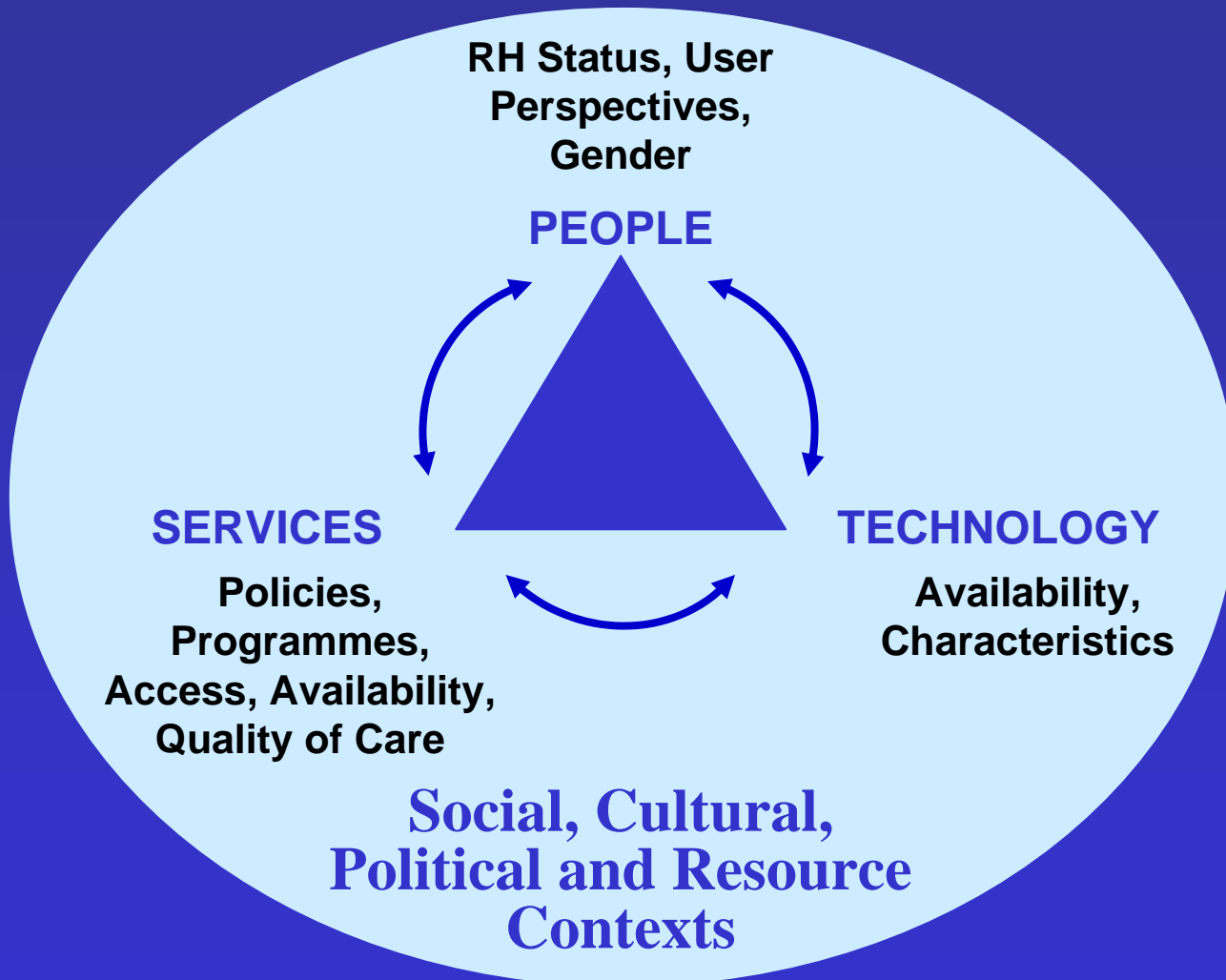


The Strategic Approach Implementation Process





The Strategic Approach: Conceptual Framework





Stage I: Strategic Questions for Contraceptive Introduction and Expanding Contraceptive Choice

- Is there a need for:
 - introduction of one or more new methods?
 - improving the provision of available methods which are poorly provided or little used?
 - removal of an unsafe or inappropriate method?
- How can quality of care be improved?



Stage I: Strategic Questions for Addressing Issues Related to Abortion

- Is there a need for:
 - Introduction of one or more new technologies or methods? ie MVA or medical methods
 - Improving the provision of available methods which are poorly provided or little used?
 - Removal of an outdated, unsafe or inappropriate methods?
- Is there a need to strengthen provision of:
 - Pain control?
 - Pre and post abortion counselling?
 - Post abortion contraception?
- How can the quality of care be improved?



Stage I: Attributes of Strategic Assessments

- Explore users' needs and perspectives
- Examine service capacity
- Focus on the range of available technologies
- Explore links to other reproductive health issues
- Emphasis on quality of care



Stage I: Strategic Assessments (Process)

- Background paper synthesises existing knowledge
- Planning workshop
- Participatory process involving multiple stakeholders
- Use qualitative field methodologies



The Strategic Approach - A participatory process -

- Country-initiated and country-led
- Multidisciplinary team of key country stakeholders involved in all stages
- Multiple perspectives generate broad-based support and consensus
- Country ownership of the process and results



Key Stakeholders





Assessment Outcomes

- Policy change or formulation
- Direct programme adaptation
- Stage II action research
- Identification of broader RH research agendas
- Stronger links between stakeholders
- Improved donor co-ordination



Stage II Action Research

- ❑ Test interventions to enhance access, availability and quality of care, before investing in large-scale expansion/replication
- ❑ Research may focus on
 - Feasibility of interventions
 - Acceptability to clients and providers
 - Potential impact of interventions
 - Cost-effectiveness of interventions
- ❑ Maintains the participation of multiple key stakeholders



Stage III Scaling-up

- ❑ Planning and action for programme expansion based on the results of the assessment and the action research
- ❑ Stage III can involve:
 - Dissemination of Stage II research findings
 - Development of strategic plans for expansion
 - Scaling-up of service delivery adaptations
 - Additional service delivery research

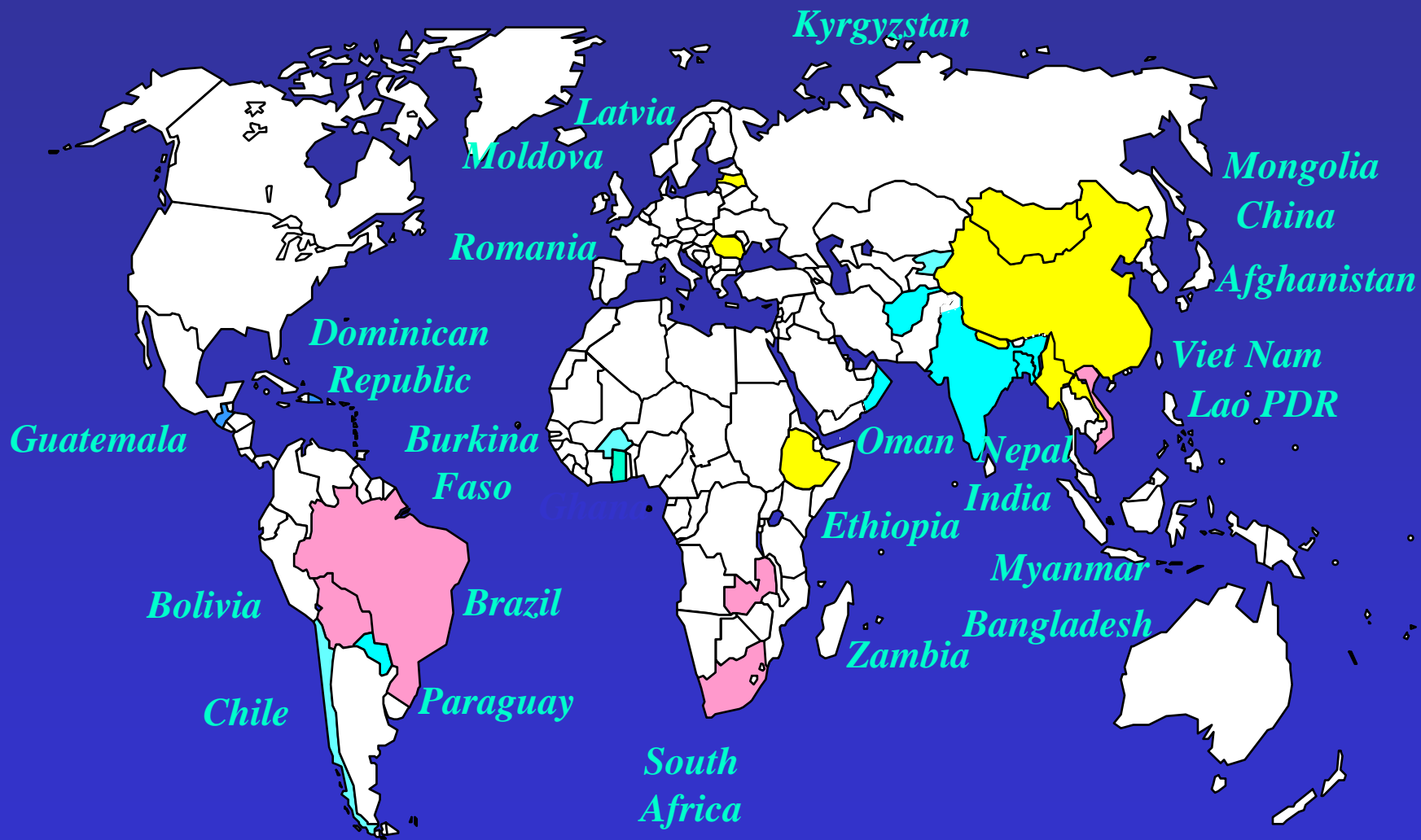


Adaptation of the Strategic Approach

- ▲ The Strategic Approach has been adapted to address the following reproductive health issues:
 - Abortion and post-abortion care
 - Maternal and newborn health
 - Adolescent reproductive health
 - STIs/RTIs and HIV/AIDS
 - Cervical cancer
 - Comprehensive reproductive health services



Strategic Approach: Used in 25 Countries to Strengthen Reproductive Health Programmes





Viet Nam - Background

- Strong FP program; high contraceptive prevalence (predominately the IUD)
- Decision to introduce DMPA and Norplant on a wide scale, but no introduction strategy
- Past experiences of introducing new methods raised concerns



Viet Nam - Stage I

- The Stage I assessment co-operative endeavour between the MOH, the National Committee for Population and Family Planning and the Vietnam Women's Union
- Key assessment findings:
 - Method mix primarily IUD (60% overall and 75% of modern methods)
 - Under-utilization of other methods
 - Weakness in technical quality of care
 - Poor IEC



Viet Nam - Assessment Conclusions

- Priority should be given to improving Quality of Care in the provision of the available methods
- No need for removal of currently existing methods
- Introduction of fertility regulation technologies should be approached with caution



Viet Nam Stage II (1996 - 1998)

Introduction of DMPA: An Opportunity to Improve the Quality of Care in Family Planning Services

- New training curricula for providers and community groups
- New IEC materials for demand creation and for counselling
- Adapted record keeping and reporting for management
- Improved supervisory tools
- Modified logistics system
- Diagnostic assessment of family planning services
- Study of DMPA acceptance and discontinuation
- User perspective study
- Retrospective analysis of earlier trials of Norplant introduction



Viet Nam Stage III (1999 - 2001)

Facilitating DMPA Expansion to 21 Provinces

- Tool kit development
 - Overview of the introduction strategy
 - Training modules
 - IEC materials
 - MIS changes and management tools
- Training of provincial and district managers
- Research capacity-building
- Documentation and evaluation of the process



Lessons Learned

Technology Introduction

- Need for improving quality of care of existing methods greater than need to add new method(s)
- Introduction of one or more individual technologies provides an opportunity to improve quality of care for all methods
- Without appropriate quality of care, the introduction of any additional method does not expand true choice for women
- Assessments have demonstrated need to remove methods
 - Outdated or safety has not been adequately demonstrated
 - Too many methods with similar characteristics



Lessons Learned in FP (continued)

- Use of the SA has assisted countries to develop comprehensive policies and strategies to expand contraceptive options and promote informed choice
- Use of the SA has helped identify and prioritize necessary interventions to strengthen service capacities to provide a range of methods with quality of care



Lessons Learned Improving Quality of Care

- To improve Quality of Care
 - it is necessary to address both supply and demand for services
 - requires multiple changes in service delivery
- Policy support for changing the work environment is necessary to address provider motivation and biases
- Targets and incentives are critical in determining provider bias and provider behaviour
- Quality of Care depends on change from provider rewards based solely on quantitative targets and remuneration by methods or procedures to indicators of quality



Lessons Learned Participatory Approach

- The participatory process has led to
 - greater emphasis on client perspectives
 - development of client-centred services
 - involvement of women's, youth and community groups
- Involvement of non-traditional partners strengthens institutions and expands their capacity to work with the MOH
- Maintaining participation of a broad range of stakeholders difficult



Lessons Learned Utilization of Research

- Involvement of mid or high level programme managers in both the assessment and the research
 - increased recognition of the utility of research to strengthen service capacity
 - increases the likelihood that research results are utilized for programme development

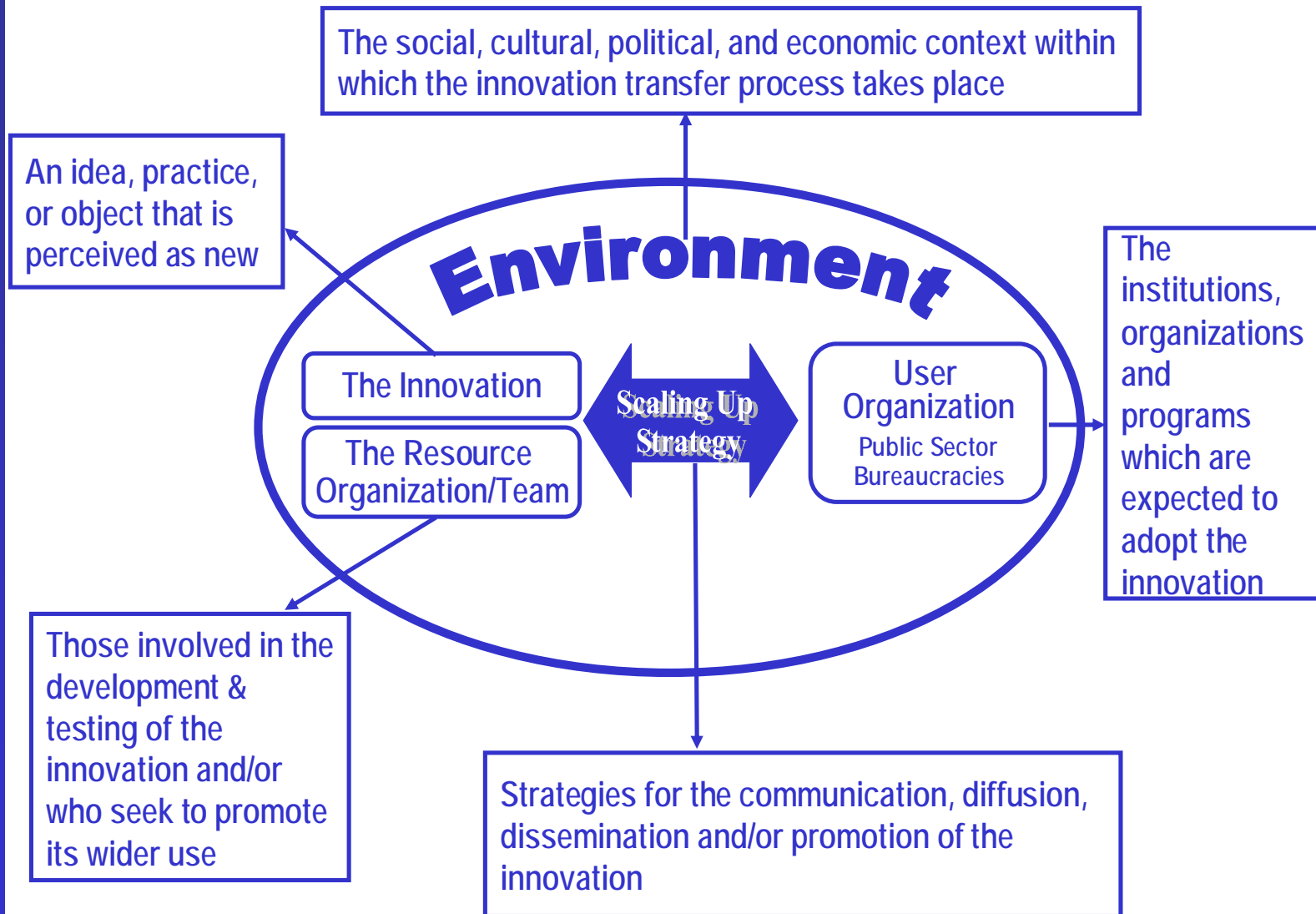


Lessons Learned Scaling-up

- Need to begin planning replication from development of assessment recommendations and formulation of Stage II research
- Successful expansion and replication has been facilitated by:
 - Building on existing capacities/materials
 - Providing realistic inputs
 - Developing simple interventions
 - Involving programme managers in the research phase
- Maintain Stage II field site as a resource for Stage III



Scaling Up Framework





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ExpandNet is a global network of public health professionals and scientists seeking to advance the practice and science of scaling-up successful health service innovations tested in experimental, pilot and demonstration projects.


This website describes who we are, our goals and objectives, activities we are currently engaged in and plans for the future, resources and publications related to scaling-up, and a guestbook where those interested can leave comments and contact information.

We hope this site will be useful to those interested in scaling-up. We invite you to submit relevant information through our guestbook and to check back periodically for new developments.

News

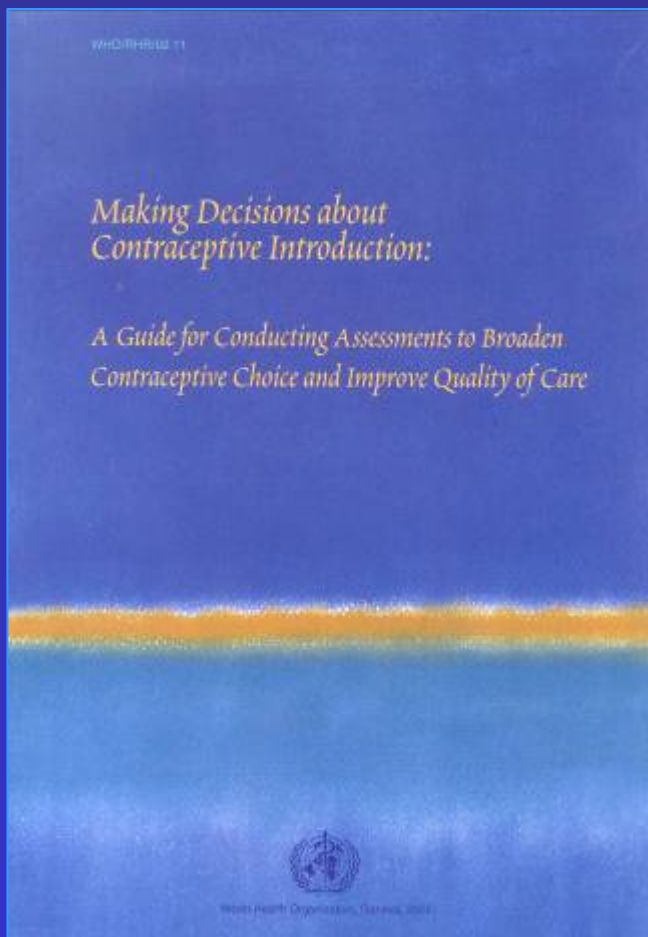

ExpandNet founders


Meetings in Bellagio


Strategic Approach - Bolivia

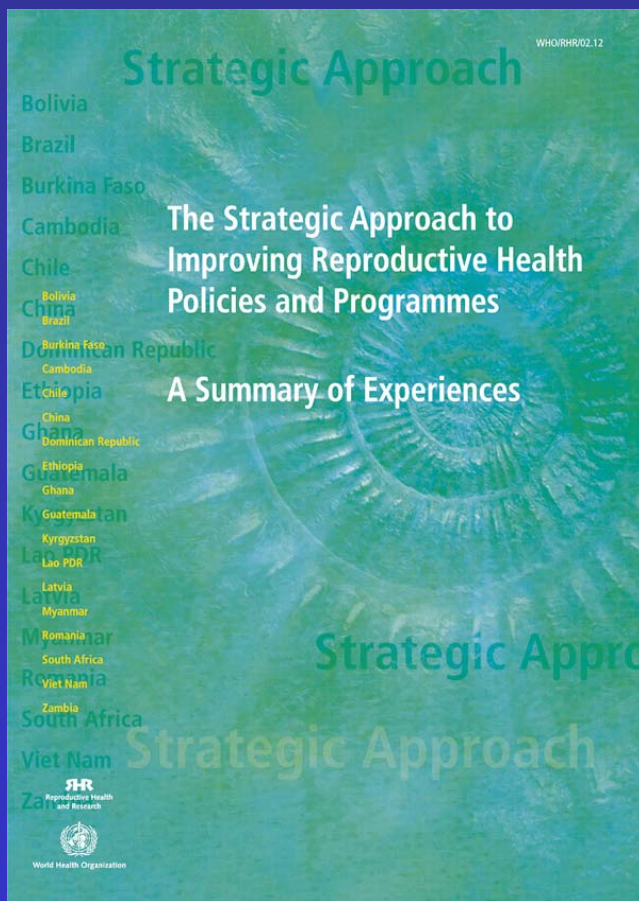
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www.expandnet.net



Making Decisions about Contraceptive Introduction: A Guide for conducting assessments to broaden contraceptive choice and improve quality of care

A practical guide for implementing Strategic Assessments



The Strategic Approach to Improving Reproductive Health Policies and Programmes: A Summary of Experiences

An overview of the Strategic Approach and update on activities in 18 countries