

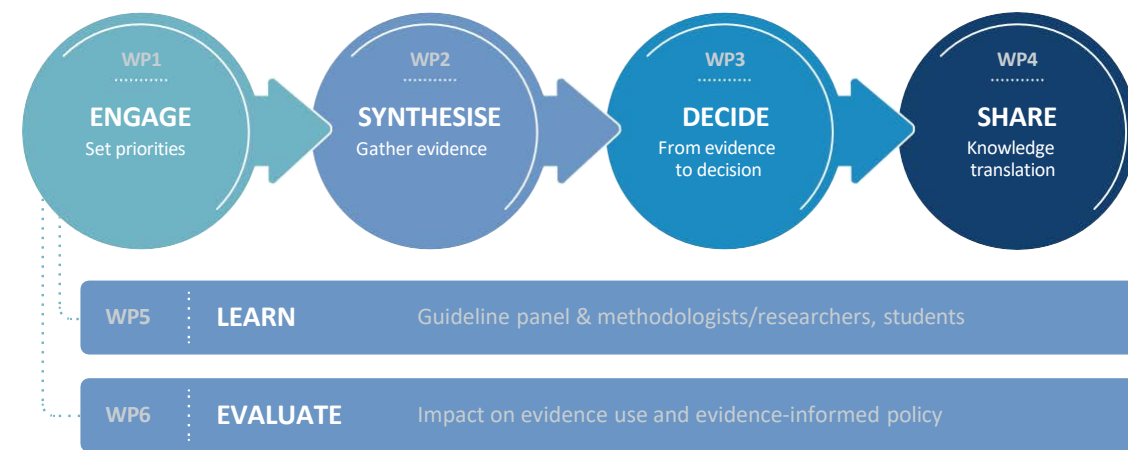
Best practice approach identified non-overlapping priority questions for guidelines addressing newborn and child health in Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa



IMPORTANCE

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is the region with the highest under-five mortality rate globally. Evidence-informed guidelines are key to inform healthcare decisions. The GELA - Global Evidence, Local Adaptation - project aimed to enhance capacity to use global research to develop locally relevant guidance for newborn and child health in three SSA countries (Figure 1). The first step was a process to identify national priority topics in South Africa, Malawi and Nigeria.

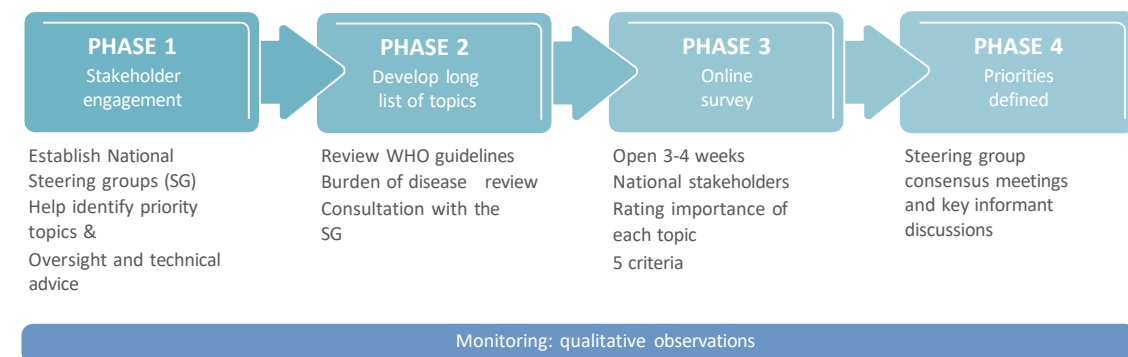
Figure 1. GELA project overview



METHODS

We followed good practice for priority setting, including stakeholder engagement, online priority setting surveys and consensus meetings [1,2] (figure 2). Ethics approval was obtained across the three countries.

Figure 2. Priority setting process



KEY RESULTS

- 1 Priority setting is an iterative process; more engagements with stakeholders required than anticipated at all stages.
- 2 Online survey included a broad list of topics, which made it challenging to finalise the PICO questions after the survey; additional meetings, scoping the literature and gap analyses were needed (Figure 3). This delayed the next steps of the project.
- 3 Limited overlap of survey topics across partner countries (Figure 4) and final agreed topics per country (Figure 5) highlights the importance of contextualised priority setting.
- 4 Relationships with end-users are key for finalization and uptake of topics.
- 5 Qualitative observations of the process revealed that capacity gaps (e.g. guideline development process), stakeholder dynamics (e.g. certain dominant voices), and procedural challenges (e.g. voting resistance) may have impacted the priority setting process.

Figure 5. Priority topics identified

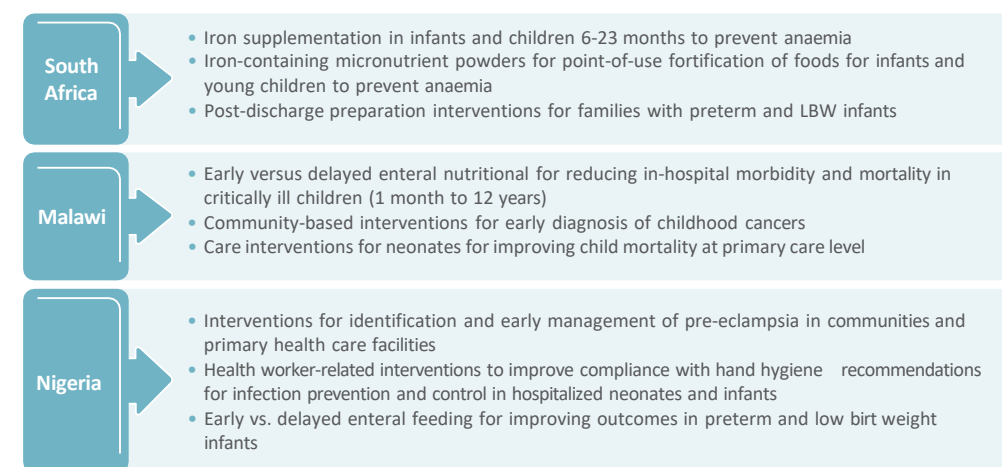


Figure 3. Finalisation of topics after online survey

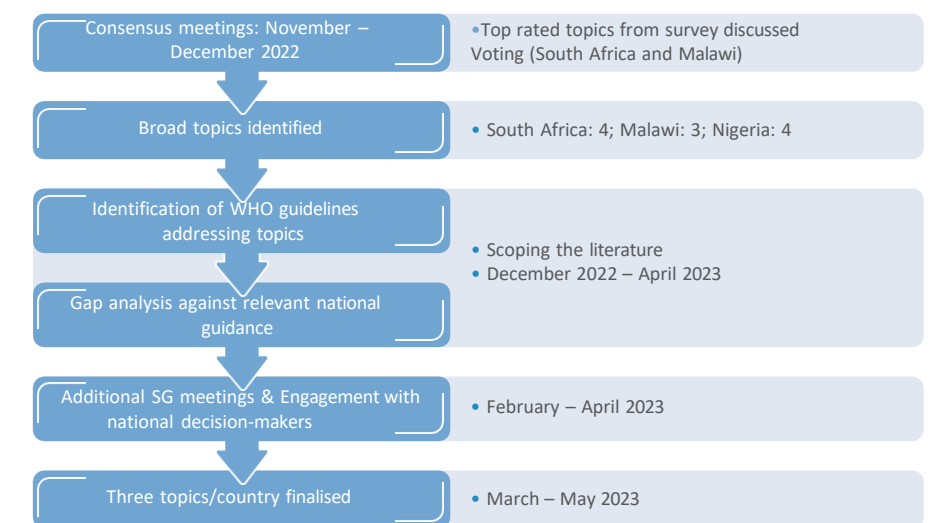
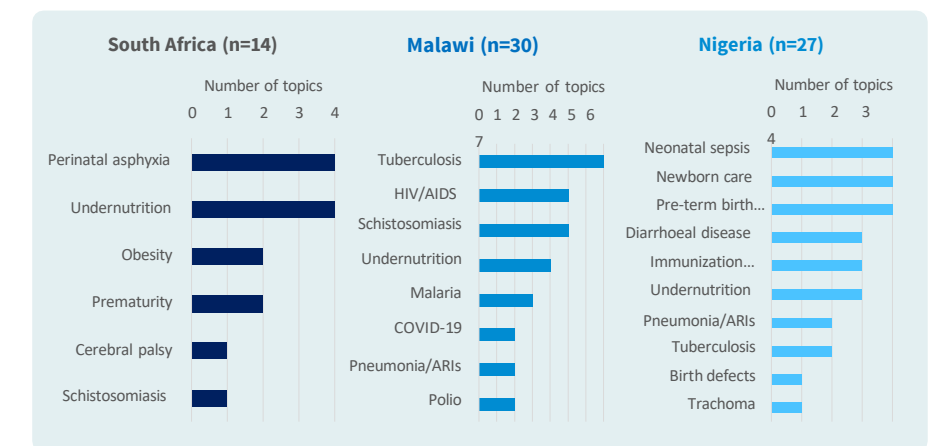


Figure 4. Long list of topics included in survey



Explicit and best practice approach identified nonoverlapping priority questions for guidelines addressing newborn and child health in Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa

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[2] El-Harakeh et al. BMC Health Serv Res. 2019;19:692

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