GELA applied GRADE-ADOLOPMENT for priority national child health guidelines in South Africa, Malawi and Nigeria: What did we learn?

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Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest.

Member - South African EDL/PHC ERC & NEMLC(NDoH)

Member SA GRADE Network & GRADE WG

Associate editor – Clinical and Public Health Guidelines

Introduction

Global Evidence-Local Adaptation (GELA) project - aimed to develop locally relevant guideline recommendations for child health in Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, using existing guidelines or syntheses to improve efficiencies

Underpinned by GRADE-ADOLOPMENT:

Tailored and fit-for-purpose:

What did we need?
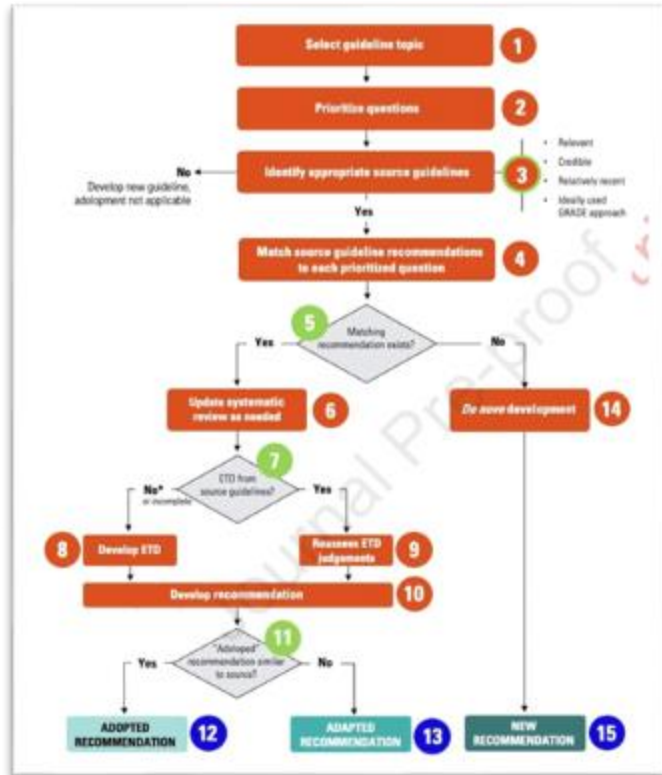
1. Consistency, reproducibility, transparency

2. Efficient use of limited resources/time

3. Navigate decision-making complexities

4. Build capacity in guideline adaptation

What did we learn when applying the GRADE-ADOLOPMENT methodology in LMIC settings?

Tailored and expanded GRADE-ADOLOPMENT algorithm through:
1. GELA working groups
2. Partner meetings
3. Project presentations

WP 0 EVALUATE: Monitor and evaluate impact

WP 5 LEARN: Capacity assessment and development

Partner with stakeholders to conduct priority setting and define the guideline scope
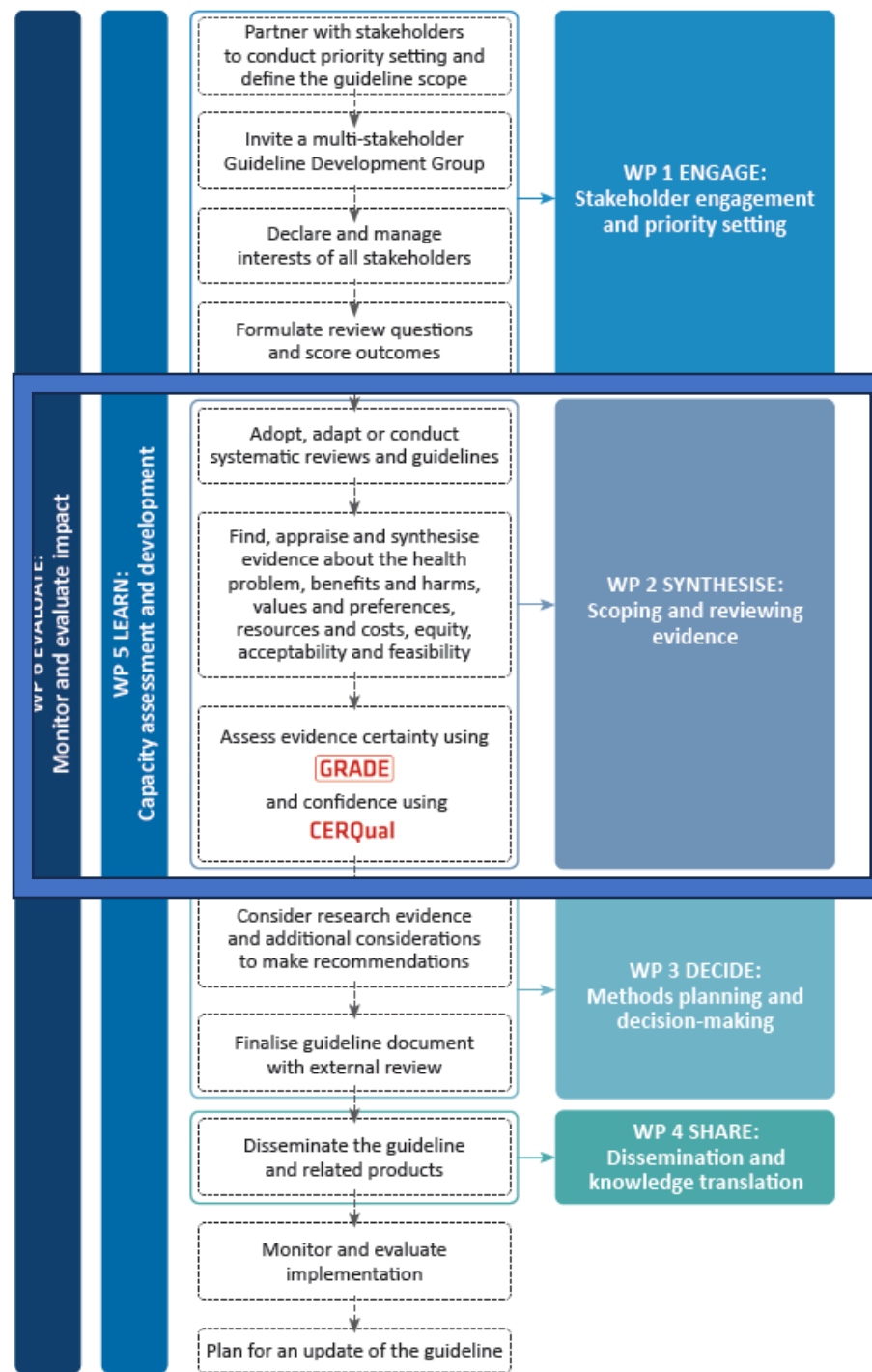
Invite a multi-stakeholder Guideline Development Group

Declare and manage interests of all stakeholders

Formulate review questions and score outcomes

Adopt, adapt or conduct systematic reviews and guidelines

Find, appraise and synthesise evidence about the health problem, benefits and harms, values and preferences, resources and costs, equity, acceptability and feasibility

Assess evidence certainty using GRADE and confidence using CERQual

Consider research evidence and additional considerations to make recommendations

Finalise guideline document with external review

Disseminate the guideline and related products

Monitor and evaluate implementation

Plan for an update of the guideline

WP 1 ENGAGE: Stakeholder engagement and priority setting

WP 2 SYNTHESISE: Scoping and reviewing evidence

WP 3 DECIDE: Methods planning and decision-making

WP 4 SHARE: Dissemination and knowledge translation

How? = Approach / Design

What? = Decision paths & nodes

Why? = Purpose / context

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Prototype GELA-adolopment algorithm

For each prioritized topic, start with a single PICO question

How   **What**   **Why**

Scoping review | **Guidelines**

(a) Screen and match | **Rec PICO level**
(b) Path to rec | **Rec level**
(c) Timeliness | **CPG level**
(d) Credibility | **CPG level**
(e) Certainty | **CPG level**

1. Search & screen for potential source guideline(s) for the prioritized PICO question

Match recommendation(s) in potential source guideline(s) to prioritized PICO question

Does an appropriate source guideline exist?

Yes

No

2a. Assess if evidence in source guideline is appropriate for EtD table

Effectiveness SR   **QES**   **Resource evidence**

No

Match   Timeliness   Credibility

Most efficient pathway to a EtD:
**re-use evidence
Update
Partial update or 2b or 3**

Not possible

1. Adoption/adaptation is more efficient
Considerations:
Broad vs narrow questions; guidance level PICO vs synthesis level PICO(s)
Formulating draft recommendation(s) can help

**Find best-fit guideline recommendation for adoption/adaptation
Considerations:**
- Steps (a) and (b) should ideally be met before moving to (c), (d) and (e)

2. Find most appropriate synthesised evidence for the EtD criteria

Considerations:
Multiple complex decisions – methods expertise essential

2b. Scoping review of existing evidence synthesis for the EtD criteria

3. Conduct new evidence syntheses

Adapted from GRADE-ADOLOPMENT algorithm

Key adaptation issues and lessons

Maturity and relationships between researchers (supply) and decision-makers (demand)

Buy-in and partnerships

Navigating **guideline infrastructure**
Local evidence **champions**
Investment in **training**
Partnering and **co-creating**

Global standards and complexity in guideline adaptation

Responsive and adaptive

Tiered approaches and **'best bet'** guidelines
Experienced topic and methods **leadership**
Targeted training with **'learning-by-doing'** in synthesis and
guideline development (foundational)

Future investment

Adaptation can still be time and resource **intensive**
GRADE: steep **learning curves**
Long-term investment in **decision making capacity + infrastructure**

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Conclusion

GRADE-ADOLOPMENT is an EtD framework centric approach that facilitates and requires:

- **Flexibility** when implemented in emerging evidence-into-policy settings

- **Cross-country evidence-support** collaboration and **capacity development** – pivotal for a domestic EBDM culture

- **Contextualisation** of local evidence, strengthening national decision making and collaboration between synthesis team, decision makers and relevant stakeholders

Developing fit-for purpose child health guideline recommendations for each country requires considerable resources and time as local evidence is not always readily available or up-to-date and new evidence is often needed to support context-relevant guideline processes

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Thanks

This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union

EDCTP

saMRC advancing life

UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR TEACHING HOSPITAL

Stellenbosch UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT

MAGIC Evidence Ecosystem Foundation

Cochrane

NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology

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Capacity Building Activities

Week 1
Welcome & Orientation

EBP & Phrasing
Week 2

Week 3
RCTs & Risk of bias

Finding systematic reviews
Week 4

Week 5
Interpreting systematic reviews

GRADE and Summary of findings
Week 6

Week 7
Evidence to policy & practice

Post-course readings
Week 8
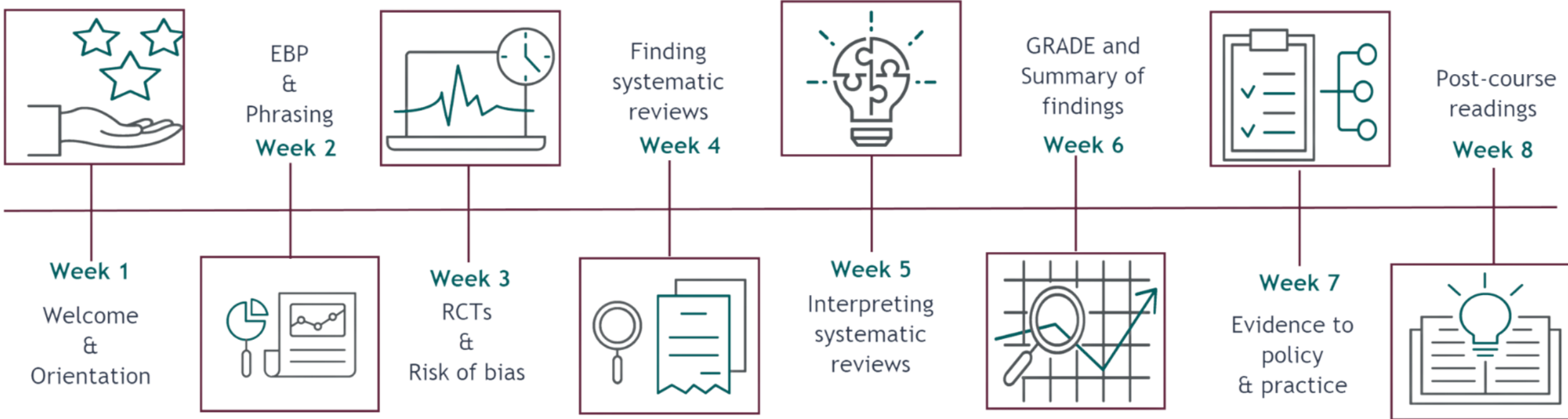
Capacity Building Activities

Capacity building activity	Target audience	Format
Primer in Systematic Reviews short course	Guideline group members and Steering group members from Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa	8-week, online short course that includes self-study and weekly, synchronous Q&A sessions Offered twice per year
WHO Guideline Simulation workshop	GDG members and Steering group committee members from all GELA partners	Half to full day, in-person workshop in respective countries Offered once in each country
Bespoke training workshops, including in qualitative evidence synthesis, software-specific training, user-testing, observational research and the TRANSFER stakeholder engagement approach	GELA researchers from all GELA partners	1-2 hour online training across countries Offered as needed
Clinical Practice Guidelines short course, Stellenbosch University	GELA researchers from all GELA partners	Semester long, Master's-level online short course that comprises self-study, synchronous presentations, discussions and assessments Offered once a year
GELA community of Practice	GDG members, Steering group committee members, GELA researchers from all GELA partners	WhatsApp group for informal discussions, quarterly online meetings with structured topics and discussions
Learning-by-doing / experiential learning	GELA researchers and decision-makers from all GELA partners	Hands-on experience, 'on the job' training, mentorship

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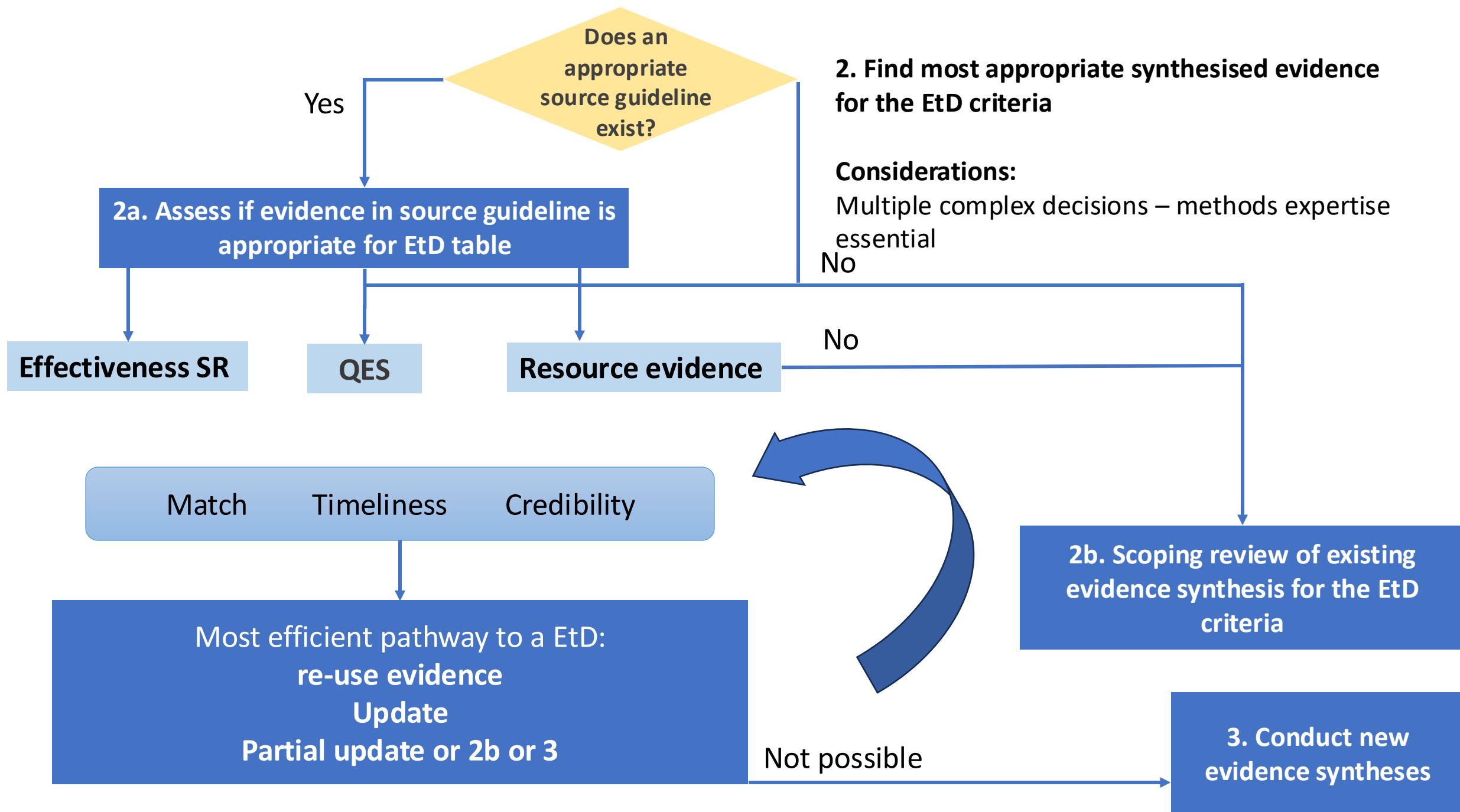
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Want to hear more about the GELA project?

Global evidence and local adaptation – lessons from Malawi of a guideline development and adaptation process

OS: Bridging Global Evidence to Local impact, Especially in Low- and Middle- Income Countries
10 September
16h00 – 17h30 (Presenting at 17h02)
Hall D7

Nyanyiwe Mbeye

Fit-for-use evidence on benefits and harms when adoloping guidelines: the complexities of decisions to use, update or do new reviews

OS: Guideline Development Strategies 1
10 September
16h00 – 17h30 (Presenting at 16h05)
Hall C3

Amanda Brand