

Identifying appropriate source guidelines and recommendations for GRADE-ADOLOPMENT in Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa: A fit-for-setting and –capacity approach

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E D C T P

Declaration of Conflict of interest

- We have no actual or potential conflict of interests in relation to this presentation.

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Introduction



- The Global Evidence-Local Adaptation (GELA) project aims to develop **locally relevant guidelines** for child health in Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa using existing guidelines or syntheses to improve efficiencies
- Stakeholders identified **priority** population, intervention, comparator, outcome (**PICO**) **questions** requiring guidance **in each country**
- Underpinned by **GRADE-ADOLOPMENT** - evidence-to-decision (EtD) framework-based approach to adopt, adapt or create contextualized recommendations from source guidelines and available evidence syntheses
 1. Identification of appropriate **source guidelines and recommendations** to potentially adopt or adapt
 2. Create an original, **new recommendation** only if **no** appropriate source **guideline** is found

Objectives & Methods

Objective

To describe **approaches & learnings** from scoping for **appropriate source guidelines** for 4 prioritised PICO questions

Methods

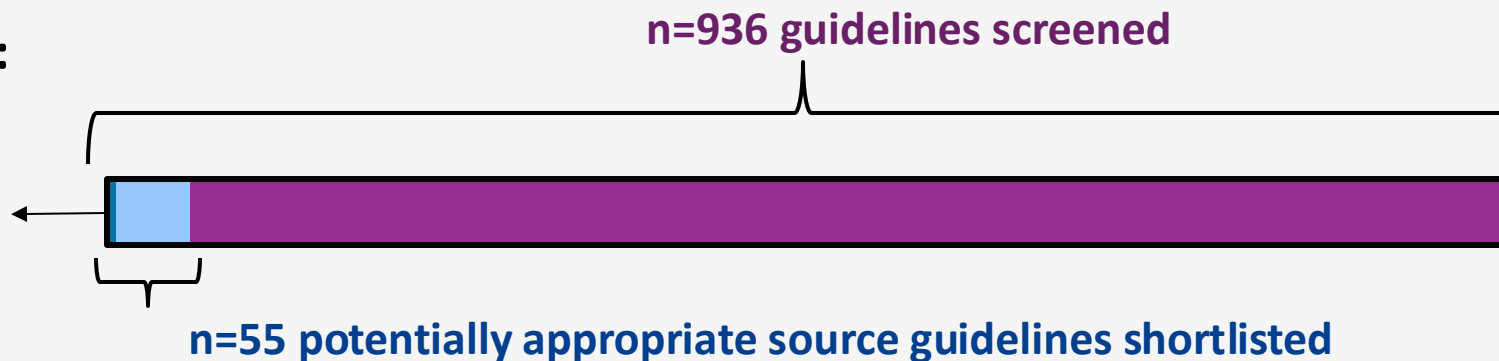
Established PICO-level teams (**experienced & novice** members across countries) & **for each PICO**:

- Conducted comprehensive, systematic scoping review (GELA guideline scoping review protocol)
- Implemented **tailored** strategies to identify & search relevant guideline databases & websites
- Screened guideline title, abstract and table of contents → shortlist of **potentially appropriate source** guidelines
- Examined shortlist of full texts to identify **recommendations matching** the **PICO** question
- Appraised guidelines with matching recommendations for timeliness, credibility (key AGREE II domains), path to recommendation, used GRADE & EtD table
- **Appropriate source guideline** = well-matched recommendation to PICO question, clear pathway from an effectiveness systematic review (SR) to recommendation, up-to-date & sufficient methodological quality

Results

Across the 4 PICO:

n=3 guidelines with matching recommendations



Getting from 55 → 3: Time-intensive (1-2 mo) and complex for some PICO-questions:

1. Mismatches between PICO elements and recommendations
2. Interventions in priority PICO-questions broad/multi-component – needed more unpacking with stakeholders

2 appropriate source guidelines + EtD frameworks for 2 PICO:

- **Completeness** of information (judgments, evidence & additional considerations) across **EtD criteria varied**
- Evidence: effectiveness SRs outdated, some reporting limitations; qualitative & resource evidence was limited

No appropriate source guideline for 1 PICO:

- **No clear path** from effectiveness evidence to recommendation

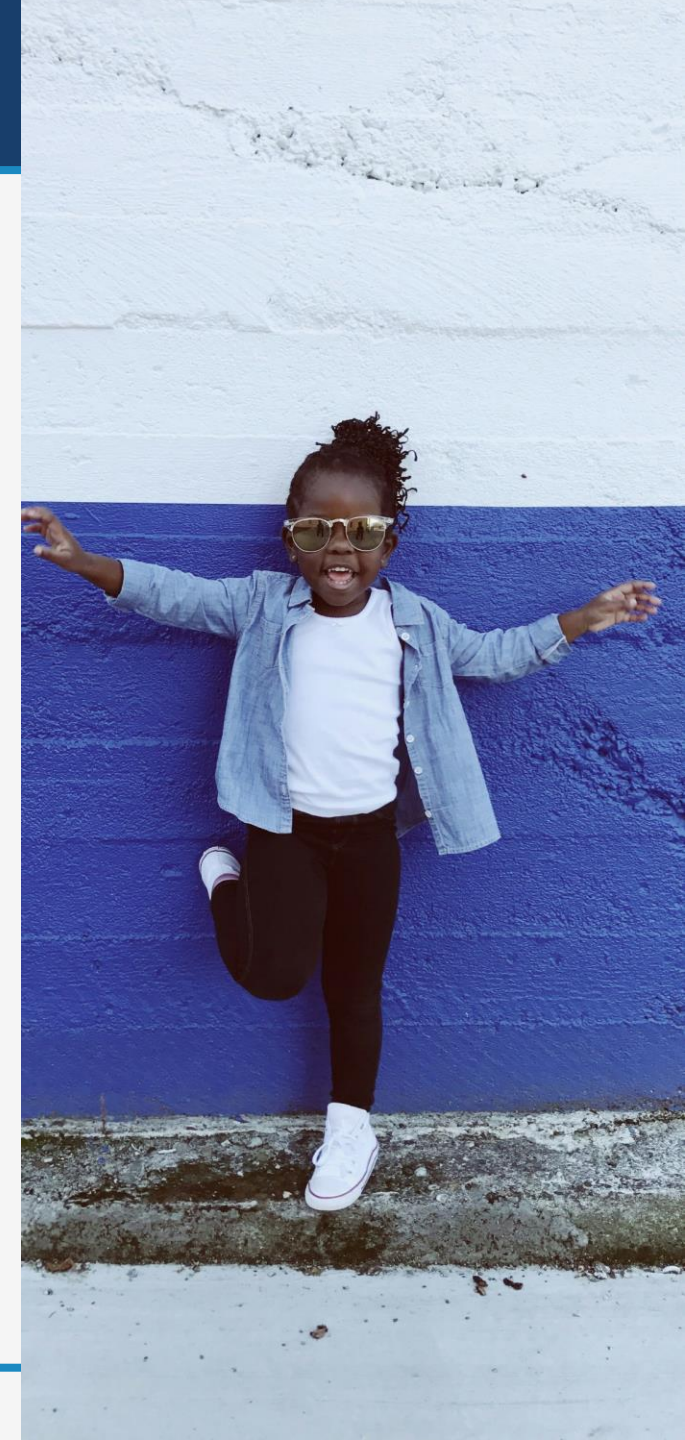
Navigating complexities:

- ✓ Iterative team discussions
- ✓ Dedicated experiential learning sessions
- ✓ Careful decisions by experienced members

Conclusions

In our experience identifying appropriate source guidelines to streamline guideline adaptation needs:

- **Well-framed** PICO questions that are **very clearly unpacked** relevant to local context and decision-maker needs
- To weigh up systematic vs. purposive scoping: first looking for appropriate source guidelines that use GRADE is a better bet (e.g., Epistemonikos-GRADE, WHO) when using GRADE-ADOLPMENT
- To carefully consider setting and capacity relevant to guideline development methods & infrastructure
- People with **experience** in **GRADE guideline development** and **topic expertise**



Thanks

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