

Background : Local evidence is important for contextualized knowledge translation, guideline adaptation and priority setting.^{1,2,3} However, there are challenges to identifying and delivering local evidence in a systematic way.

In Cameroon some of these challenges include :

- paucity of research on some research topic or using certain research designs.
- Identifying local evidence published in non-indexed journals with inaccessible or unsearchable archives.⁴

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project was to develop a database of health research evidence for Cameroon and explore how it can be used for research prioritisation and decision making.

METHODS

Design: Evidence mapping design⁵

Search: From 10/18 to 05/19, 10 electronic databases and archives of non-indexed African and Cameroonian journals.

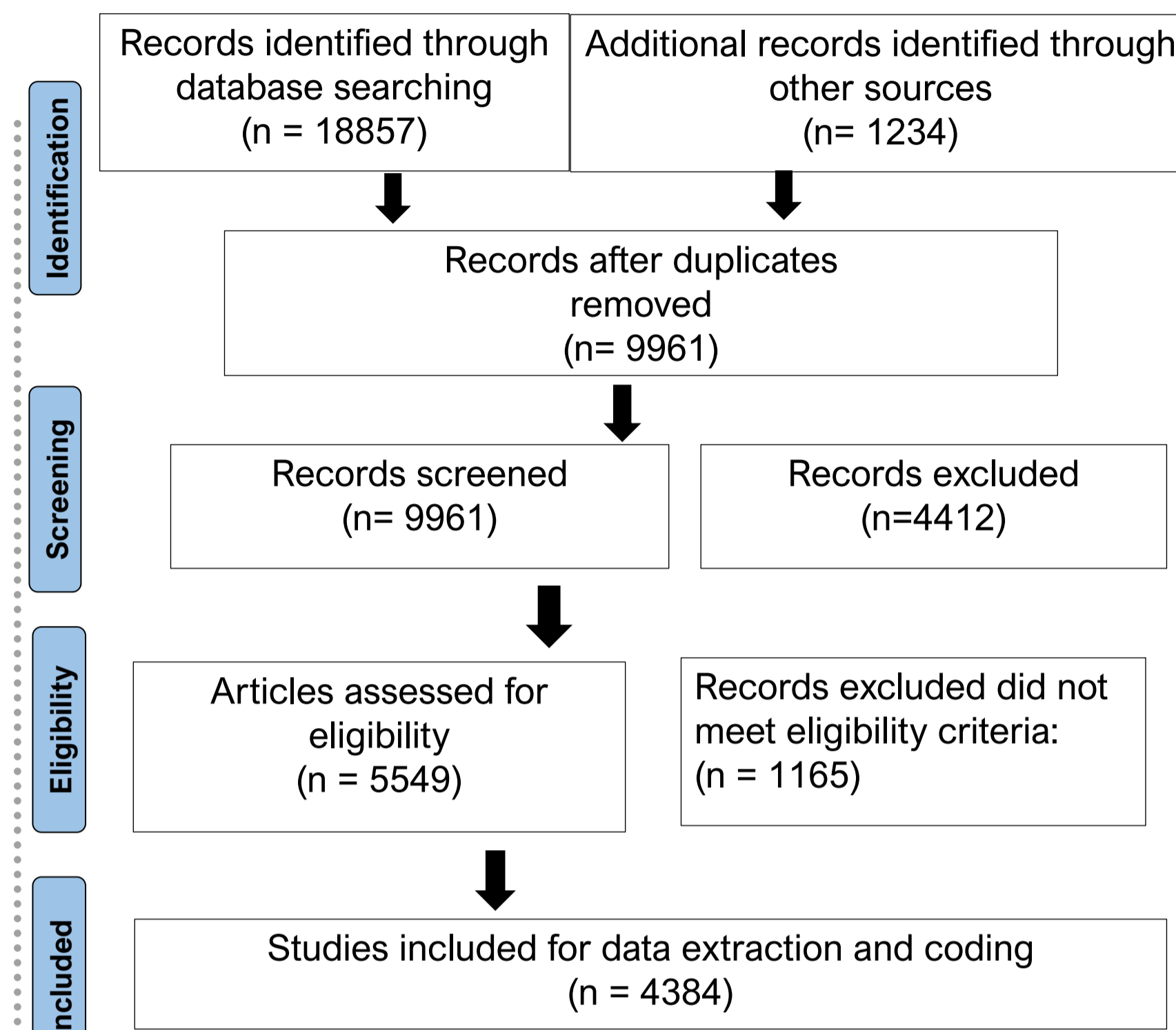
Screening: we screened titles, abstracts, and full texts based on these criteria: peer reviewed journal articles; published between 1999 and 2019; in English or French; investigating health-related outcomes in Cameroon.

Data extraction: relevant study characteristics using a pre-established guide and developed a coding scheme to label studies and guide searches on the database. Studies were coded independently by two reviewers and discrepancies resolved by consensus.

Gap analysis: we then used CAMHRED to create gap maps and future research recommendations based on stakeholder priorities for primary research and reviews in sexual and reproductive health.⁶

RESULTS

Database Development



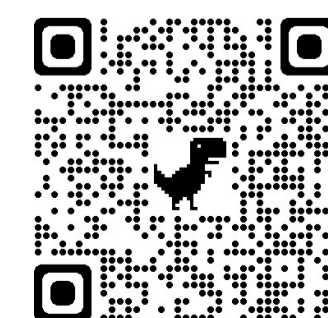
Identification
Screening
Eligibility
Included

Characteristics of CAMHRED studies

- **Language:** 80% of studies were published in English and 20% were published in French
- **Region:** Most studies were conducted in the Centre region (45%) where the capital city Yaoundé is located.
- **Study design**
 - Observational design: 72%
 - Secondary analysis (including reviews): 7%
 - Experimental: 6%
 - Qualitative: 4%
 - Mixed methods studies: 2%
- **Content:** The most researched diseases and population were infectious diseases and children respectively.

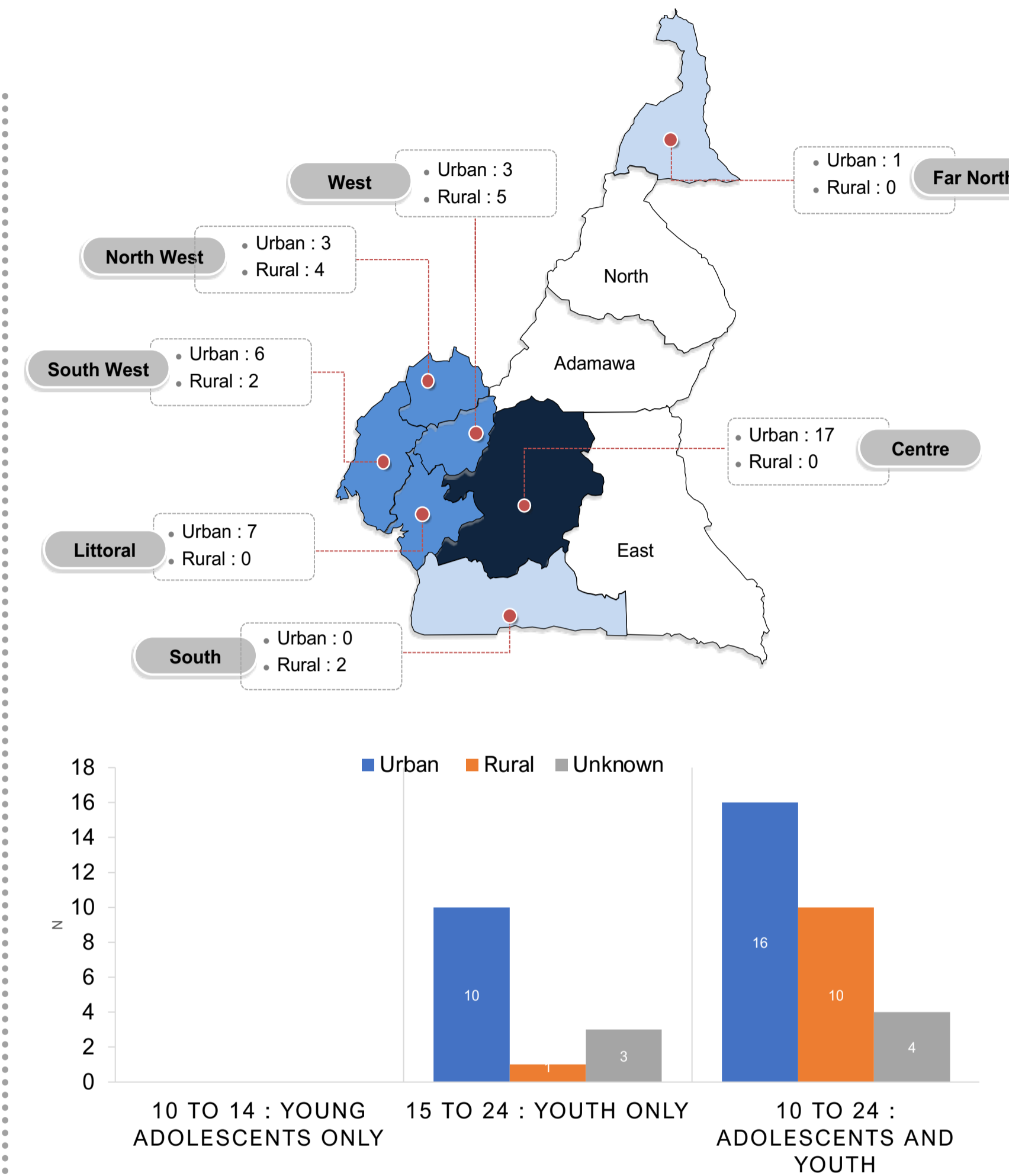
Online Search Platform

Launched in 2020 this platform allows for free and guided searches of CAMHRED studies and downloads of references as csv files. Accessible here : www.camhred.org

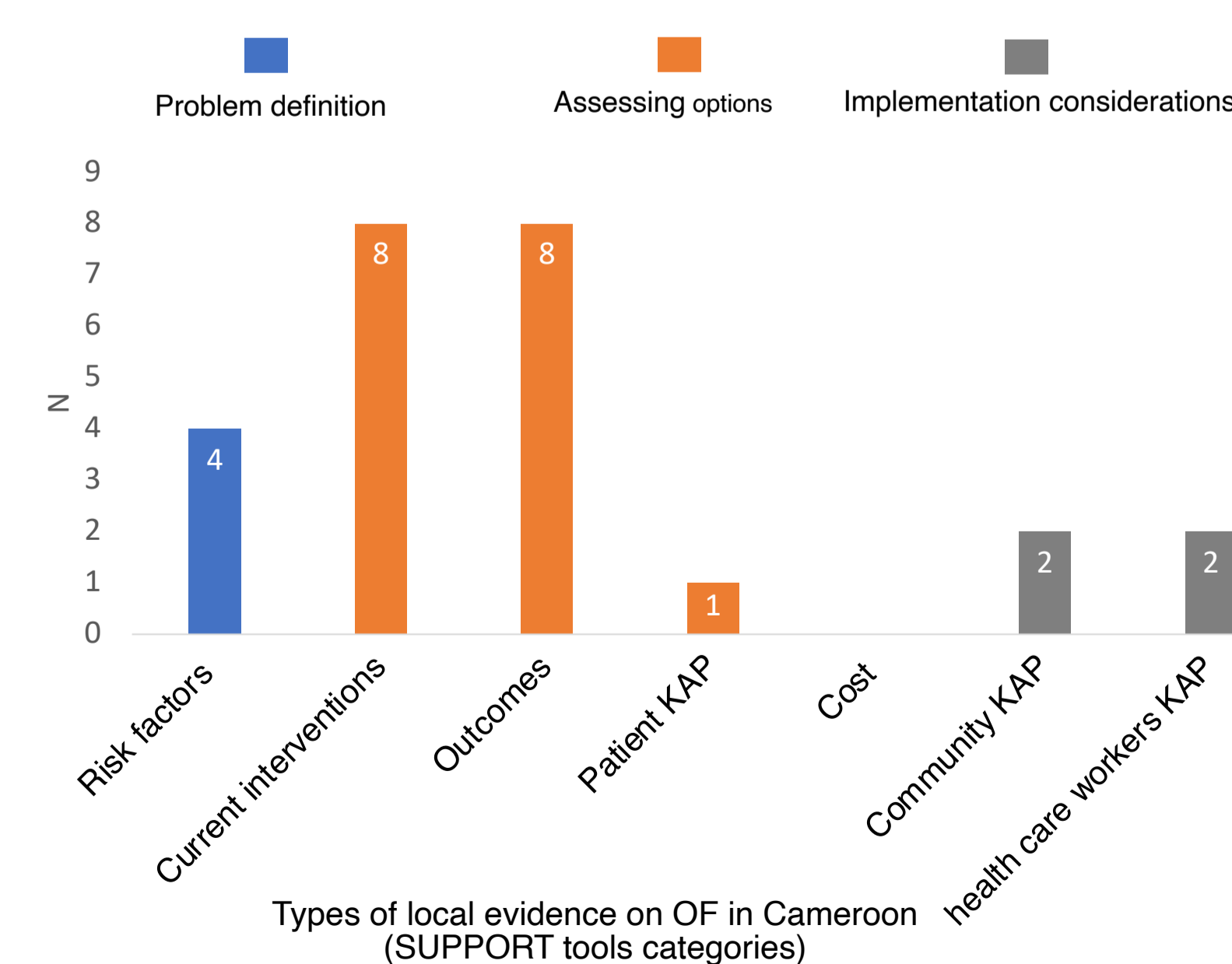


Gap Analysis

A. Contraceptive Prevalence among Adolescents



B. Interventions for Obstetric Fistula



DISCUSSION

Recommendations for future research

- Primary research on contraceptive prevalence among adolescents should consider the following existing disparities in local evidence : geographic (regions), place of residence (rural versus urban) and target population (younger adolescents).
- Stakeholders' decision to prioritize reviews on interventions for obstetric fistula among adolescent girls indicates willingness to take action (policy or interventions) in this particular field. However, our analysis suggests that primary research on effectiveness, cost, and patients' values and preferences is needed to ensure that interventions and policy options can be effectively be implemented .
- Overall, better reporting of studies is needed.

Methodological Considerations

- Developing CAMHRED was a time and resource intensive process
- There was limited target user involvement in development process
- Mitigating user expectations is important since no quality appraisal on the database.
- Characteristics of studies impact applications
 - institutional access to full texts
 - missing information

CONCLUSION

CAMHRED provides a systematic, comprehensive, and centralized resource for searching local evidence about health in Cameroon. It is freely available to stakeholders and provides an additional resource to support their work at various levels in the research process. The methods used to develop the database are adaptable to other countries.