

NATIONAL
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GENERATION AND MOBILIZATION OF NUTRITION
EVIDENCE TO TACKLE MALNUTRITION: FROM DATA TO ACTION

Challenges related to the implementation of vitamin A supplementation and Growth Monitoring and Promotion Programs

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Addis Ababa, Dec 8-10, 2021

Outline of the presentation

- Overview
- Research Framework
- Vitamin A and GMP in Ethiopia
- The challenges for Vitamin A and GMP
- Recommendation

Overview

- Desk Review and formative research was conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with MOH through Oxford Policy Management(OPM) and local partners(MERQ and AAU) as part of Operational Research funded by WB and DFID.
- The formative research covered different geographic and agro-economics contexts – urban, agrarian and pastoralist in four regions of Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara and Oromia.
- Qualitative research methods were employed to carry out an in-depth analysis to generate a multi-faceted understanding of the implementation challenges
- The objective is:-
 - To assess the quality and coverage of implementation
 - To identify barriers
 - To propose feasible implementation strategies

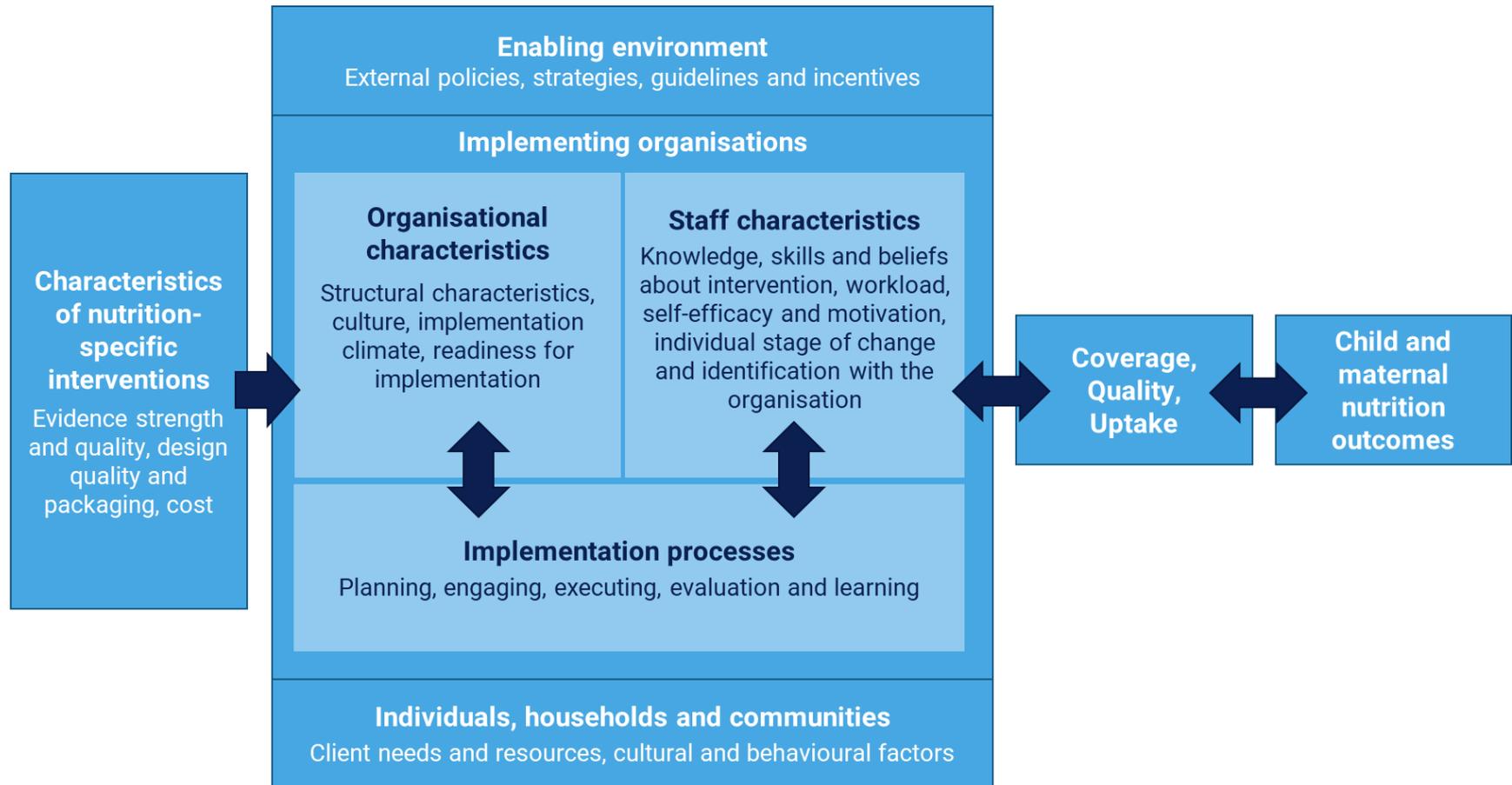
Overview

- Participants of the study included: key informants from each level of the health system starting from Federal, regional to wereda and health facility level.

Study Sites

Zone	Wereda	Remark
Awsi (Zone 1)	Chifra	Pastoralist
	Aysaita	
Fenti (Zone 4)	Yallo	
East Gojjam	Enebse Sar Midir	
North Shewa	Menz Lalo Midir	Agrarian
	Asagirt	
South Wello	Werebabu	Agrarian
	Tehuledere	Replacement for Tigray
Borena	Moyale	Pastoralist
Arsi	Sire	Agrarian
	Dodota	
Jimma	Kersa	
Gulele	Wereda 06	
	Addis Ketema	Wereda 02

Research Framework

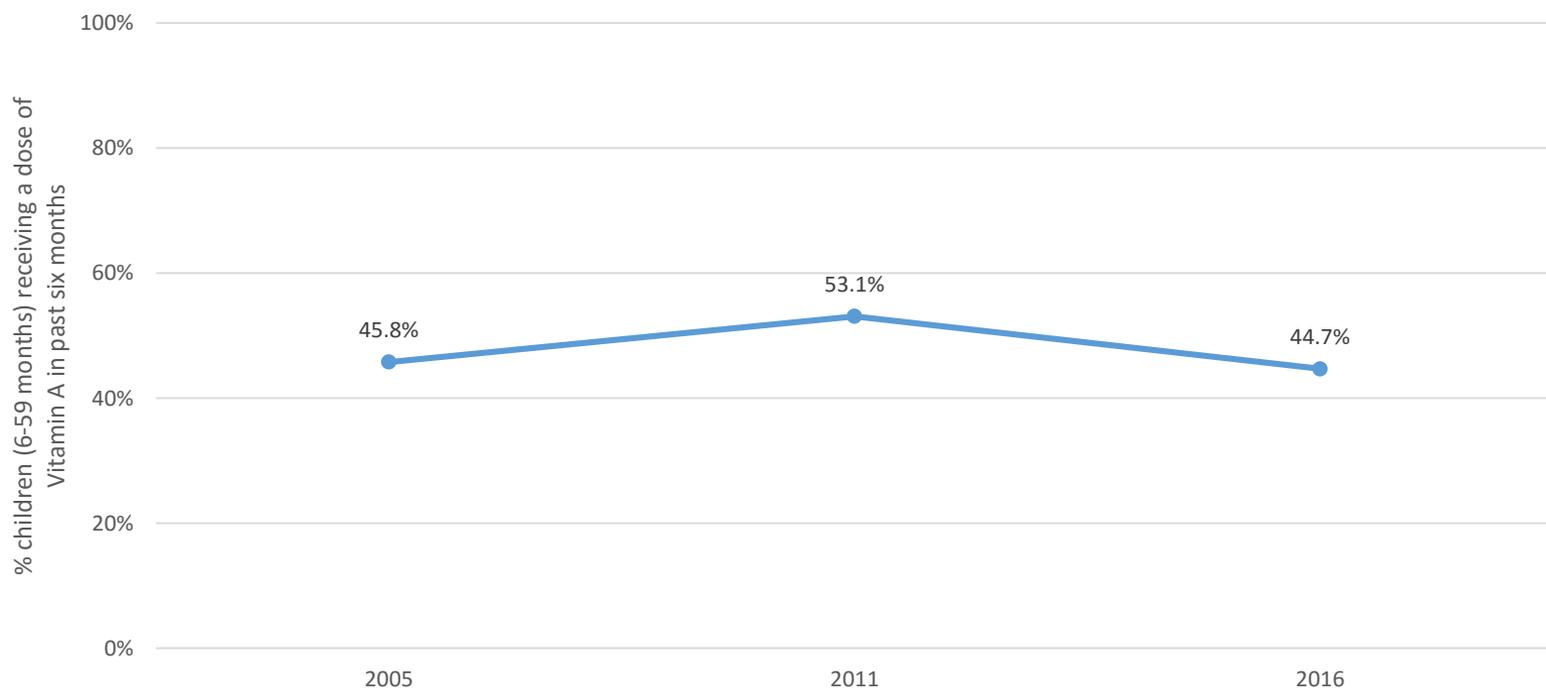


Source: Adapted from the SISN framework

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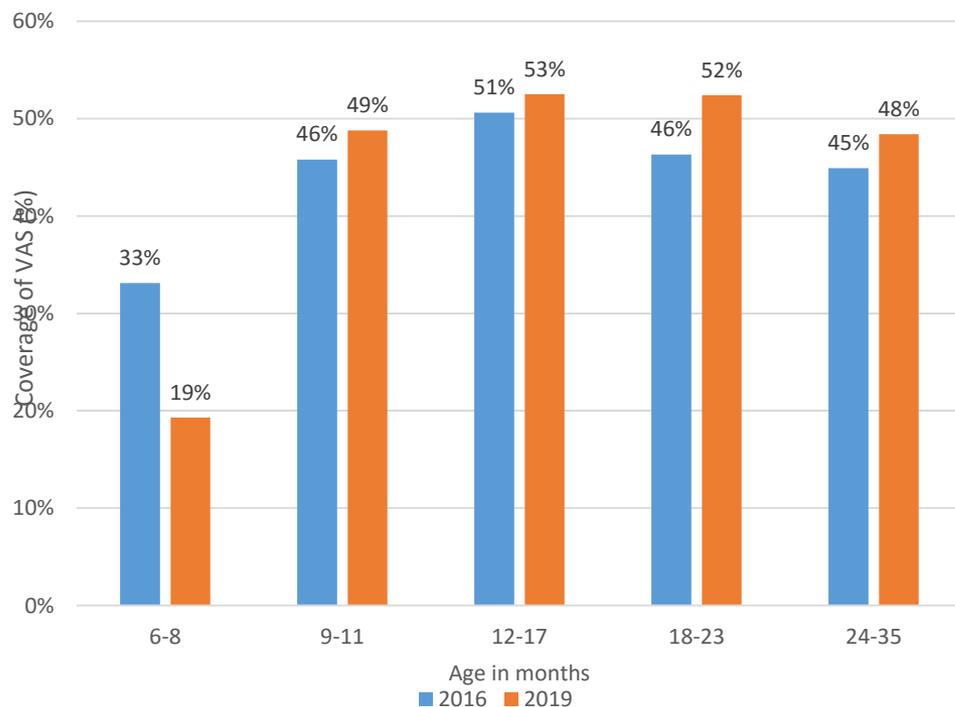
Vitamin A in Ethiopia

- A trends analysis shows that VAS coverage (among children aged 6–59 months) declined between 2011 and 2016 from 53% to 45%



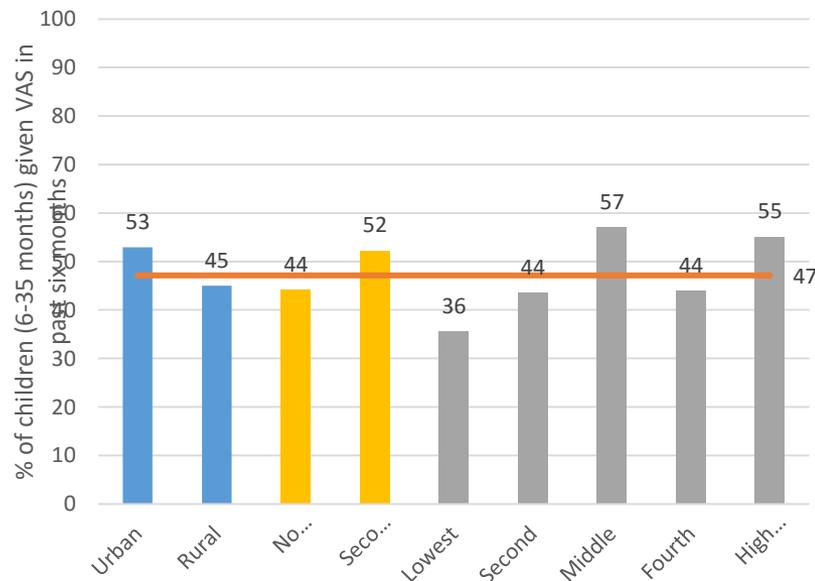
Vitamin A in Ethiopia and disparities in Coverage

There was an improvement in coverage among children above the age of nine months, but a decline in coverage among children between six and eight months of age



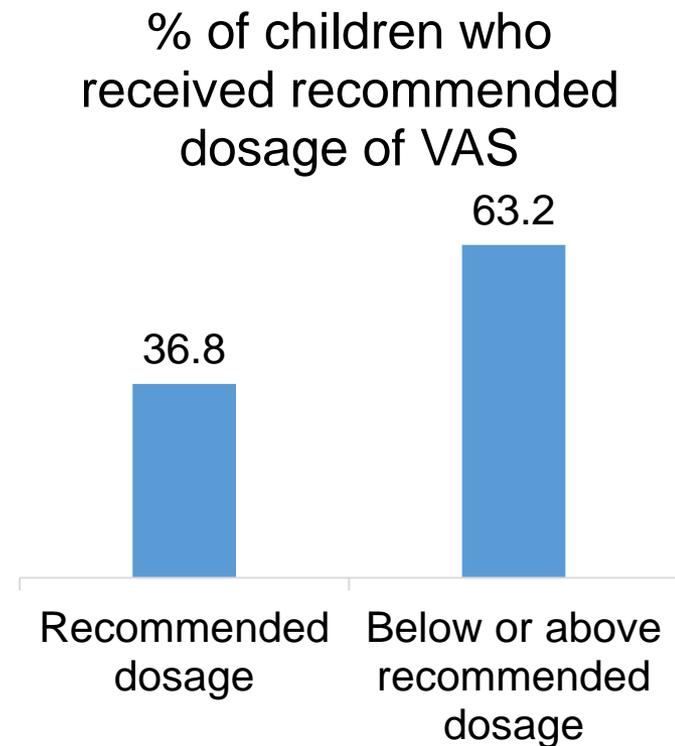
Differences in coverage depending on location, mother's education level, and wealth.

Children are being missed by delivery platforms, particularly those in rural areas, those belonging to poorer households and no education.



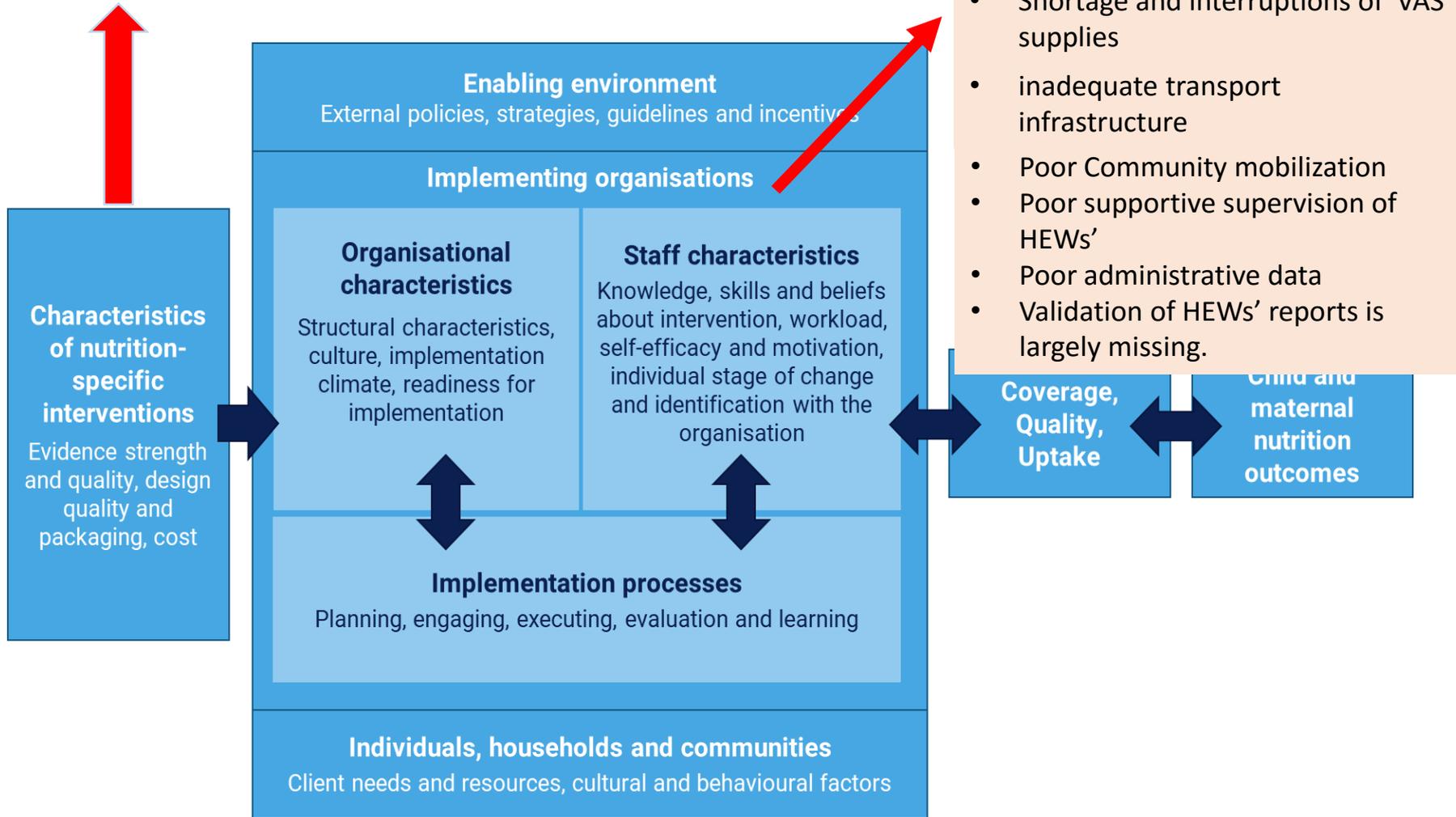
Quality of VAS provision

- VAS is provided based on age of child
- Explanation on the purpose of the visit.
- Registration of age and dose
- Only 36.8% took the recommended dose

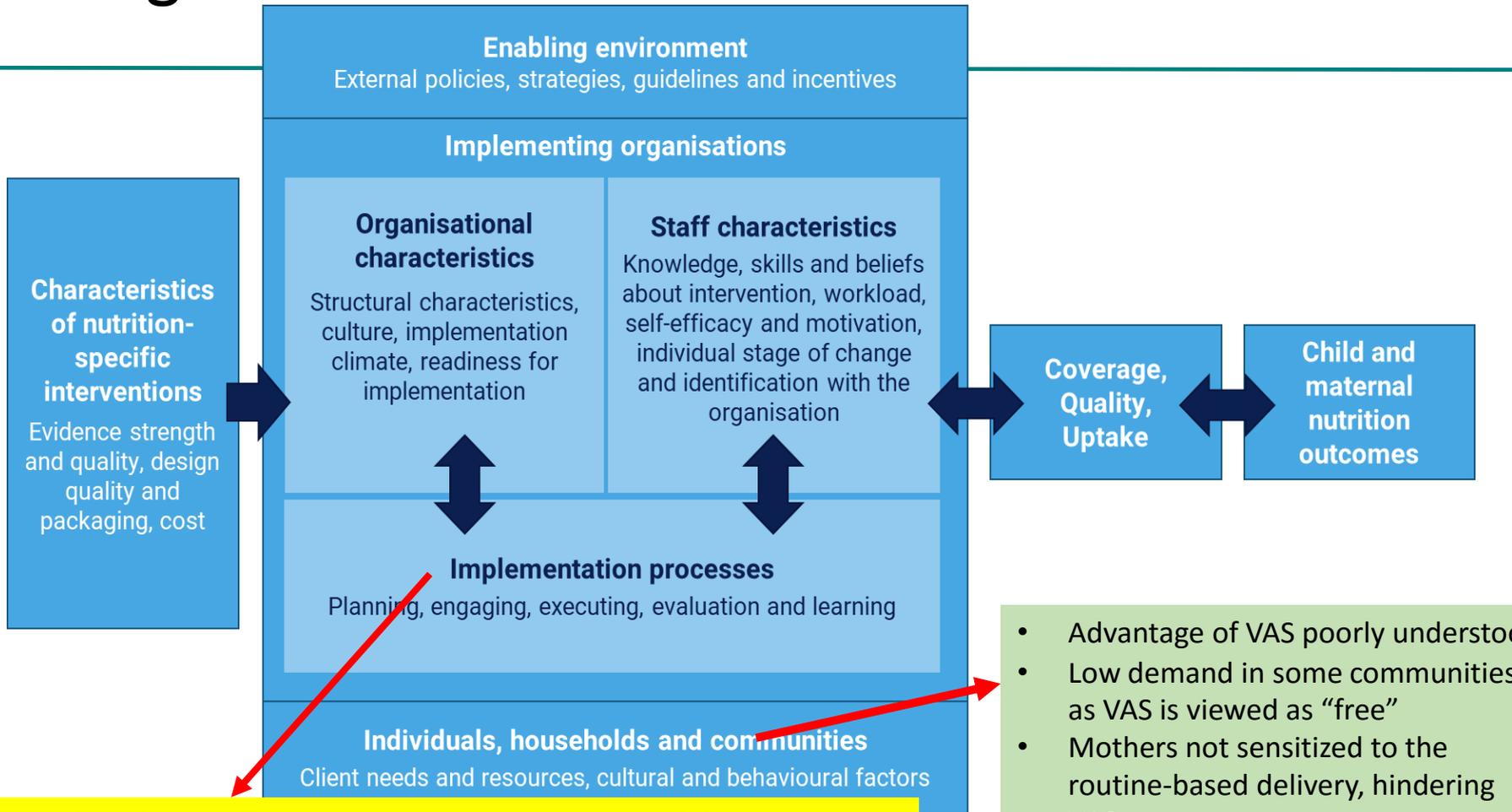


Challenges and barriers identified for Vitamin A

Transition from campaign to routine delivery has decreased coverage



Challenges and barriers identified for Vitamin A



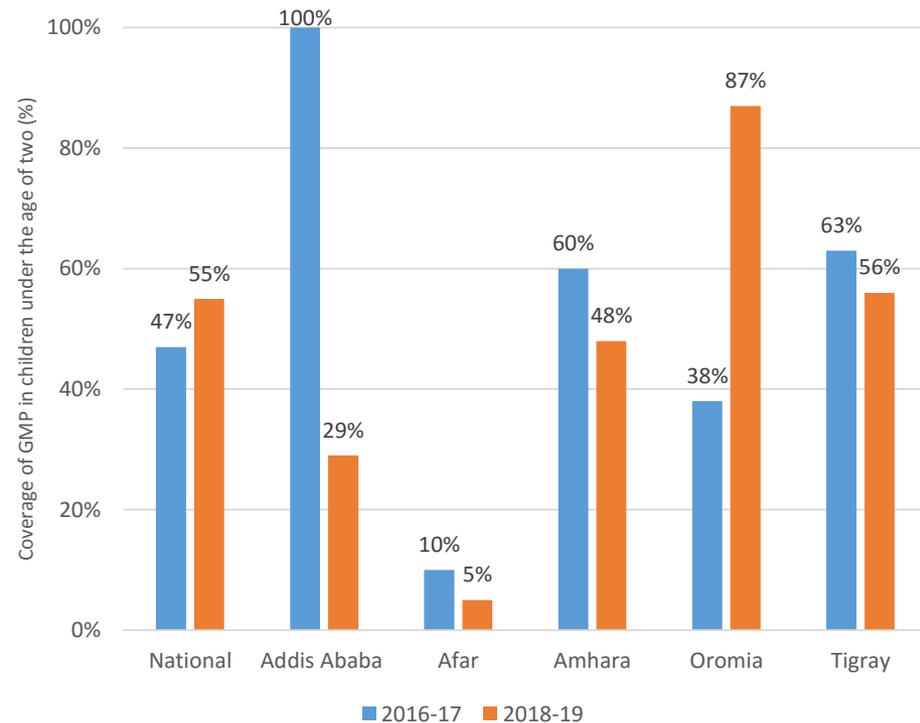
- HEWs don't have sufficient training on registration and data reporting for VAS.
- VAS not supplied effectively to HEWs for home visits
- Under- or over-reporting, or mis-reporting (due to poor understanding of protocols, inadequate skill, or other reasons),
- Inadequacy of supportive supervision from higher level

- Advantage of VAS poorly understood
- Low demand in some communities as VAS is viewed as "free"
- Mothers not sensitized to the routine-based delivery, hindering VAS.
- Mothers frustrated by visiting HPs/HCs when there are VAS shortages.

GMP in Ethiopia

- GMP is considered a platform for delivering nutrition services, such as counselling on infant and young child feeding.
- Caregivers of children below the age of two are expected to attend follow-ups for GMP on a monthly basis.
- Data on the coverage of GMP programmes are only available based on routine data of FMOH
- In 2018-19, the national coverage of GMP was 55% below the NNPII target of 80% expected by 2020.
- The coverage of GMP in Afar is very low

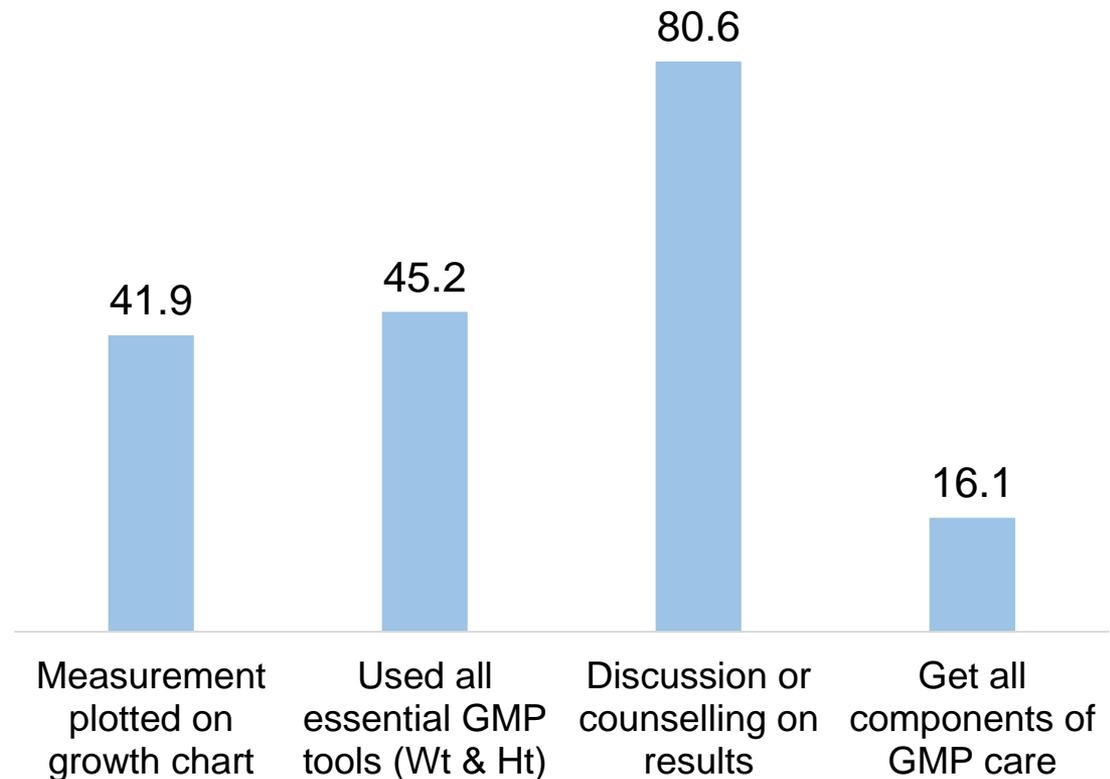
Coverage of GMP participation by region, 2016–17 and 2018–19



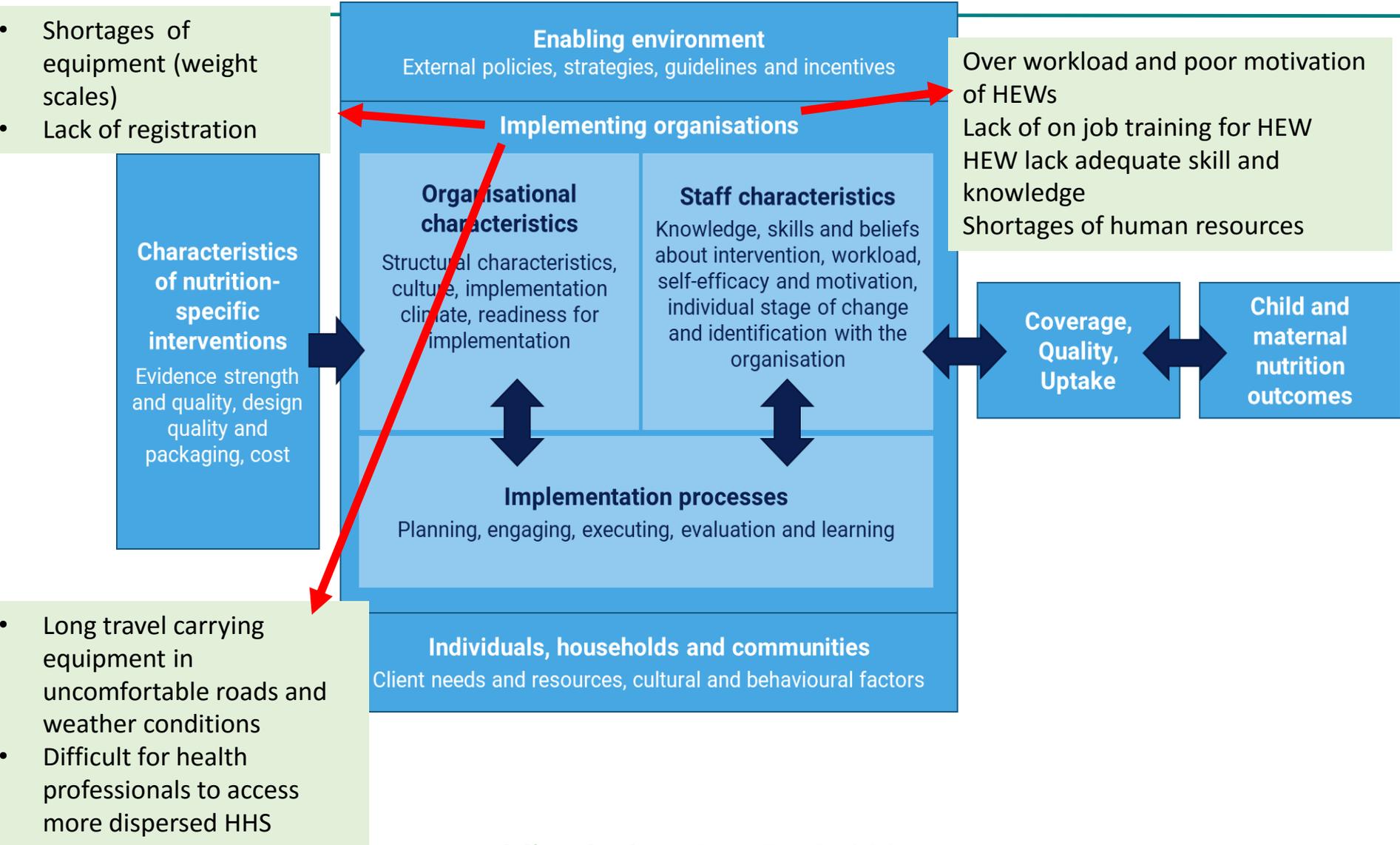
Quality of GMP

- Only 16% of children received good quality of GMP service, which fulfill the 3 essential elements of GMP service provision.
- The most missed service is plotting the measurement result on standard growth monitoring chart. Only 41.9% received this element.

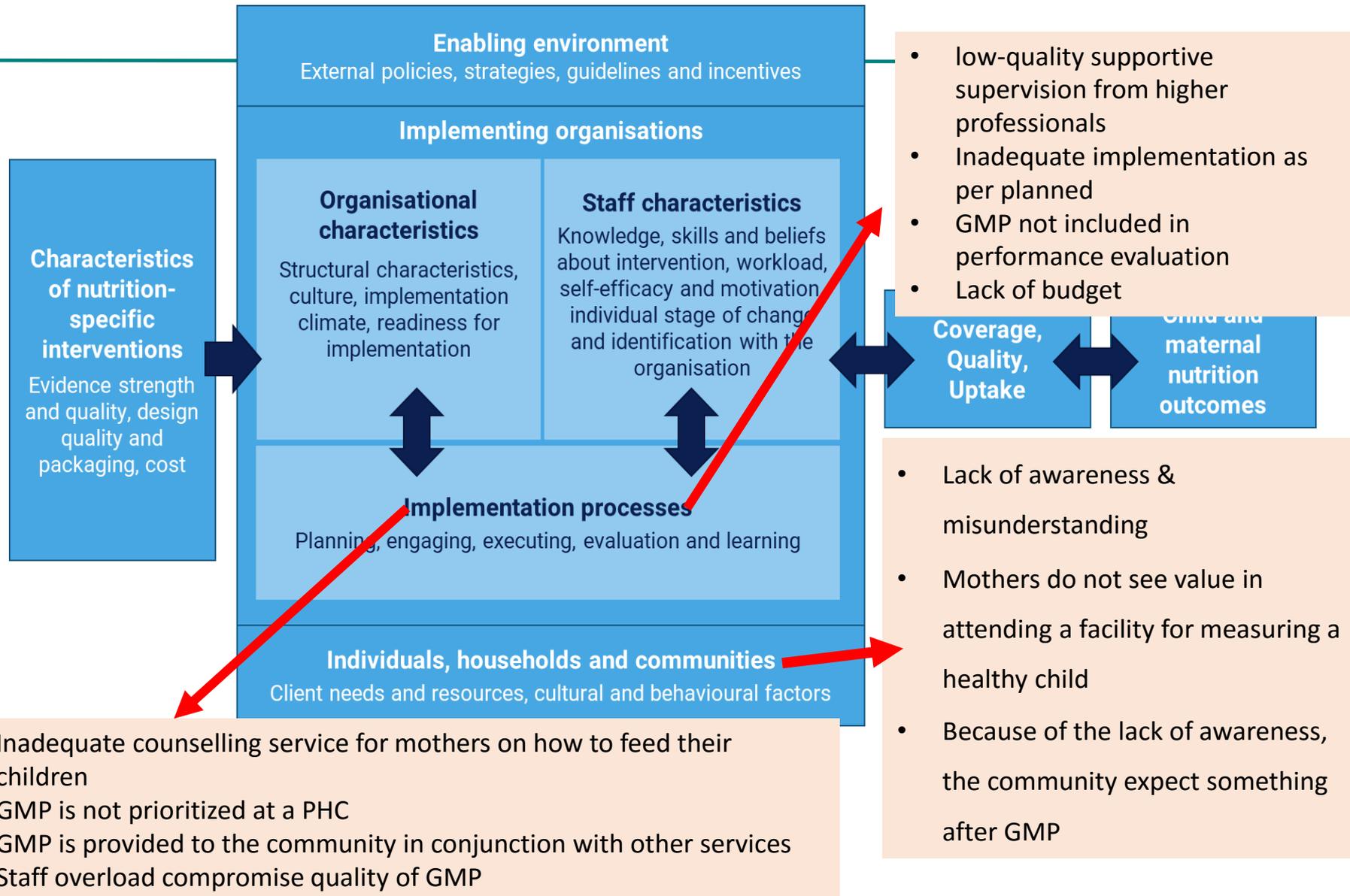
% of children who get GMP components of care



Challenges and barriers identified for GMP



Challenges and barriers identified for GMP



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Recommendations for operational research

- **Comprehensive Schedule and integrated nutrition service delivery**
 - Comprehensive schedule of nutrition services
 - integrate nutrition services
- **Engaging community leaders to increase demand for nutrition services**
 - Development of training materials
 - Development of communication materials and establishment of telephone hotline that provides nutrition advice for users.
 - WDA training
- **Provision of modern scales and training to support quality and coverage of GMP**
 - GMP training
 - Provision of modern scales

Thanks!

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