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Health Finance & Governance Project Technical Briefing

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Essential Packages of Health Services

A Landscape Analysis of 24 EPCMD Countries

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Health Finance & Governance Project





Topics for today's briefing

- ▶▶ What is an EPHS, and how is it related to good governance?
- ▶▶ Landscape analysis description and methodology
- ▶▶ Which RMNCH priority interventions are included in EPHS?
- ▶▶ How do policymakers govern the health sector using EPHS?
- ▶▶ Ongoing EPHS efforts in EPCMD countries

WHAT IS AN ESSENTIAL PACKAGE OF HEALTH SERVICES?





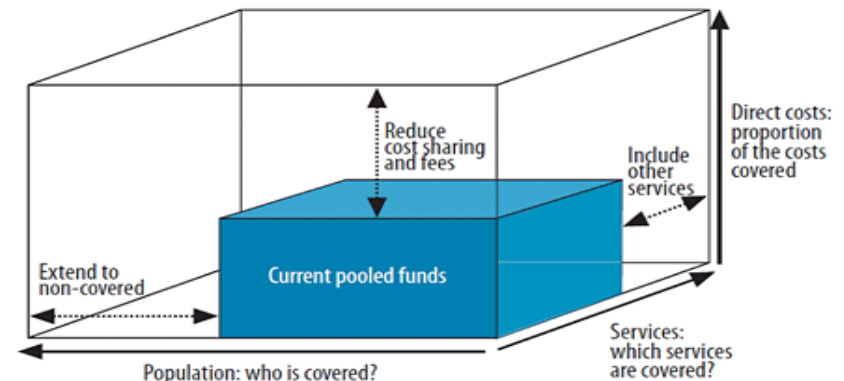
A working definition of EPHS

The EPHS comprises those health care services that the government is providing or is aspiring to provide to its citizens in an equitable manner. Equity involves equal coverage across population groups, adequate physical access to services for all, and adequate financial protection, particularly for the poor.

-Health Finance & Governance Project/USAID (adapted from WHO, World Bank)

EPHS relates to good governance

- ▶▶ EPHS is a public policy tool for governing the health sector
- ▶▶ An explicit statement by the government of its health care priorities
- ▶▶ Expected to achieve multiple goals:
 - ✓ Improved efficiency
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Political empowerment
 - ✓ Accountability



Three dimensions to consider when moving towards universal coverage

Source: WHO 2015

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

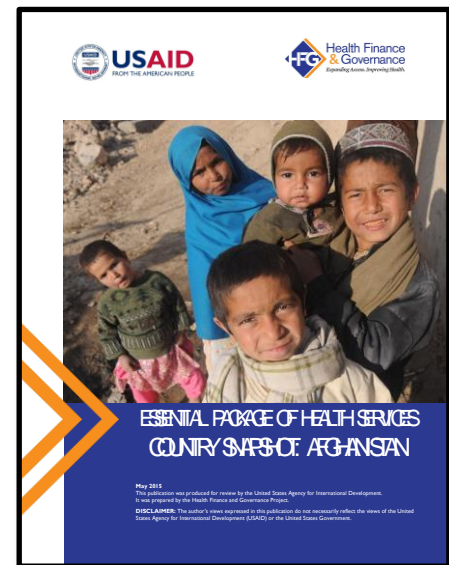


Landscape Analysis of EPHS in EPCMD countries¹

►► 24 country snapshots

- ❖ Identify the country's EPHS
- ❖ Identify gaps of priority reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) interventions²
- ❖ Review the policy goals of the EPHS (how the government uses it)

www.hfgproject.org/ephs-epcmd-country-snapshots-series/



¹ Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia

² Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2011



Methodology

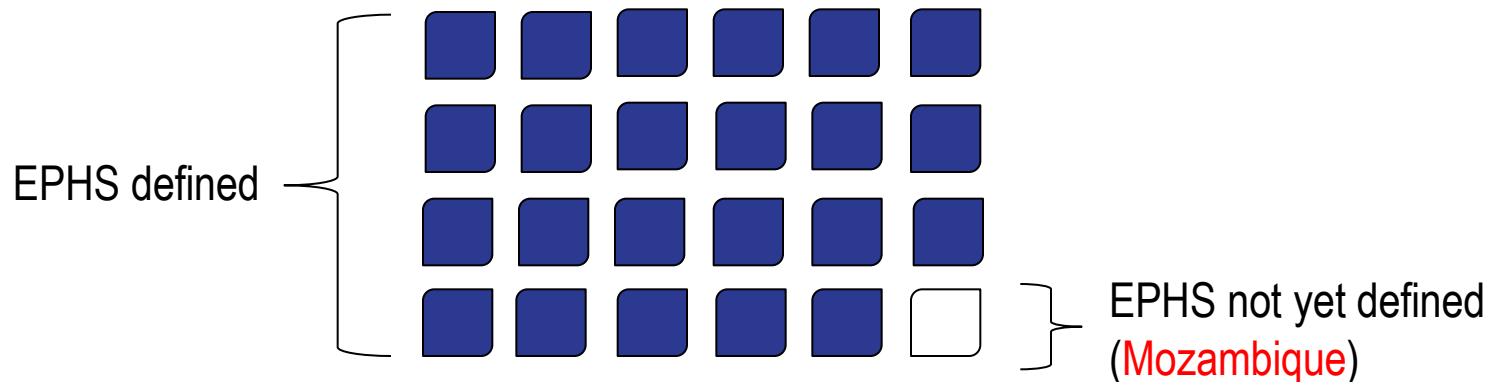
- ▶▶ Reviewed government documents and gray literature
- ▶▶ Analyzed inclusion of priority RMNCH interventions in EPHS²
- ▶▶ Analyzed health equity using indicators from the Global Health Observatory and Health Equity Country Profiles³

² Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2011

³ World Health Organization, 2014-2015

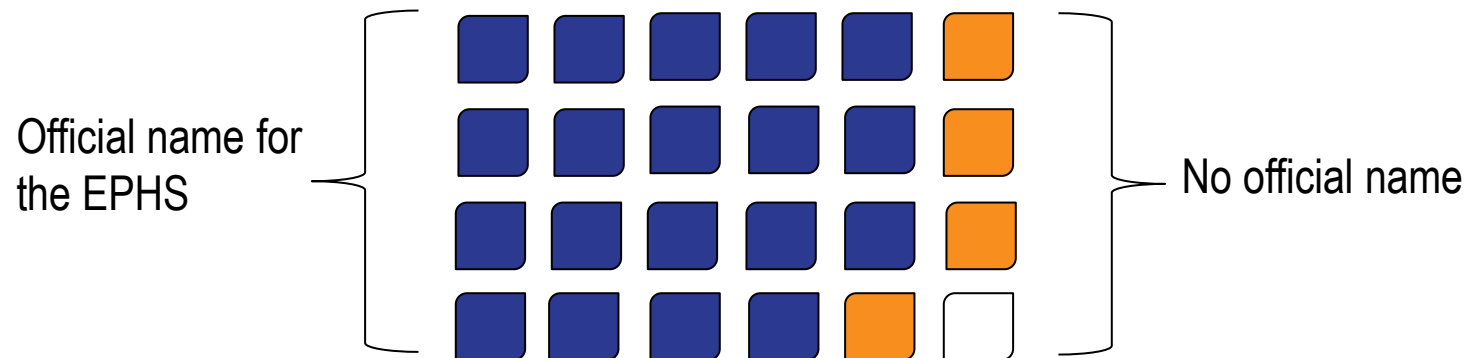
23 of 24 countries have defined an EPHS

- ▶▶ **Mozambique** has not yet defined an EPHS
- ▶▶ One of the four provinces in **Pakistan** (Punjab) has an EPHS
- ▶▶ 18 countries defined the EPHS under an official name



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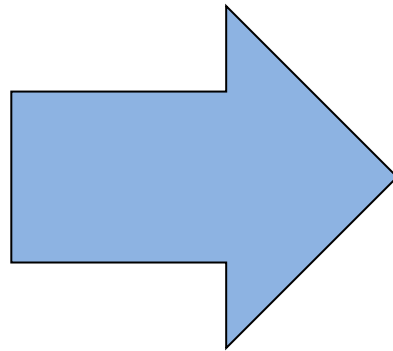


How we compared priority interventions to the EPHS

Partnership for Maternal,
Newborn and Child Health

Priority RMNCH Interventions

Low-dose
aspirin to prevent
pre-eclampsia



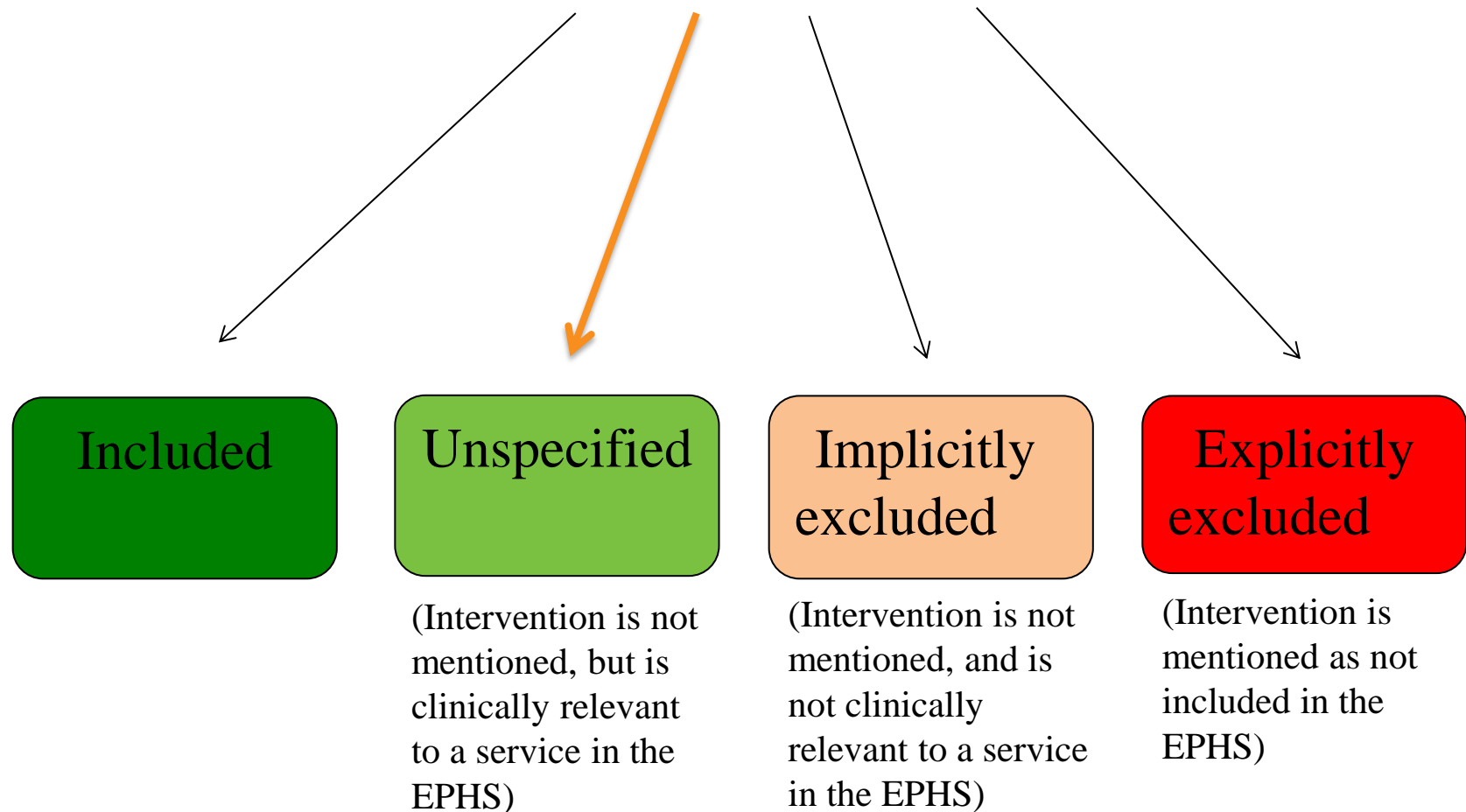
Country X

Essential Package of Health Services

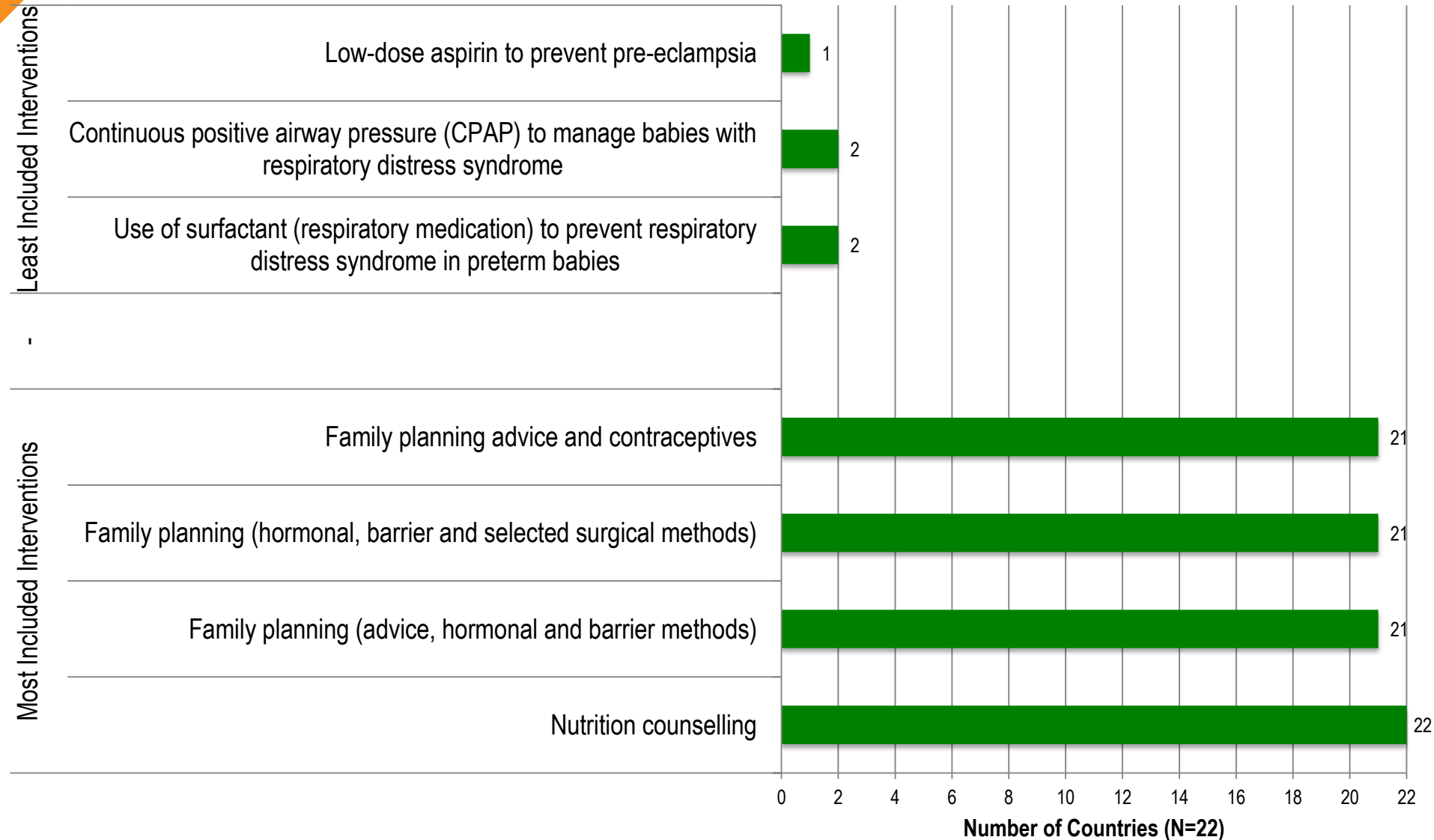
Antenatal care

How we compared priority interventions to the EPHS

Low-dose aspirin to prevent pre-eclampsia



Certain interventions are rarely found in an EPHS, while others are found frequently

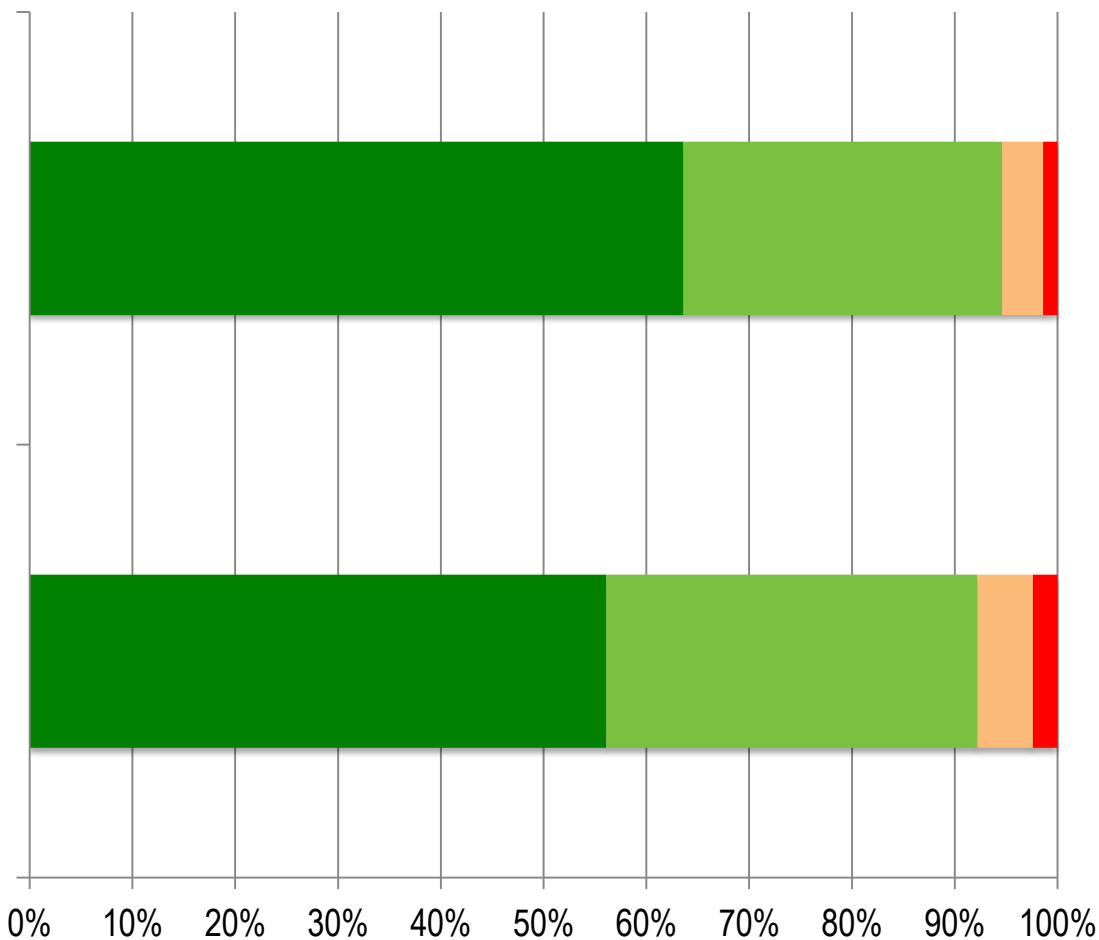


WHAT RMNCH PRIORITY SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN EPHS?



In general, governments include RMNCH priority interventions in the EPHS

Average of Low Income Countries (N=13)



Proportion of 60 interventions included, excluded and unspecified in/from EPHS

■ Included ■ Unspecified ■ Implicitly excluded ■ Explicitly excluded

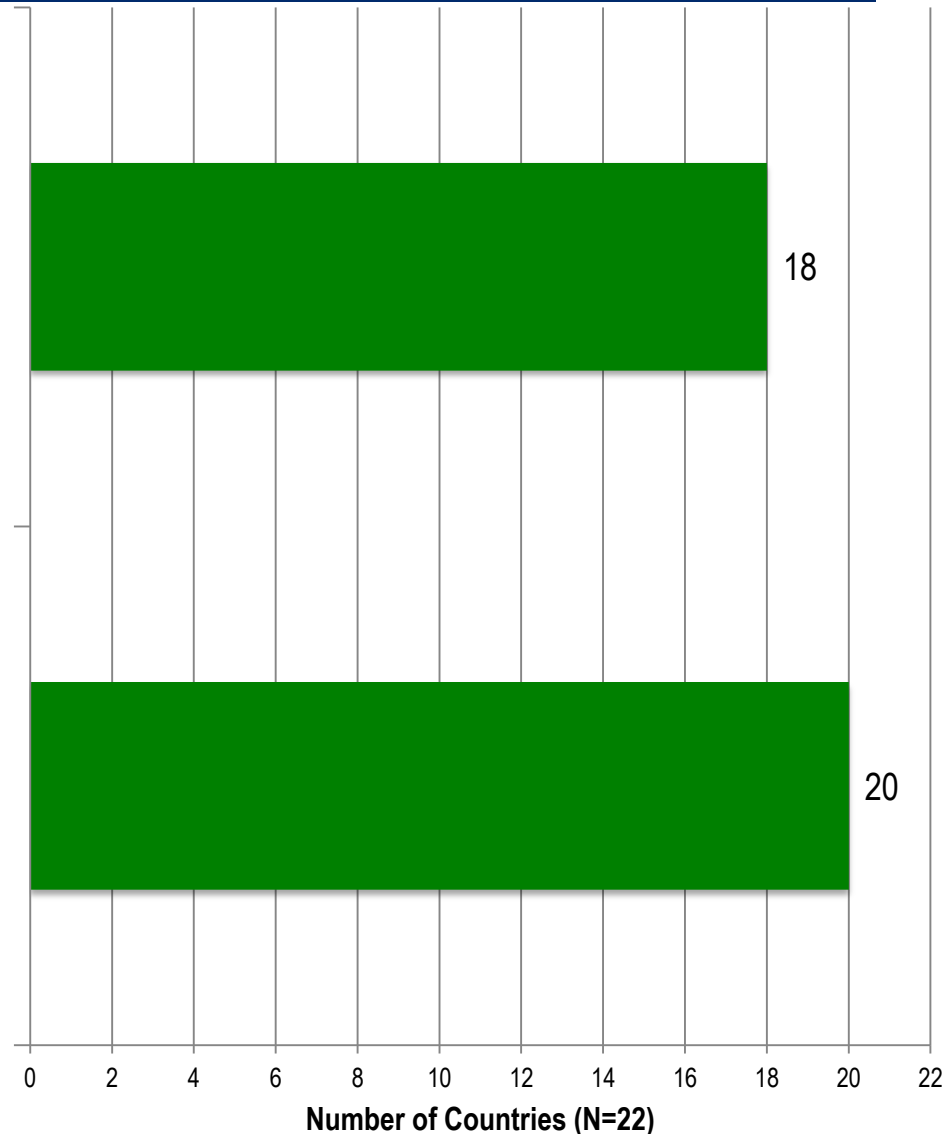
Interventions for prevention and management of malaria included in EPHS

Prevention and management of malaria
(pregnant women) with insecticide treated nets
and antimalarial medicines

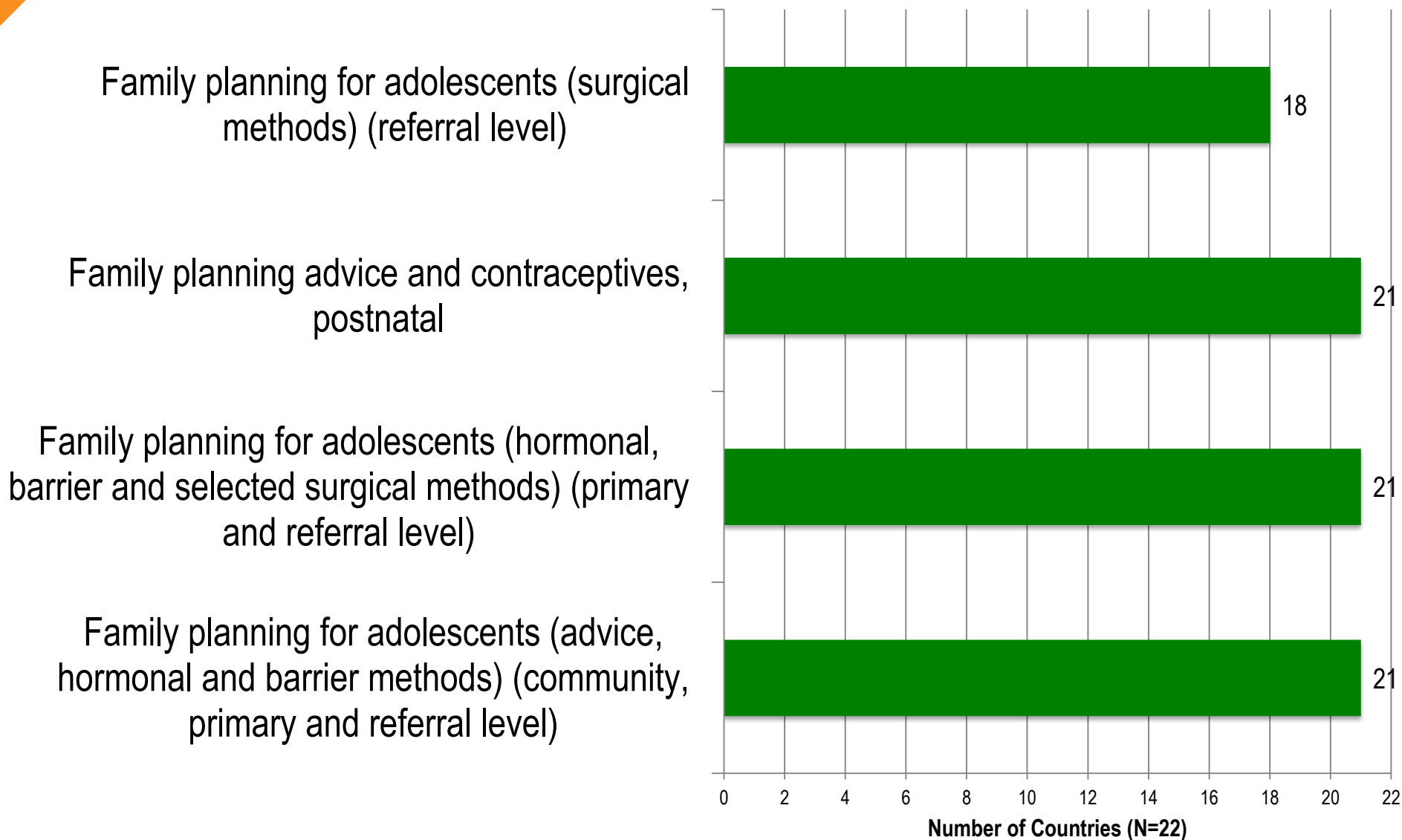
18

Prevention and case management of childhood
malaria

20



Interventions for family planning included in EPHS



Interventions for newborn health included in EPHS

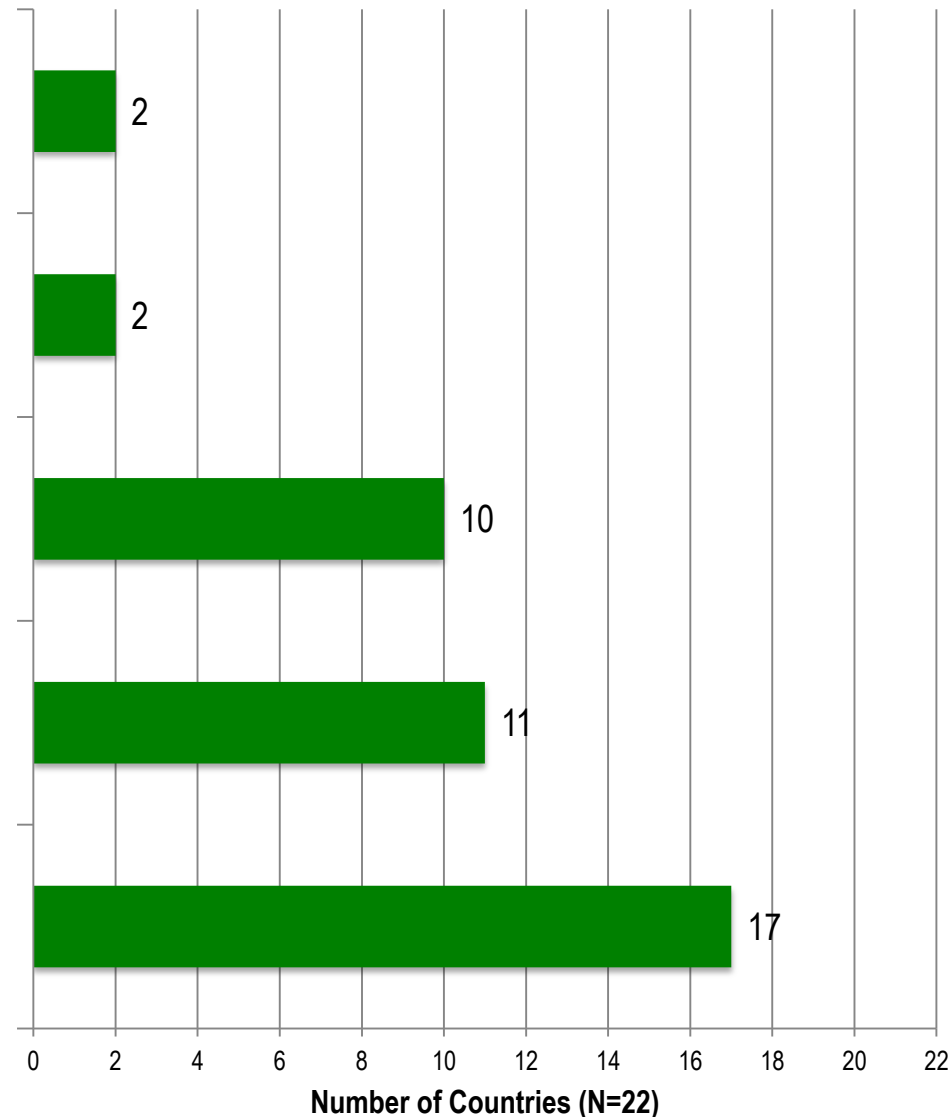
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) to manage babies with respiratory distress syndrome

Use of surfactant (respiratory medication) to prevent respiratory distress syndrome in preterm babies

Case management of neonatal sepsis, meningitis and pneumonia

Extra support for feeding small and preterm babies

Initiation of early breastfeeding (within the first hour)



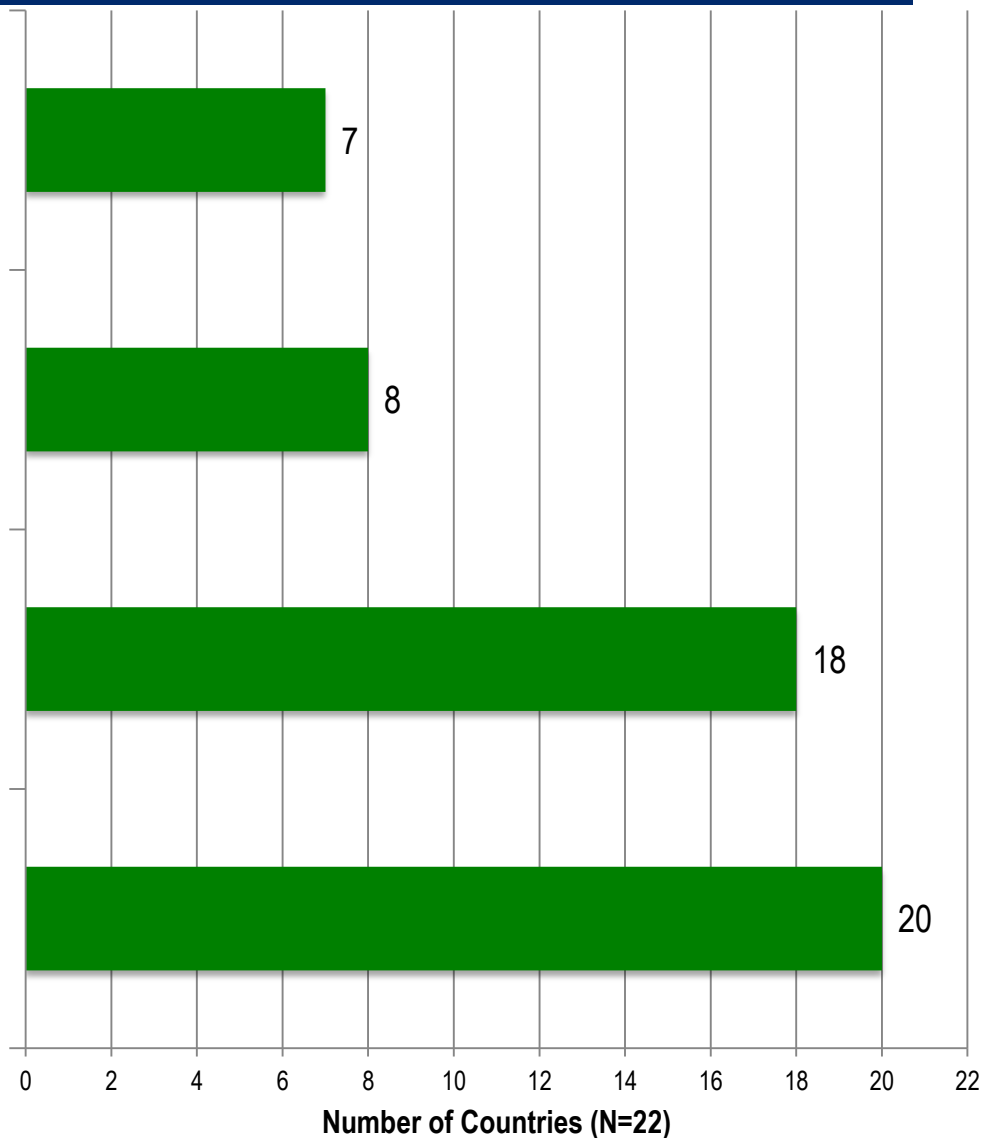
Interventions for child health included in EPHS

Routine immunization plus H.influenzae, meningococcal, pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines

Case management of meningitis

Continued breastfeeding and complementary feeding from 6 months

Exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months



Interventions for prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections included in EPHS

Screening for and treatment of syphilis

15

Comprehensive care of children infected with, or exposed to, HIV

18

Prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, including with antiretroviral medicines

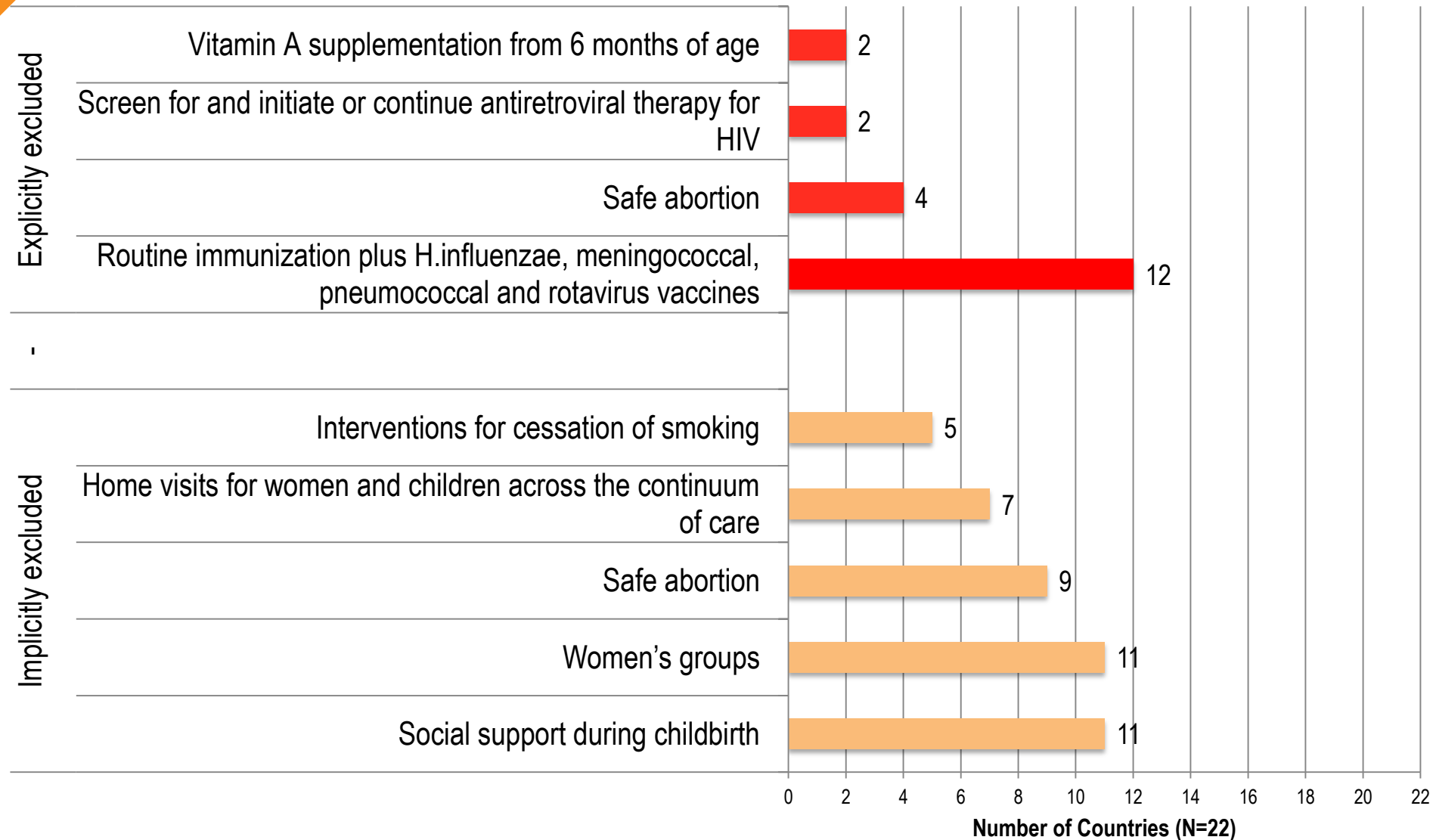
19

Prevent and manage sexually transmitted infections, HIV in adolescence and pre-pregnancy

20

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22
Number of Countries (N=22)

Interventions most often excluded from EPHS



HOW DO POLICYMAKERS GOVERN THE HEALTH SECTOR USING EPHS?



Similar service delivery mechanisms across countries

- ▶▶ All 23 governments deliver some EPHS services through community health workers, public sector health facility network





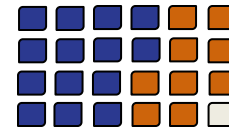
EPHS can guide provision of care by private sector

- ▶▶ **Afghanistan**: EPHS seeks to standardize provision through non-governmental organizations where public facilities are unavailable
- ▶▶ **Zambia**, Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) facilities required to provide the EPHS where public facilities are unavailable

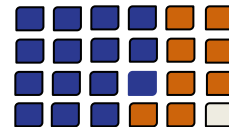
Governments seek to address equity through EPHS-related policies

- ▶▶ All 23 country governments specified strategies to improve access to the EPHS for specific sub-populations:

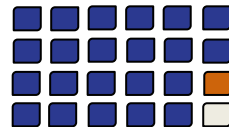
❖ Adolescents (14 countries)



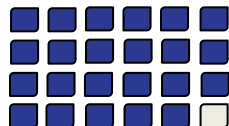
❖ The indigent (15 countries)



❖ Rural residents (22 countries)



❖ Women (23 countries)



All governments provided some financial protection, but mechanisms/extent varied

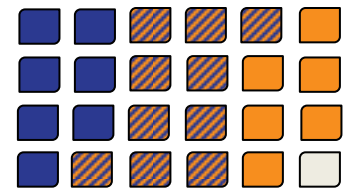
▶▶ Government sponsored health insurance

- ❖ civil servants (12 countries)
- ❖ formal sector employees (11 countries)
- ❖ informal sector employees (8 countries)

▶▶ Community-based insurance (17 countries)

▶▶ User fees legally exempt for:

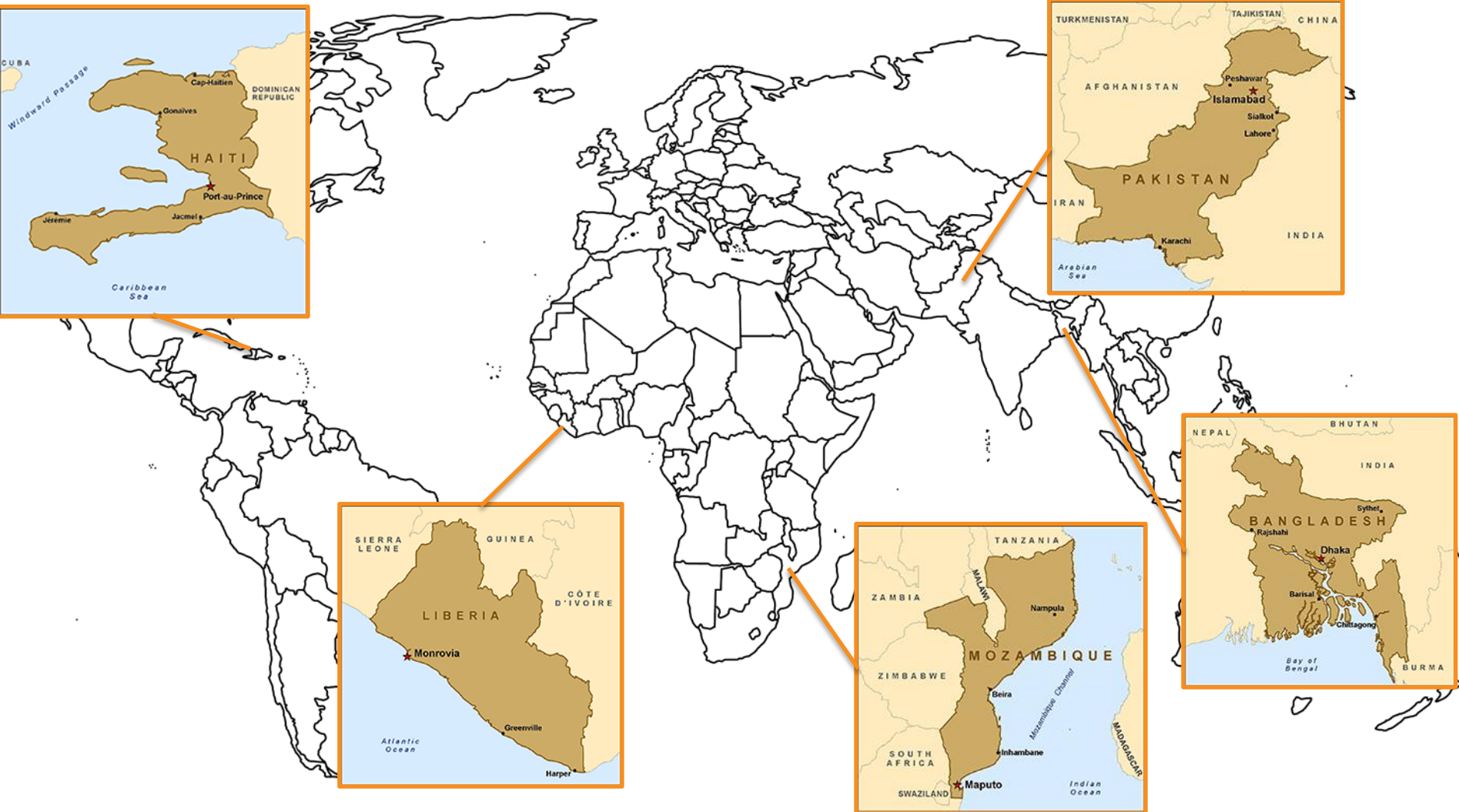
- ❖ some services in the EPHS (10 countries)
- ❖ all services in the EPHS (6 countries)



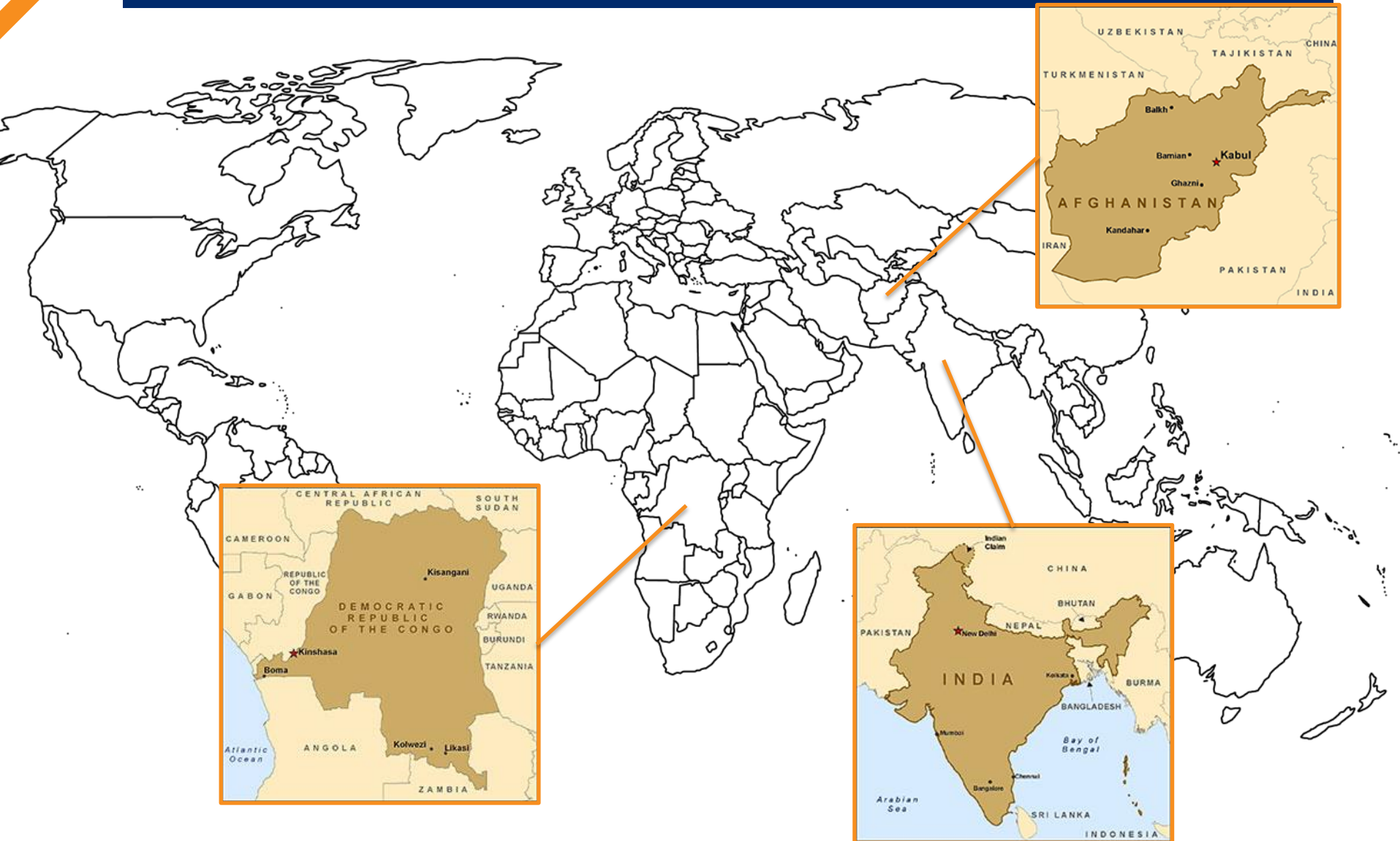
ONGOING EPHS EFFORTS IN EPCMD COUNTRIES



EPHS are under development or revision in several countries



We found a range of applications of EPHS



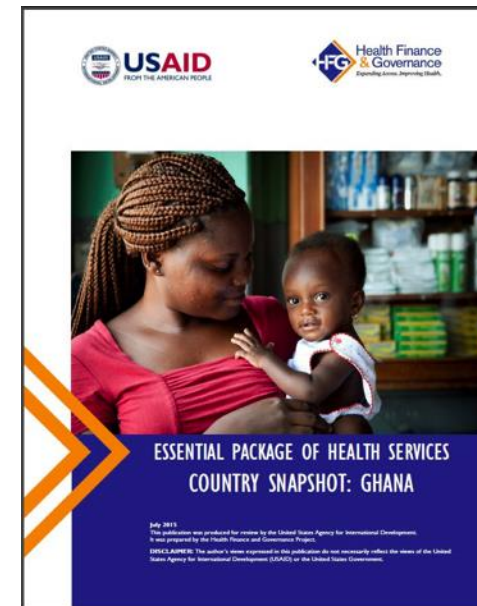
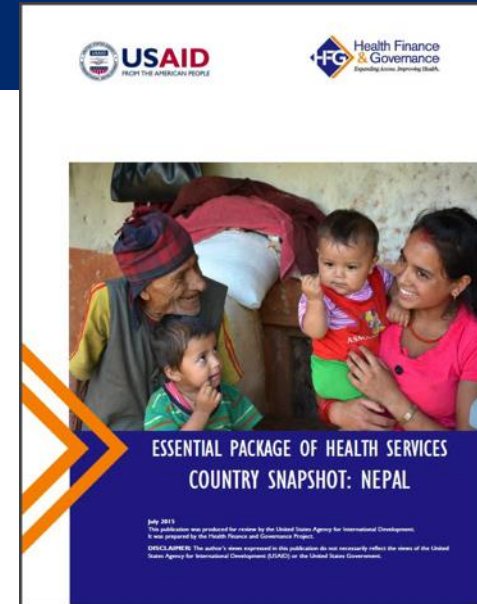
The country snapshots provide context and background of the EPHS

►► Nepal

- ❖ Highly specific EPHS
- ❖ Government updates EPHS regularly to reflect changing demographics and financial realities
- ❖ EPHS links to national UHC strategy
- ❖ Costed

►► Ghana

- ❖ Government defines and applies its EPHS differently
- ❖ Defined a several distinct packages; implemented through vertical programs (e.g. National Health Insurance Scheme)
- ❖ Community-Based Health Program and Services (CHPS) is main strategy to increase access to “basic health interventions”
- ❖ Ghana Health Service specified “key areas of essential newborn care,” among other packages





Future topics

- ▶▶ How well do policymakers, civil society and providers understand the purpose of their country's EPHS?
- ▶▶ What additional policies/program should accompany an EPHS in order to ensure its effectiveness?
- ▶▶ In countries with national-level *benefit plan*, how does it relate/compare with the published EPHS?

Thank you

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