

# Approaches to support quality improvement teams to use quality improvement techniques

*Maternal and Newborn Health*

Presenter

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## Outline

- Share two collaborative stories
- Share the key drivers or approaches to support QI teams
  - Activated Leadership
  - Knowledgeable staff
  - Mentorship and coaching
  - Reliable learning system
  - Availability of essential commodities
  - Reliable data systems
  - Use of key interventions or change package
  - Patient Family Centered Care (PFCC)/community engagement

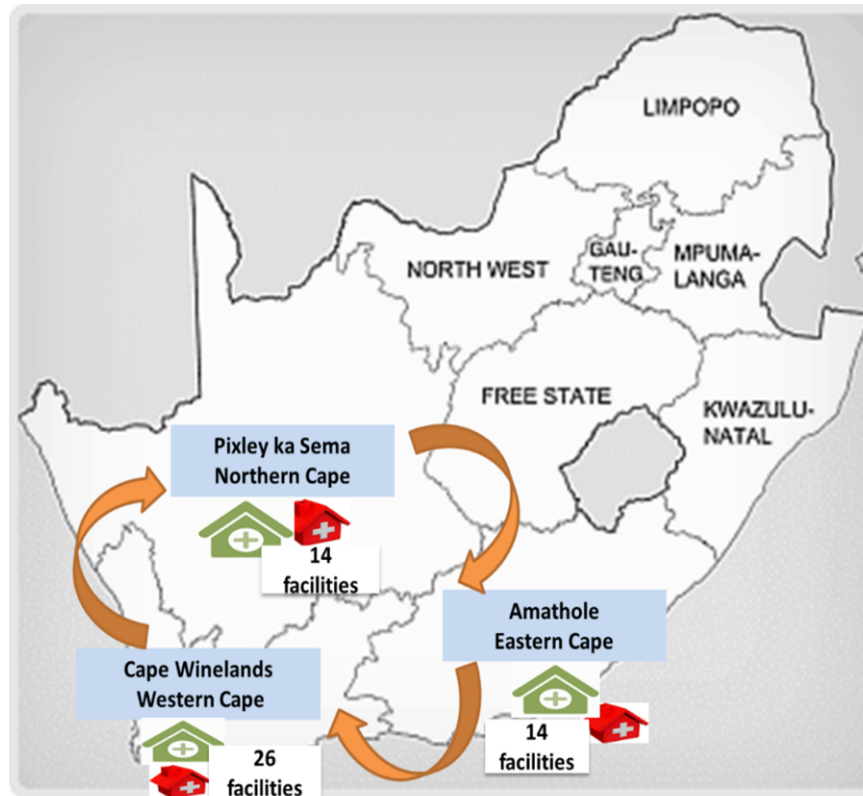


## Briefly Share Two Collaborative Stories

- South Africa: PMTCT collaborative (2012-2015)
  - To reduce Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (MTCT) rates of around 5% to less than 2% in three districts (54 facilities) across three Provinces by March 2015
- Malawi: Maternal and newborn Collaborative (2015-2017)
  - To reduce neonatal mortality in low birth weight babies (<2500g) by 30% in the twelve hospitals by March 2017 (extended)



## South Africa and Malawi maps showing the Regions



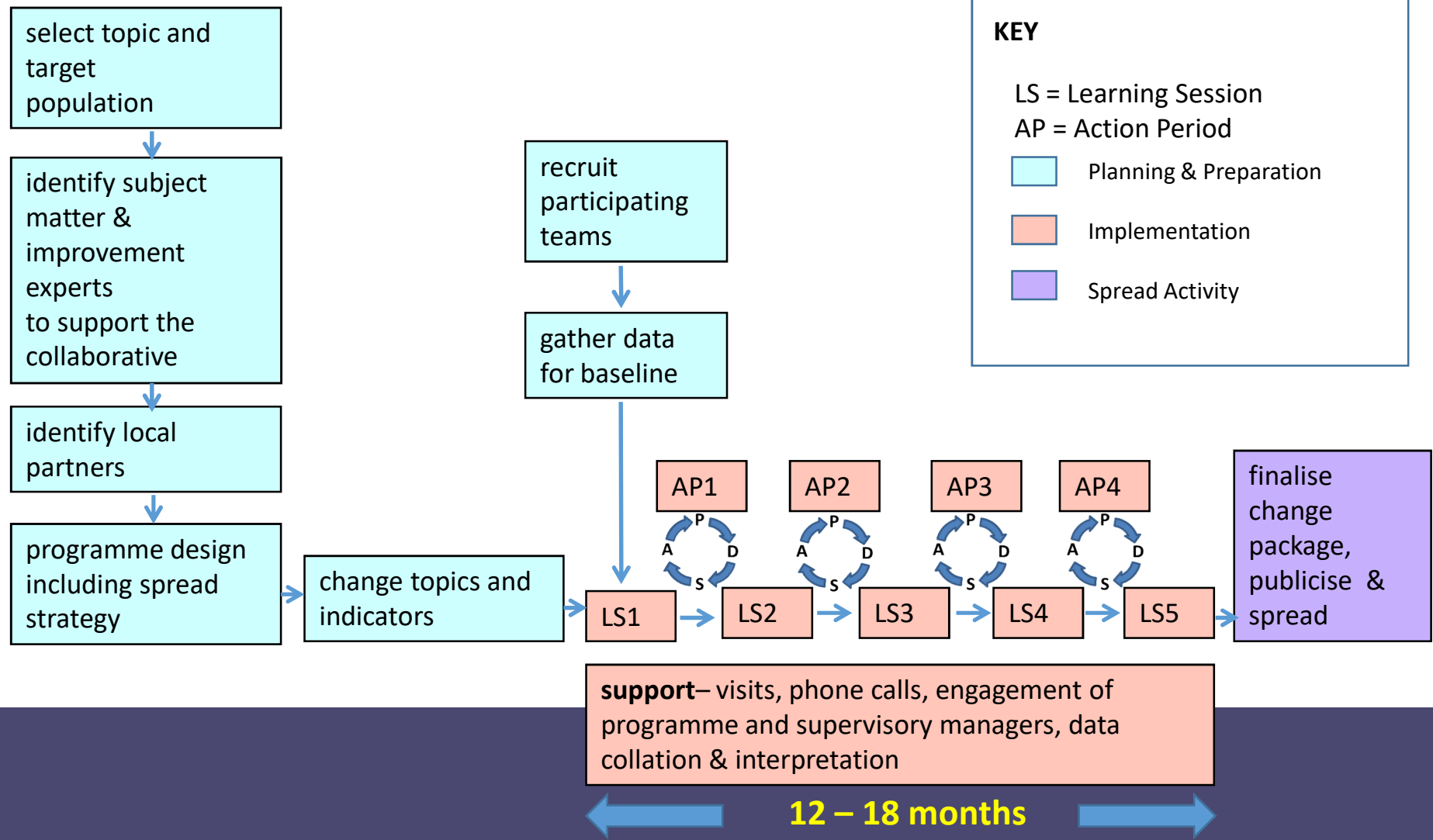
● South Africa (2012- 2015)



● Malawi (2015 – 2017)



## The Framework: Learning Collaborative /Improvement Collaborative/ Breakthrough Series





## Activated Leadership



- Build Will
- Articulate Vision
- Provide resource
- Remove Barriers
- Champion Improvement
- How do you help teams that cannot get buy-in?
- How do you support leaders who are slower?



# Knowledgeable Staff



- Clinical Knowledge (guideline, protocols, key intervention)
- Quality Improvement knowledge (incl. leadership)

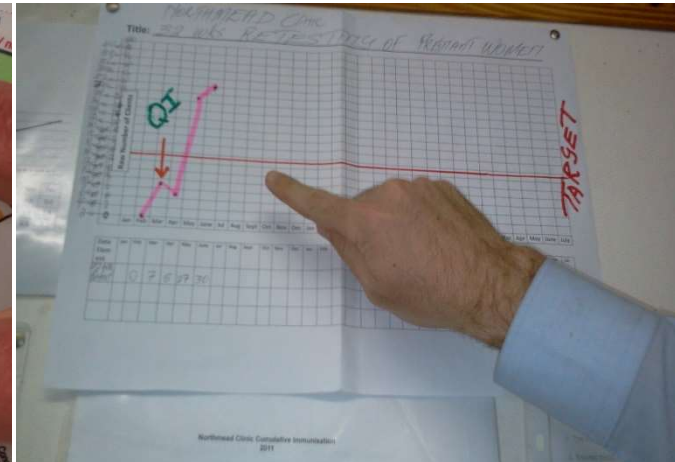
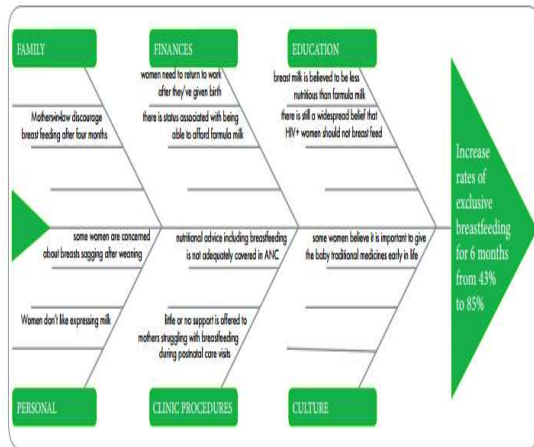
- **How do you support those that did not attend training?**

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# Mentoring and Coaching



Done by leaders, QI champions, support partners, peers etc. (virtual or face to face)

- Use coaching attributes
- Gemba walks (go and see!)
- Engage teams; promote peer to peer learning (identify experts)
- Data review sessions
- Celebrate!
- Promote record keeping
  - QI trackers, journal, templates
- Make it exciting
- Have coaching tools





# Reliable Learning System



- Functional QI teams
  - Meetings, data review
- Peer to peer Learning
  - Benchmarking, exchange visits, WhatsApp groups
- Ongoing learning sessions (on/off site)
  - Market place, Posters etc.



## Tips to support QI Teams to have a Reliable Learning System

- Identify a good QI team leader (not necessarily the in-charge)
- Effective teams meet regularly and have a clear agenda (every week/ bi-weekly)
- Review aims, think through change ideas (use tools), test ideas (PDSAs), collect data and analyze
- Give lots of encouragement and praise
- Respect time, be flexible
- If overwhelmed, encourage starting small, test one idea
- Encourage record keeping (future change package)
- When teams are stuck, find cause - plant successful ideas, let them test.
- Underperforming, find root cause (bench marking, use of awards, leadership)
- Provide QI tools and promote onsite learning



## Availability of Essential Commodities/Resources

- Effective supply chain management
  - Essential drugs, basic equipment etc.
- Transportation (where applicable)
- **How do you motivate for commodities?**





# Reliable Data Systems

- Use of existing and available data
- Use of available databases and indicators e.g. DHIS
- Real time data collection system
- Data feedback system
- Easy data collection tools
- Data review sessions
- **How do you help teams that are struggling to collect and report data? (Did they plan for it? Is there a knowledge gap? Task Sharing/shifting?)**



## Use of Key Interventions or Change Package

- A list of key interventions that when applied reliably they will produce great outcomes
  - Use of known best practices (locally or internationally)
  - Use of a change package
  - Teams to start with the low hanging fruits (simple indicators)
- Follow the care pathway/cascade (for easy understanding and tracking of improvement)



## Patient Family Centered Care (PFCC) & Community Engagement



- Communication - information about their care (**including education**)
- Respect and dignity – Privacy, informed choices, no mistreatment

- Emotional support – companion during labor, buddies, counselling
- Community involvement to support the initiative (**decision makers**)

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## Country led Initiatives

### How do you get the health system to own it?

- Active leadership engagement from the beginning
- Building coalitions (power of partnerships)
- The aim of the initiative should be aligned with country's priorities, existing resources etc.
- Always encourage to leaders and teams to start small
- Identify existing local champions
- Local-context adaptations
- Keep it simple
- Above all, keep the patients at the center of the improvement!



Quality, Equity, Dignity

A Network for Improving Quality of Care  
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

## Lessons learnt

- Deep understanding of local systems and local context is needed
- Pre-work and will building prior to launching of initiative takes long (assign enough time)
- Ensuring adequate infrastructure to support it
- Need to build local capacity and knowledge prior to launching initiative (especially leadership & partners)
- Need to build belief in improvement methodology (do you have other successful stories to share?)

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# Acknowledgements

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***Thank you!***