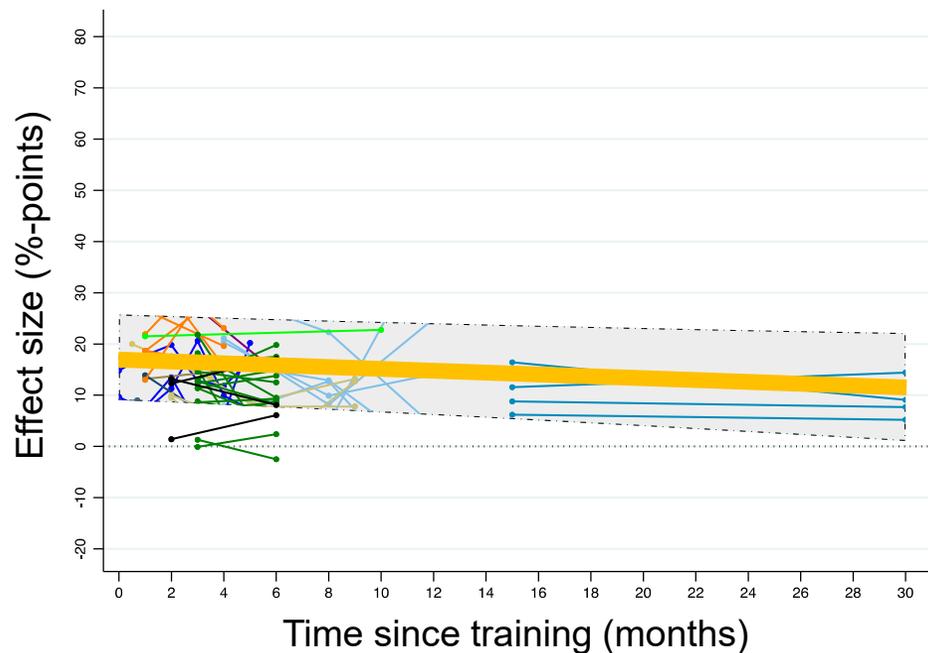




Implementation Research:

What it is and why it's important

(focus on LMIC settings)



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What is implementation research?

- **Definition (Eccles & Mittman, 2006).** “The scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings...into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality...of health services”

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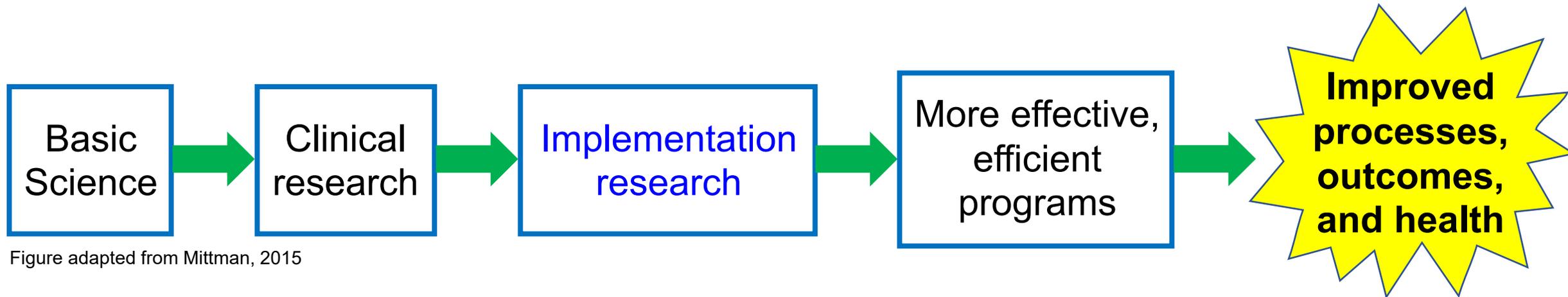
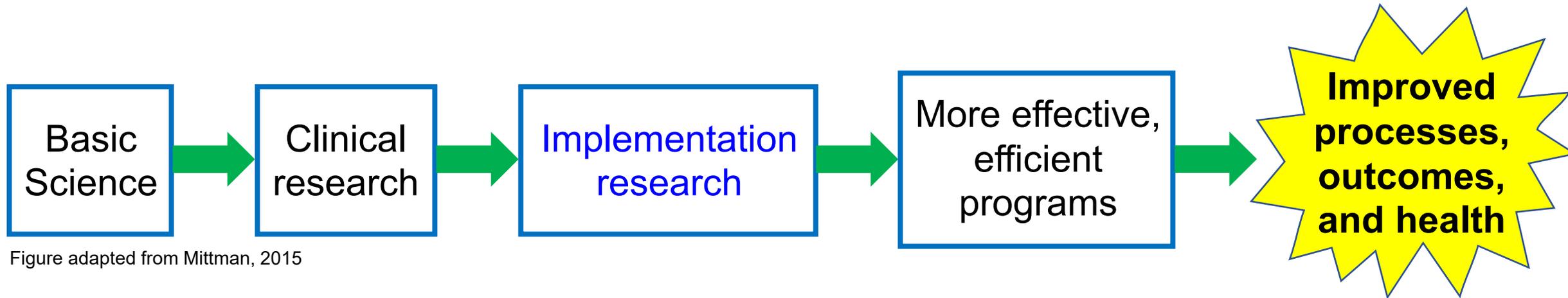


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- **Peters et al. 2011.** “[It] seeks to understand and work within real world conditions....” Role of context: it can influence strategy’s effectiveness.
- Other terms

Why is implementation research important?

- Many efficacious and cost-effective clinical interventions to improve health
- Uptake is often slow and low—esp. in poorest parts of LMICs
 - It can years for proven therapy to be adopted & scaled-up (statins, ORS)
 - 25 million children un-/under-vaccinated in 2021
 - On average, patients receive only 47% of elements of recommended health care; est. burden of poor quality care 5–8 million deaths/year

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 - On average, patients receive only 47% of elements of recommended health care; est. burden of poor quality care 5–8 million deaths/year
- Countries & donors invest heavily in strategies to increase uptake, but investments not always effective—e.g., classroom-based in-service training for health workers (HWs) to improve performance
- Implementation research produces scientific evidence for identifying better strategies and making better investments

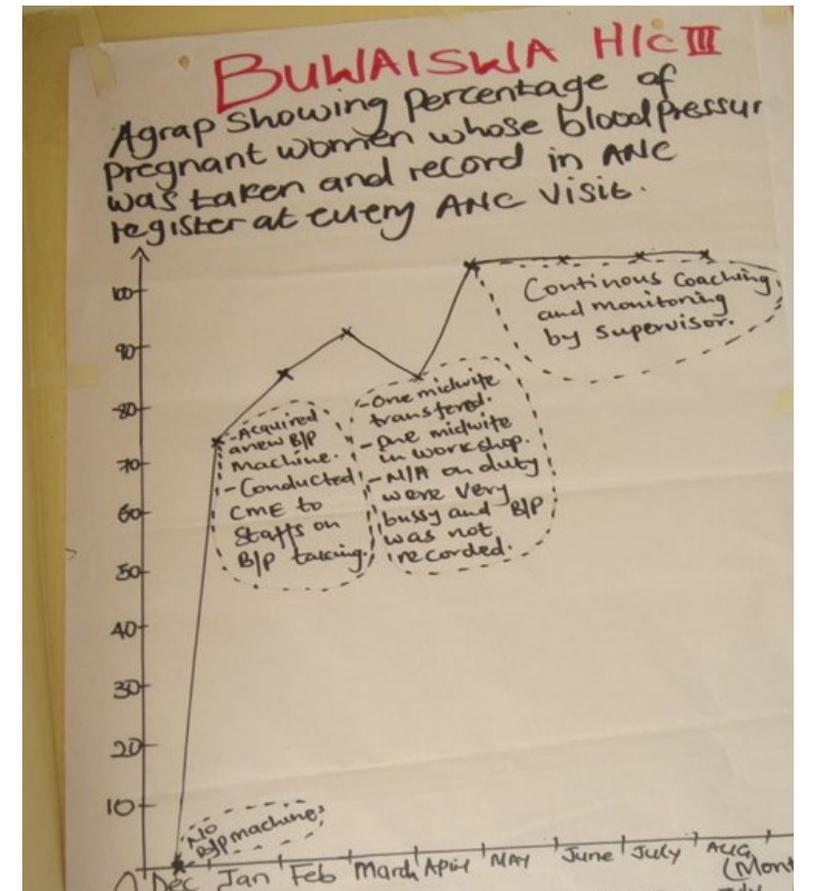
Example of implementation research

- Post-partem hemorrhage is leading cause of maternal mortality
- Efficacious treatment: active management of third stage of labor (AMTSL)
- Problem: Low AMTSL coverage and high maternal mortality (e.g., Niger)



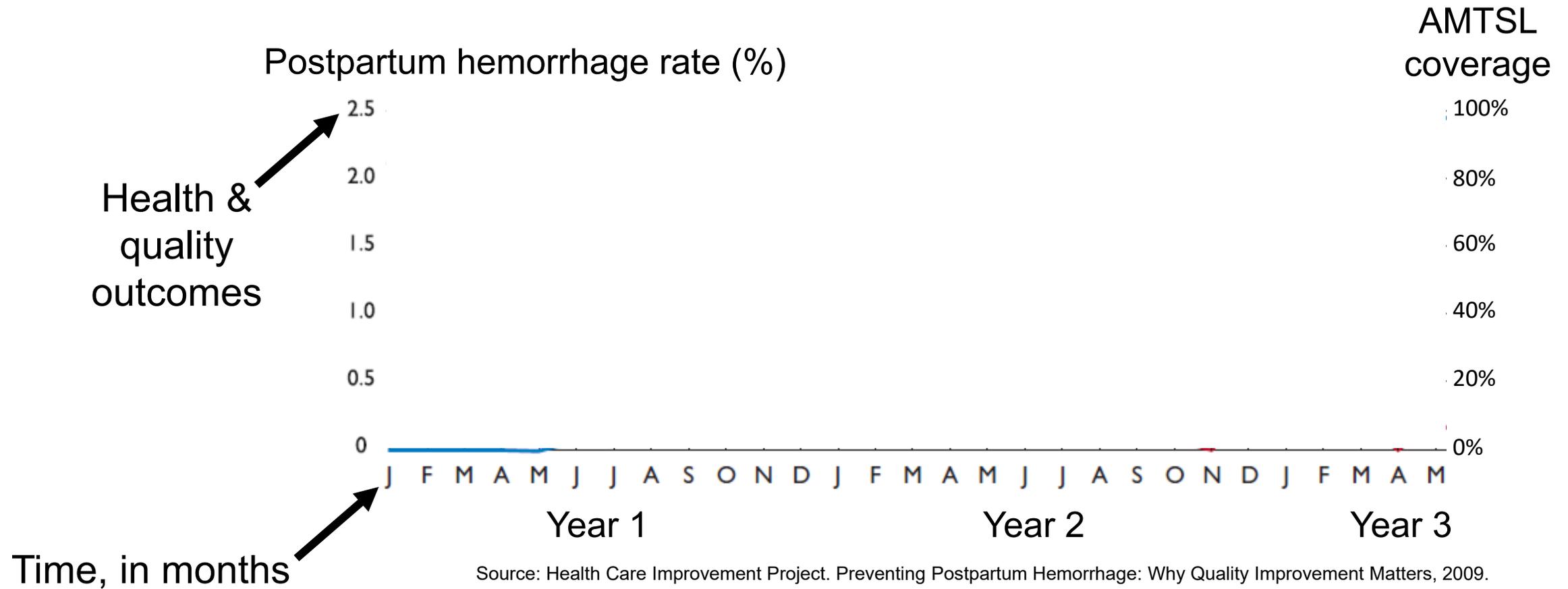
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- Test of “collaborative improvement” to increase AMTSL uptake in Niger (HW group problem solving strategy, or QI)



Example of implementation research

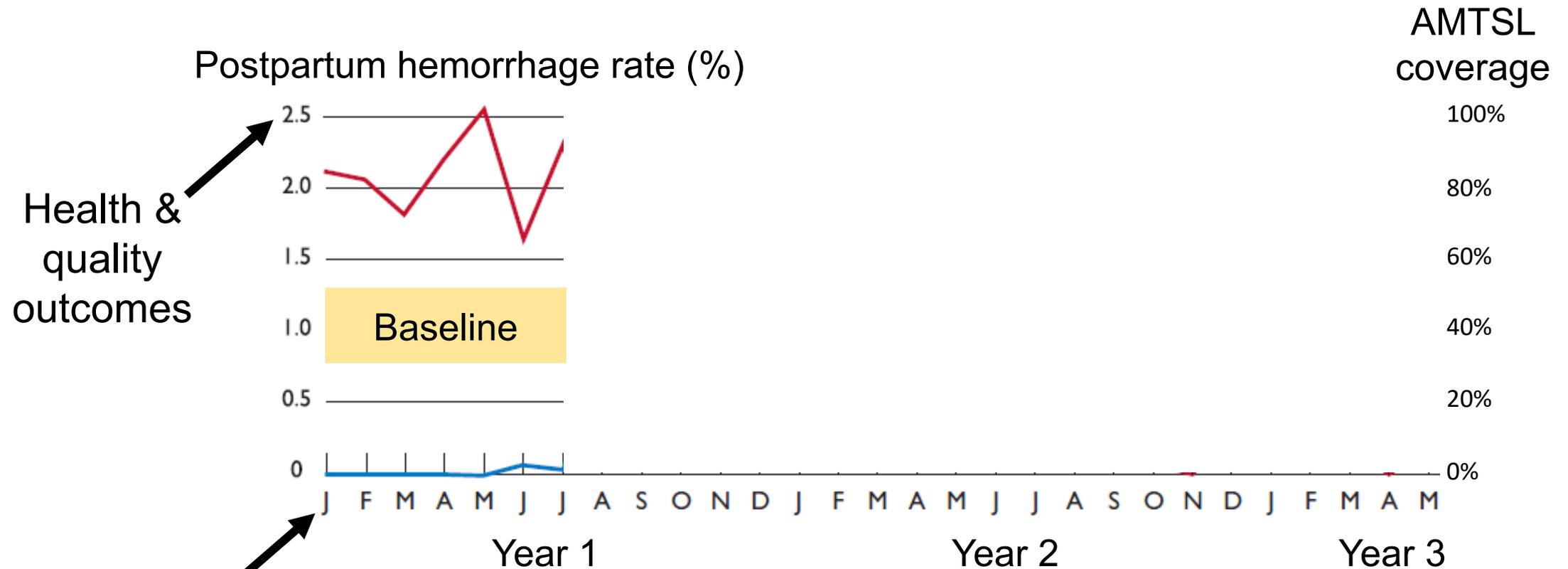
Example from Niger on reducing maternal mortality



Source: Health Care Improvement Project. Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage: Why Quality Improvement Matters, 2009.

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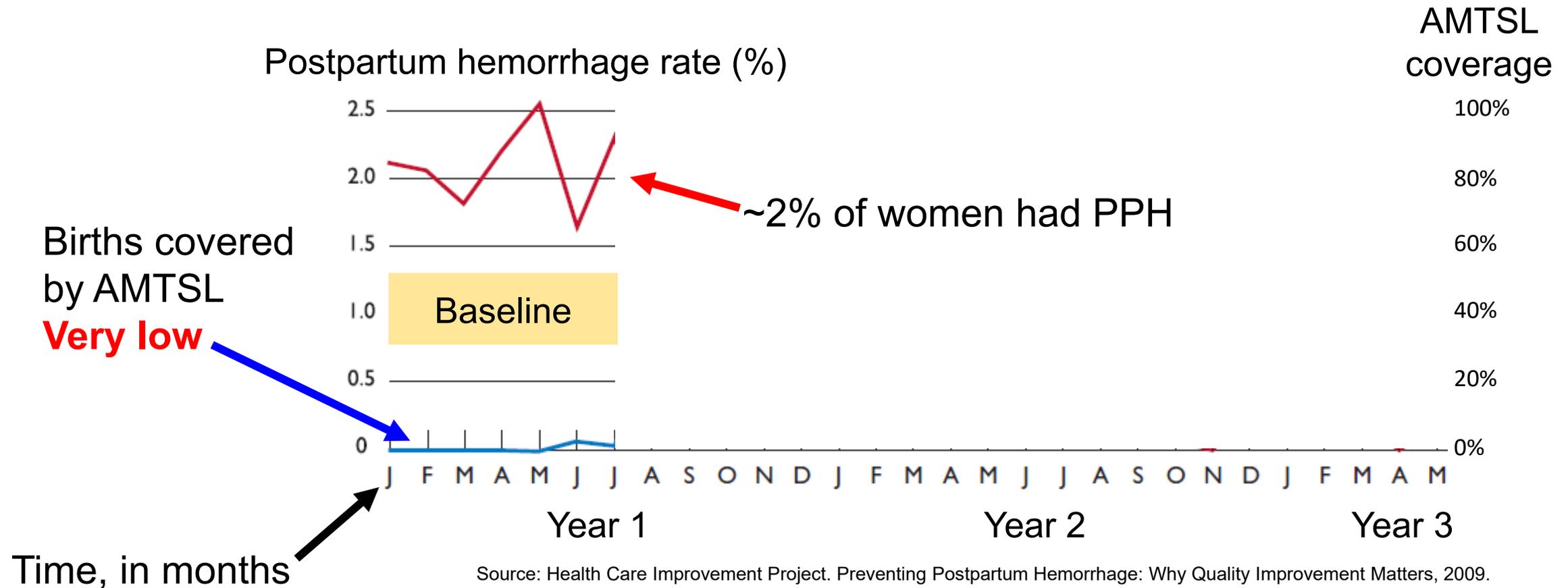
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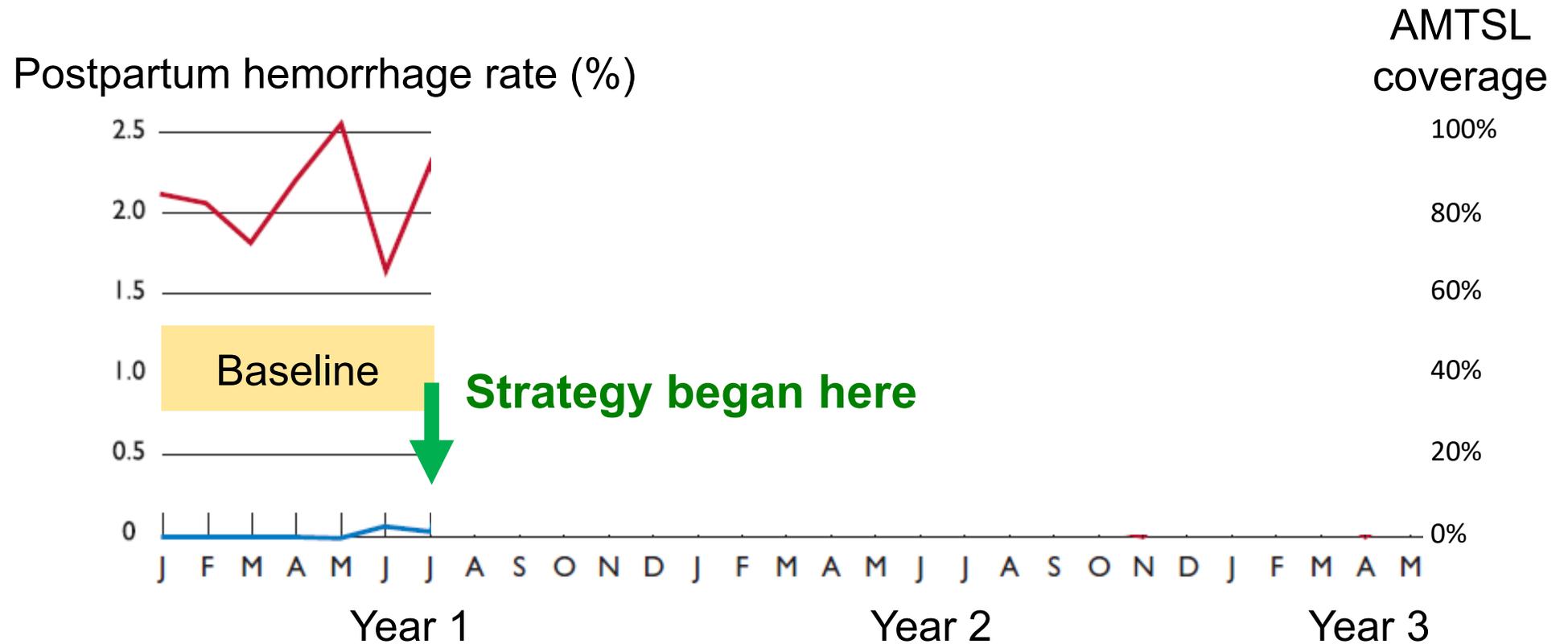
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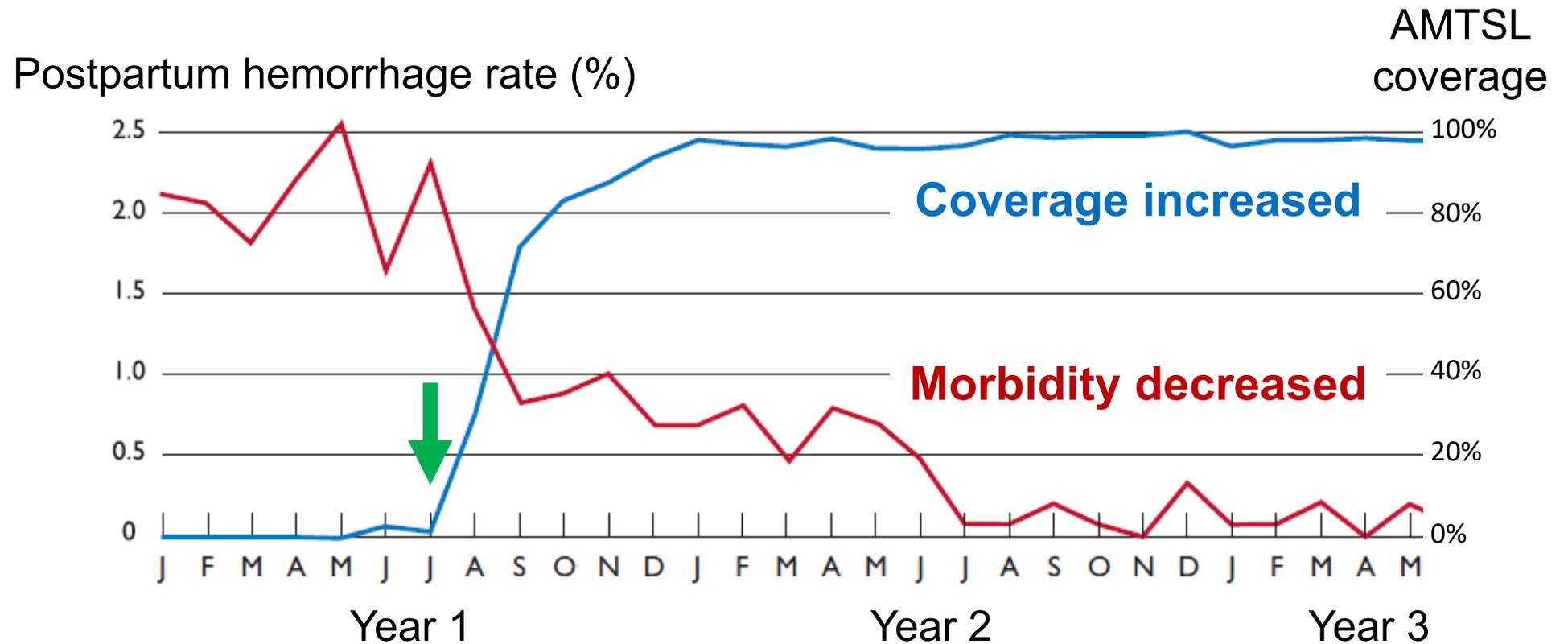
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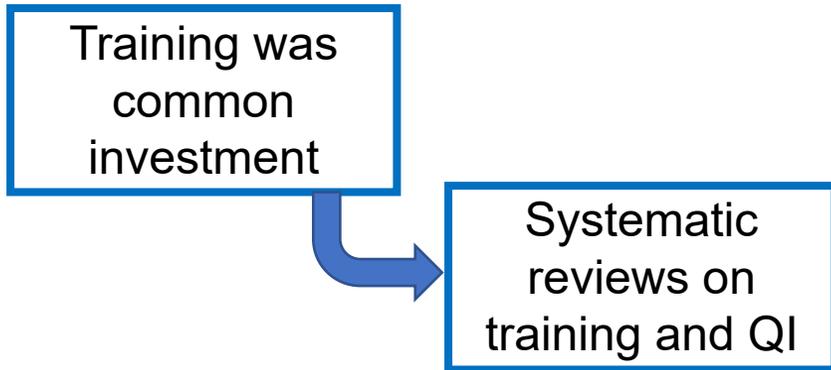
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Example of how implementation research findings were translated into policy

Training was
common
investment

- Budget analysis:
\$170M/year spent on training
- Concern about low impact on
HW performance

Example of how implementation research findings were translated into policy



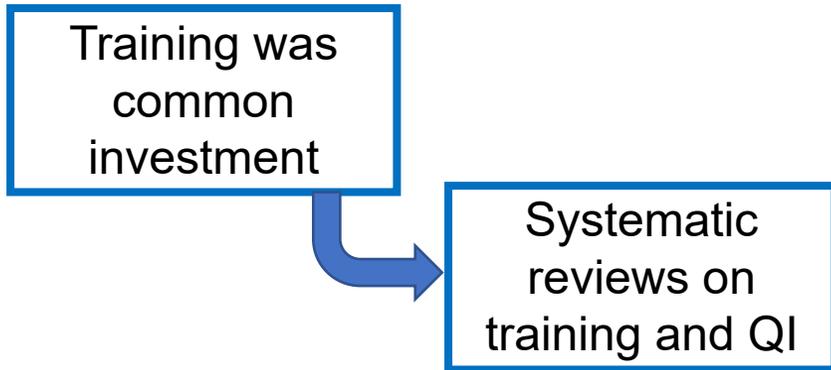
Training

- Generally had modest effects on HW performance
- Effects tended to wane over time

QI/Collaborative improvement

- Tended to have large effects on HW performance
- Effects were stable over time

Example of how implementation research findings were translated into policy



Training

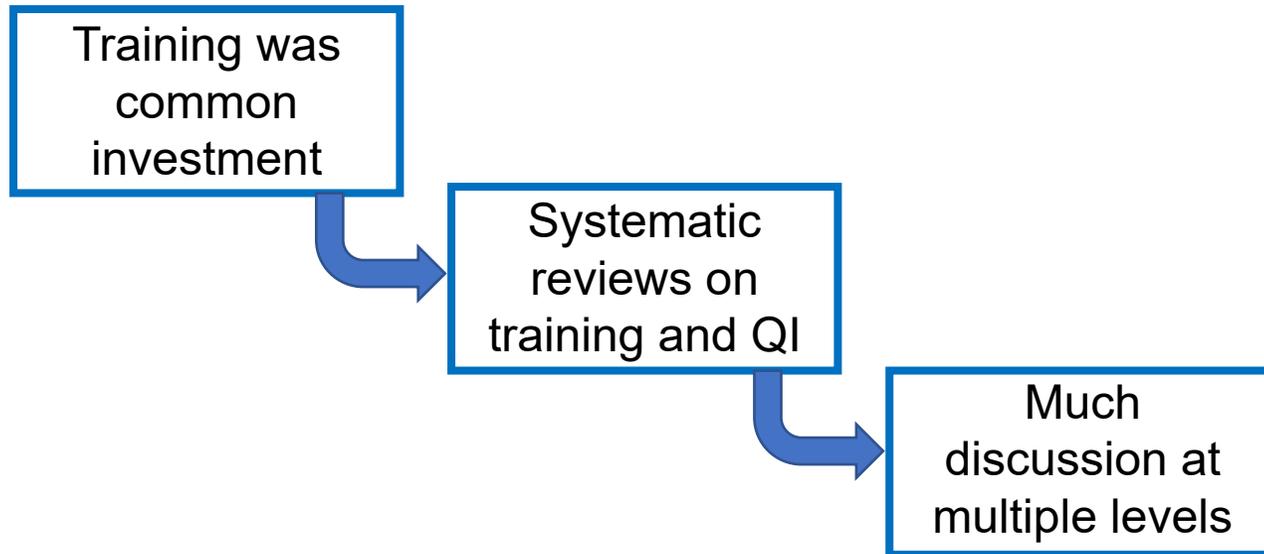
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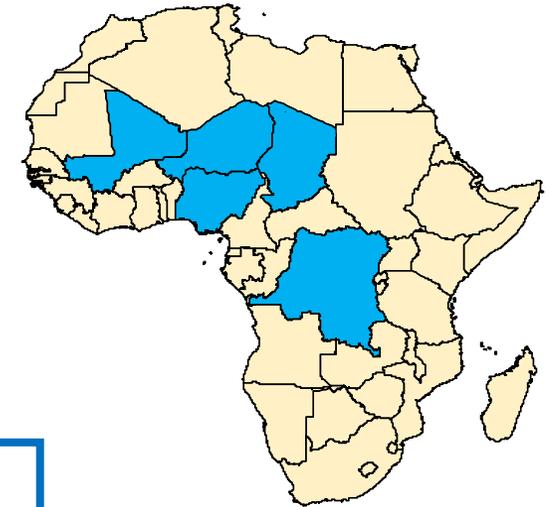
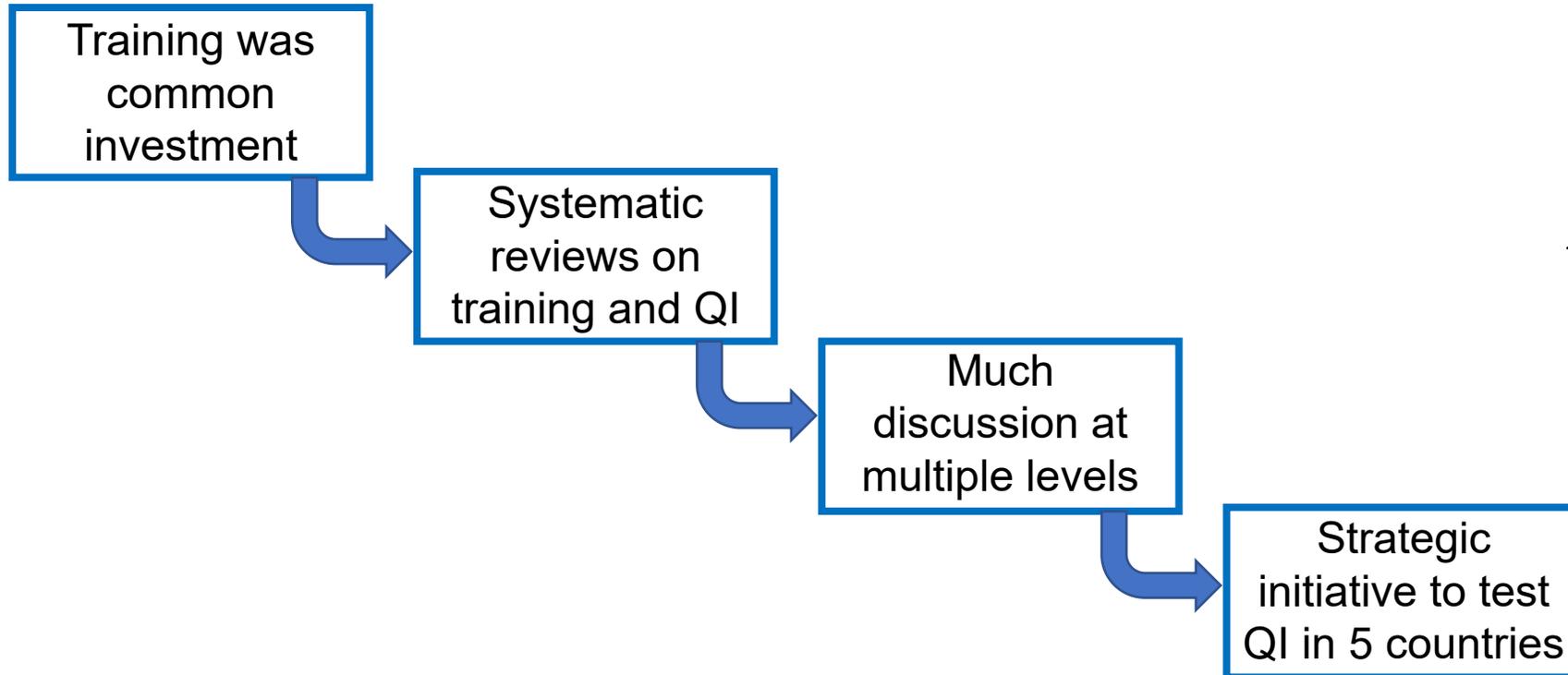
Illustrates importance of systematic reviews, so all evidence considered

Example of how implementation research findings were translated into policy



- More issues raised about training: fraud risk and opportunity cost

Example of how implementation research findings were translated into policy



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