





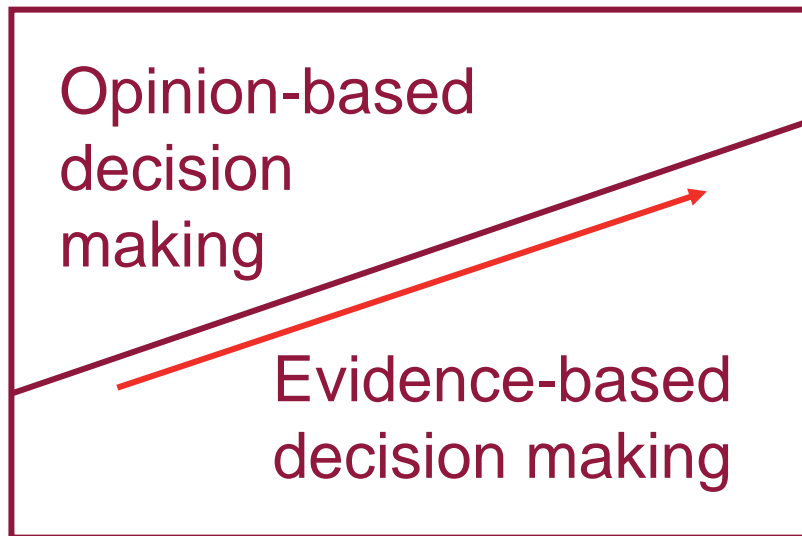
**Lessons from Impact:
“*Making sense of the
evidence*”**

Professor Wendy J Graham

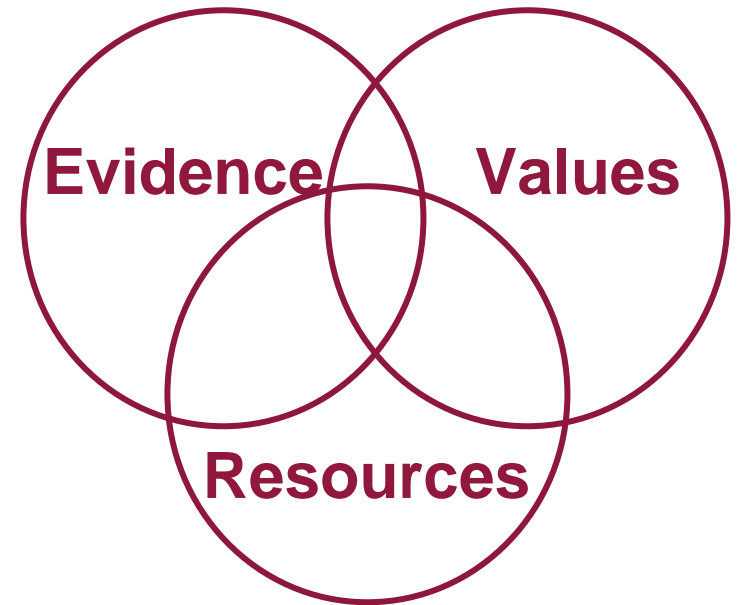


UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

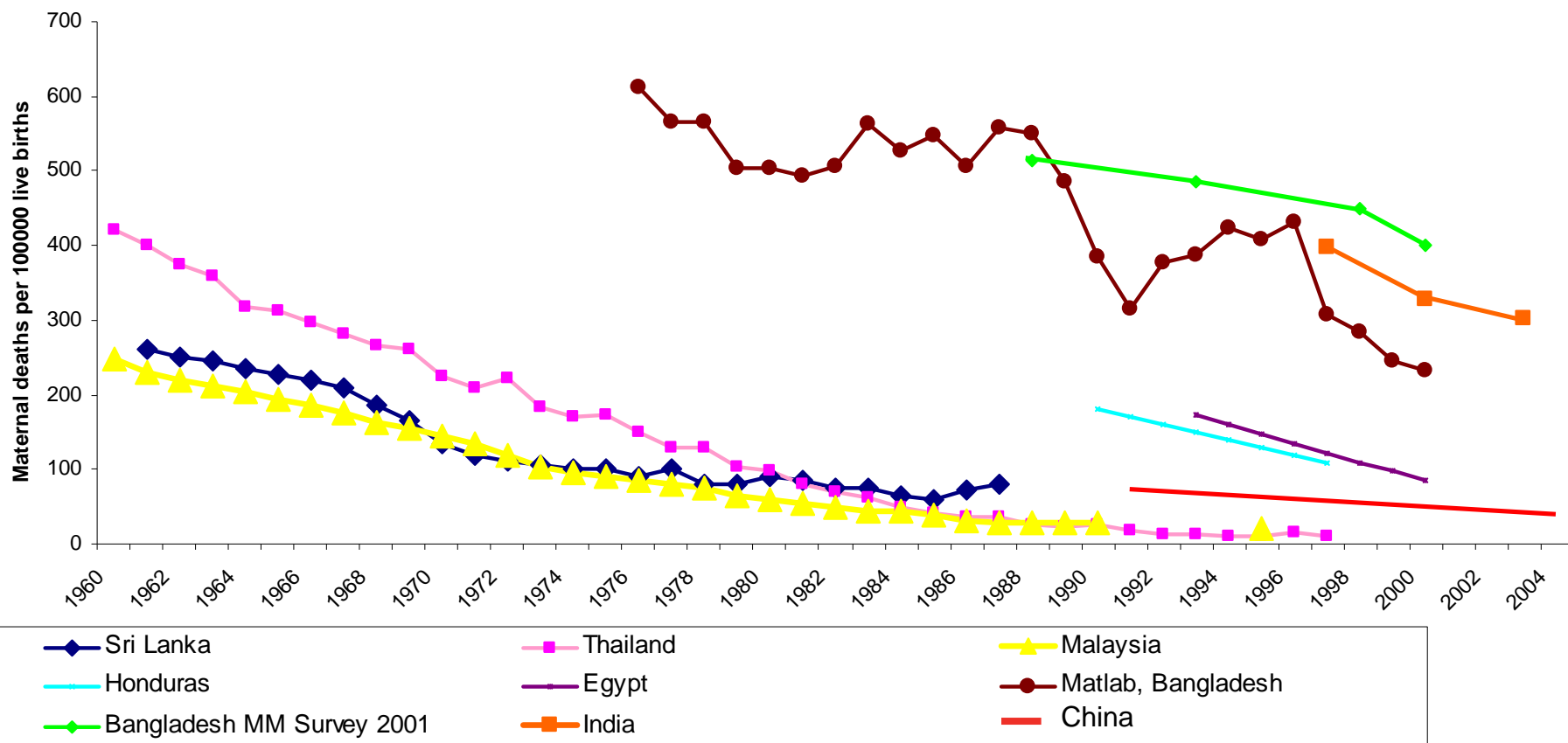
Emerging evidence culture for policy decision-making



Pressure on resources



“Success stories”



Impact is the international
research Initiative for Maternal
Mortality Programme
Assessment

Sept 2002- to date

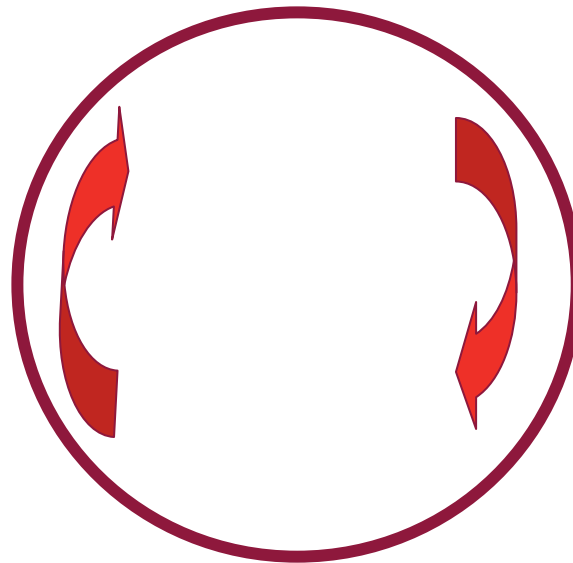


Goal: to improve the evidence-base for decision-makers on
strategies to reduce maternal & newborn mortality

Project cycle 2002- 2008

I. Aim: strengthen the evidence-base on mortality reduction strategies

IV. Facilitating uptake of research outputs



III. Communication: multi-faceted.
e.g. high-profile networking,
12 policy briefs, >100 journal papers,
3 websites, toolkit, etc.

II. Outputs:

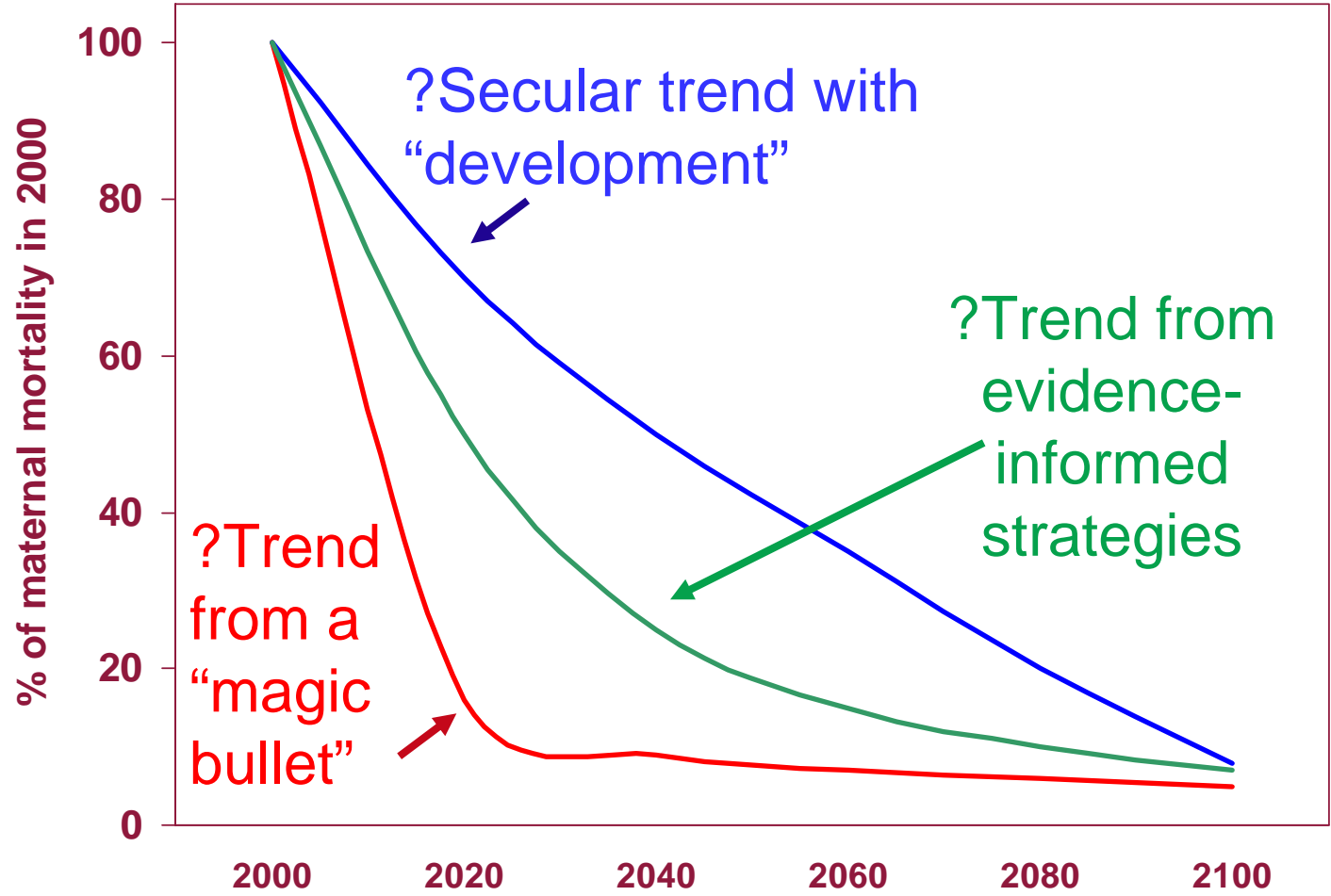
- New tools;
- Evidence from major evaluations in 3 main countries + 5 more;
- Strengthened research capacity
- Launched technical advisory arm (Ipact)

Evaluations in three main focus countries at sub-national level

- Ghana: effects of free delivery care policy
- Indonesia: effects of village midwife programme
- Burkina Faso: effectiveness of skilled delivery care initiative



What can we reasonably expect of evidence?



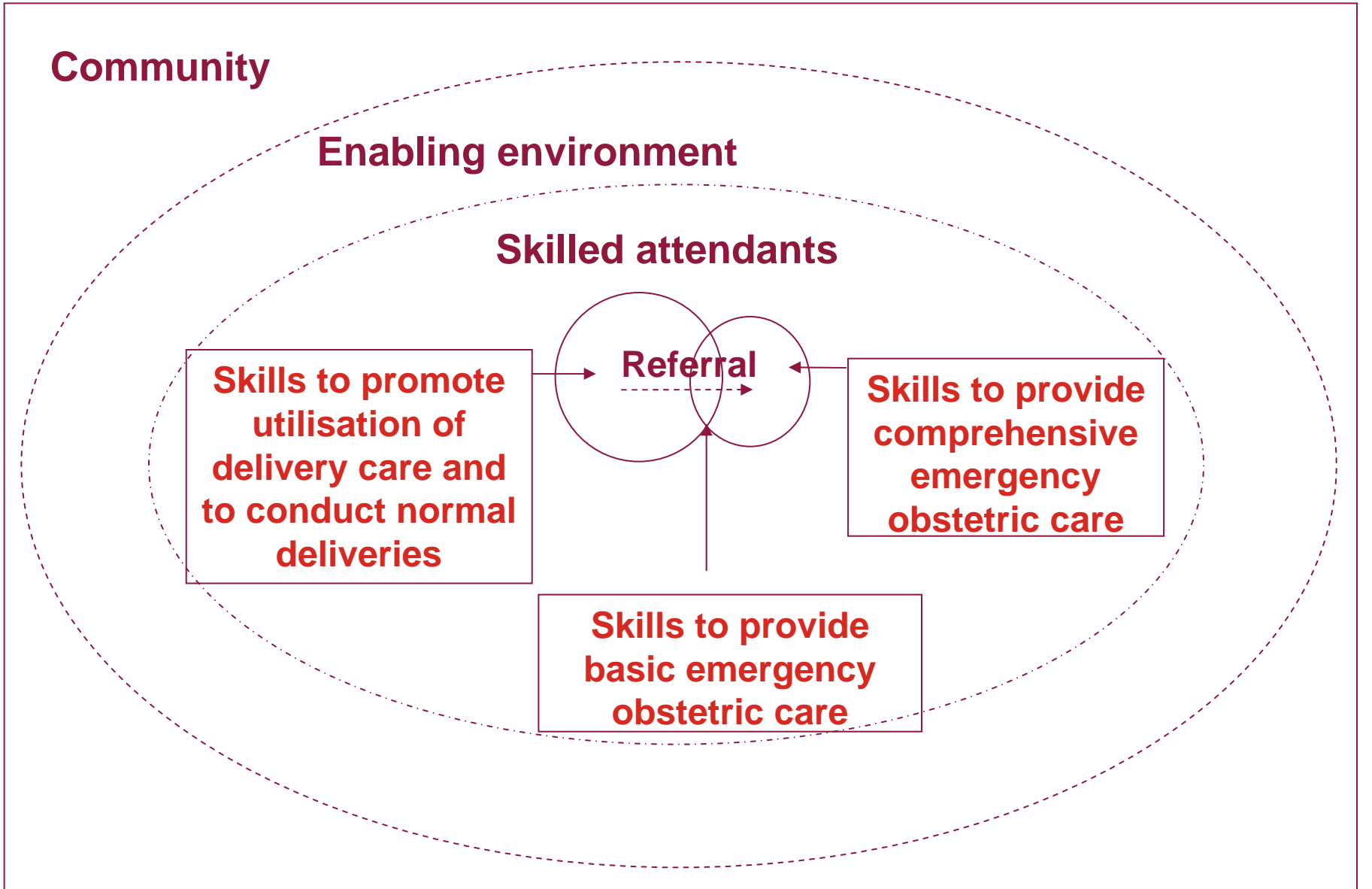
Impact key message

The good news - population coverage of “skilled attendants” increased at sub-national levels where:

- More personnel were provided at health centres: evidence from Burkina Faso
- Financial barriers were reduced: evidence from Ghana
- Midwives practised close to the community: evidence from Indonesia

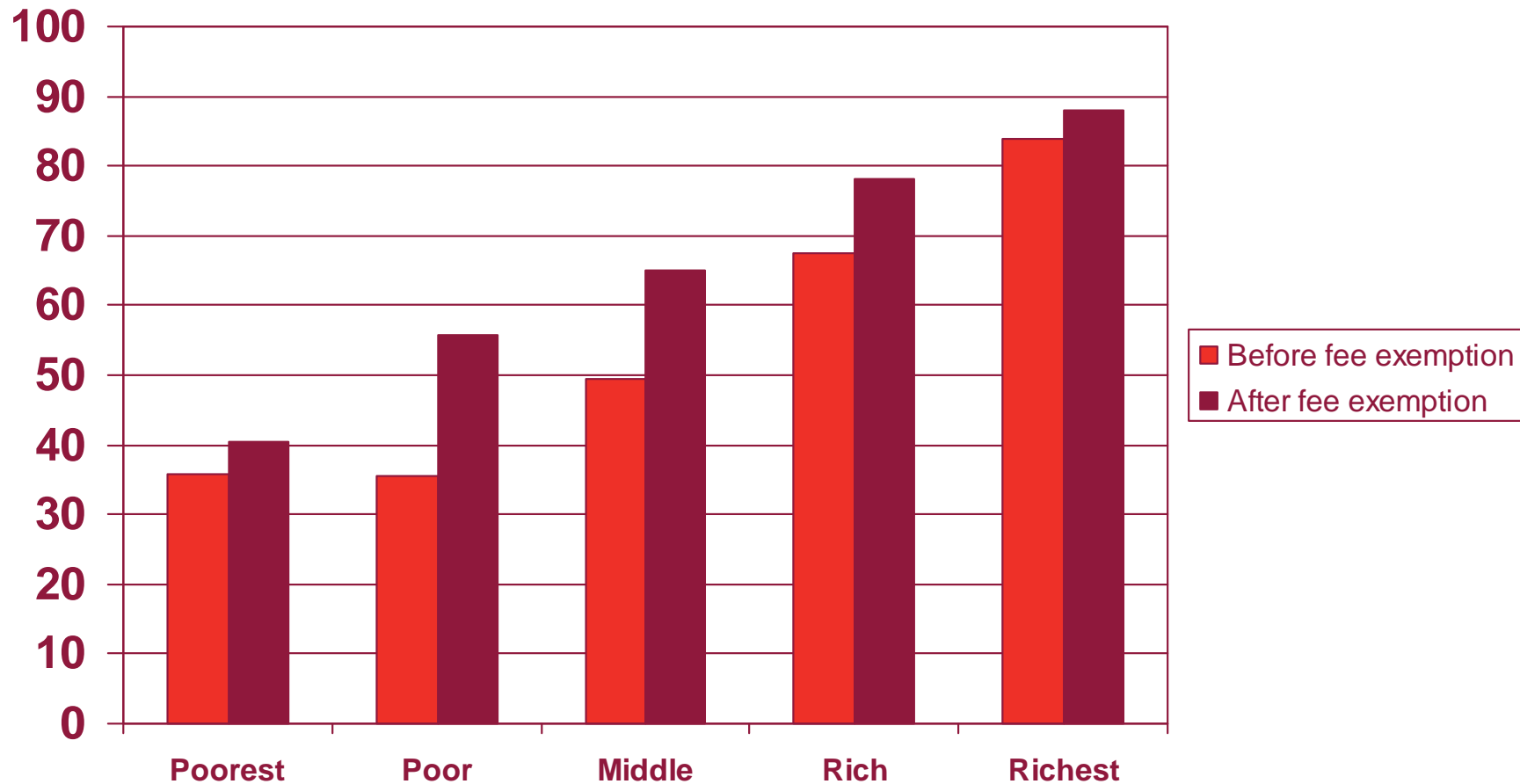
.....BUT.....

Skilled Care at Delivery: the complete “package”



Utilisation of delivery care before & after fee exemption in Ghana

% of deliveries in health facilities by wealth quintiles



Relationship between maternal mortality & delivery with skilled attendants: Indonesia

Serang and Pandeglang (2004-2006)

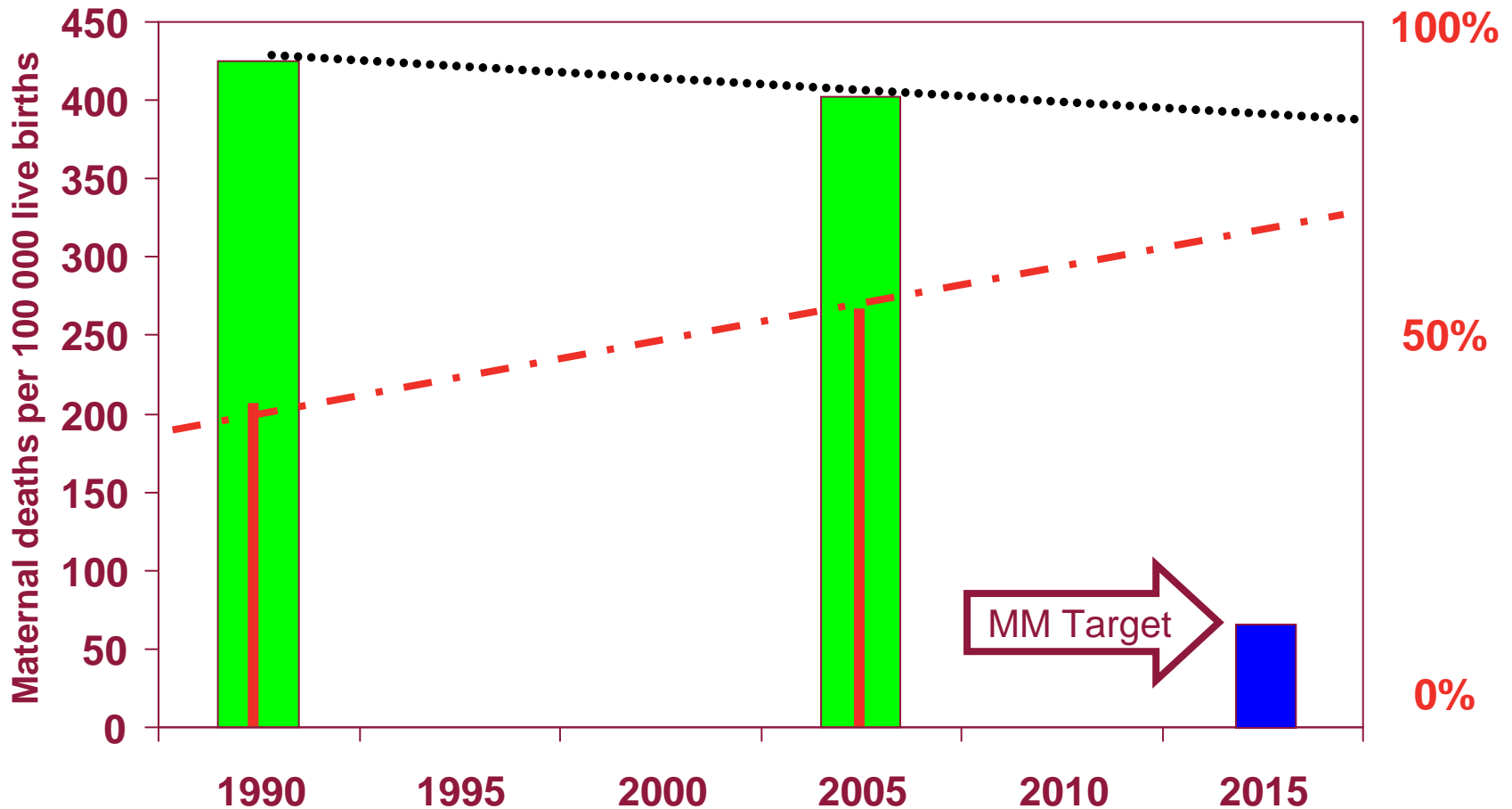
Wealth quartile	Proportion attended by skilled attendant	
Poorest	Yes 10%	
	No 90%	
Low middle	Yes 17%	
	No 83%	
Upper middle	Yes 33%	
	No 67%	
Richest	Yes 71%	
	No 29%	

Source: Impact data;

Millennium Development Goal 5a* is off-track



% deliveries with skilled attendants



* 75% reduction in maternal mortality ratio from 1990-2005

First year report 2008

The Global Campaign
for the Health Millennium
Development Goals

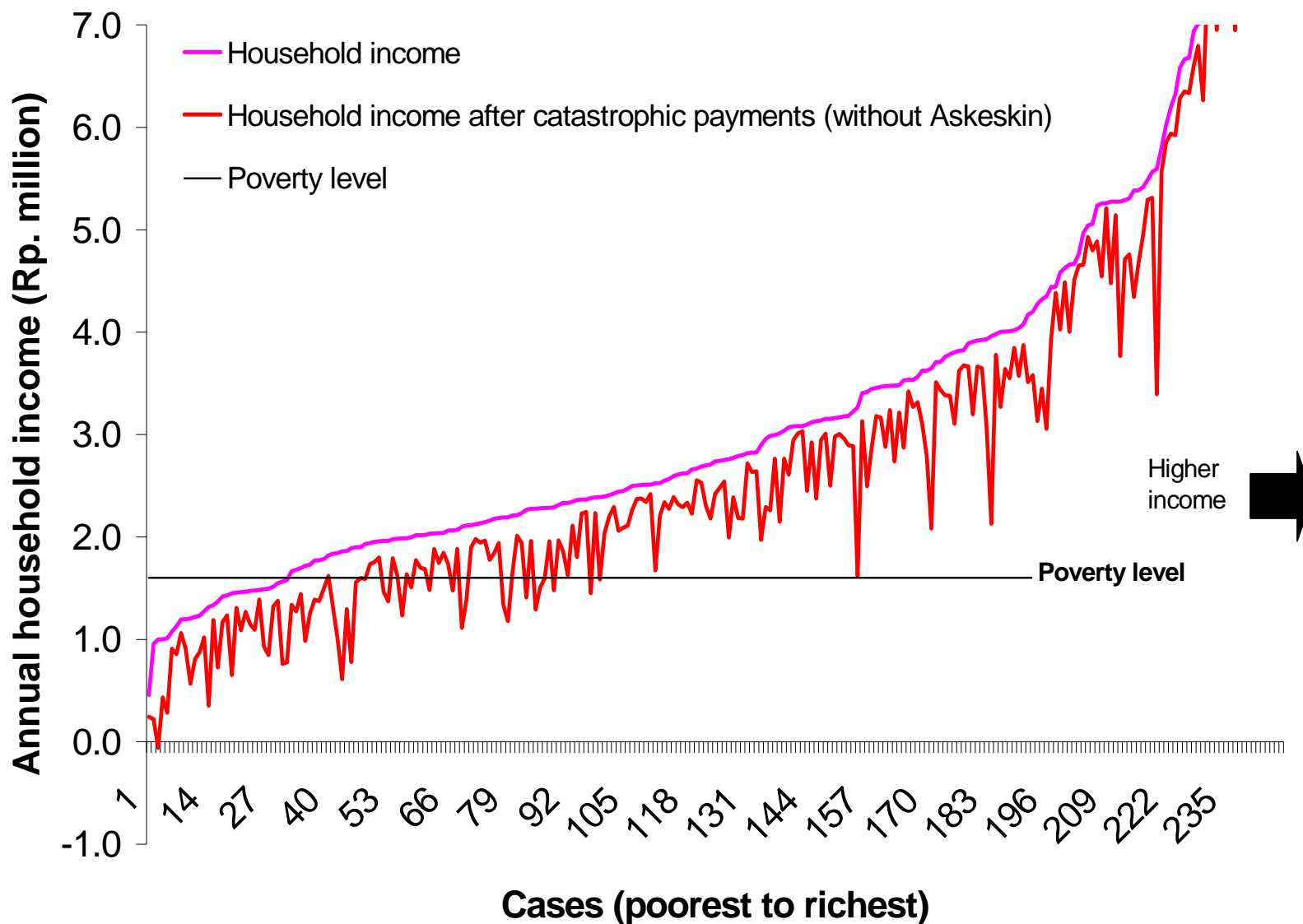


4 5 6

“Quality facility deliveries”

“Ensuring that the care received is good quality will enable substantial additional benefits to be reaped in terms of fewer deaths to mothers & babies.” (p.50)

Importance of financial cover for catastrophic costs for maternal care: Indonesia



An example of a phased strategy for West Java

Breadth

Depth

Banten - possible transition

Catastrophic care + SBA in poorest 40% sub-districts + small transport/incentive allowance (\$0.47 or \$0.92 per capita with EmOC for all)

Banten - universal

Attended delivery + catastrophic care for all
(\$1.22 per capita plus investment)

Public health spending \$8 pc (Indonesia)

Maternal Health \$0.3 pc (Banten)

Potential of skilled birth attendants to reduce maternal and newborn mortality is contingent on effective coverage of a package of quality care at delivery (*missed opportunity*)

Phased options for overcoming implementation bottlenecks to effective coverage are context-specific (*no one size fits all*)

Context,

Context,

Context.

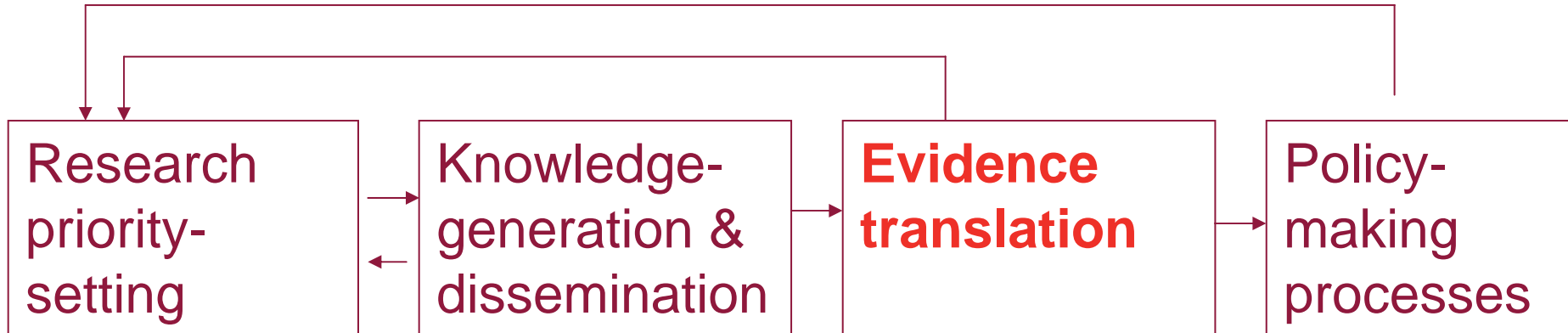
'Science' of quality improvement interventions

- adequate resources;
- active engagement of health professionals;
- sustained managerial focus;
- multi-faceted interventions;
- coordinated action throughout health system;
- major investment in training;
- availability of robust & timely monitoring.



Context-specific implementation package

Crucial translation step



Source: Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. 2007.

Who should do translation of research evidence?

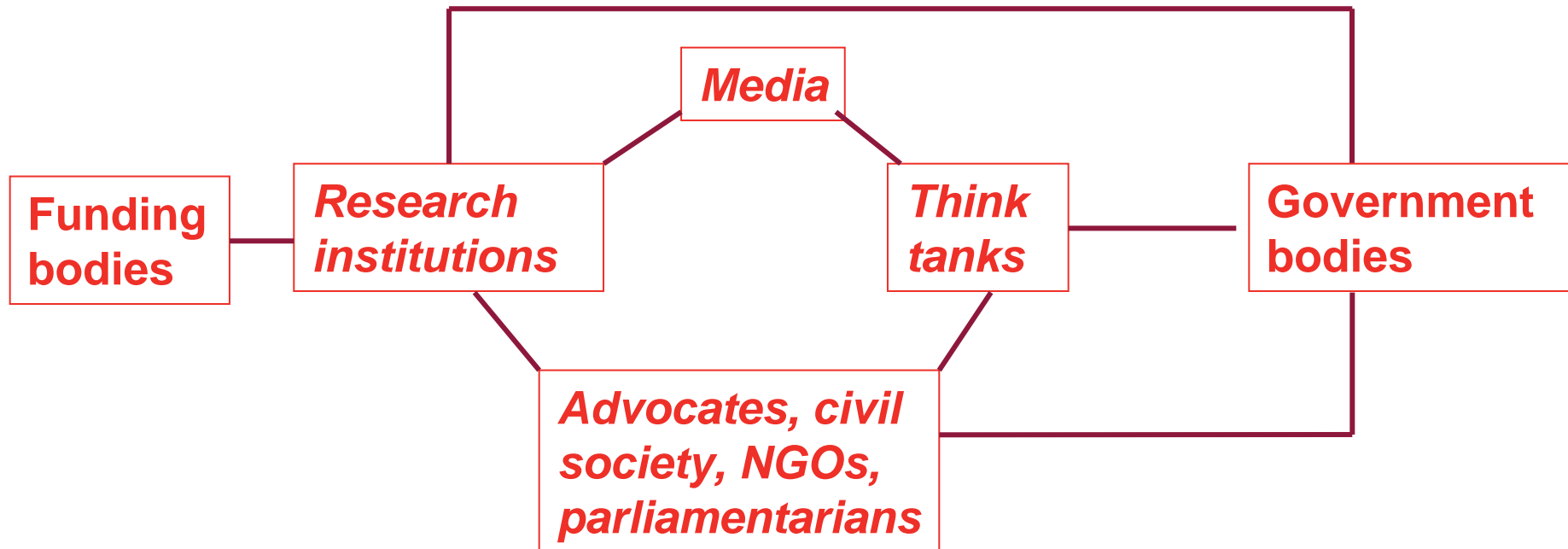


Knowledge brokers aim to provide evidence that is accessible, timely, credible and trusted, and packaged in user-friendly format, relevant to the local context.

Knowledge brokers work at the interface between research organizations and their target audiences.

<http://www.research-transfer.org>

Demand for evidence is now more diverse





**Researchers
are from
Venus.
Policy makers
are from Mars.**



Way forward for academies?

- I. Robust descriptions of context to help share lessons
- II. Evidence bases built around context
- III. Stronger support for local-level data for local decision-makers
- IV. More serious discussion of context-specific, phased & staged strategies
- V. Strengthened translational skills to boost evidence uptake

Maternal mortality trends: United Kingdom

