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**HEALTH POLICY
INITIATIVE**

Policy: The Neglected Dimension of Integration

International Conference Linking Reproductive
Health and Family Planning with HIV/AIDS
Programs in Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

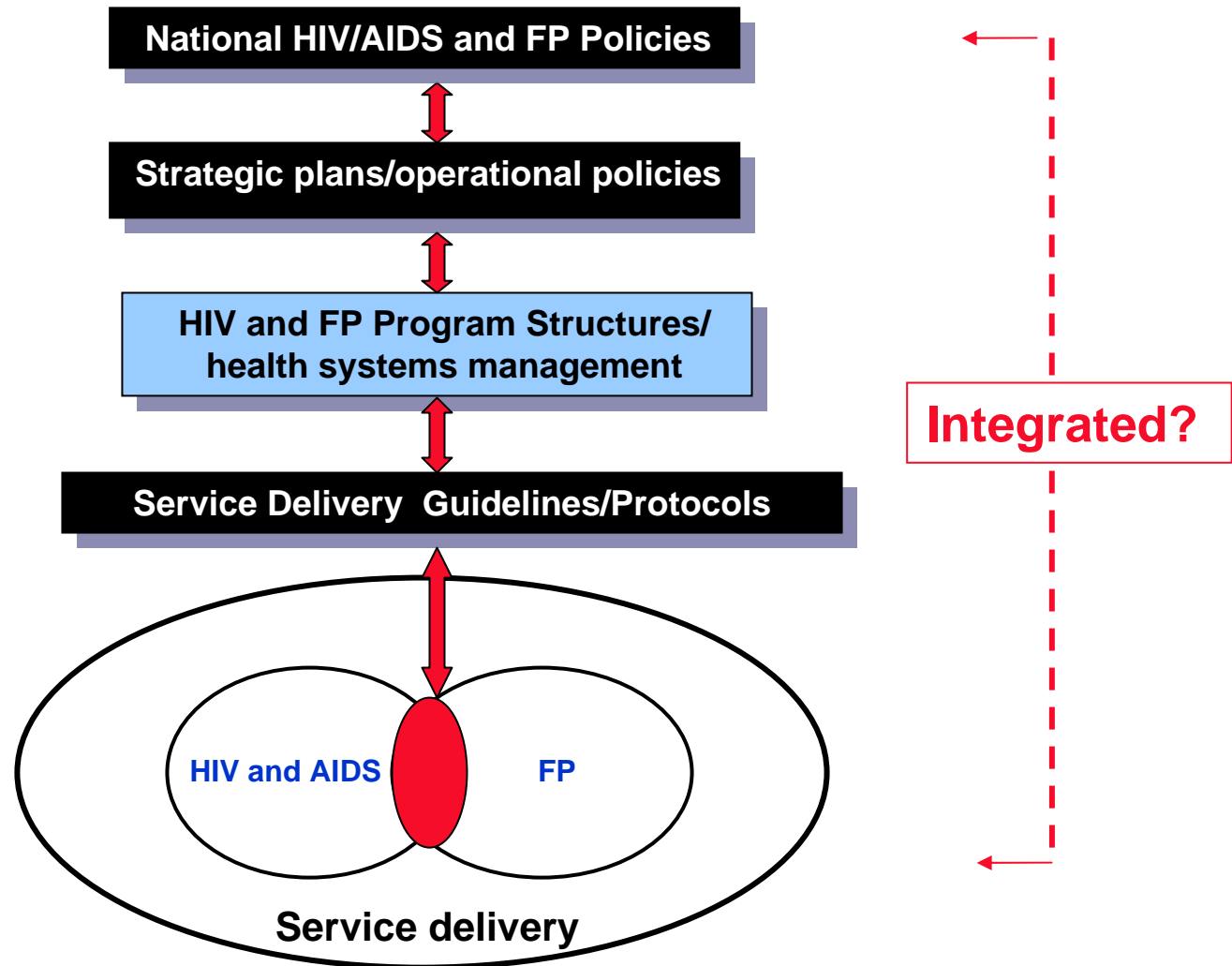
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Outline

1. Conceptual framework
2. Is integration addressed in national and operational policies?
3. Are health systems structured for integration?
4. Do people understand the policy process (roles, authority) related to promoting/supporting integration?
5. Policy reform will promote integration

Conceptual Framework For Policy Reform To Support Integration of FP with HIV/AIDS



Is Integration Addressed in Operational and National Policies?

What does integration look like currently?

At the operational level:

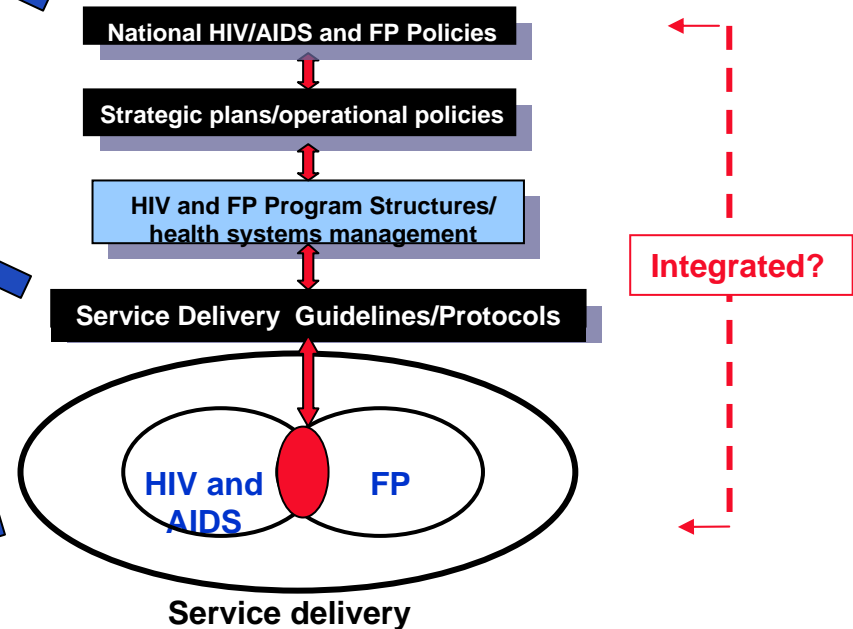
- More HIV in FP than FP in HIV policies
- In practice HIV policy process and the FP/RH policy process are not necessarily linked

More integration is found at national level

- All but one *international* VCT and PMTCT guideline explicitly address FP – mainly through information on contraceptives and/or referral for services
- Slightly more than half of the 16 national HIV/AIDS policies and guidelines reviewed made reference to FP
- All 5 national and 2 regional PMTCT guidelines refer to FP directly

There are implications to not having full integration at the national level...

- 2005 analysis of *Uganda's national ART policy* found no mention of FP
- No *guidelines or protocols* to support FP in ART settings
- Without policy mandating integration of FP into ART services there is no accountability



Are health systems structured for integration ?

What do most organizational structures look like now?

“FP and HIV/AIDS Programs [are] implemented by different agencies, using different policies, sources of funding, management and implementation strategies.”

“the lack of a health systems approach was an important reason why integration sometimes failed.”

Current recommendations for integration are dependant on integrated systems

- Timely and coordinated financial inputs
- Coordinated planning and procurement mechanisms
- Appropriate levels and expertise of staffing
- Functioning, shared transport systems
- Clear referral procedures
- Clear lines of supervision
- Stewardship

Current recommendations for integration are dependant on **integrated systems**

- Timely and **coordinated** financial inputs
- **Coordinated** planning and procurement mechanisms
- Appropriate levels and expertise of staffing **capable of providing high quality FP and HIV services**
- Functioning, **shared** transport systems
- Clear referral procedures (**including patient record and information flows between programs**)
- Clear lines of supervision **and decision making authority**

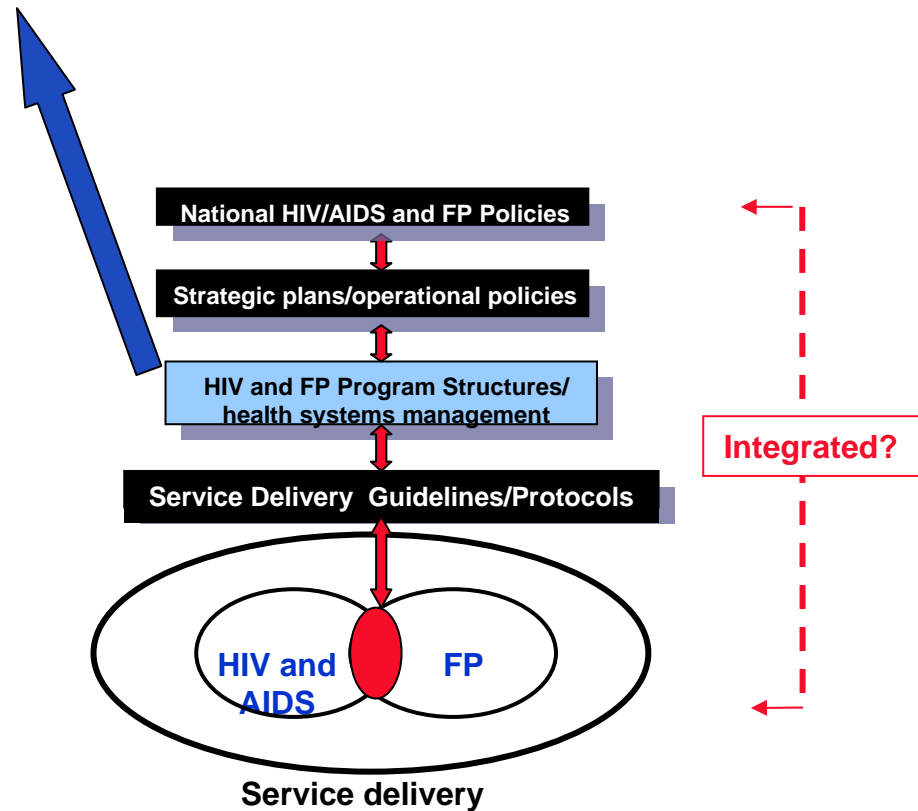
Integration is hampered by health system structure

FP and HIV in separate sections of the MOH

- HIV: National AIDS Program
- FP: Division of RH

Different:

- Logistics systems
- Decision makers
- Goals



Do people understand the policy process (roles, authority) related to promoting/supporting integration?

Key Questions

- What changes need to be made?
- Who has the authority to make the decision regarding the change?
- Will the change require increased resources?
- Who has the authority to decide on the increased resources?
- How are the changes and policies being communicated to providers, clients, supervisors, etc?

Selected recommendations from an integration study in Burkina Faso (on CBD)

- Regularly retrain agents
 - *Who designs retraining? Who pays for retraining?*
- Ensure monthly supervisory visits and reports completed
 - *Why aren't supervisory visits happening? Transport? Additional resources needed?*
- Revise the information collection sheets and train both the agents and their supervisors in their use
 - *Who can authorize revision? Pay for reprinting?*
- Recruit a permanent coordinator
 - *Is this position authorized? If a new position, who authorizes? How would it be financed?*

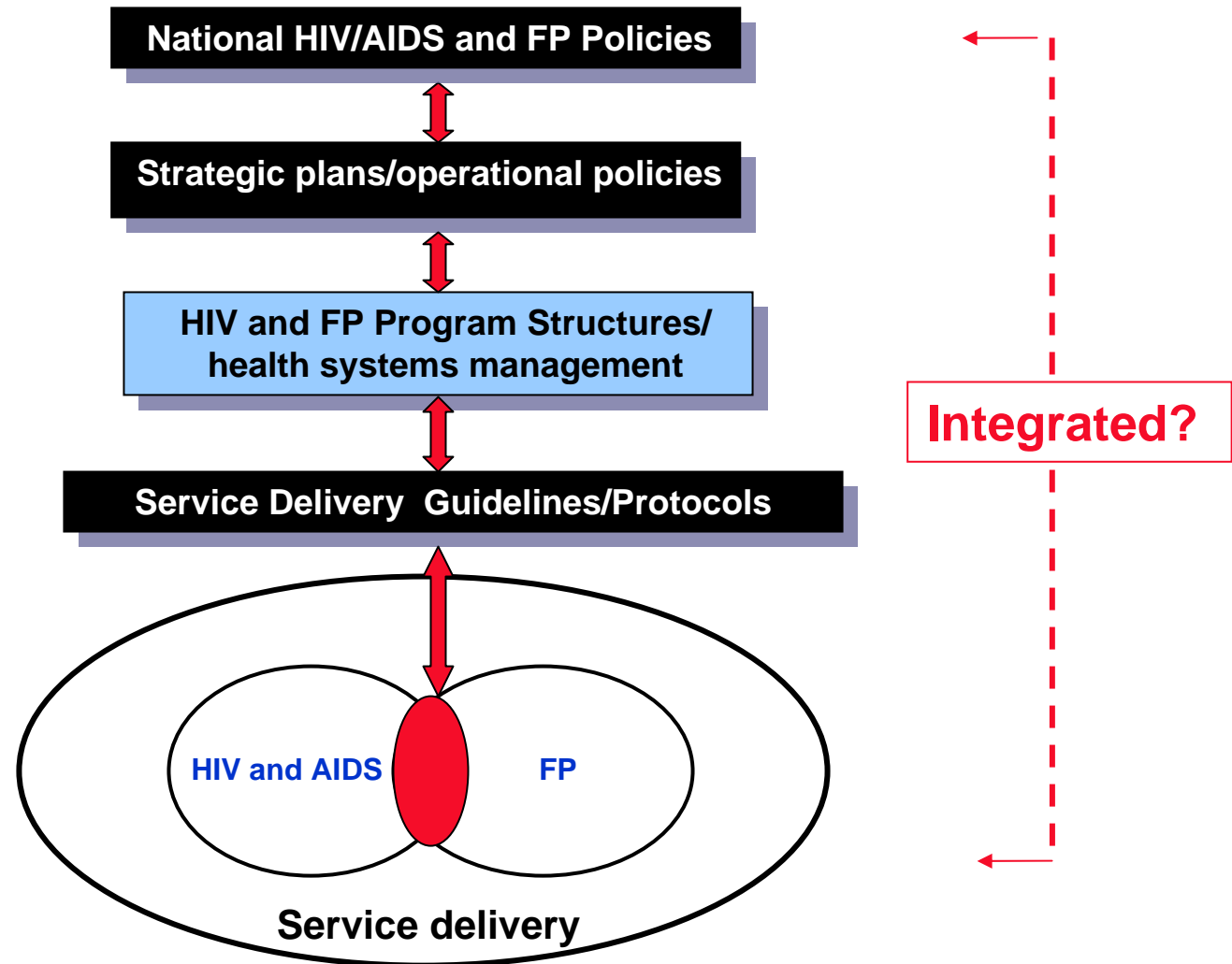
Policy reform will promote integration

“At present there is no consensus about how integration should be accomplished at the country level.”

“It is at the *policy* level that integration has proved most difficult to achieve – because at this level it often directly threatens institutions and bureaucracies.”

Steven Sinding, Director General IPPF 2004

Consideration at every level improves potential for scale up



Thank You

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