



**HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITY SETTING
EXPERIENCES FROM UGANDA, TANZANIA
AND ZAMBIA**

**GLOBAL FORUM ON BIOETHICS IN
RESEARCH**

BY

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BACKGROUND: HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITY SETTING GOVERNANCE

- The World Health Organization has supported the institutionalization of National Health Research Authorities (NHRA) in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Constitutionally, NHRAs are mandated to govern Health Research.
- Many NHRAs have conducted multiple health research prioritization.



BACKGROUND: THE GAPS

- Theoretical gap: While there are several frameworks for guiding HRPS, there are limited, contextualized frameworks for evaluating HRPS.
- Practical gap: Although many countries in SSA have engaged in several HRPS, there have been limited efforts to evaluate their processes.



STUDY RATIONALE

- The NHRAs in Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia have conducted several health research priority setting exercises and there is a potential for them to learn from each other's experience;

However.....

- There have been no systematic harnessing and sharing of these experiences across countries



METHODS



- Case studies in Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania
- *Approach:* This was a qualitative case study



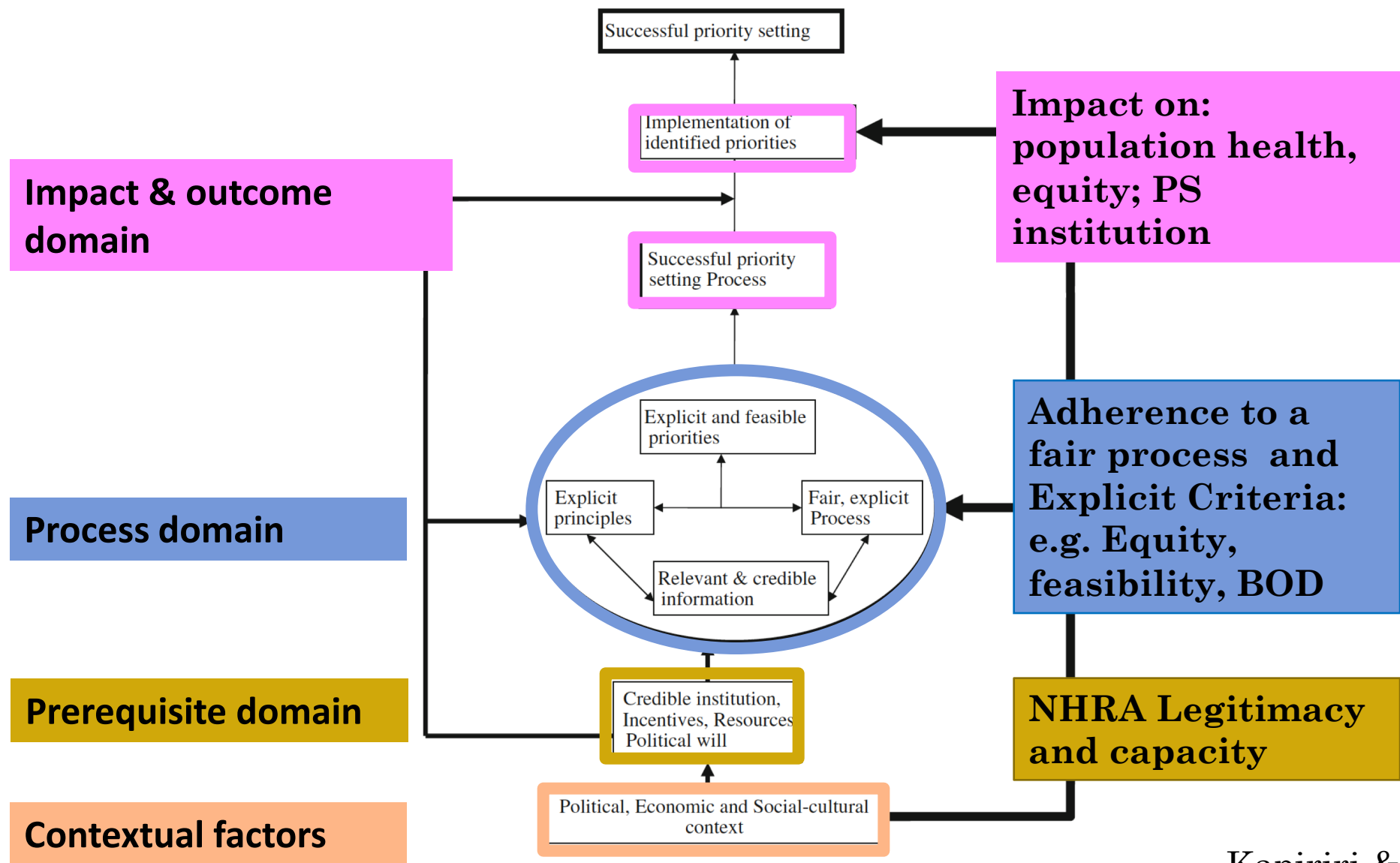
(1) document review

and



(2) > 50 key informant interviews with stakeholders involved in HRPS in the three countries.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING HRPS SUCCESS/EFFECTIVENESS



SNAPSHOT OF THE RESULTS I

Domain	Uganda	Tanzania	Zambia
Contexts	x	x	x
Pre-requisites: Legitimate institute with HRPS capacity	X/-	X	X/-
Resources	Limited	Relatively available	Limited
Incentives	-	-	-
Process: Fair HRPS process	+/-	+/-	+/-
Stakeholder engagement	Limited	Limited	Limited
Explicit criteria including equity	+/-	+/-	+/-

SNAPSHOT OF THE RESULTS II

Domain	Uganda	Tanzania	Zambia
Implementation: Allocation of resources according to priorities Accountability	Yes if donor led	Yes	Yes if donor led
Outcome and impact Impact on Population health and equity	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed
Overall assessment of the effectiveness/ success of the HRPS	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed

ETHICAL CHALLENGES AND DISCUSSION

- Fragmentation of the priority setting process
- Competing stakeholder research priorities
- Expert driven- limited local capacity strengthening
- Limited contextualization of externally developed approaches
- Limited evaluation of HRPS



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Governments and research donor agencies should strength and support the NHRAs with legal, financial and technical resources to enable them to deliver on their mandate.
- NHRAs should identify an approach, or a hybrid of HRPS approaches, procedural and substantive criteria that should guide HRPS in their contexts.
- NHRAs should conduct systematic evaluation of the health research prioritization processes to identify lessons of good practice and areas for improvement.





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