




Transforming
Children's Care
COLLABORATIVE

REFORMING CARE SYSTEMS:
EVIDENCE FROM PRACTICE

Systems
Strengthening
Learning from
Changing the Way
We Care

7 October 2025



This webinar
will begin
momentarily.



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Systems Strengthening Learning from Changing the Way We Care

7 October 2025



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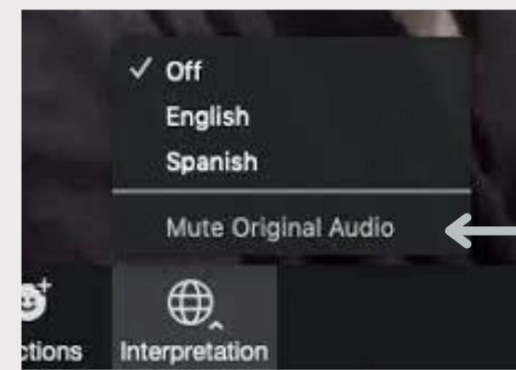


¡Bienvenidos!

Este evento cuenta con
interpretación simultánea inglés-español.
Cuando esté activada la interpretación, sigas estas
instrucciones:

1. En los controles, presione la opción
Interpretación.

2. Haga clic en el idioma que desee
escuchar.



← Silenciar el audio original

WELCOME

- This webinar is part of a new series of webinars from the Transforming Children's Care Collaborative focused on exploring innovative approaches and promising practices to strengthen child care and protection systems.
- The collaborative establishes more strategic sector-wide collaboration from global to local levels to strengthen children's care and care systems.
- Sign up at the link in the chat to join the platform and receive updates about future webinars



HOUSEKEEPING

- This webinar is being **recorded** and will be made available to you in English and Spanish.
- Introduce yourself in the **chat** (select “Everyone” when sending a message so everyone can see it)
- Remember to select the **interpretation** icon and choose the correct language channel.
- Use the **Q & A** to ask questions and upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.



AGENDA

- **CTWWC System Strengthening Approach and Evaluation Methodology**
- **Findings Per System Component**
 - **Legislation, Policy and Coordination**
 - **Social Service Workforce**
 - **Financing**
 - **M&E and Evidence**
 - **Service Delivery**
- **Conclusions Across Contexts**
- **Q&A**





Global learning synthesis on care system strengthening

Transforming Children's Care collaborative

7 October 2025

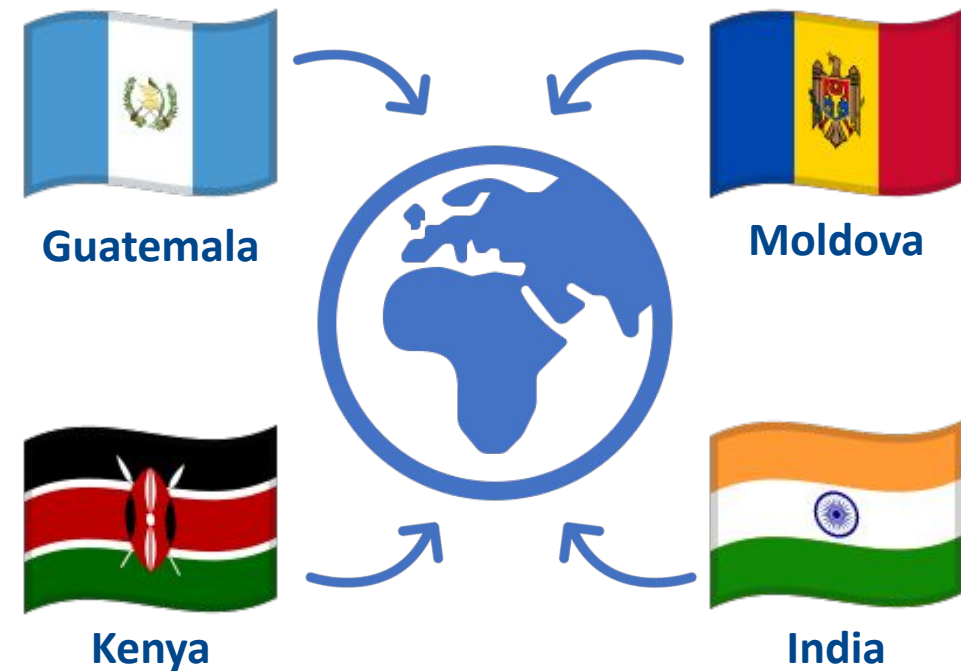


Overview and methodology

How did we get here...

CTWWC was intentionally designed to include multiple, diverse countries...

...to generating learning that could be applied to care systems around the world.



The background of the slide features a light blue puzzle piece design. One prominent puzzle piece in the foreground contains a line drawing of a lightbulb, symbolizing an idea or insight. Other puzzle pieces in the background contain question marks, suggesting a process of inquiry or evaluation.

Choice of approach: realist evaluation

Focuses on answering the question:

“What works, for whom, in what respects, to what extent, in what contexts, and how?”

Rather than simply “does this intervention work?”

Framing: care system components

Focused on national care system strengthening

- Nation states have the responsibility to oversee the provision of alternative care

System Components:



Areas of care:

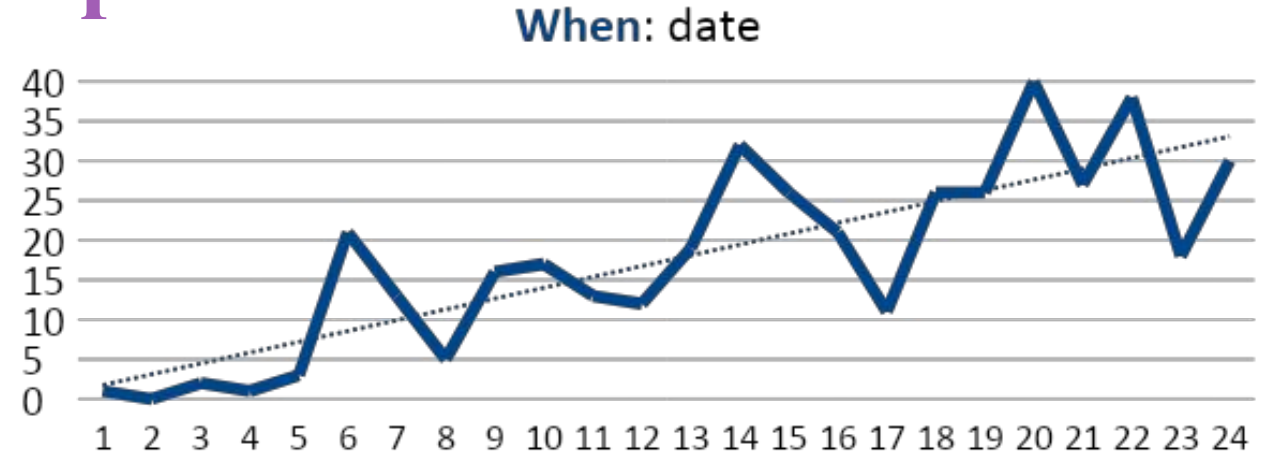
- Prevention of unnecessary child-family separation
- Child-family reunification and reintegration
- Kinship care
- Foster care
- Other forms of alternative care
- Independent living
- Adoption
- Residential care
- Transitioning residential care facilities to family care

Country-specific context + broader child protection system + the U.N. Guidelines on Alternative Care

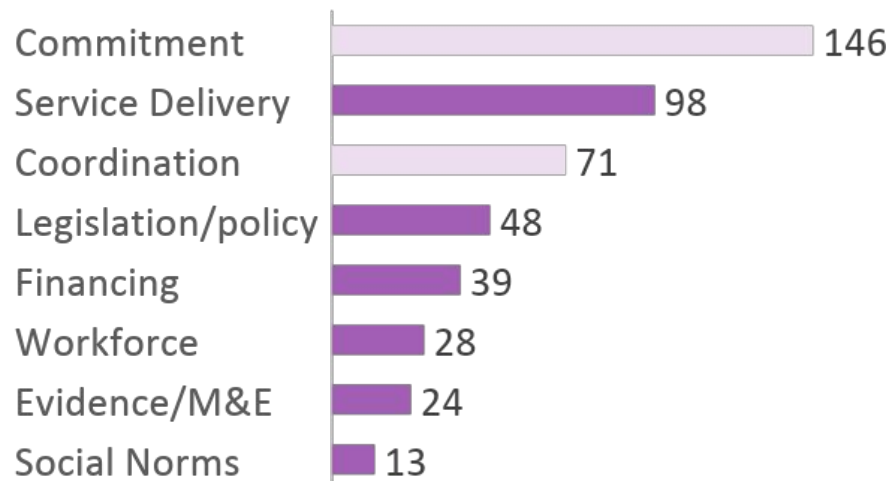
Framing: care system components

CTWWC used **Outcome Harvesting** to monitor change in national care systems

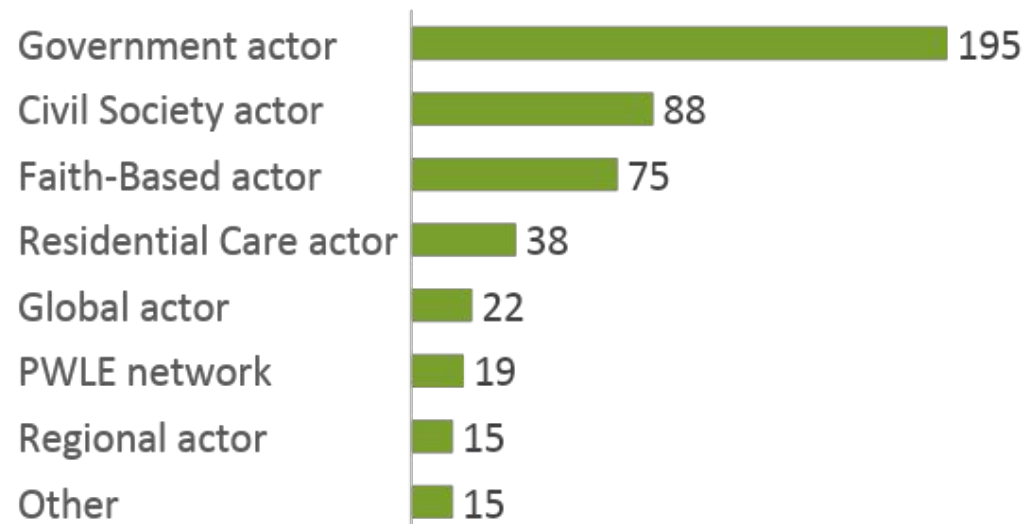
467 examples of systems change harvested over 7 years



What: behavior change

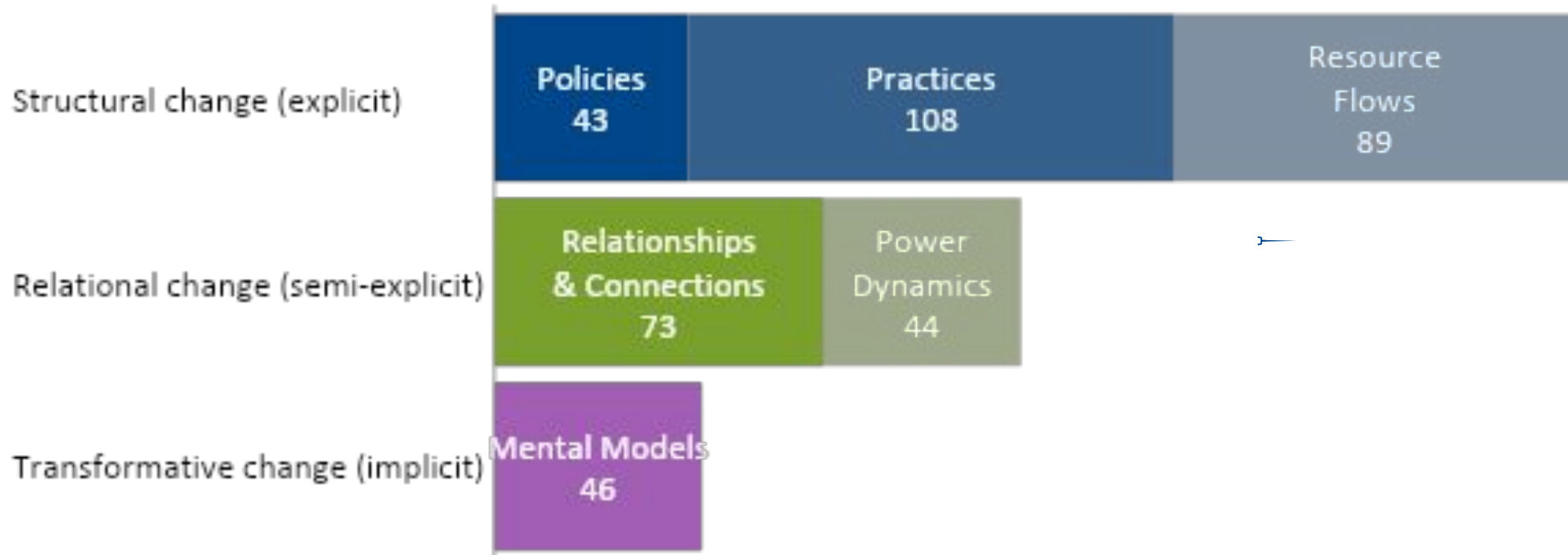


Who: social actor



Framing: six conditions of systems change

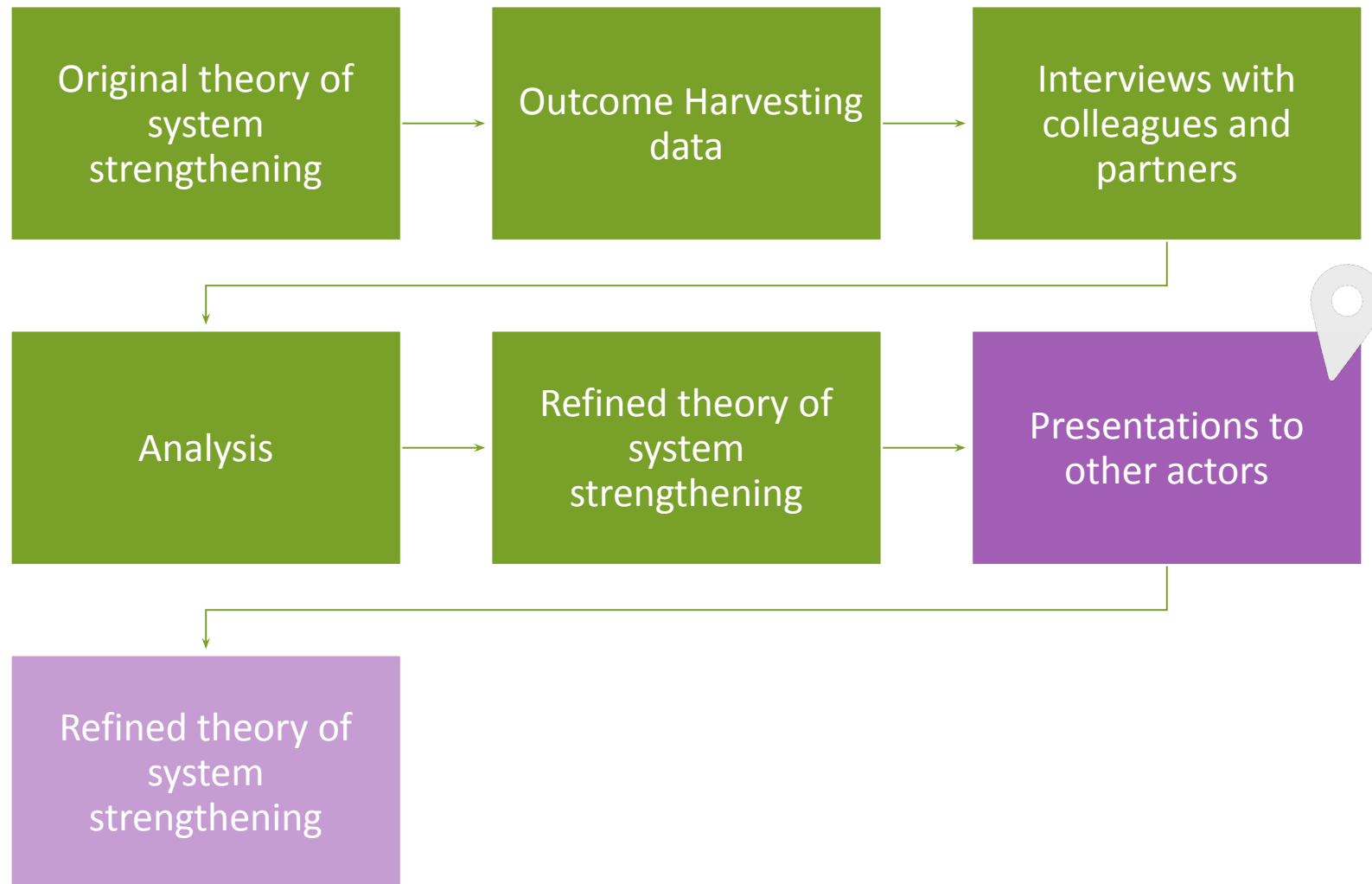
Outcomes by system change type and level



[Kania, Kramer & Senge \(2018\) The Waters of System Change](#)

CTWWC Outcome Harvesting report - forthcoming

Evaluation process...



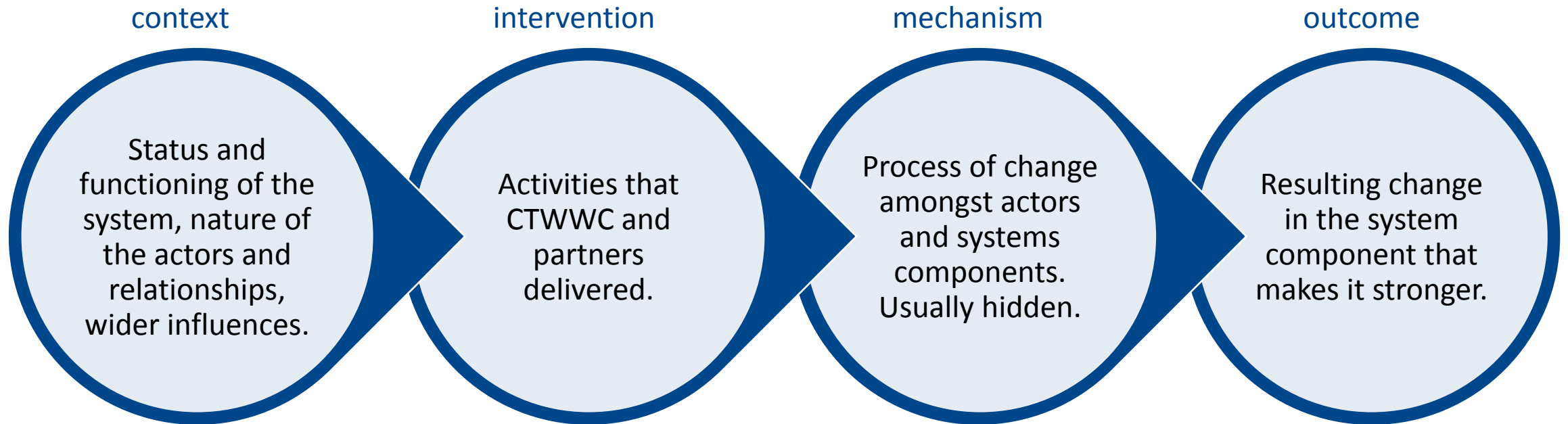
Evaluation process...

Analysis focused on identifying and synthesizing across locations:

- Features of **contexts**, that lead to decisions about
- types of **interventions**, that trigger
- certain **mechanisms** for different actors, which then generates
- certain kinds of **outcomes**.



Context-Intervention-Mechanism-Outcome chains (CIMO)s



Country specific = simplified representation of reality

Generalized = not specific to any country, but synthesised across experiences to make more easily applicable for others

Limitations

Outcome Harvesting data doesn't represent all the change that happened and what contributed to it, only what we observed and felt was important to record. But substantiated as part of earlier evaluations.

Outcomes are at the systems level, not looking at outcomes for children and families (similar limitation exists in health system strengthening literature).

New to Realist Evaluation, training received and a lot of reading, but we were learning as we went along.

Resource limitations meant we:

- only did 12 interviews, could have done a lot more.
- did analysis remotely, with help from AI, limited team members.
- were unable to speak with colleagues from other care reform initiatives to validate and deepen understanding.



Findings

For each system component:

- Legislation, policy and coordination
- Social service workforce
- Financing
- M&E and evidence
- Service delivery



Legislation, policy and coordination

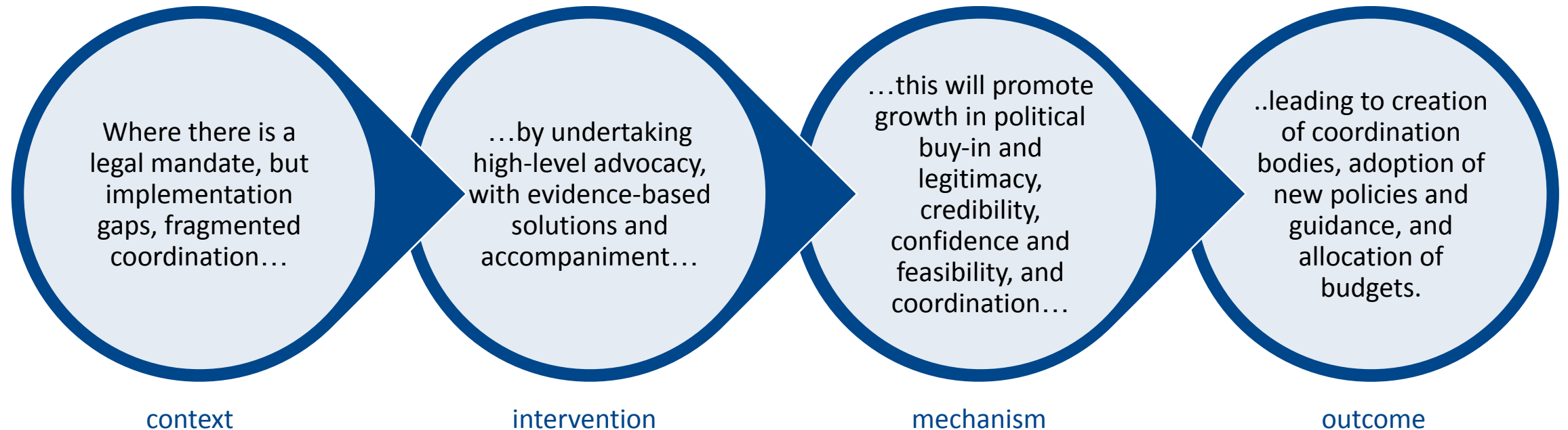
Original theory:

- strengthening strategies, guidelines and procedures
- advocacy and capacity building
- building positive relationships and shared language
- care system assessments and demonstration

Select outcomes:

- Moldova: National Program for Child Protection, with coordination working groups
- Guatemala: municipal Public Policy for Family Strengthening, new national foster care strategy
- Kenya: Care Reform Core Team, National Care Reform Strategy, county child protection and disability policies

Legislation, policy and coordination





Social service workforce

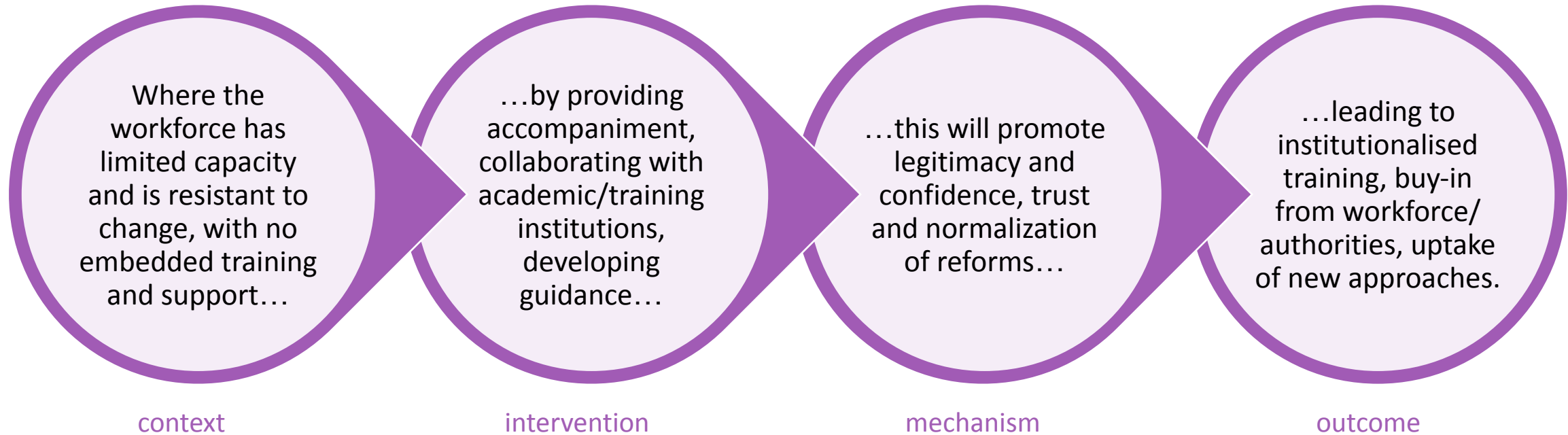
Original theory:

- Build capacity and support demonstration
- Develop/adapt national guidance and toolkits

Select Outcomes:

- Kenya: delivery and uptake of case management and supportive supervision training and practices
- Moldova: development of new social worker training curriculum through partnership with government and universities
- Guatemala: new municipality teams and university engagement on family strengthening

Social service workforce





Financing

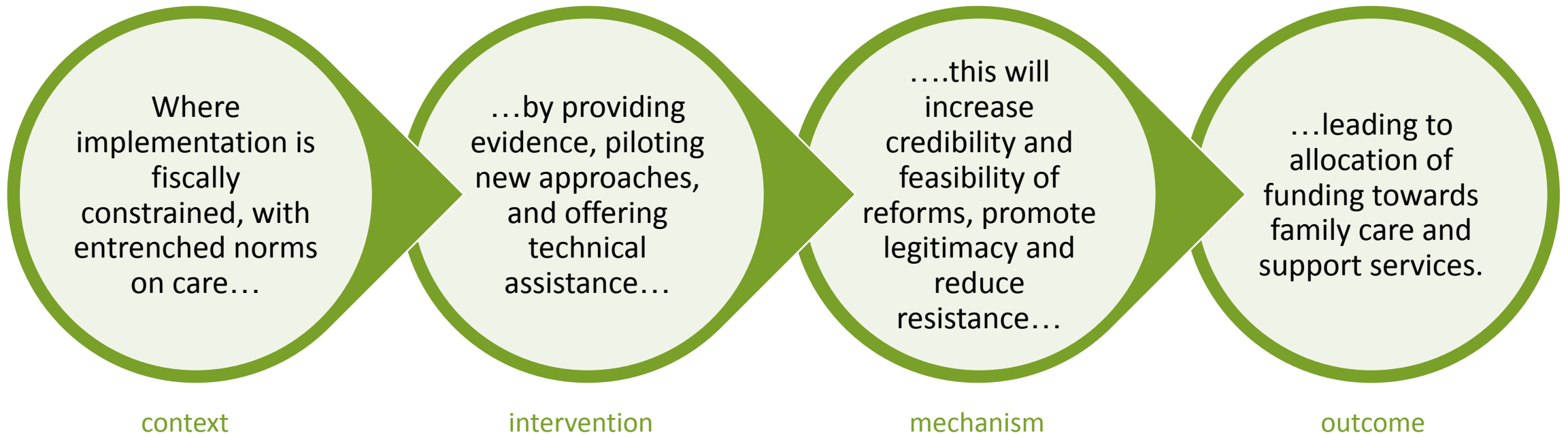
Original theory:

- Financial modelling and evidence building

Select outcomes:

- Moldova: increased national allocations for family support, foster care and disability-focused services
- Guatemala: budgets allocated for Municipal Offices for Children and Adolescents
- India: village and parish allocation of funds to child protection
- Kenya: county budget allocation and residential care providers redirecting resources to community-based support and disability-inclusive services

Financing



Evidence and M&E

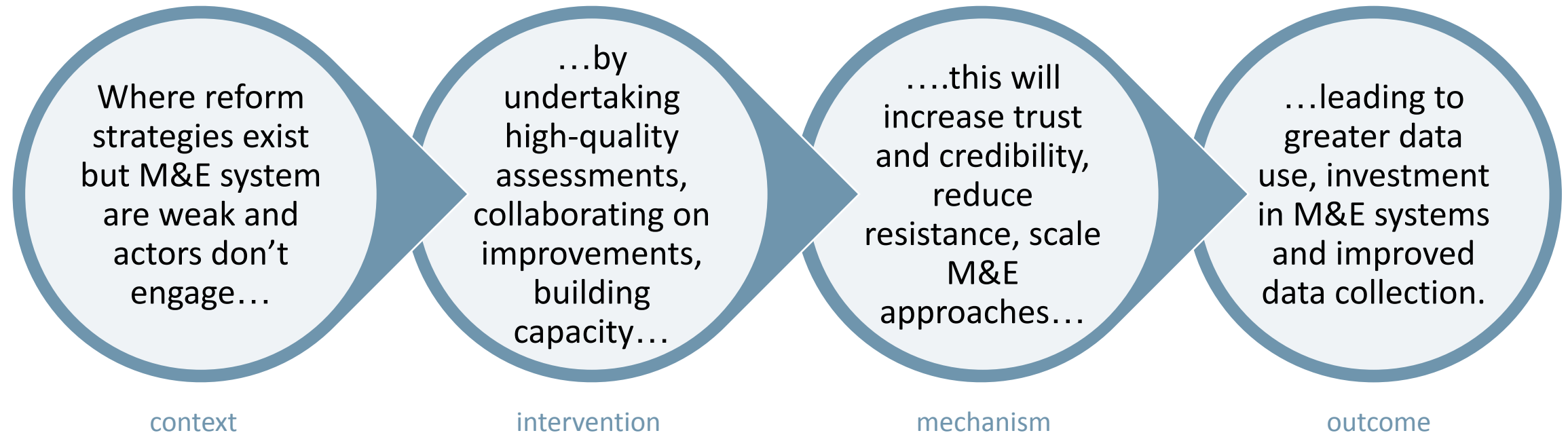
Original theory:

- Strengthen availability and use of data
- Invest in management information systems (MISs)
- Train users at multiple levels

Select outcomes:

- Kenya: replication of participatory and government-led situational analysis of residential care; commitment to improving MIS
- Moldova: collaborative deep-dive analysis of system components; improved monitoring of children in remaining institutions within deinstitutionalisation plan

Evidence and M&E





Service delivery

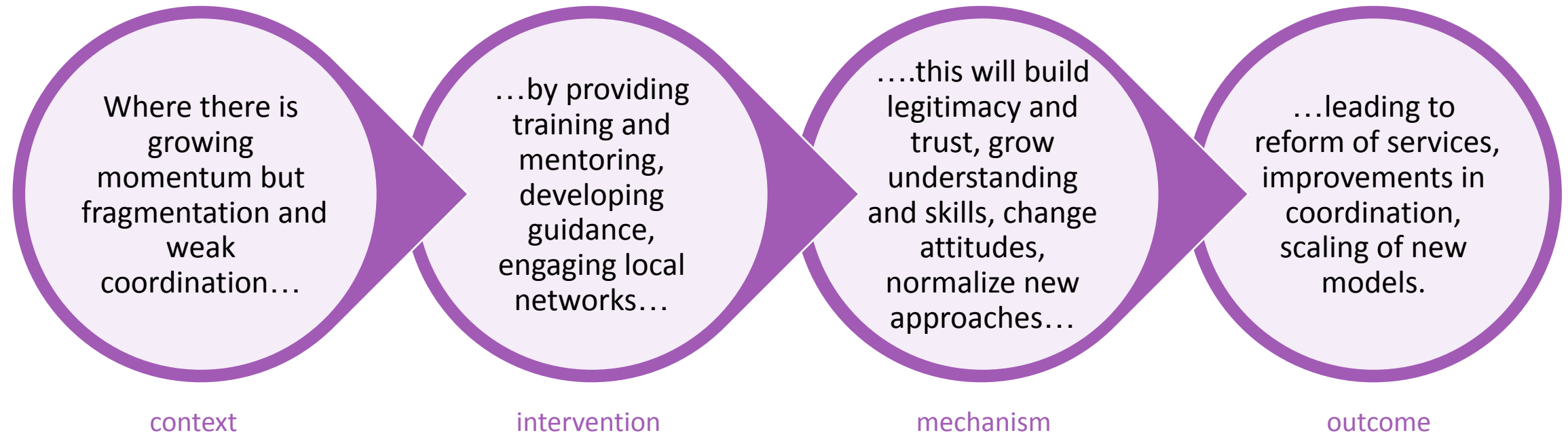
Original theory:

- Demonstration of case management and training
- Accompaniment of residential care providers in transition to family and community services

Select outcomes:

- Kenya: change of practice and transition of residential care providers; revitalisation of local networks; uptake of government endorsed SOPs
- Guatemala: establishment of Offices and Commissions for Children and Adolescents; uptake of case management and community-focused service models by residential care providers
- India: creation of transition plans for Church-run residential care providers and increase in family strengthening support
- Moldova: development of transition plans for all remaining residential institutions, uptake of new models for prevention and family-based care services

Service delivery





Conclusions

Main take-aways and insights

Top 6 take aways on how care systems change

- 1 Evidence and demonstration as catalysts
- 2 Government ownership as critical to reinforce and sustain change
- 3 Partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration
- 4 Capacity building as an entry point
- 5 Alignment with broader agendas and values
- 6 Adaptive problem-solving in complex systems

Plus, 3 insights for supporting system strengthening

A diagram consisting of three white circles arranged vertically, connected by thin blue lines. Each circle is positioned to the left of a dark blue rectangular box containing white text.

Interlinkage of system components and importance of wholistic approach

Need for adaptive management in an ever-evolving environment

Usefulness of Outcome Harvesting and Realist Evaluation for understanding system strengthening



Thanks to all the participants... this was a team effort!

CTWWC colleagues: Anne Smith; Beth Bradford; Crispus Natala; Fidelis Muthoni; Jo Wakia; Kelley Bunkers; Khadija Karama; Liliana Tibrea; Lindsey Lange; Ludmila Ungureanu; Manoranjan Dash; Marie Blum; Marta Xico; Mihaela Ciorba; Roberto Tejada; Sanjana Rajendran; Sasha Safronova; Sully Santos; Susmita Bhoi; Vanesa Guillermo; Viorelia Moldovan-Batrinac.

And interviewees from our partners and collaborators.

And all your support over the last seven years!

Q&A



THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

- Please see the chat box for a link to learn more about the **Transforming Children's Care Collaborative** and find out how to join.
- We will be sending you a link to the **webinar recording**, slides, and final report in a follow-up email. If you have questions, comments or recommendations for future webinar topics, please send them to:
contact@transformcare4children.org
- Be sure to fill out **survey** that will appear once webinar ends to help us improve future webinars.
- Join the next webinar on **October 23 from 9:00-10:30 AM EST** on strengthening **Kafaalah/Kafalah** for care reform.