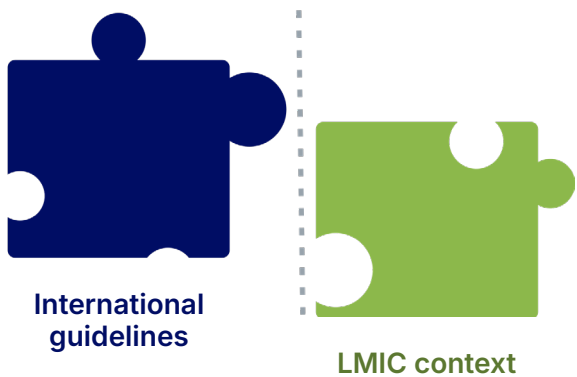


RAISE: Strengthening capacity in LMIC guideline adaptation and implementation

The RAISE initiative was funded by the WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research to strengthen health systems guideline adaptation and implementation in LMICs. The Alliance commissioned a Technical Support Centre to strengthen implementation capacity among funded RAISE teams. The TSC was led by the Knowledge Translation Program, in partnership with Cochrane South Africa and the WHO Ethiopia country office.

The challenge

Many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) rely on health system guidelines developed by international organizations or high-income countries.



These guidelines often do not reflect local:

- Health system priorities
- Resources
- Political and cultural contexts

There is a need to strengthen capacity to adapt and implement health systems guidelines in LMIC settings

Methods

Technical Support Centre

A co-developed program supporting LMIC teams to strengthen health systems research and implementation capacity.



RAISE supported



The Technical Support Centre supported 6 research teams across Ghana, Colombia, India, Zambia, Nigeria, and Mozambique — each including a principal researcher and policymaker who took part in capacity-strengthening activities.

Key results



Barriers & enablers to guideline adaptation and implementation

Barriers	Facilitators
Competing policymaker and research interests	Partnering with policymakers at project inception
Skills gap among field implementation staff	Multi-sectoral approach to implementation
COVID-19 disruptions & team turnover	Building implementation team competencies

"Engaging policymakers early helped ensure guidelines addressed real-world health system needs."

A successful implementation capacity-strengthening model requires:

- Locally driven priorities**
LMIC researchers and policymakers should drive priorities and adaptations needed to health system guidelines.
- Strong partnerships**
Multi-sectoral engagement throughout research improves uptake.
- Flexible support**
Implementation programs must adapt to changing contexts and challenges.
- Sustainable capacity strengthening**
Should extend beyond researchers to include implementation practitioners, trainees, and policymakers.