

# **Studying the Implementation of Stigma Reduction Interventions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

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**Navigating HIV-related internalized stigma in clinical practice, IAS 2021  
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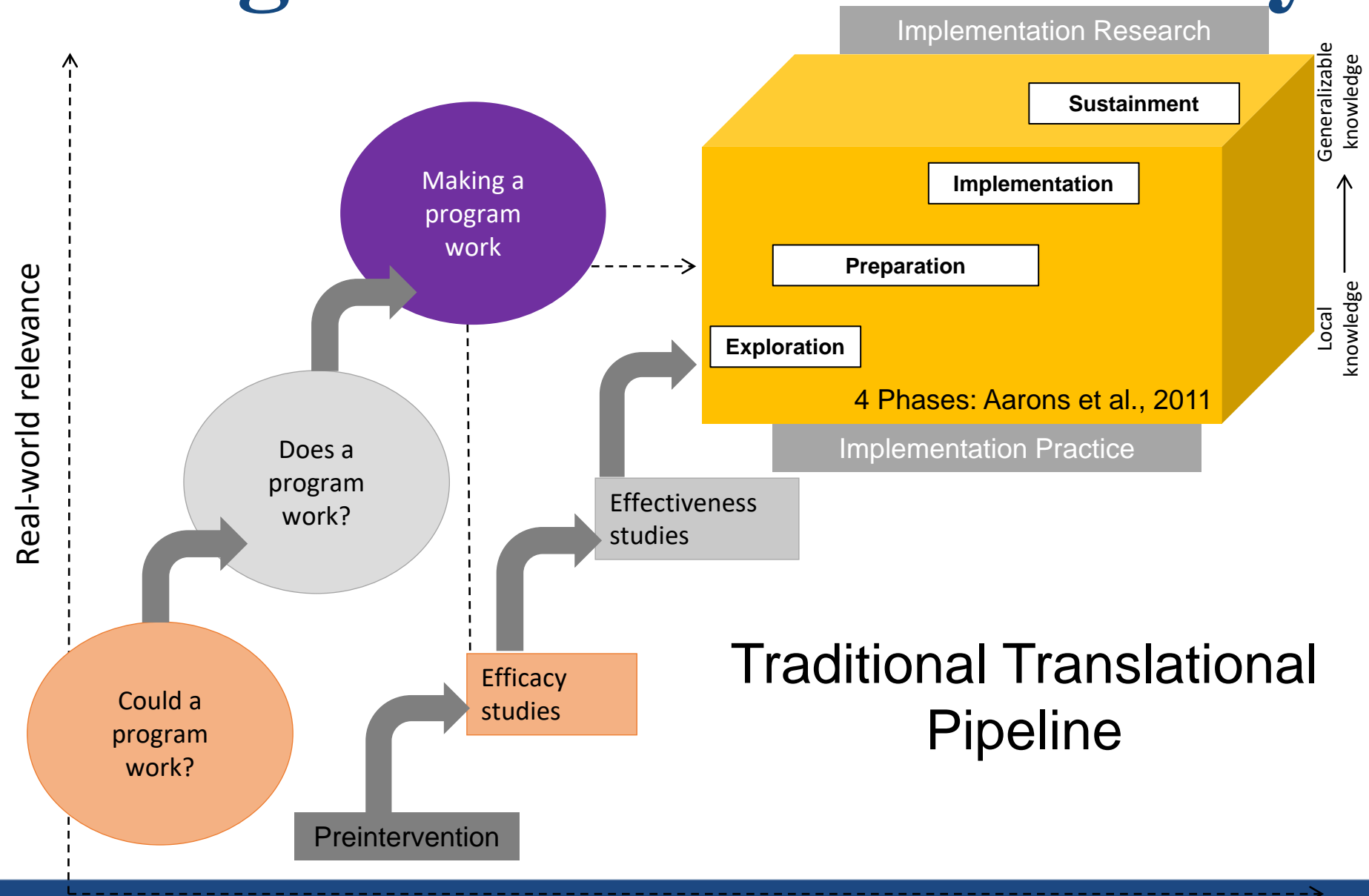
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# Outline

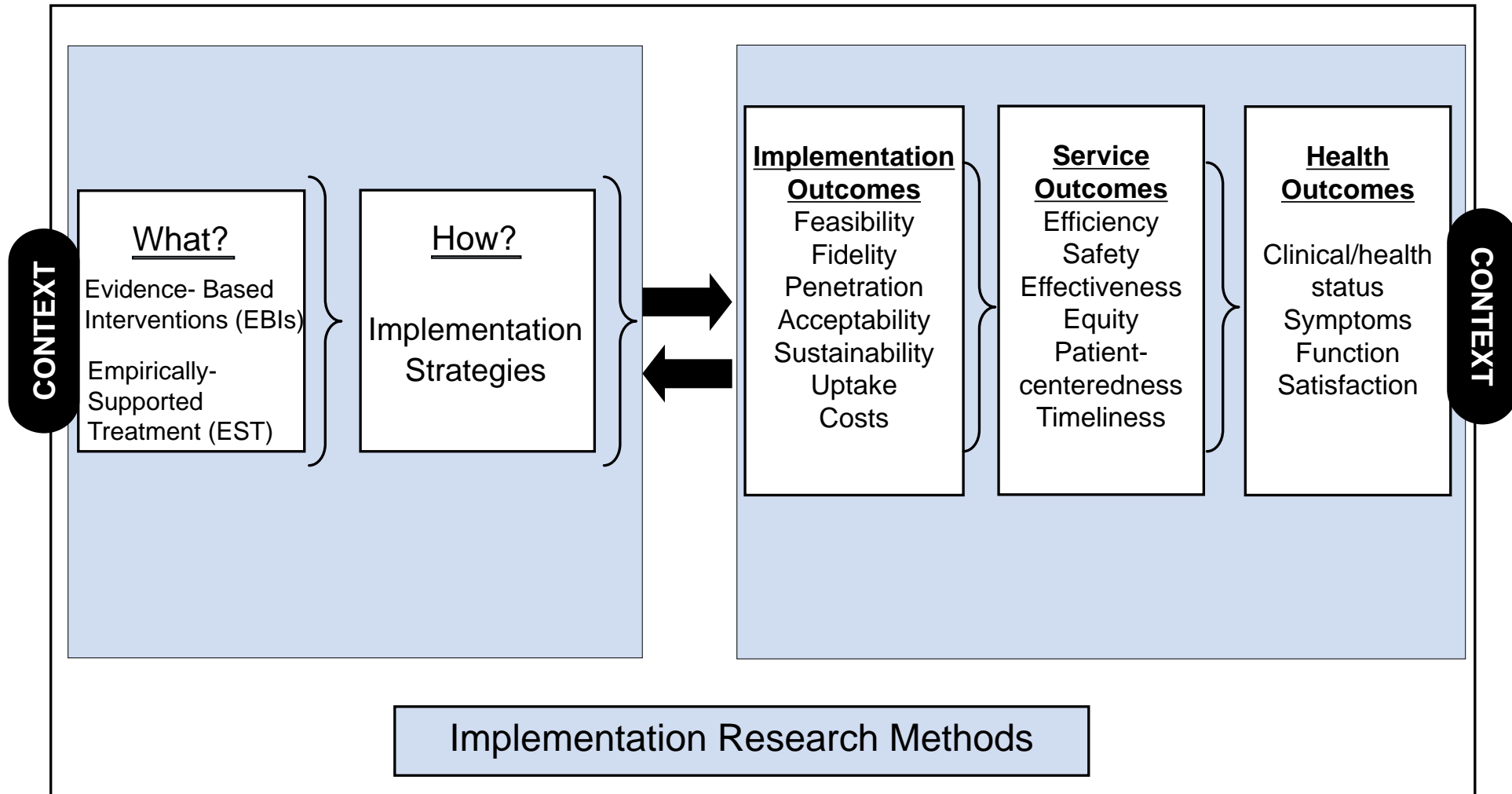
- Traditional Research Pipeline
- Implementation Research and Stigma Evaluation
- The role of implementation research in stigma
- Summary



# Stigma Research Pathway



# Analyzing Missed Targets in Stigma



# Study Aims

- 1) Review implementation studies of health stigma reduction interventions in LMICs
- 2) Assess the reporting of implementation outcomes and stigma intervention descriptions



# Methods

**Protocol:** PROSPERO #CRD42018085786.

**Databases:** PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, and EMBASE through November 15, 2017.

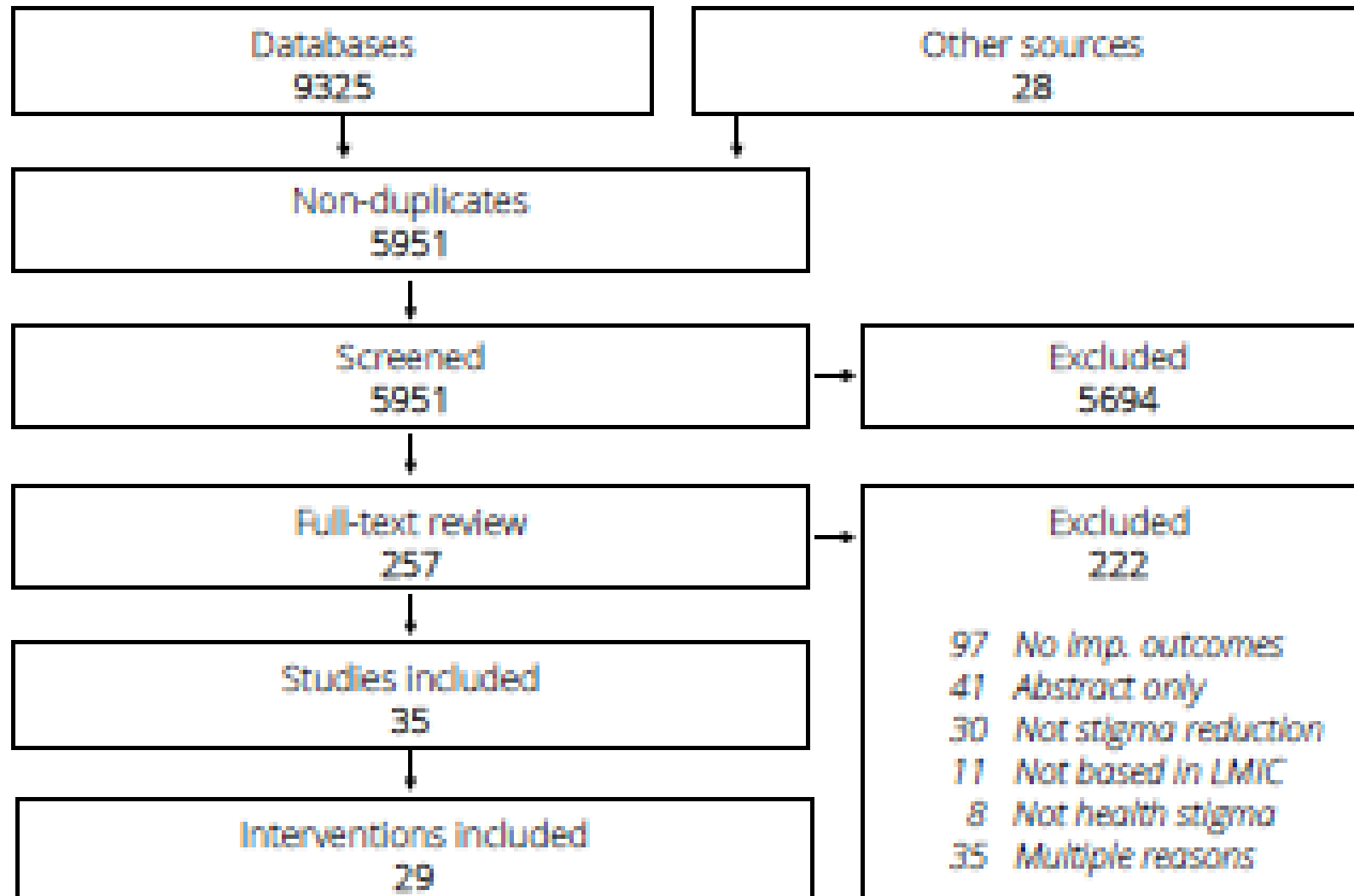
**Search strategy:** stigma, intervention, implementation outcomes, and LMICs.

**Inclusion criteria:**

1. Collected empiric data
2. Evaluated implementation of a health stigma reduction intervention
3. Based in a LMIC
4. Reported  $\geq 1$  implementation outcome



# Search Results



# Stigma Mitigation Intervention Results

## STUDIES (n=35)

**0%** used theoretical framework for implementation research

**0%** used established measures of implementation outcomes

**57%** used qualitative methods

**57%** assessed acceptability

**6%** assessed cost

## INTERVENTIONS (n=29)

**62%** based in sub-Saharan Africa

**69%** targeted HIV stigma

**83%** targeted community stigma

**97%** used information/education

**60%** mean TIDieR reporting score





# State of Stigma-related IR

- Few stigma mitigation studies were found.
- Most evaluated interventions to reduce HIV stigma, most took place in sub-Saharan Africa, and almost all evaluated pilot interventions.
- Interventions implemented at scale tended to incorporate mass media or target structural changes, rather than individual-level support or service delivery.
- No study incorporated a theoretical framework for implementation research, evaluated implementation strategies, or used validated measures of implementation outcomes.
- Most focused on acceptability and feasibility, and few assessed adoption, appropriateness, cost, fidelity, penetration, or sustainability.
- Intervention descriptions were sparse and often lacked key details necessary for the eventual replication and adoption of those interventions.





# Summary

# Key Themes

- Can use implementation science methods to help better specify and evaluate the impact of stigma mitigation programs
- Opportunity for engagement between stigma researchers and implementation researchers.
- Consider theoretical frameworks, validated measures, and hybrid effectiveness-implementation study designs
- May promote real-world implementation with evidence of cost and sustainability



# Acknowledgement

- The people across the world who participate in studies given significant risks and limited personal benefits
- The community groups that make great personal and professional sacrifices to serve the unmet health and advocacy needs of those most marginalized in the HIV response

Full Citation:

<https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-018-1237-x>

Implementation science and stigma reduction interventions in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

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