Global Health Programs & Policies

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Objectives

- **Candidates should be able to:**
  - **Define Health policy**
  - **Differentiate between Macro- and Micro- Policies**
  - **Enumerate the uses of health policies**
  - **Understand the policy formulation process**
  - **Understand, describe major global health policies**

Africa

is Far !

So “Global” means what?

Global Health

Definition of Global Health

- **“The area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide"**

Koplan JP, Bond TC, Merson MH, et al. (June 2009). "Towards a common definition of global health". Lancet. 373 (9679): 1993–5. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60332-9. PMID 19493564.

CDC’s Perspective on Global Health

- **A disease threat anywhere is a disease threat everywhere.**
- **CDC's global health mission is to improve the health, safety, and security of Americans while reducing morbidity and mortality worldwide.**

https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/index.html

- **CDC's global heath strategy is a world where people live healthier, safer, and longer lives through science, policy, partnership, and evidence-based public health action.**

https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/strategy/pdf/cgh_strategy_overview.pdf

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Scope

- **Prevention and control of disease**
- **Development of comprehensive health services**
- **Family health**
- **Environmental health**
- **Health statistics**
- **Bio-medical research**

WHO(1979).WHO Chronicle,33:233

Policies

Definition of a policy

- **A policy is a set of coherent decisions with a common long-term purpose(s).**
- **Health policy refers to decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society.**

https://www.who.int/topics/health_policy/en/

Factors involved in making a policy

- **Socioeconomic status**
- **Social**
- **Physical environments**
- **Access to medical services**
- **Lifestyle behaviors**

Types of Policies

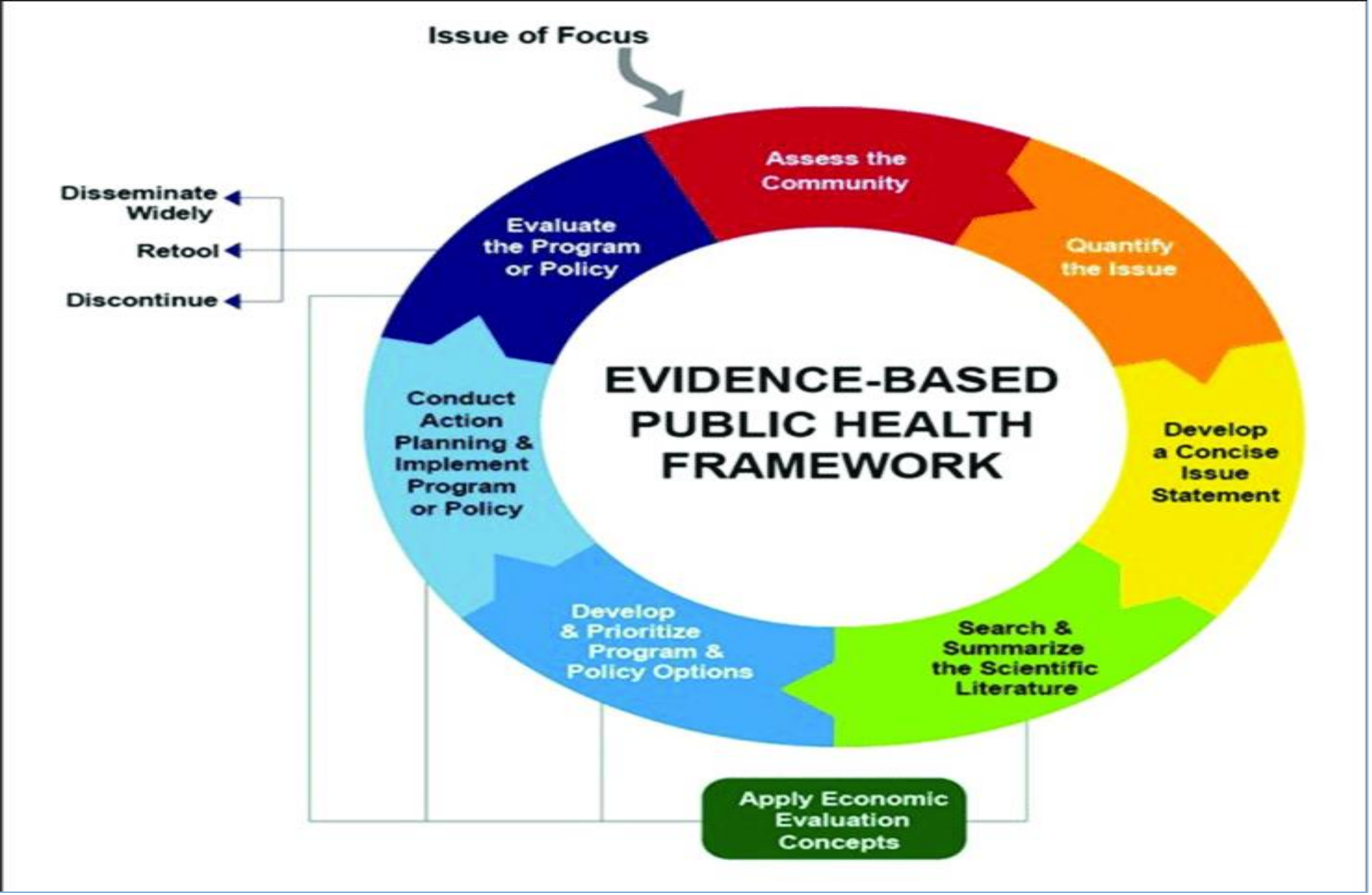
- **Macro Policy is policy which affects the whole country [or region].**
- **Micro Policy is policy which affects the individuals[or group].**

Uses of Policy

- **Defines a vision for the future**
- **Helps to establish targets**
- **Outlines priorities**
- **Points of reference for the short and medium term.**
- **Shows the expected roles of different groups**
- **Builds consensus**
- **Informs people**

Steps for development of a policy

- **Assessment of the health problem in the community**
- **Quantify the health problem**
- **Develop a statement of the health problem**
- **Review the literature**
- **Determine and prioritize programs and policies**
- **Implement chosen program**
- **Evaluate program and policy**

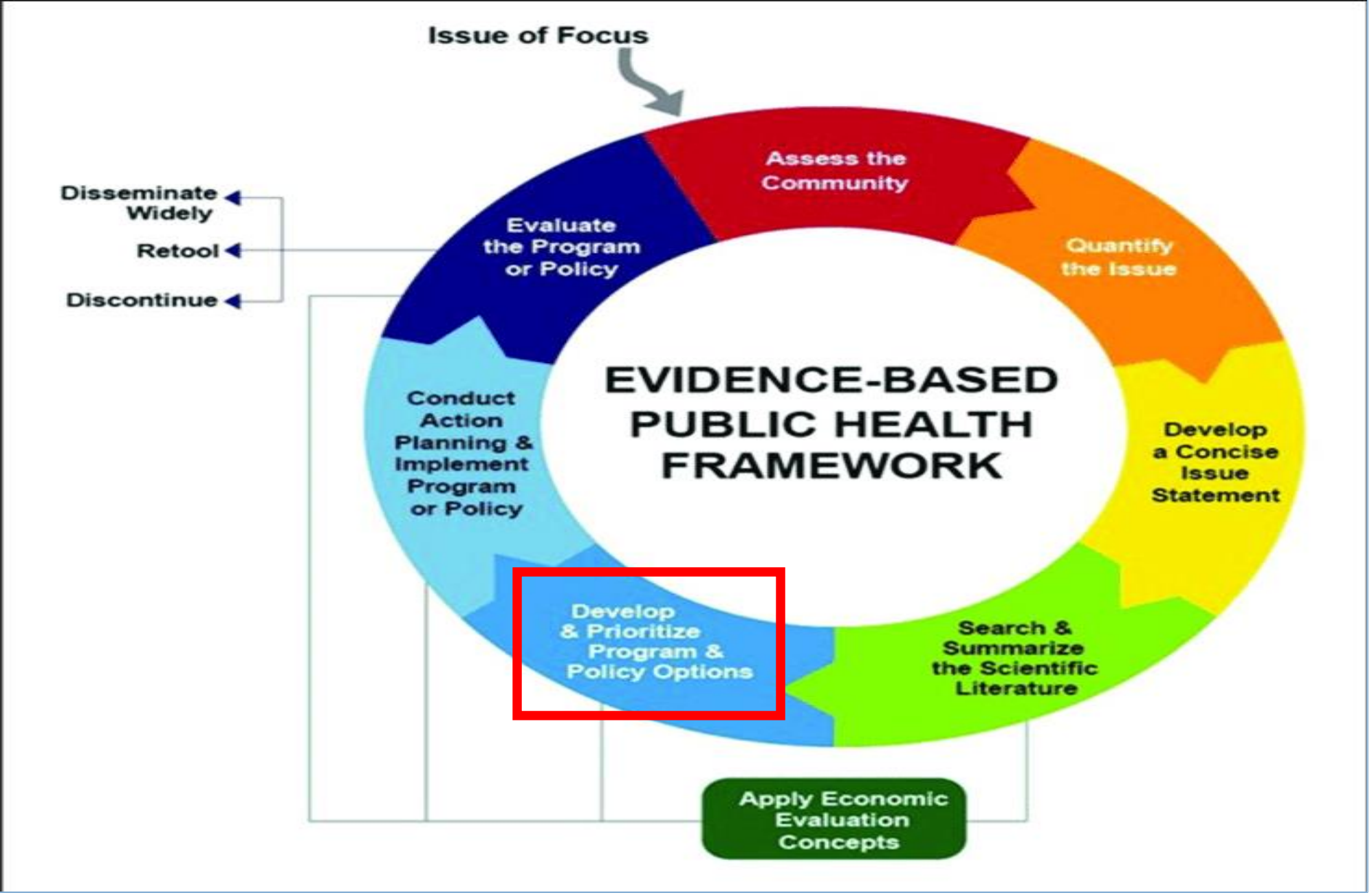


Strategies

Policies

Programs

Procedures



Strategies

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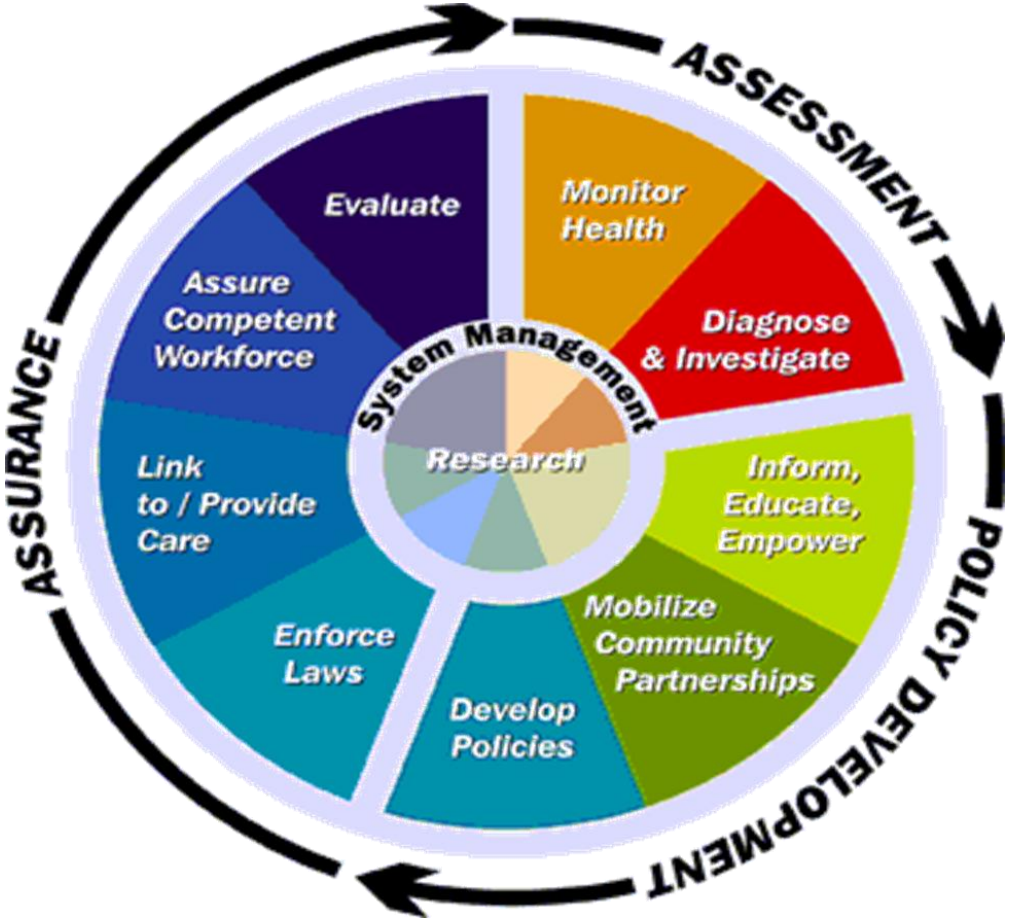
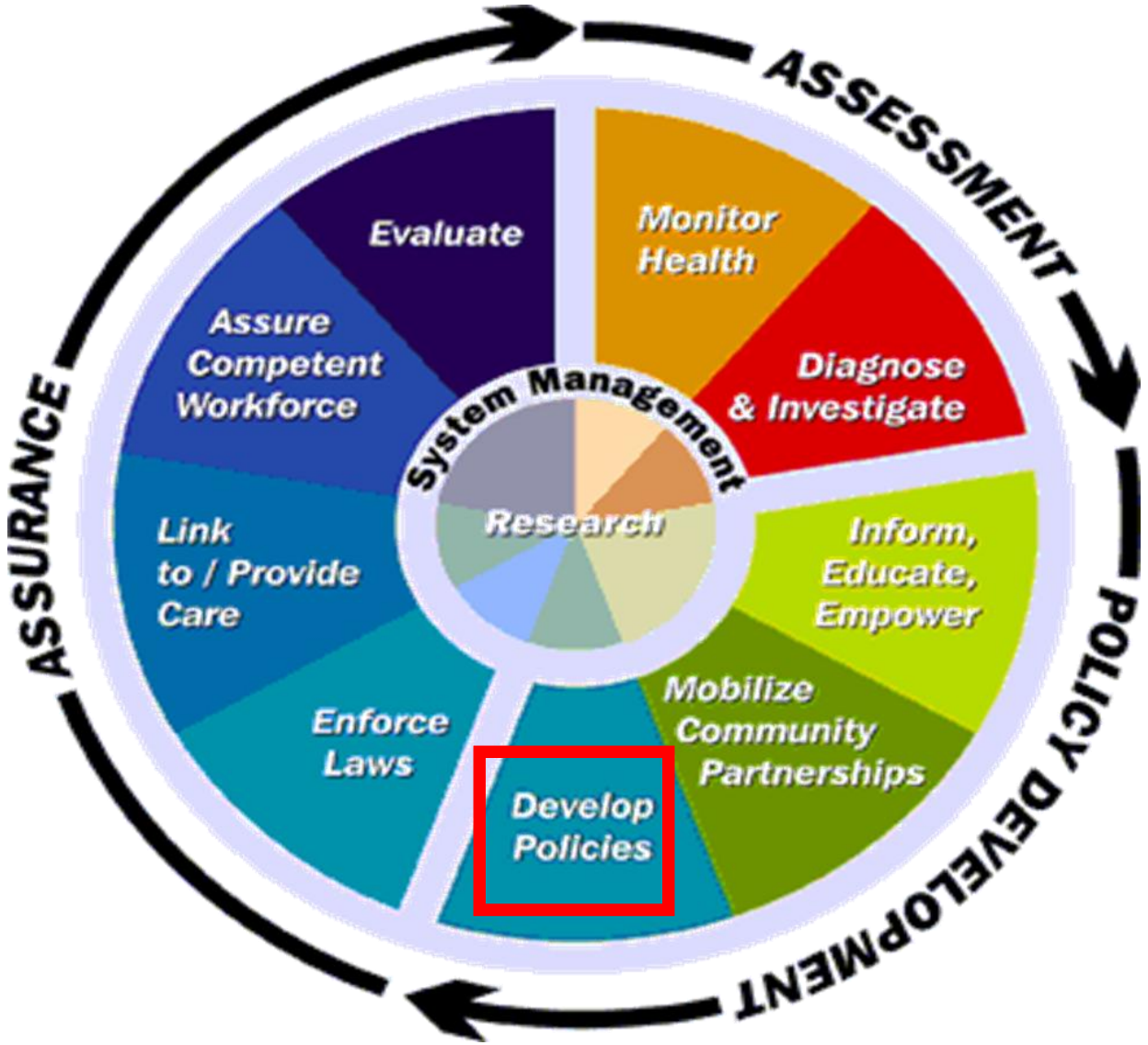
Essential Public Health Services



Grouped under 3 categories:

- **Assessment**
- **Policy Development**
- **Assurance**



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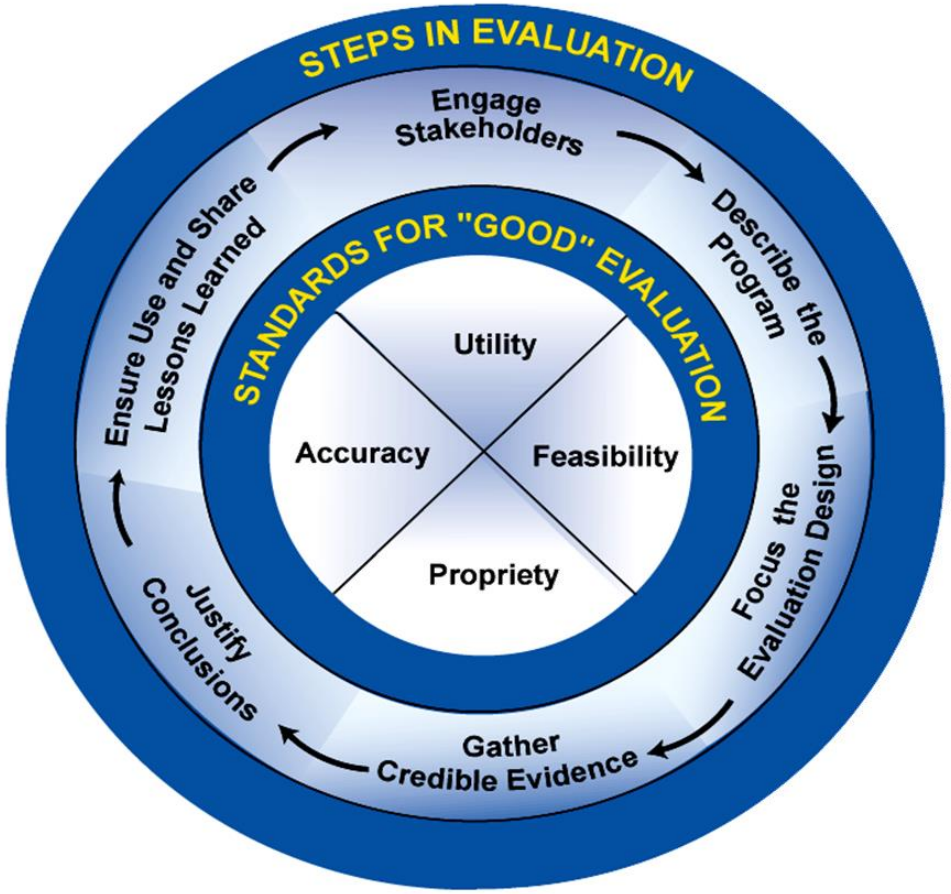
- Policy Development
- Assurance

Program evaluation



6 Steps

4 Standards

Standards

- **Utility: Useful to intended users**
- **Feasibility: Effective, efficient, practical**
- **Propriety: Fair, ethical, legal, transparent**
- **Accuracy: Truthful, dependable**

1

STEPS IN EVALUATION
Engage Stakeholders
Describe the Program
Focus the Evaluation Design
Gather Credible Evidence
Justify Conclusions
Ensure Use and Share Lessons Learned
STANDARDS FOR "GOOD" EVALUATION
Utility
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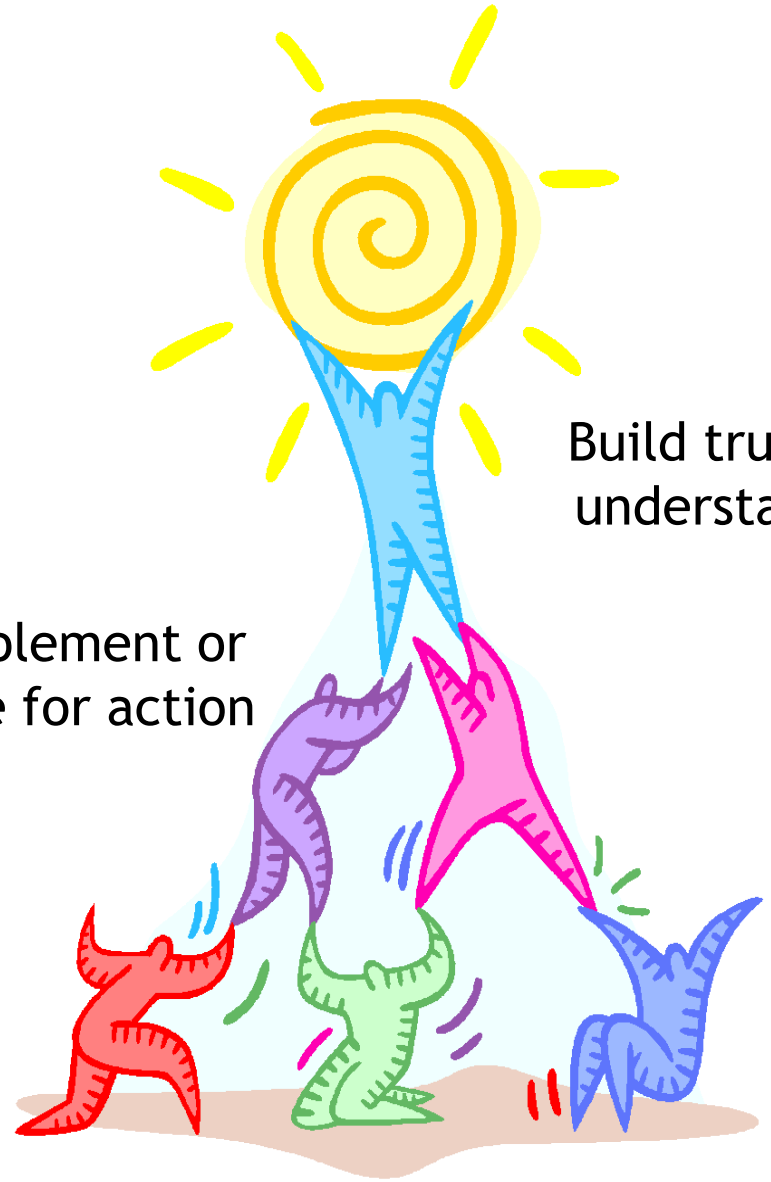
Accuracy



Build trust and understanding

Help implement or advocate for action

Have resources

Add credibility

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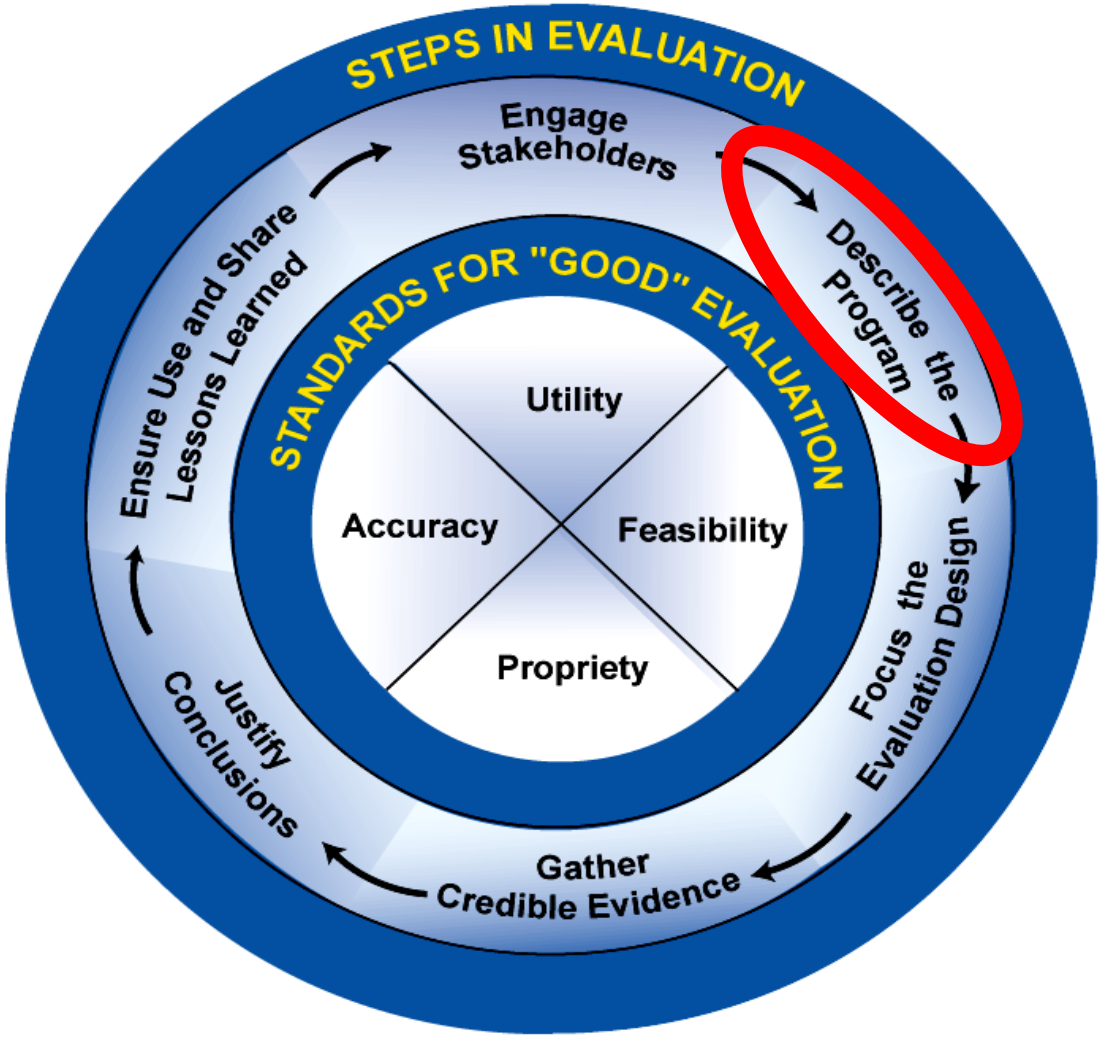
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Describe the Program

- Document program need/justification
- State program expectations/objectives
- Identify program activities
- Determine program resources
- Consider program development context/background

3

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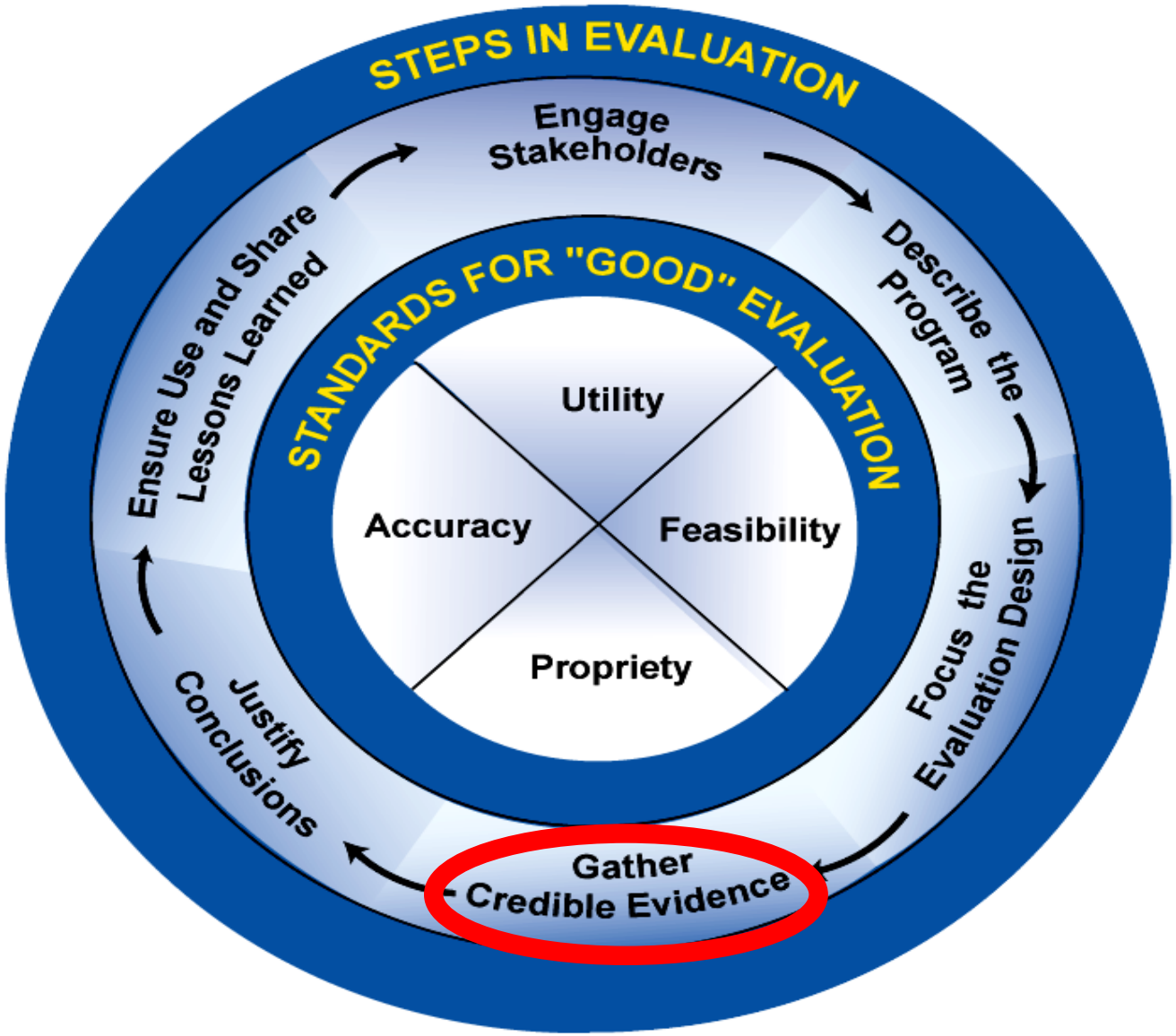
Determine the Purpose

- **Gain insight**
  - Identify benefits and barriers
- **Change practice**
  - Improve the content of educational materials
- **Assess effects**
  - Assess skill development by participants
- **Affect participants**
  - Reinforce intervention messages

4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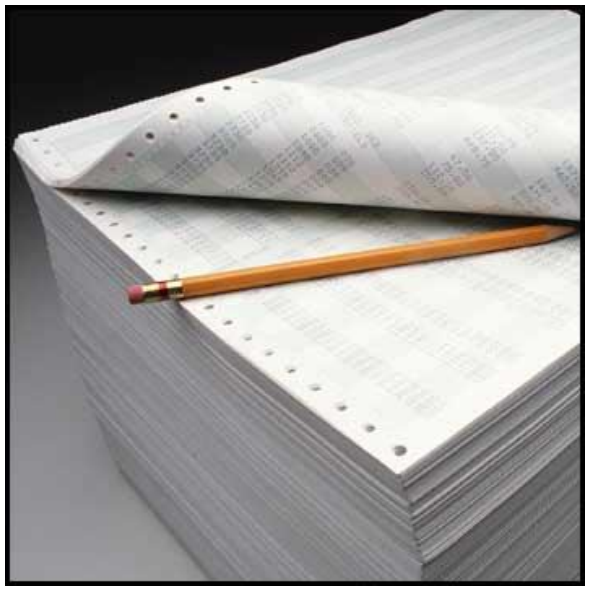
Gather Credible Evidence



- Information must be trustworthy and relevant.
- When stakeholders find evaluation data to be credible, they are more likely to accept the findings and act on the recommendations.
- SMART

5

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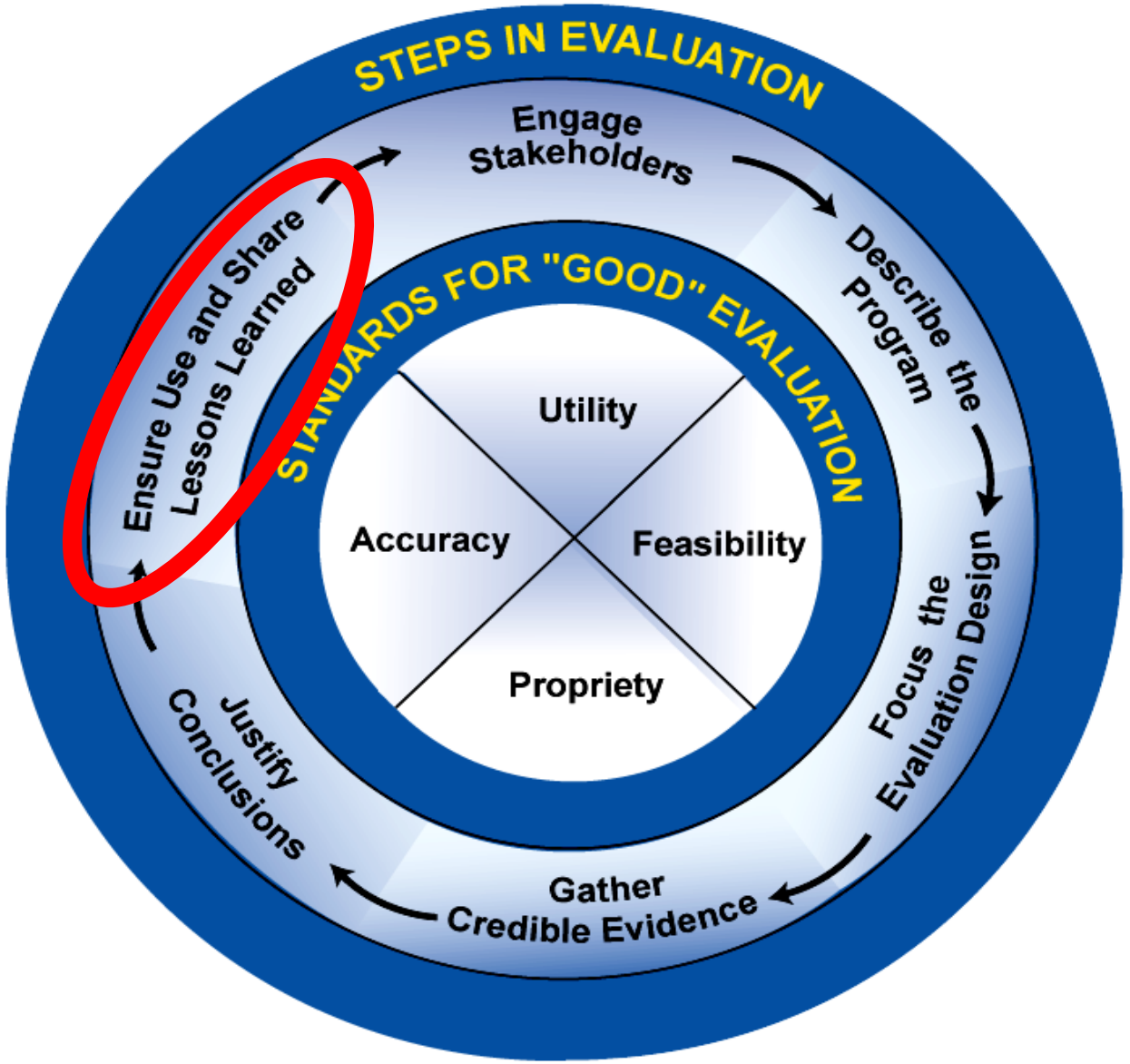
Justify Conclusions

- Determine Benchmarks / Targets
- Analyze Data
- Interpret Findings
- Make Judgments
- Make Recommendations

6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Ensure Use and Share Lessons Learned

- Prepare reports for audiences
- Present clear results
- Summarize stakeholder's role
- Explain evaluation methods
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Include reasonable recommendations
- Keep it simple
- Use examples

Examples of Global health Activities

- Global Health Security Agenda
- Joint External Evaluations
- International Health regulations
- Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)

- **Launched in 2014**
- **Partnership between 64 countries, international organizations, NGOs, to build capacity to detect, respond, and prevent outbreaks in humans and animals**
  - **Natural or deliberate**

GHSA

- **Global health security comes from collaboration between health, security, environment, agricultural sectors**
- **Relies on Joint External Evaluations to assess a country's capacity to detect, respond, prevent disease outbreaks in humans and animals**

Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

- **Multisectoral process, external reviewers**
- **Human health, animal health, environmental health**
- **Saudi Arabia's published in 2017: https://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.25.report/en/**

International Health Regulations

- **International, legal agreement**
- **Binding on 196 countries, including KSA**
- **Designed to prevent, respond to acute outbreaks that post international threat**

Required to report to WHO

- **Polio (wild type), smallpox, SARS, human influenza of a new subtype – immediately reported to WHO**
- **“Events involving epidemic-prone diseases”**

Challenges with IHR

- **Most conditions not required to be reported to WHO**
  - **Countries do not always report dengue, zika, cholera.**
- **Regulations not specific**
  - **Consider: for the Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015, IHR exit screening protocol required a "questionnaire", but not what had to be in the questionnaire. They could have asked about what people ate for lunch and it would have met IHR standards.**
- **No real way to enforce IHR**
  - **No way to punish countries who violate IHR**

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

- **“An extraordinary event”**
- **Two criterion:**

1. **It constitutes a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and**
2. **It could require a coordinated international response**

Recent PHEICs

- **Zika Virus - 2016**
- **Ebola, West Africa, 2014-2015**
- **Polio – 2014**
- **H1N1 influenza - 2009**

Why does the world not decide to completely cut off access to a country during an outbreak?

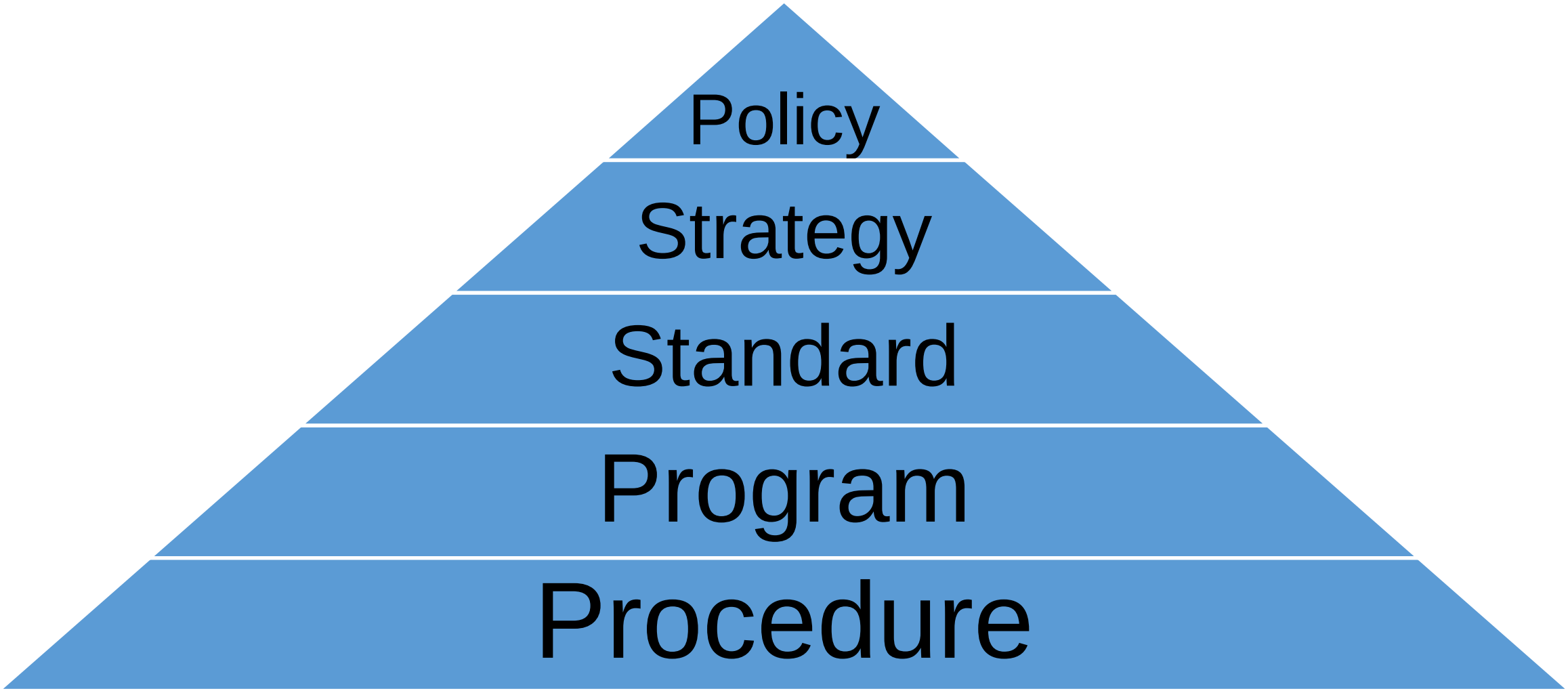
Impact of Quarantine

- **Closing borders with West African countries would have led to thousands of additional deaths**
  - **Countries import 50% of their food**
  - **No access to medical care**
- **Not going to be successful – no country has truly closed borders**
  - **Drives disease, cases underground**

Global Health in Action

- **Vaccines are a government policy that affects people at a personal level:**
  - **Travelers to KSA for Hajj are required to have certain vaccinations**
  - **Travelers through/from certain countries required to have Yellow Fever vaccination when coming to KSA**

Summary



Policy: Long-term decisions

Strategy: Long-term plan

Standard: Level of Quality

Program: Short-term intervention

Procedure: Set of actions

Additional References

- US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Introduction to Program Evaluation for Public Health Programs. A self study guide. Atlanta, GA October 2011
- MMWR, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health. Sept 17, 1999/vol 48
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http//www.cdc.gov/eval/

Thank you