

# Developing evidence maps to identify equity issues that could inform the design of a complex public health review

2021 Cochrane Methods Symposium: Evidence synthesis in public health and  
complex interventions

DrAshrita Saran

Co-Convener, Campbell-Cochrane equity  
methods group

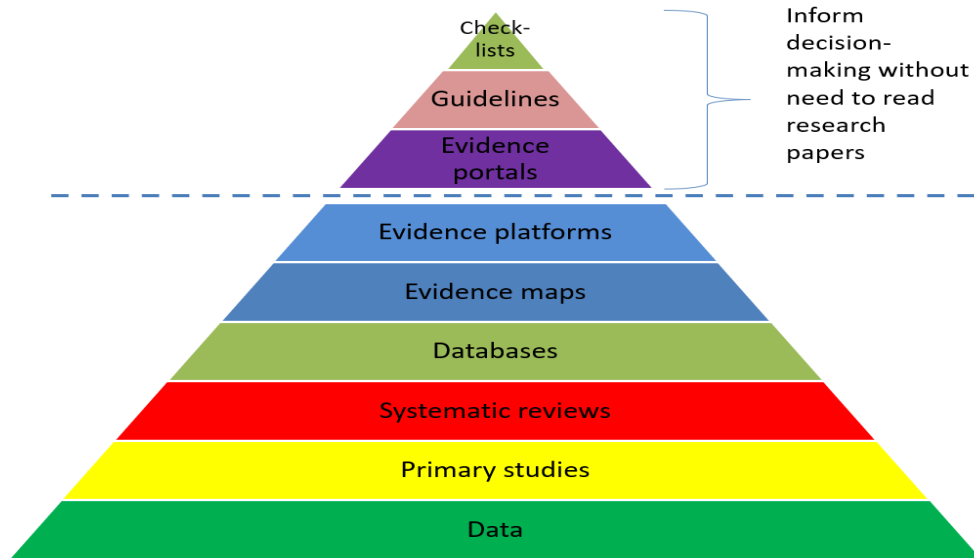
Director, Campbell South Asia



@south\_campbell

@AshritaSaran

# ◆ Use of EGMs: a strategic approach to building evidence architecture

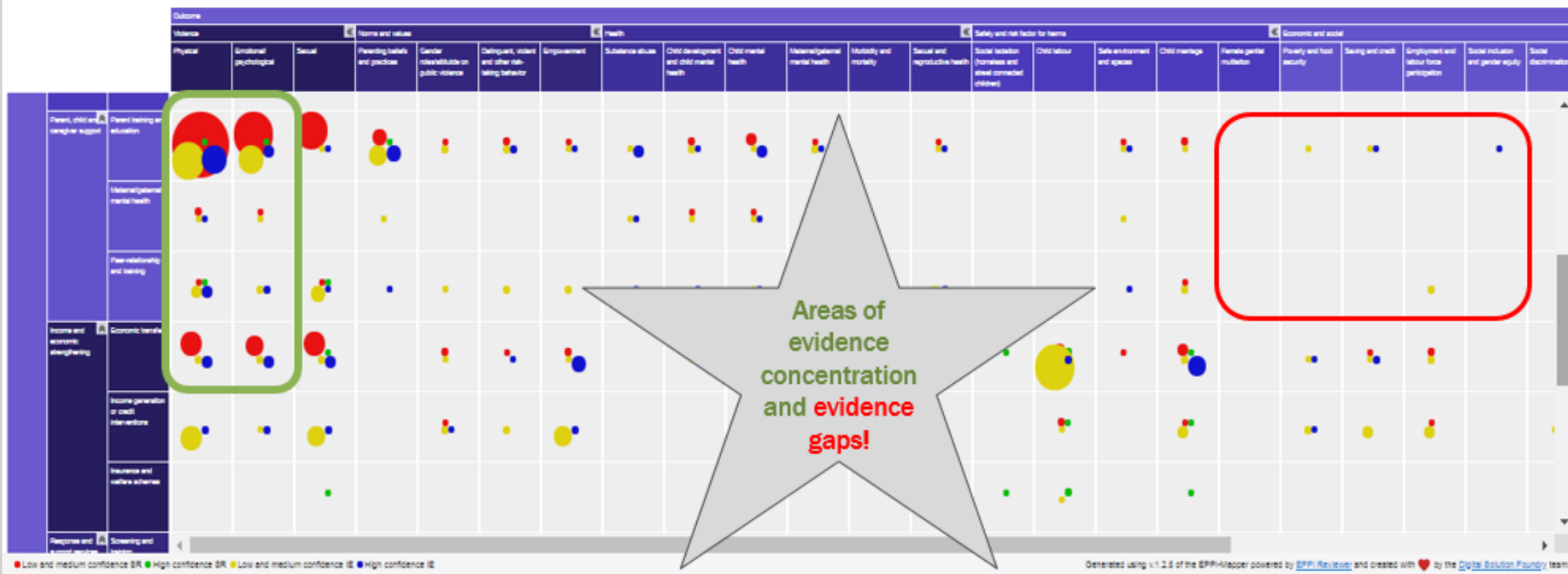


Source: H White, 2019

- ❑ We get evidence into use by making evidence-based decision-making products (the top three layers of the pyramid)
- ❑ But the top won't stay up without a solid base.
- ❑ Evidence maps survey the base of the pyramid in order to determine how strong is the foundations for producing top-level evidence products
- ❑ So EGMs not usually an end in themselves but a step toward further work.

Some form of violence affects more than 1 in 2 children in the world every year. This EGM provides an overview of the evidence available and identifies gaps in the evidence base on interventions to reduce violence against children in LMICs. Complementing the EGM are an [overview report](#) and [brief summary of the EGM](#) and seven policy briefs on each of [UNICEF's pillars](#): implementation and enforcement of laws, norms and values, safe environments, parent and caregiver support, income and economic strengthening, response and support services, and education and life skills. These briefs present findings on the evidence to inform policymakers and practitioners about different policy strategies for ending violence against children, as well as informing researchers and funders about gaps in evidence that need investment.

Filters Hide Headers Fullscreen About View Records



Snapshot of VAC EGM

Source: <https://www.unicef-irc.org/evidence-gap-map-violence-against-children/>

# ◆ The EGM framework

## Primary dimensions

The row and column headings and sub-headings.

These are usually

Interventions (row headings)

Outcomes (column headings)

## Secondary dimensions (filters)

Study design

Date of publication

Country and region

Population sub groups e.g.

Women

Children

People with disabilities

Low income groups

Humanitarian settings

A diagram illustrating the EGM framework. At the bottom center is a rectangular box labeled "EQUITY". From the top-left corner of this box, a line extends left and then turns upwards as an arrow pointing towards the "Primary dimensions" section. From the top-right corner of the "EQUITY" box, a line extends right and then turns upwards as an arrow pointing towards the "Secondary dimensions (filters)" section.

EQUITY

## ◆ **Equity considerations in evidence mapping**

A majority of maps consider equity in two ways:

**1. Maps studies of effects with an explicit equity focus on a specific dimension of inequity such as in disadvantaged population(s)**

❖ **Example: EGM on Interventions for people with disabilities in LMICs**

**2. Maps studies of effects not explicitly aimed reducing inequity but presents data disaggregated by gender and disability.**

❖ **Example: Mega map on child well being, violence against children**

## ◆ Equity considerations in mapping

- ❖ Set the inclusion and exclusion criteria to assess categories of disadvantage (e.g. socioeconomic status, sex, race/ethnicity, elements of PROGRESS-PLUS)
- ❖ Develop equity-focused search strategy: search should include databases, terms, and concepts relevant for the equity question under consideration
- ❖ Develop a standardized data extraction tool, to code studies for the countries where they were conducted, the interventions/outcomes studied, their analysis methods, and their attention to equity.
- ❖ Have equity filters for presentation of the map.

## ◆ Search term selection

- ❑ The idea is to make your searches sensitive and equity focused
- ❑ ((social\* or disadvantage or excluded or gradient\* socio-economic status” or “women\* socioeconomic status” or “female\* socio-economic status” or socioeconomic status” or “mother\* socioeconomic status” or “maternal socioeconomic status” or “social class” or SES))
- ❑ Specific terms related to vulnerable population or poverty
- ❑ Different variants of equity\* or inequity\* or disparity\* or equality

## ◆ Inclusion criteria

Include studies of interventions which reports characteristics of the participants in terms of at least one socio-demographic variable (sex, race or ethnicity), socio-economic status (occupation, educational level or income), religion, place of residence or area-level index of deprivation.

Age should also be included as a socio-demographic factor if the intervention targeted vulnerable age groups (adolescents or young adults)

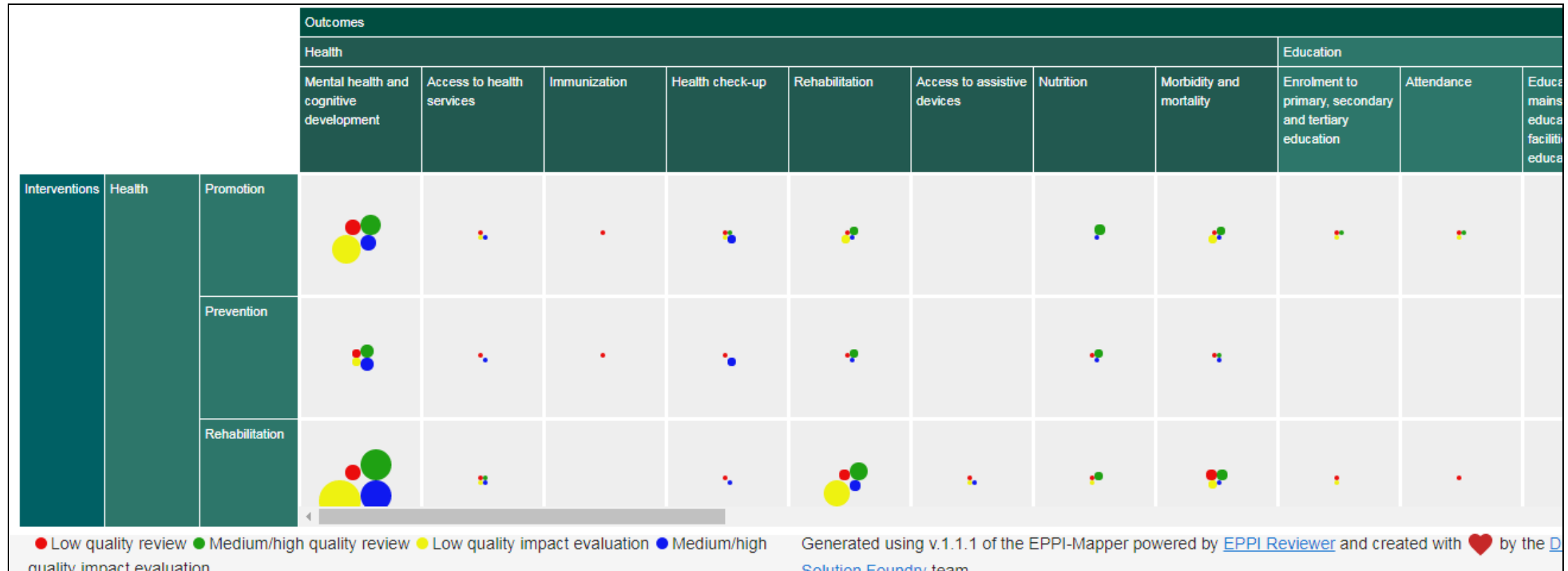


## ◆ Disability Evidence and Gap Map

- ❑ It maps the effectiveness studies (systematic reviews and impact evaluations) on interventions to improve the well-being of people with disabilities in LMICs.
- ❑ Population: We included traditionally, underrepresented groups such as women, children in care, conflict settings, migrant and people belonging to ethnic minorities are relevant with respect to disabilities.
- ❑ As these population characteristics may heighten vulnerability in the face of vulnerability and may have higher prevalence of disability.

# ◆ Disability Evidence and Gap Map

□ The 2020 update identified 108 additional studies the map now contains 274 studies, Of these 110 are reviews and 164 impact evaluations.



# ◆ Present and analyze population equity gaps

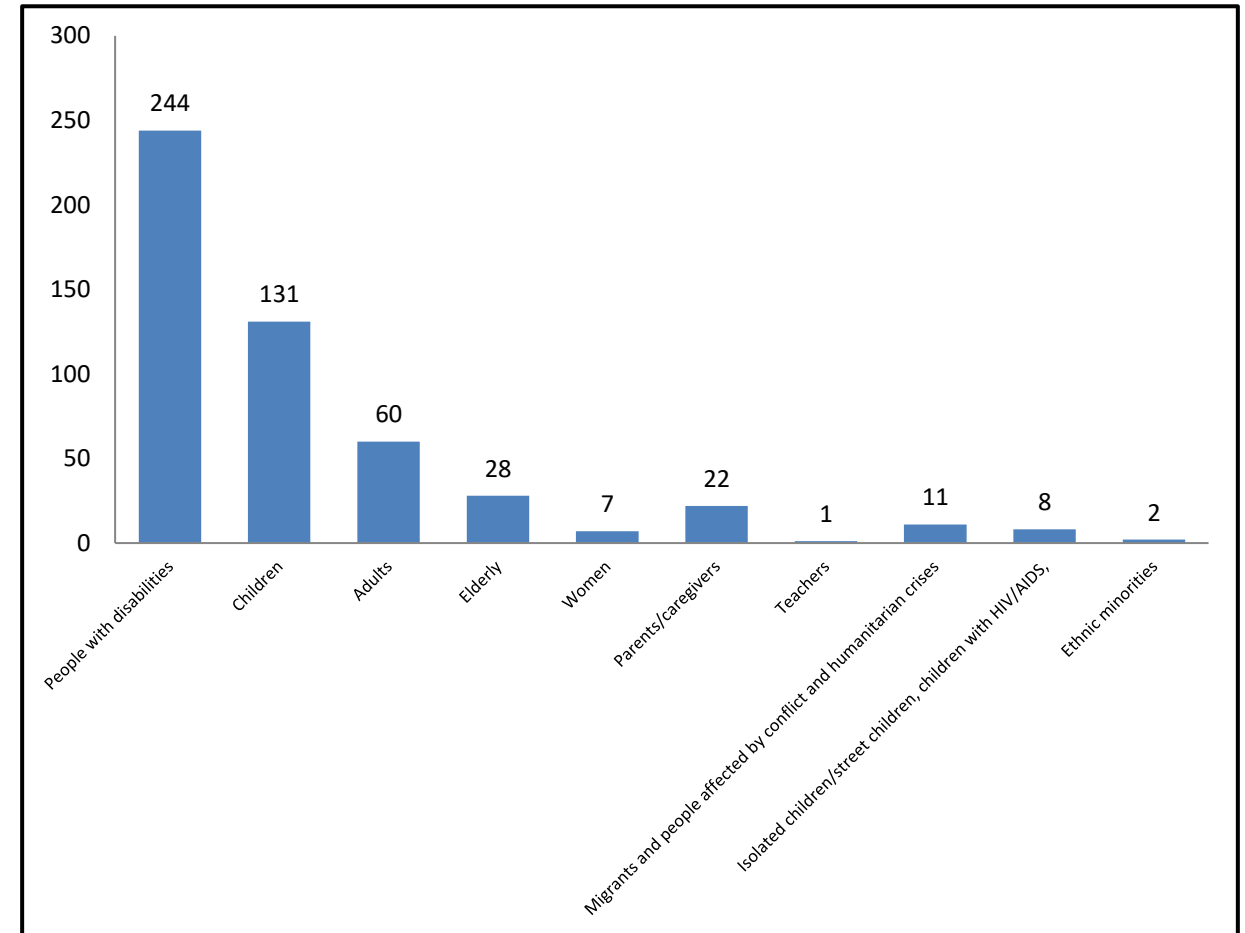
**Settings** update close

**Filters**

- Population
- People with disabilities
- Children
- Adults
- Elderly
- Women
- Parents/caregivers
- Teachers
- Conflict affected
- Disadvantaged
- Migrants
- Ethnic minorities
- Study design
  - Difference in difference-DiD
  - Interrupted time series
  - Quasi-experimental

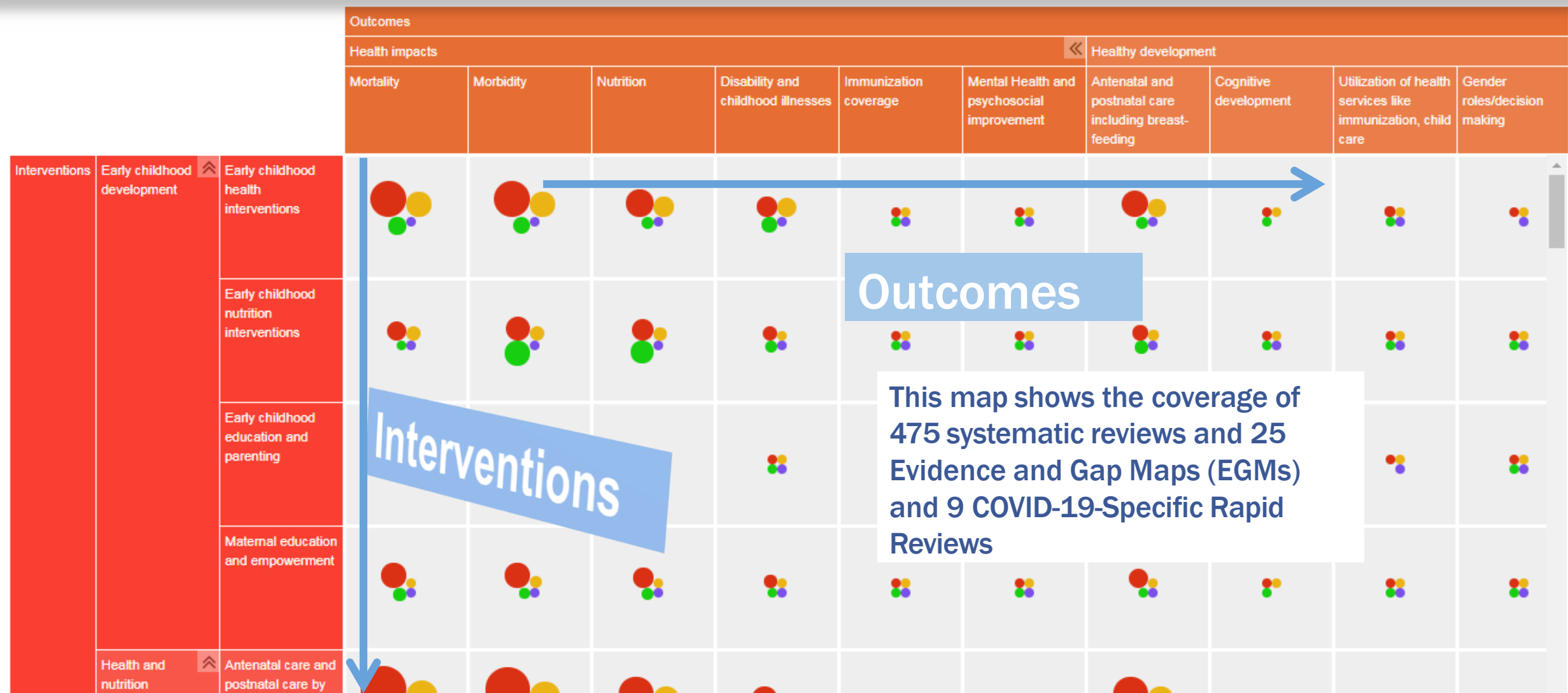
**Style**

- Bubble-map
- Heat-map
- Mosaic
- Donut-map



## ◆ **Mega Map on child well-being in LMICs**

- ❑ **The Campbell-UNICEF Child Welfare Mega-Map maps evidence synthesis studies – evidence and gap maps and systematic reviews – which report studies of the effectiveness of interventions to improve child welfare.**
- ❑ **The evidence is structured by intervention categories, such as health and nutrition, and outcome domains, such as morbidity.**



This 2021 identified 153 additional reviews and maps!

Snapshot of Mega Map  
 Source: <https://www.unicef-irc.org/megamap/>

## ◆ Child category filters

### WHO age categories

Neonate

Infants 1 month-2 years

Young child 2-6

Child 6-12

Adolescent 13-18.

### Other filters

a) Orphans

b) Children with disabilities c) Children belonging to ethnic minorities

d) Child sex workers

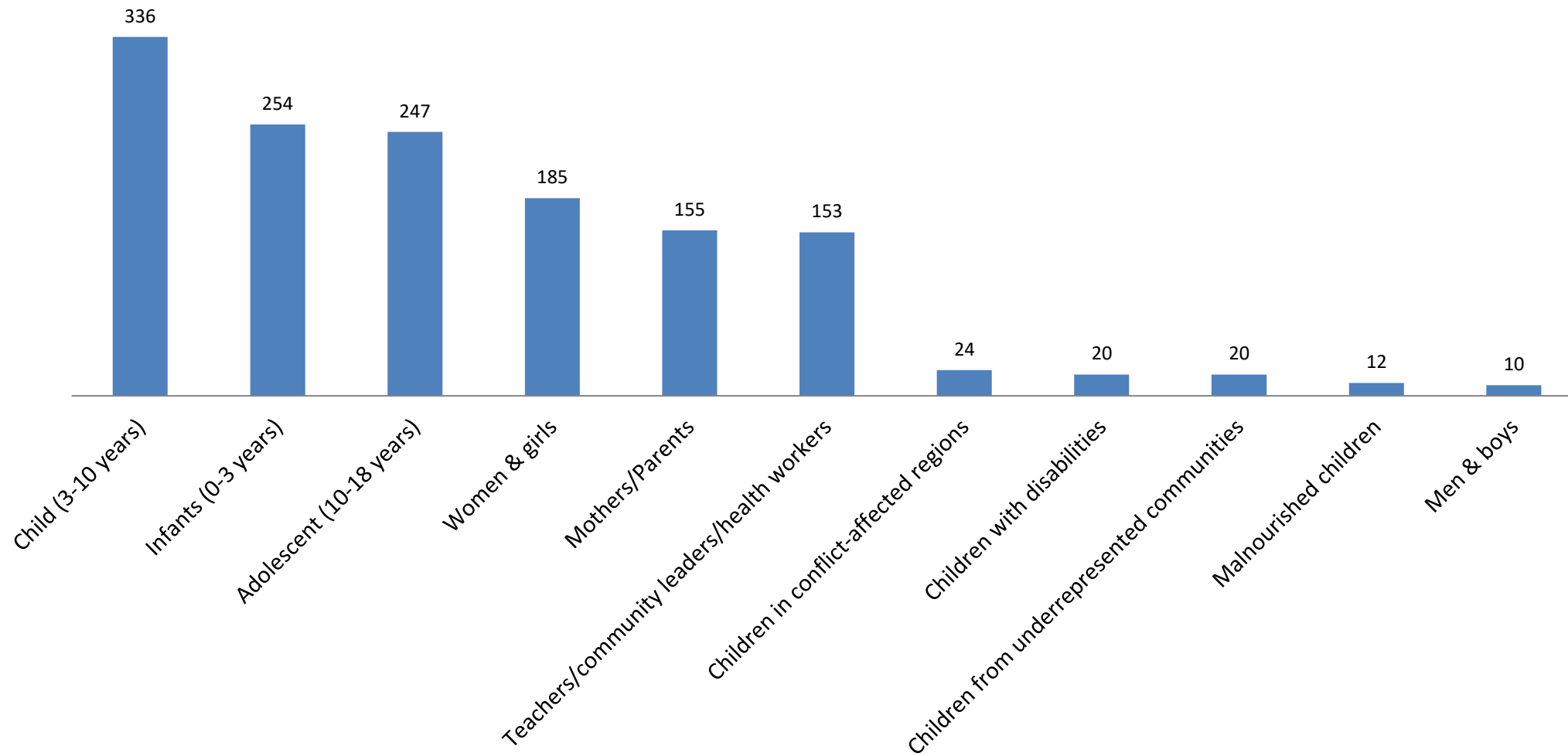
e) Malnourished children

f) Child brides

g) Isolated children/street child

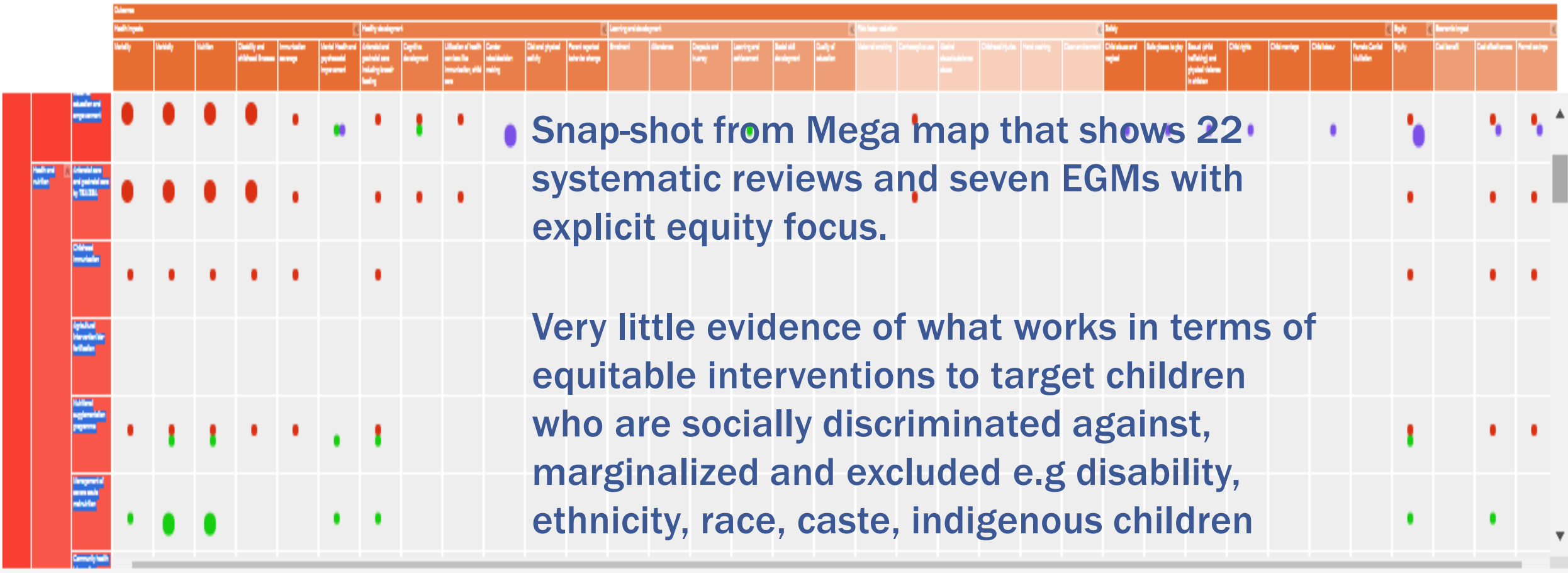
h) Children with HIV/AIDS

## ◆ Population categories



# ◆ Studies with explicit equity focus

The Campbell+ANZSP Child Wellbeing Mega-map (This may show the coverage of 67 systematic reviews and 22 EGMs and 6 COVID-19-specific Rapid Reviews)



Snap-shot from Mega map that shows 22 systematic reviews and seven EGMs with explicit equity focus.

Very little evidence of what works in terms of equitable interventions to target children who are socially discriminated against, marginalized and excluded e.g disability, ethnicity, race, caste, indigenous children



## ◆ Conclusion

- ❑ Consideration of gender and equity remains relatively limited, especially for systematic reviews in these sectors.
- ❑ The evidence and gap maps help identify gaps in targeting these populations can guide users to available relevant evidence with an ‘equity focus’ to inform intervention and design and implementation .
- ❑ The value of additional impact evaluations and systematic reviews will increase if we use gender-responsive and equity focused research and measuring direct and differential effects on them would be important for meeting global agendas.

# Thank you.



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