**Taking RBF from scheme to system: comparing enablers and barriers across countries**

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**Background:** This paper provides an overview of lessons learnt from the 11 country research program as a whole on the factors that have enabled and hindered the transition of RBF programs from standalone projects to being fully integrated into national health systems. Analysis at the level of a specific project or country is essential for a detailed understanding of scale-up processes steeped in context. However comparing across multiple sites and cases allows us to identify more systematically the factors and actors associated with particular outcomes.

**Methods-** The four stage scale up model developed in the first paper, and the Walt and Gilson policy triangle served as overarching frameworks. While the former was used to classify each RBF projects’ stage of scale up and group the projects accordingly, the latter was used to categorize factors and actors influencing policy processes among projects at the same stage. This was achieved through in-depth thematic analysis of individual project documents based on codes reflecting the theoretical framework.

**Findings**- The particular contextual, content factors, processes and actors and their relative importance vary greatly at each stage of the scale up process. At an early stage of establishing a pilot, an enabling global context that framed PBF as a value for money intervention and having in place a knowledge broker and an implementing agency ready to invest resources was important in many countries. On the other hand, aligning national contextual factors with the transparency agenda, having policy entrepreneurs willing to take this forward, identifying institutional allies within governments, and the framing of the program as a health systems change as opposed to vertical programme was important in moving the pilot to the level of a national scheme. Institutional flexibility and leadership within and beyond the Ministry of Health are crucial to further integration. Having in place legal frameworks to enable RBF programs and stable funding are also important.

**Conclusion**- The contribution of each of the factors and actors and the processes by which they contribute varies across the different stages. It is thus important for both decision-makers and researchers working in this area to prospectively identify challenges. This knowledge will be invaluable in designing and implementing RBF programs that are most suited for a given implementation context.