

Zero Dose Community of Practice

**Gender Barriers to Immunization
and Primary Health Care Services**

**Webinar 2 of 2: Structural
gender barriers
9 June 2022**



Reaching
Zero-dose
Children



Structural Gender Barriers to Immunization

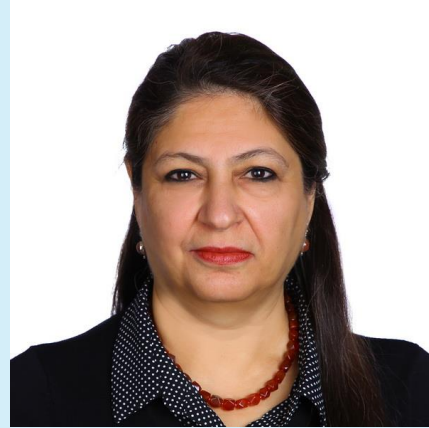
Session 2 for the
Zero Dose Community of Practice
9 June 2022



Chair and Speakers



Jean Munro
*Senior Manager,
Gender, GAVI*



Shoubo Jalal
*Senior Advisor, Gender
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Ruth Allotey
*Senior Nursing Officer,
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Korle Bu Teaching
Hospital
Accra, Ghana*



Alyssa Sharkey
*Lecturer, Princeton
University and
Consultant, UNICEF*

Vaccination objectives

Infants & Under-5s

Childhood vaccines

Adolescents

Td, HPV, Cholera

Women / Adults

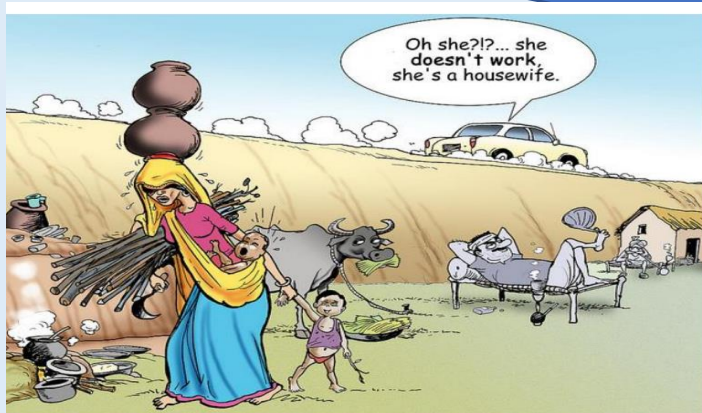
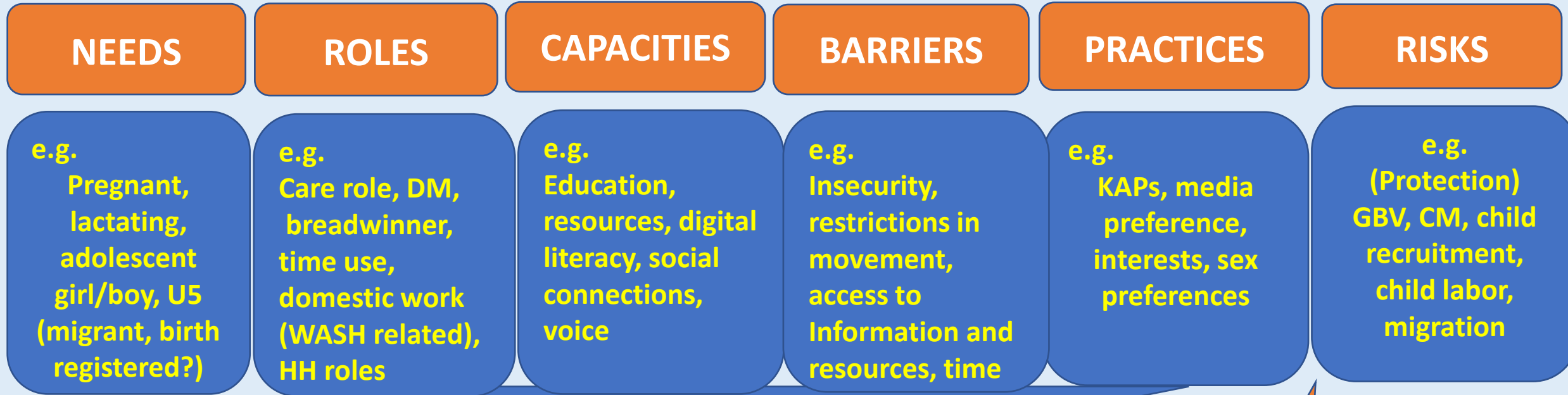
Td/TT, cholera, COVID-19,
typhoid ...

ALL children

Full protection

Gender dimensions and implications for programmes

There can be differences in....



Different approaches
in programming

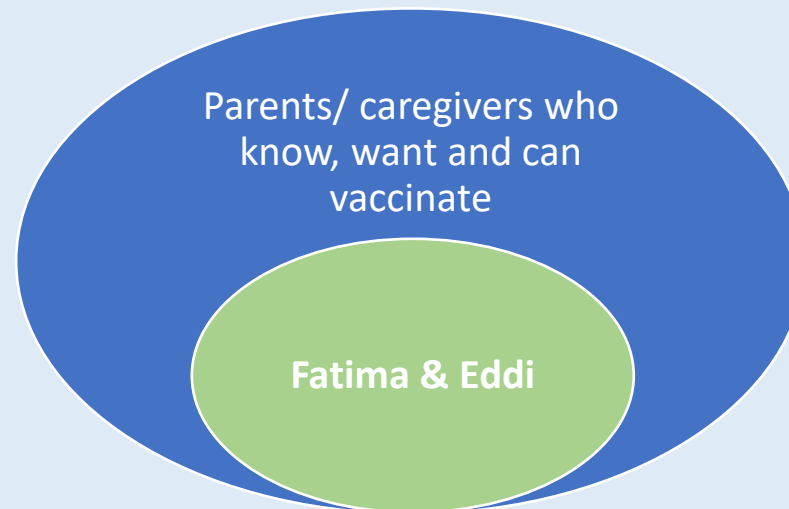


Unpacking gender dimensions/ Multi-layer barriers

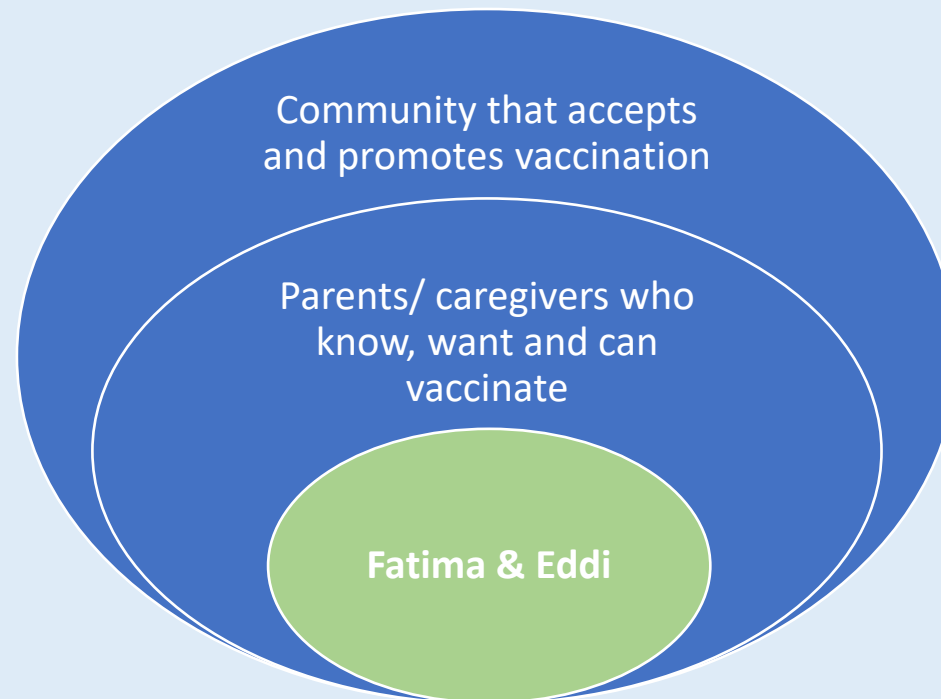


Fatima & Eddi

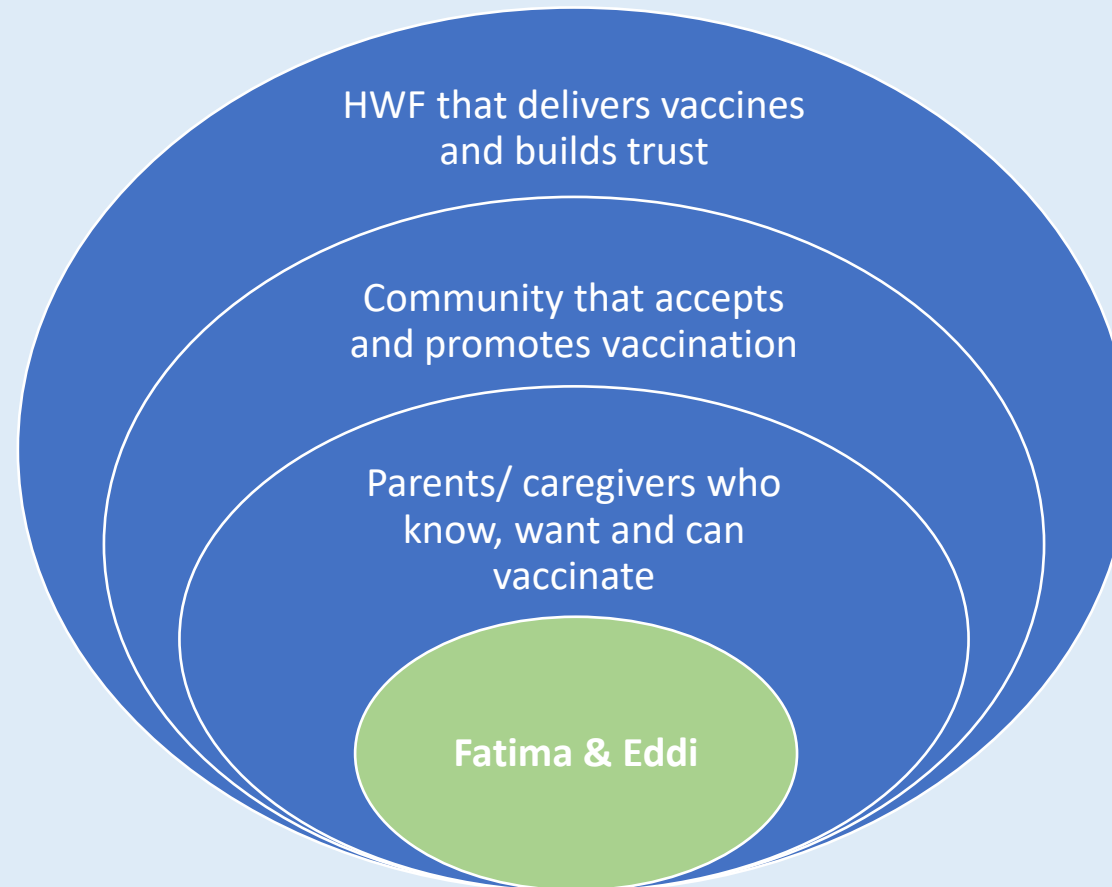
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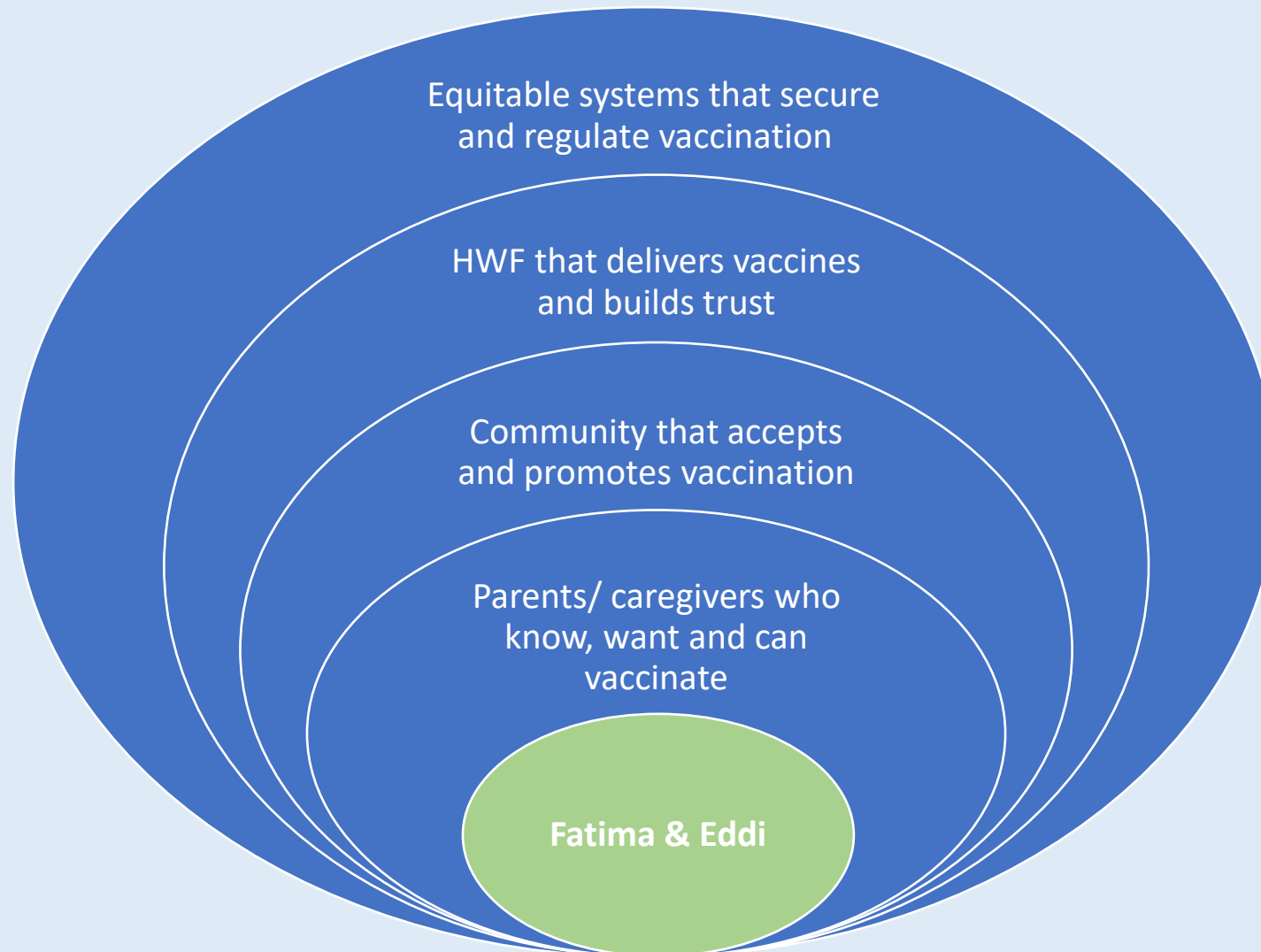
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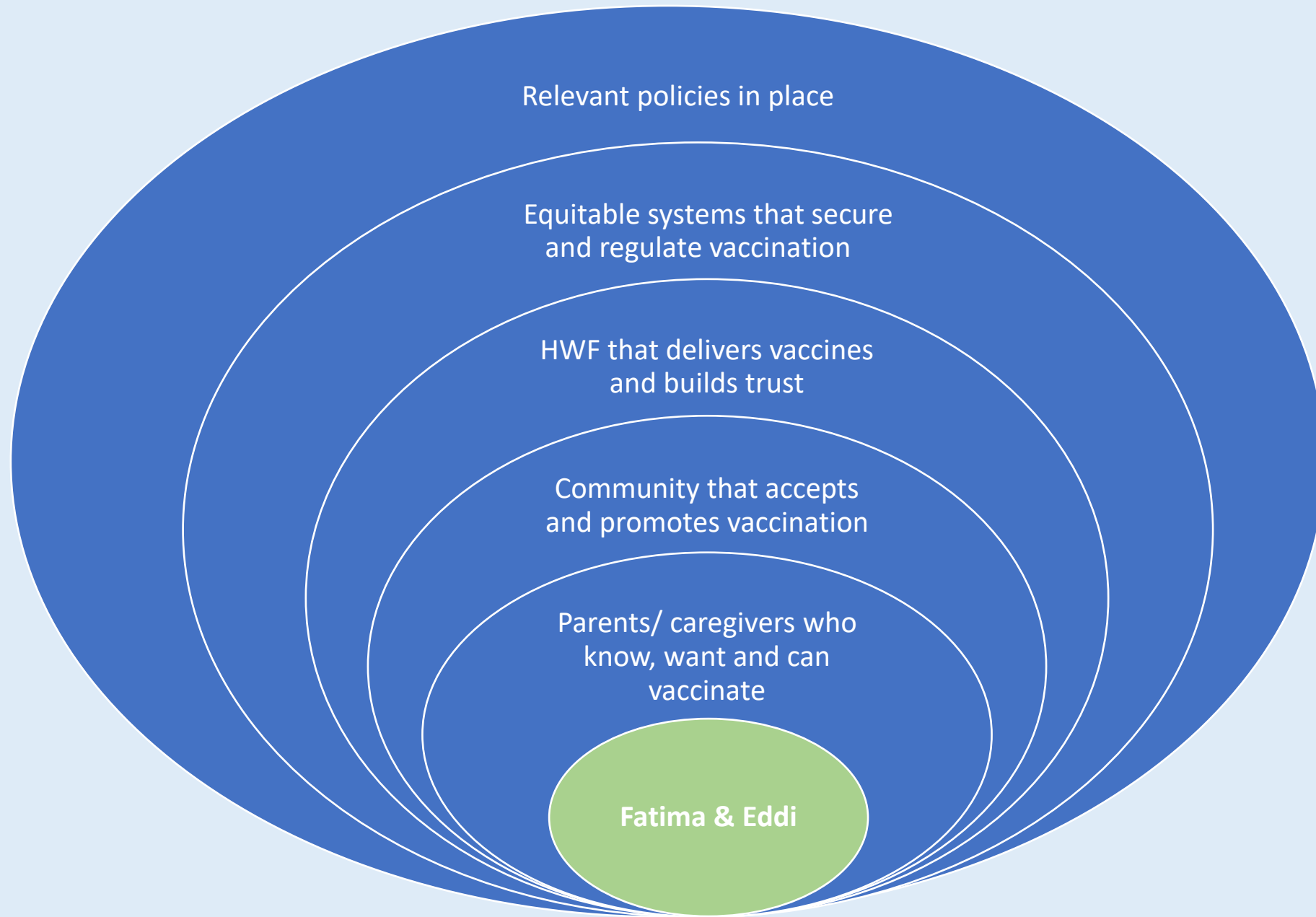
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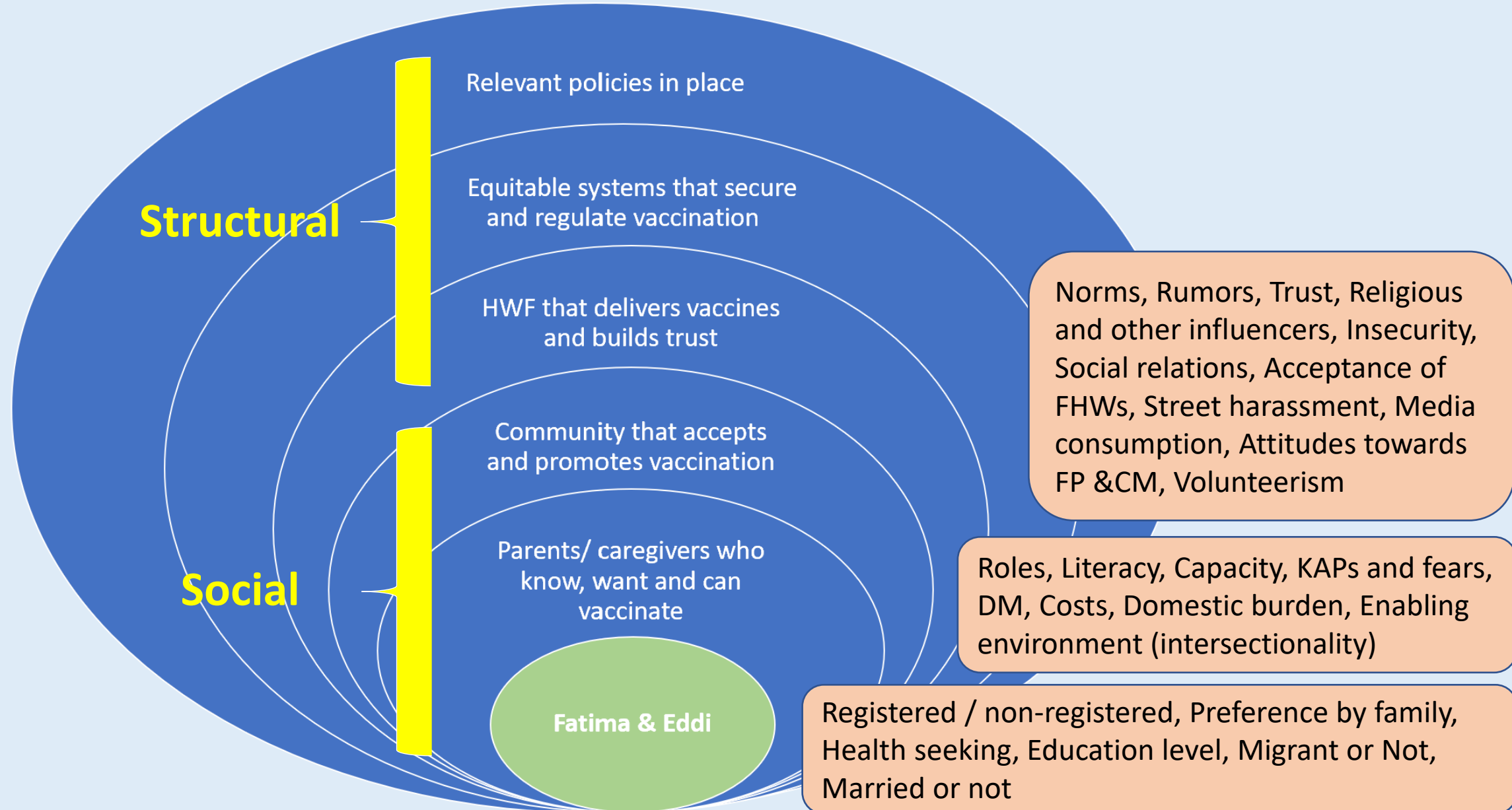
Unpacking gender dimensions/ Multi-layer barriers



Unpacking gender dimensions/ Multi-layer barriers



Unpacking gender dimensions: Gender Analysis



Other barriers - linkages with health system and policies

Distance
(financial cost, time cost, risks)

Waiting time

Vaccine availability at time of visits

- Transportation strategies
- Poverty reduction strategy that focuses on economic opportunities for women in rural areas
- Food security strategies
- Paid work time off/ maternity leave (labour regulations)
- Existing social protection programmes
- WASH access
- Medical insurance
- Child marriage, and family planning strategies
- Civil registry
- National SDG agenda

- Universal health coverage /Rural health strategies
- Outreach capacity (mobile teams, logistics)
- Compulsory rural public service for health workforce
- Incentives for working in remote areas
- Private sector regulation
- Multi dose Vs single dose vaccination ??
- Vaccination scheduling (whole week Vs select days)
- Procurement strategy and financing
- Participatory approaches/feedback mechanisms to ensure accessibility and acceptability of services
- Multi-sectoral work
- Partnerships with local women organizations

Other barriers - access to information

اللقاح اماننا، والملقحين
اهلنا واصدقاتنا...
وفي التلقيح... يسلم
من الخطر
اطفالنا

Age	Vaccine	Diseases protected against	Vaccine
8 weeks	DTaP/IPV/Hib	Red, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib	DTaP/IPV/Hib
12 weeks			
16 weeks			
1 year	MenC	2nd dose of MenB	
2 years	Rotavirus		

And this prevents us from getting sick.

Which content?



Which channel? (Reach, Trust, Timing)

Who is the audience?

What message and what action?

What is the appeal?

Does it address the identified gender barrier?

Where?



Other barriers – planning and programming

- **Evidence**

- Upgrade registry books to include sex disaggregated data
- Other opportunities to gather info on gender-related barriers
 - ✓ Equity assessments, surveillance data, post campaign surveys, can we add some questions to inform?
 - ✓ Build on innovative community-based initiatives, e.g. Egypt الرائدات الريفيات , e.g. Tanzania, Electronic Immunization Registries (EIR)



- **Capacity in gender analysis and programming and Capacity in community-based solutions and engagement**

- Equity analysis for health planning needs to go beyond socioeconomic and geographical analysis

- **Measuring change??**

Is health workforce a barrier?

70% female
(leadership??)
Majority of community
mobilizers & Volunteers

- **Personal bias / discrimination**

- Stigma for HIV, TB, ... (fear of infection?)
- Discrimination against IDPs and refugees, migrants, minorities (e.g., ethnic)
- Discrimination of single mothers
- Discrimination of poor mothers, young mothers
- Beliefs around vaccination
- Attitudes towards vaccine refusals

- **Unaware of gender issues and barriers**

- Understanding the different needs, roles, practices
- Enforcing gender-based values and social and cultural norms and stereotypes (e.g., fathers and immunization)
- Understanding risks of violence against women
- Understanding how unconscious bias can enforce inequality

- **Communication skills**

- Skills for effective listening, communicating and convincing



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Majority of community
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But
their role as health
providers them an
important
resource



Challenges faced by health workforce

- Work distance and transportation
- Mistrust/rumours in the community
- Workplace environment
- Private sector/ other physicians??
- Work overload and mental support
- Equipped with updated information
(e.g., COVID new, malaria new vaccine)
- Security threats and gender-based violence

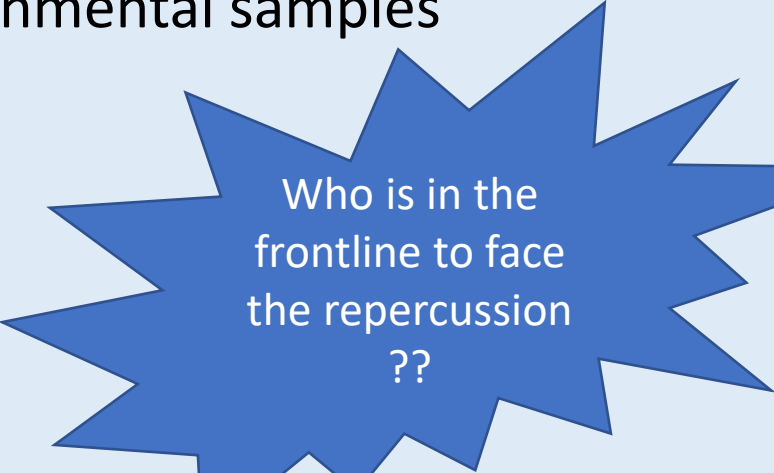
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Other challenges for the health workforce

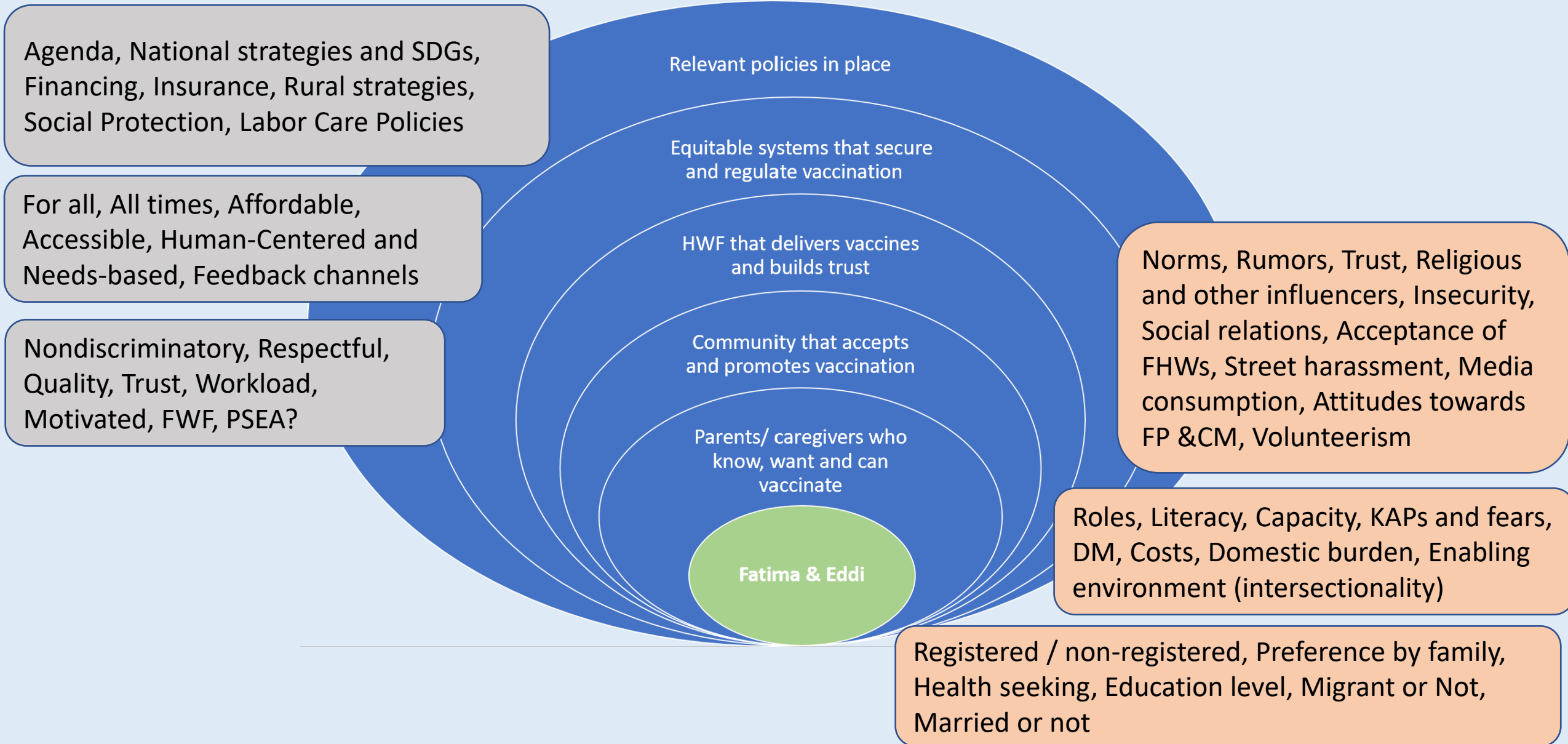
Some scenarios

- A local media article blamed MOH for the infection of two children in X village, the article is reporting that MOH plans failed to reach the village and now all the children in that village are at risk of getting the disease.
- Opposition party is accusing the MOH of procuring vaccines for the outbreak response from outside the country instead of strengthening the local economy
- During the polio outbreak in X country, the Ministry of Environment spokesperson announced that polio virus has not been retrieved from environmental samples and MOH is solely responsible for the outbreak.

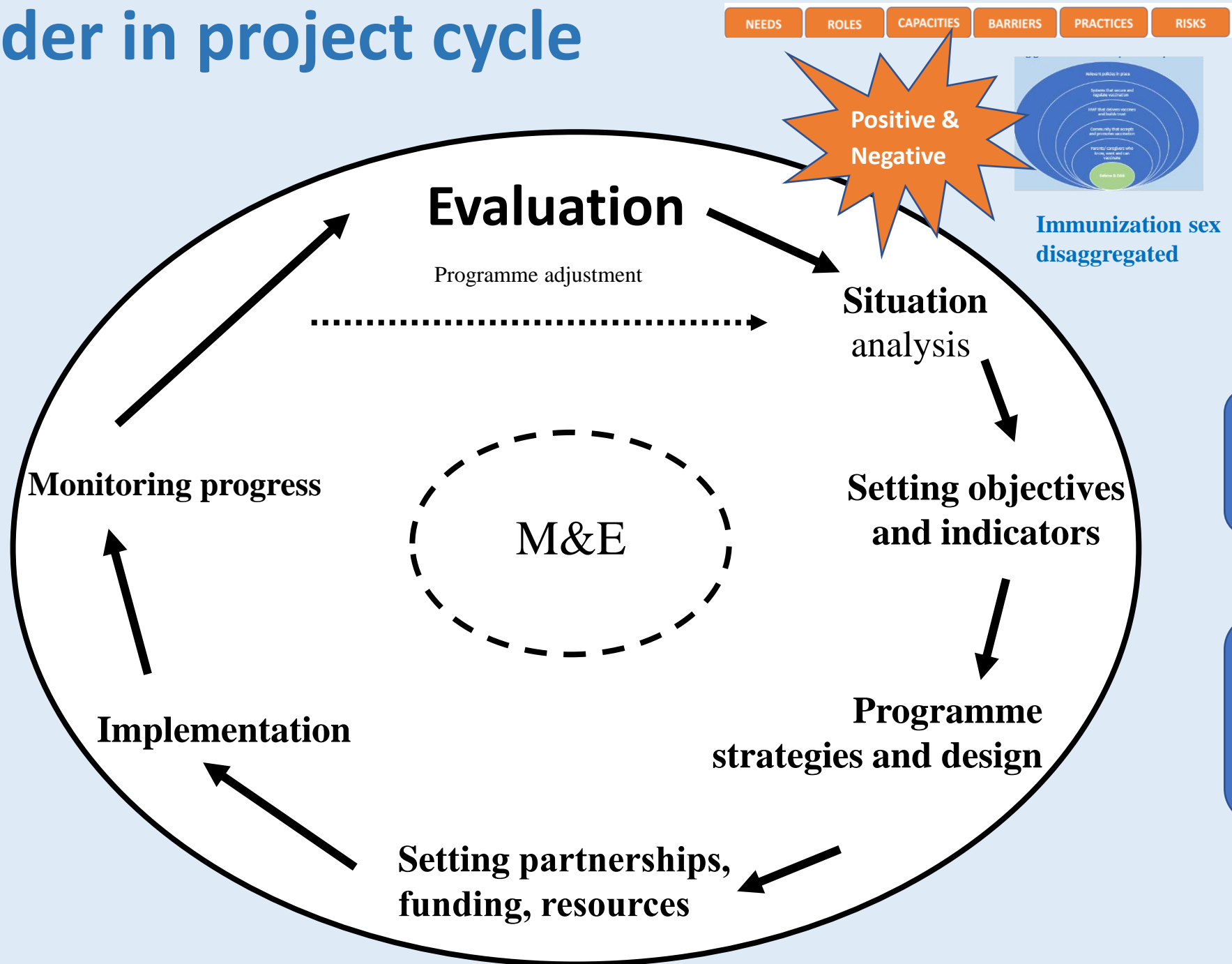


Who is in the
frontline to face
the repercussion
??

Unpacking gender dimensions: Gender Analysis



Gender in project cycle



Potential sources for gender-related data

- Censuses (assess ownership)
- Big data (crowdsourcing, mobile phone/social media transactional)
- Household surveys (DHS, MICS)
- Public opinion polls (gender norms/attitudes)



- Administrative data
- Service provision assessments (SPA)
- Other special surveys including remote data collection
- Social listening
- Qualitative assessments

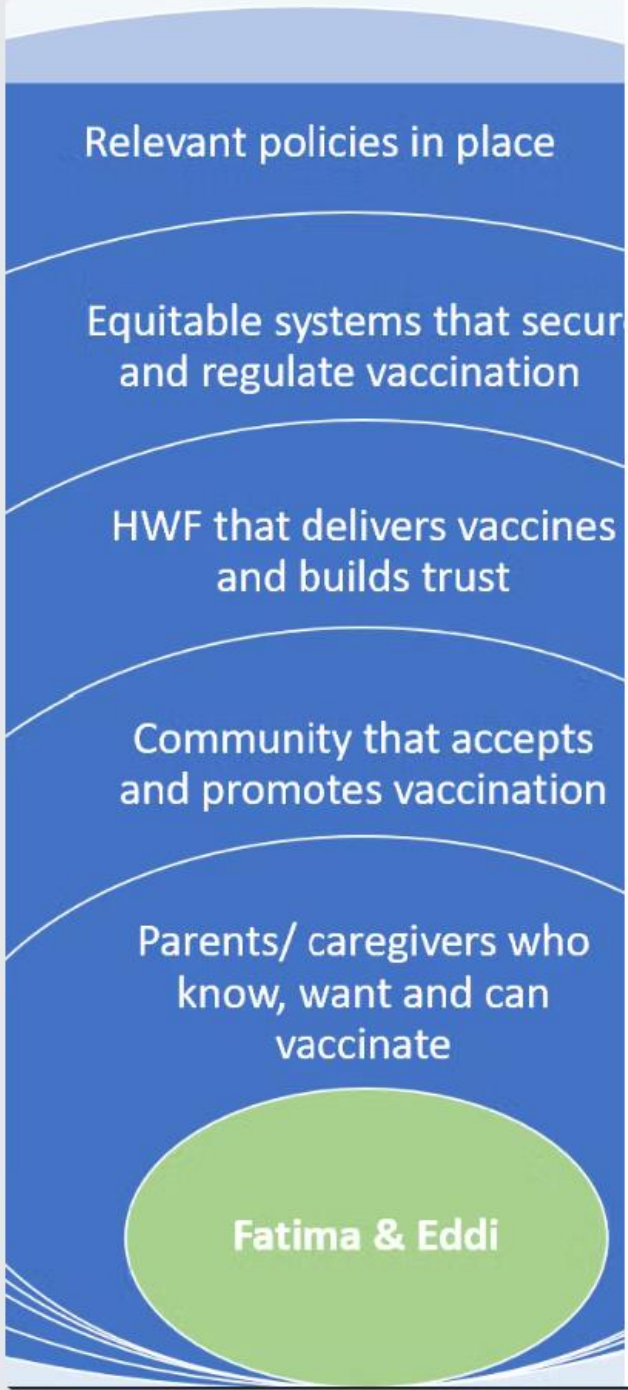


And sometimes,
observation may help

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5131 5818



Salma is hesitant to take her child for vaccination. Every time she visits the facility, she is criticized for neglect. What type of barrier is this?



Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5131 5818



Ahmed's parents have to walk 1.5 hour to reach the vaccination center. What type of barrier is this?

Relevant policies in place

Equitable systems that secure and regulate vaccination

HWF that delivers vaccines and builds trust

Community that accepts and promotes vaccination

Parents/ caregivers who know, want and can vaccinate

Fatima & Eddi



Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5131 5818

Gulenar is willing to vaccinate her baby, but cost of transport is too much. What type of barrier is this?

Relevant policies in place

Equitable systems that secure and regulate vaccination

HWF that delivers vaccines and builds trust

Community that accepts and promotes vaccination

Parents/ caregivers who know, want and can vaccinate

Fatima & Eddi





Measurement

What changes did we want to see?

What changes did we achieve?

Example indicators to understand structural gender-related barriers

Percent of mothers who did not get their child vaccinated because...

- the session time was inconvenient (SPA)
- there are long wait times (SPA)
- the facility was too far (DHS)

Percent of service delivery points offering integrated services (SPA)

Percent of caregivers satisfied with the quality of the service experience (SPA)

Example indicators to consider gender issues within the health workforce

Proportion of **X** who are female (vaccinators, CHWs, Health Facility In-Charges, District Health Officers, etc.)

Percent of clinics/districts that pay health workers on time

Percent of female health care workers who report that they have experienced harassment at the work place

Percent of female health workers who feel their clinic has sufficient services (e.g. WASH facilities; shelter/accommodation)

Importance (and challenge!) of monitoring

Periodic assessments

Administrative data

Exit interviews

Feedback mechanisms (e.g., U-Report, community-based groups, committees, school health committees, etc.)

Implementation research

Other sources?

Thank you for keeping all of us fully protected



Thank you!



Reaching Zero-dose Children

This webinar series on gender and immunization is a collaboration of the following partners:

UNICEF

WHO

GAVI

Bridges to Development

The Geneva Learning Foundation