

# Power and politics of scaling-up a health system intervention: lessons from Uganda, Ghana and Malawi

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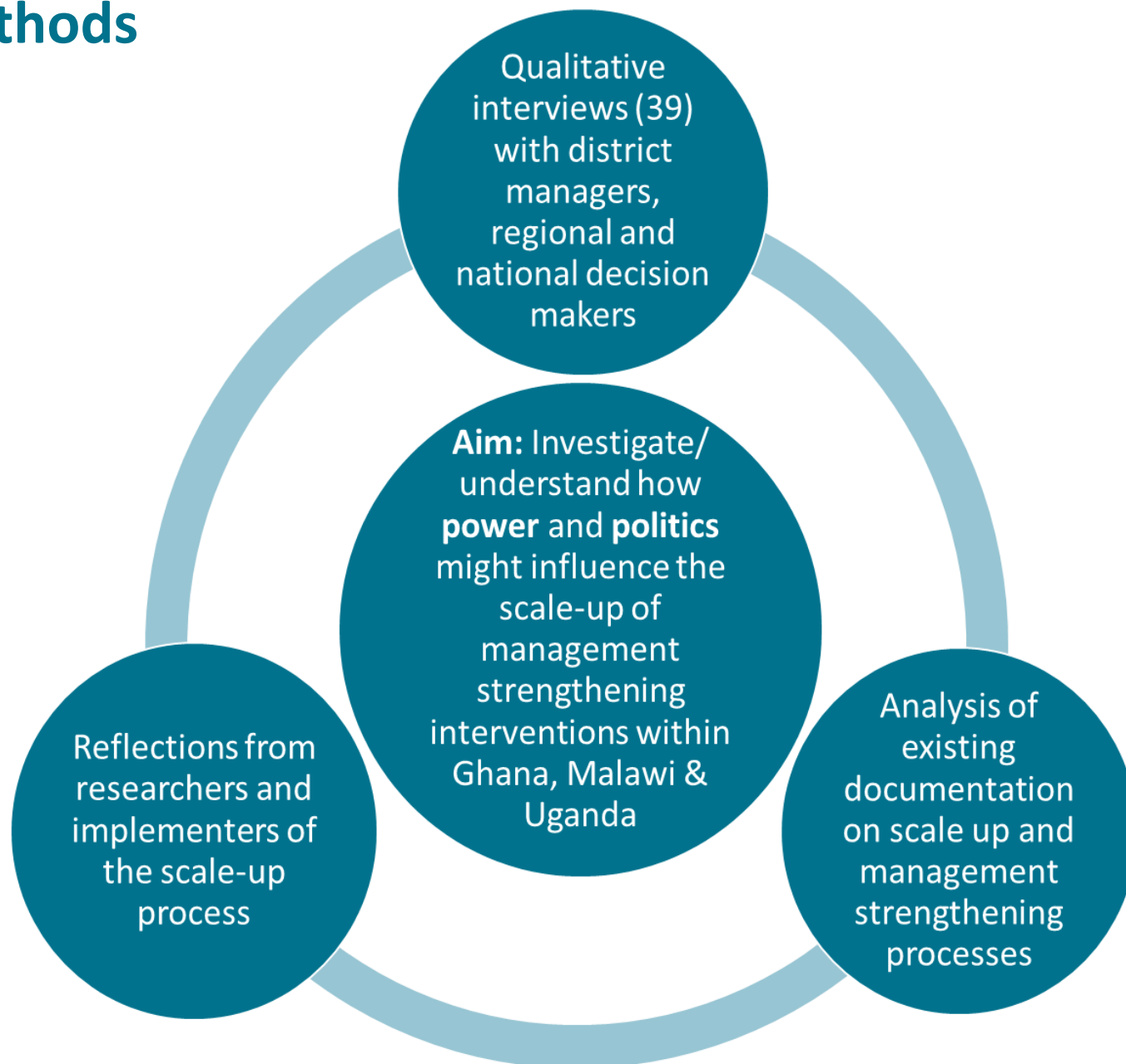
## Introduction

- Many strategies have been tested to improve equitable access to health care, but how do you scale-up and sustain these such that they contribute to achieving Universal Health Coverage?
- Insufficient attention has been paid to the science of scaling-up, including how to address factors that determine whether or not an effective intervention is successfully scaled-up
- Two key factors in the scale-up process are **power** and **politics**, both of which can affect:
  - Whether an intervention is prioritised for scale-up, including the financial and human resources allocated to the scale-up
  - How it is implemented
  - And how effective the intervention is in meeting its objectives over time
- PERFORM2Scale has been scaling-up a management strengthening intervention with district health managers in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda since 2017
- Here we present key lessons learned during scale-up design and implementation

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# Methods





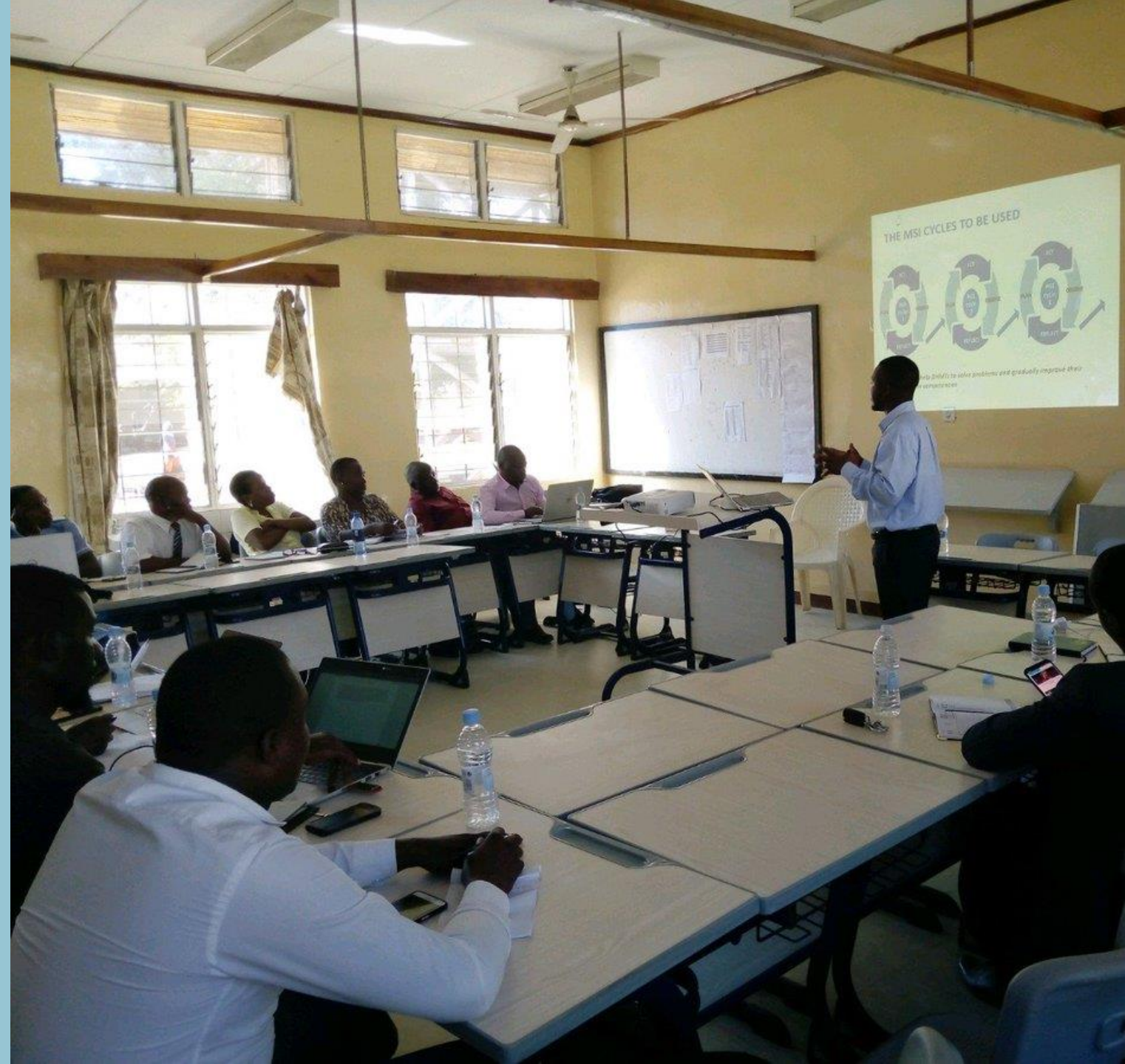
## Key lessons

Ongoing stakeholder analysis focusing on the dynamic nature of power and politics at district, regional and national levels:

- Allowed for a better understanding of the context for scale-up
- Informed our strategies to engage with those who have influence, e.g. feeding into technical working groups at national level, discussing progress with district political leaders
- Identified 'champions' who can support the scale-up process

## Key lessons

- By understanding existing structures at different levels within the health system we:
  - identified avenues to embed the intervention within routine health service delivery
  - found ways to promote ownership and sustainability of the intervention by talking to decision-makers about allocation of human and financial resources for scale-up
- Need to ensure that the intervention is aligned and integrated within existing policy





## Summary of findings and conclusion

- Scaling-up an intervention is a complex and inherently political process
- Critical to successful scale-up are:
  - Understanding and engaging with the political context, and using this knowledge to connect meaningfully with stakeholders at all levels of the health system
  - Adapting the intervention and scale-up process to the context

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