

The journey of increasing use of community health workers in treatment of diarrhoea in children under 5 years of age: The Rwanda Experience

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Background:

-Under five mortality decreased from 196 (2000) to 45 (2019-20) per 1000 live births in Rwanda. ---The decrease is less marked in the past five years.

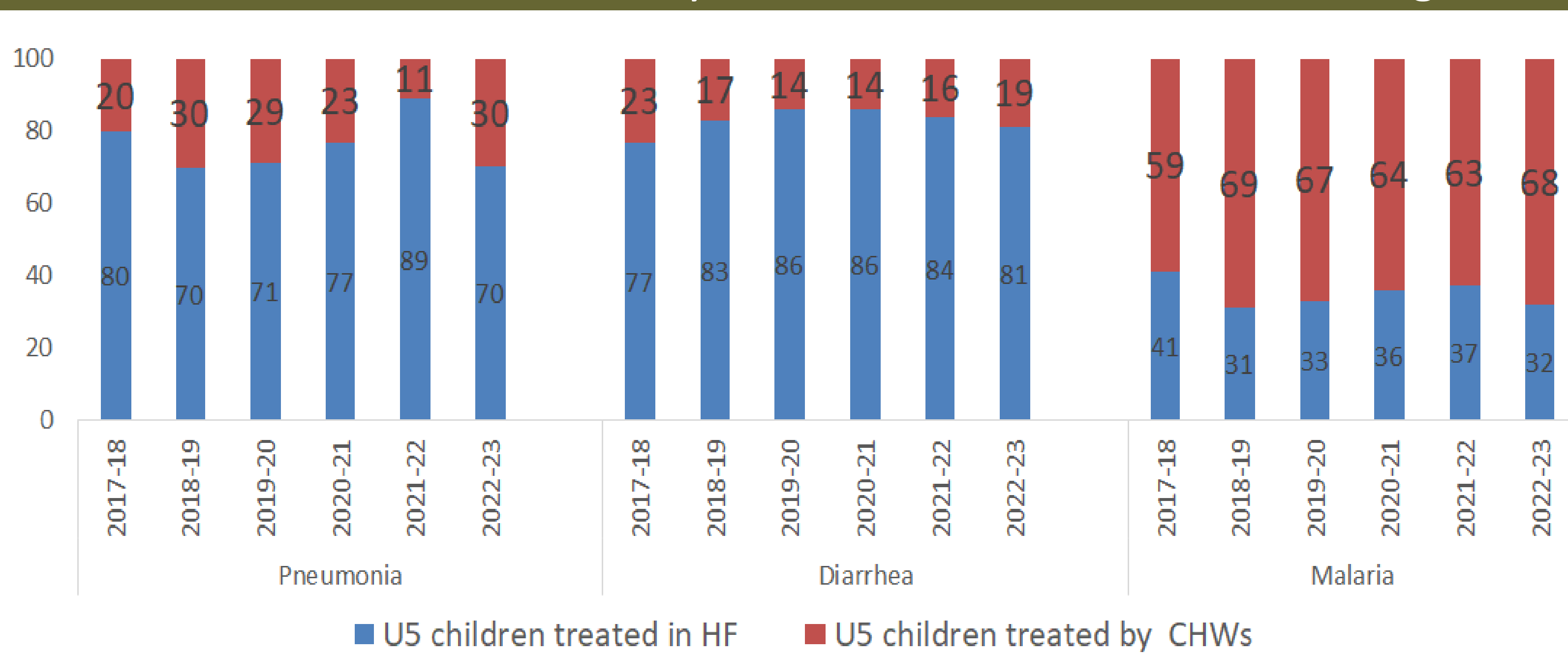
-Zinc supplement for 10 days following an episode of diarrhoea in children under the age of five years is most cost-effective intervention to reduce all-cause mortality in this age group¹.

Objective: To increase utilisation of Community Health Workers in treatment of diarrhoea in children with diarrhoea.

Step 1 Review of Data

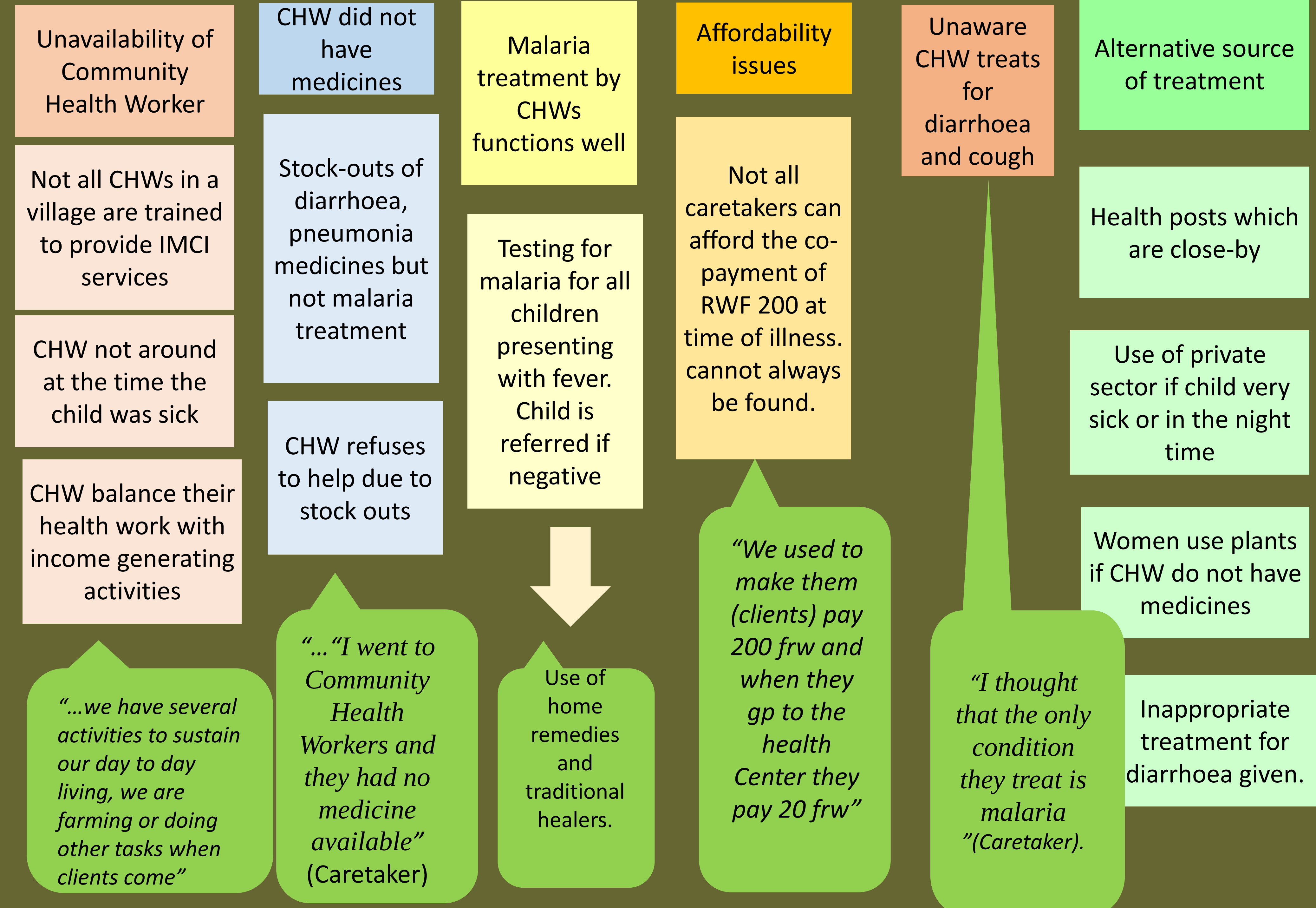
Method: Data was extracted on key indicators in the Rwanda Demographic Health Survey and Rwanda Health Management Information System over the past 10 years.

Result: Utilisation of Community Health Worker services by caretakers of children under five years of age with diarrhoea decreased from 23% in 2017/18 to 16% in 2021/22. However, there was an increase from 59% to 63% in utilisation of Community Health Worker services for this age

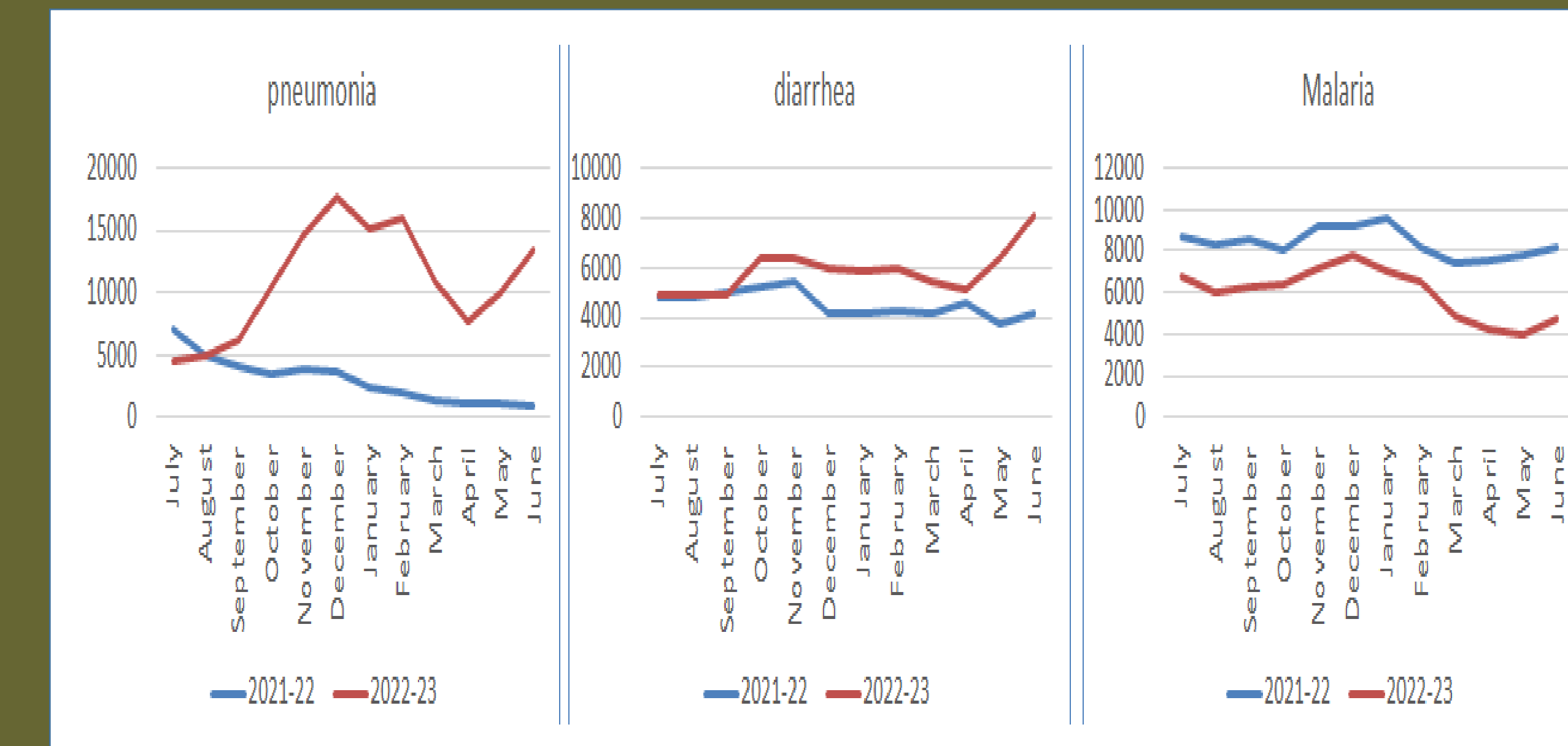


Step 2 Talk to mothers and CHWs

Method: In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with mothers and Community Health Workers in randomly selected villages attached to poor performing Districts.



Step 3 Change in user fee policy



Step 4 Addressing further issues

Addressing stock-outs of Zinc at village level

Providing messages to mothers that treatment for diarrhoea is available with CHWs

Ensuring all CHWs are trained on the polyvalent approach i.e all CHW trained and ready to provide Zinc to children with diarrhoea

Watch this spot!!