

BACKGROUND

- The **CRADLE Vital Signs Alert (VSA)** is a heart rate & blood pressure monitor with a traffic light early warning system, to alert the user to the need for prompt referral & action.
- The **CRADLE intervention** (device & training) was associated with reduced rates of **eclampsia** & **maternal death** when introduced to routine maternity care in urban areas in Sierra Leone.
- Its impact in rural areas is unknown.



AIM

To explore barriers & facilitators affecting implementation of the CRADLE intervention in rural Sierra Leone.

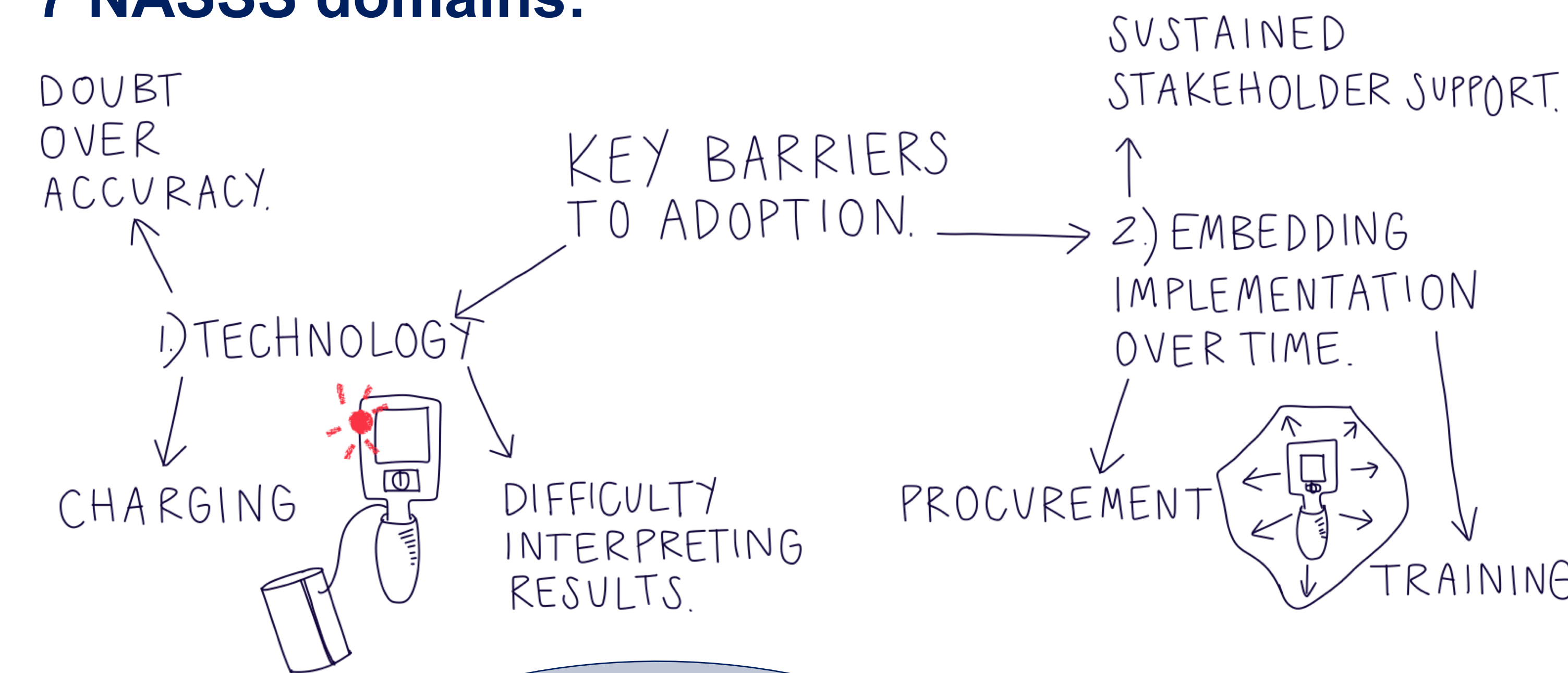
METHODS

- Focus group discussions (FGDs) (n=8) held with **CRADLE 'champions'** (midwives, community health officers, maternal & child health aids) explored views on the **CRADLE intervention** after its introduction to maternal health facilities in 8 of Sierra Leone's 16 districts.
- Semi-structured interviews (n=24) with women were held to understand their experience of maternity care in 4 CRADLE & 4 non-CRADLE districts.
- FGD data were analysed using the **NASSS** (non-adoption, abandonment, scale-up, spread, sustainability) framework for evaluation of technology supported health programmes.

RESULTS

Focus Group Discussions with CRADLE Champions:

KEY BARRIERS to adoption were related to 2 of the 7 NASSS domains:



1. TECHNOLOGY:

"[...] in Freetown they've already opened it and they say there is no battery like that in Salone."

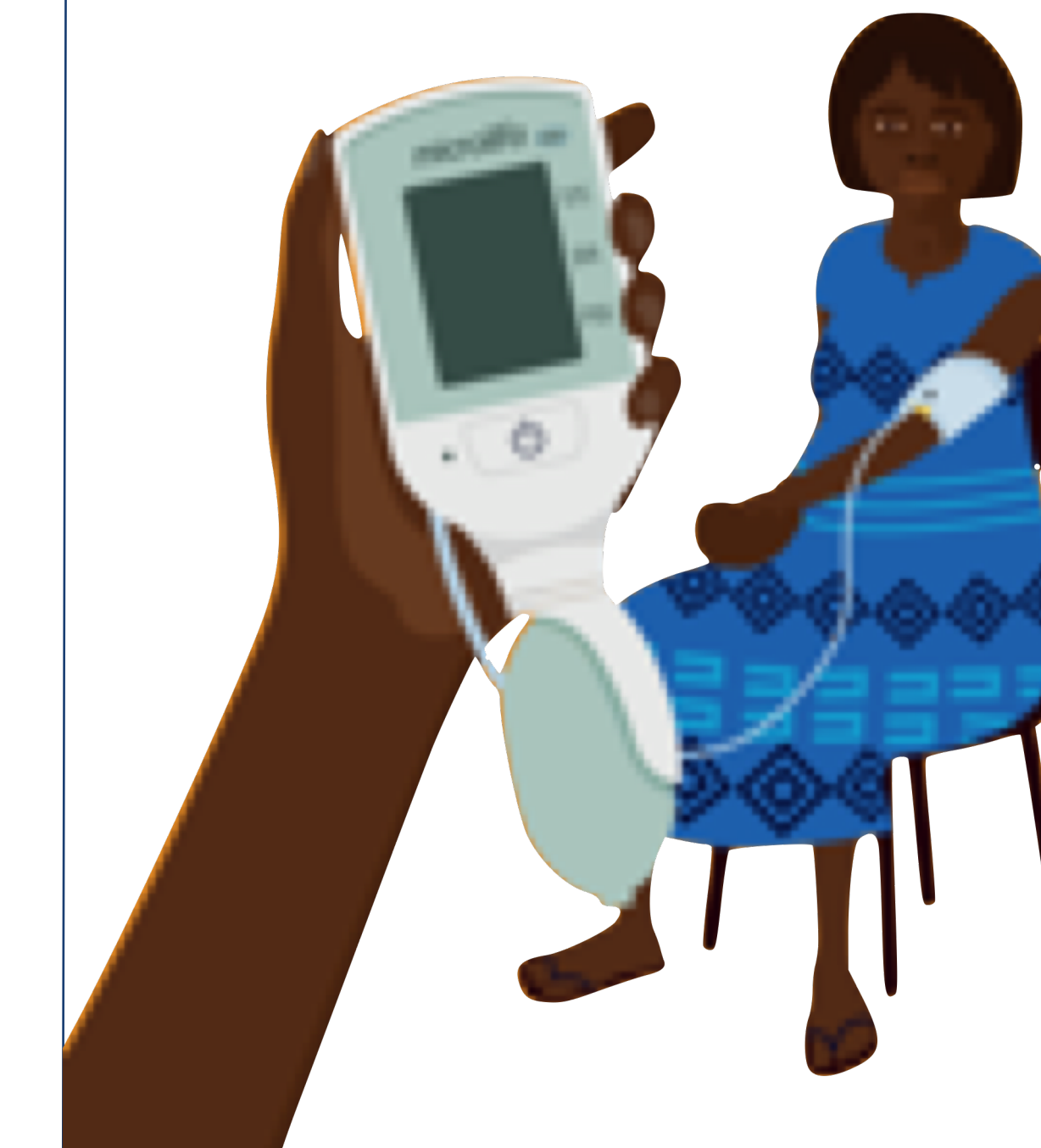


2. EMBEDDING & IMPLEMENTATION OVER TIME:

"My own worry in this CRADLE machine is the continuity. Because we have something in our mind, in Sierra Leone something just comes and just cut off, dies down like that."

RESULTS CONTINUED

Semi-structured interviews with women:



1. 'Too far to Walk':
"The challenge for most women is transportation to the health facility...some will have to skip 1 or 2 clinic date because of transportation."
(Kenema district)

2. Being asked to pay for care:
"What is worrisome is that the nurse always ask us for money...that will serve as a deterrent from going for routine checks."
(Bo district)

CONCLUSION

- CRADLE champions believed CRADLE 'improved clinical management' & 'saved mothers lives.'
- Increased health facility attendance and institutional delivery were reported, related to women's positive perception of the CRADLE VSA.
- Lessons learnt will inform training packages, device delivery & maintenance solutions for national scale-up.