Studying the Unintended Consequences of a Complex Public Health Intervention in Burkina Faso

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Sparking Population Health Solutions
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Presentation Plan

1. Context in Burkina Faso
2. Performance-based financing (PBF)
3. Conceptual framework
4. Methods to study unintended consequences
5. Prelimary results
6. Lessons learned

Public Health Context in Burkina Faso

- Low quality of healthcare services
- Presence of user fees
  - High levels of mortality for < age 5 = 9,8 %

(World Bank, 2015;
WHO, 2014a, 2014b)

PBF to Improve Healthcare Services

"*transfer of money … conditional on taking a measurable action or achieving a predetermined performance target*" (Eichler, 2006)

Fee for service

Bonuses for quality

PBF with Equity Measures in Burkina

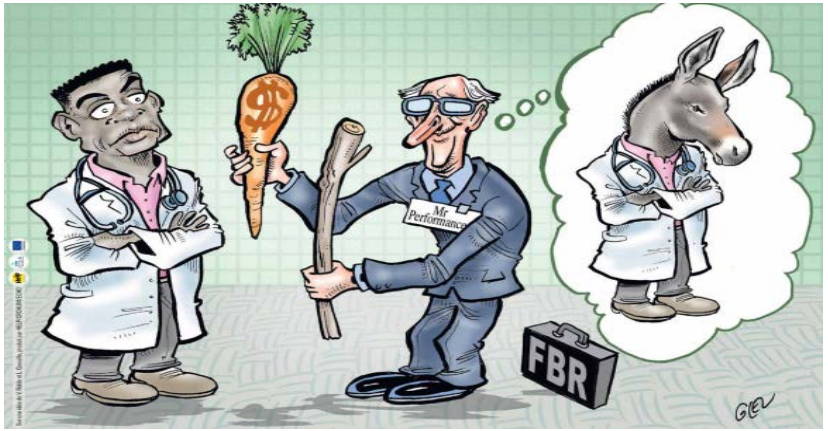
Community-based selection of the poorest 20% of pop.

✓ Health care workers receive higher fee-for-service

✓ Poor are exempt from paying user fees

State of Knowledge

Many hypotheses about unintended consequences of PBF in low- and middle-income countries but little empirical evidence!



(Queuille, Ridde, & Glez, 2014)

Objective

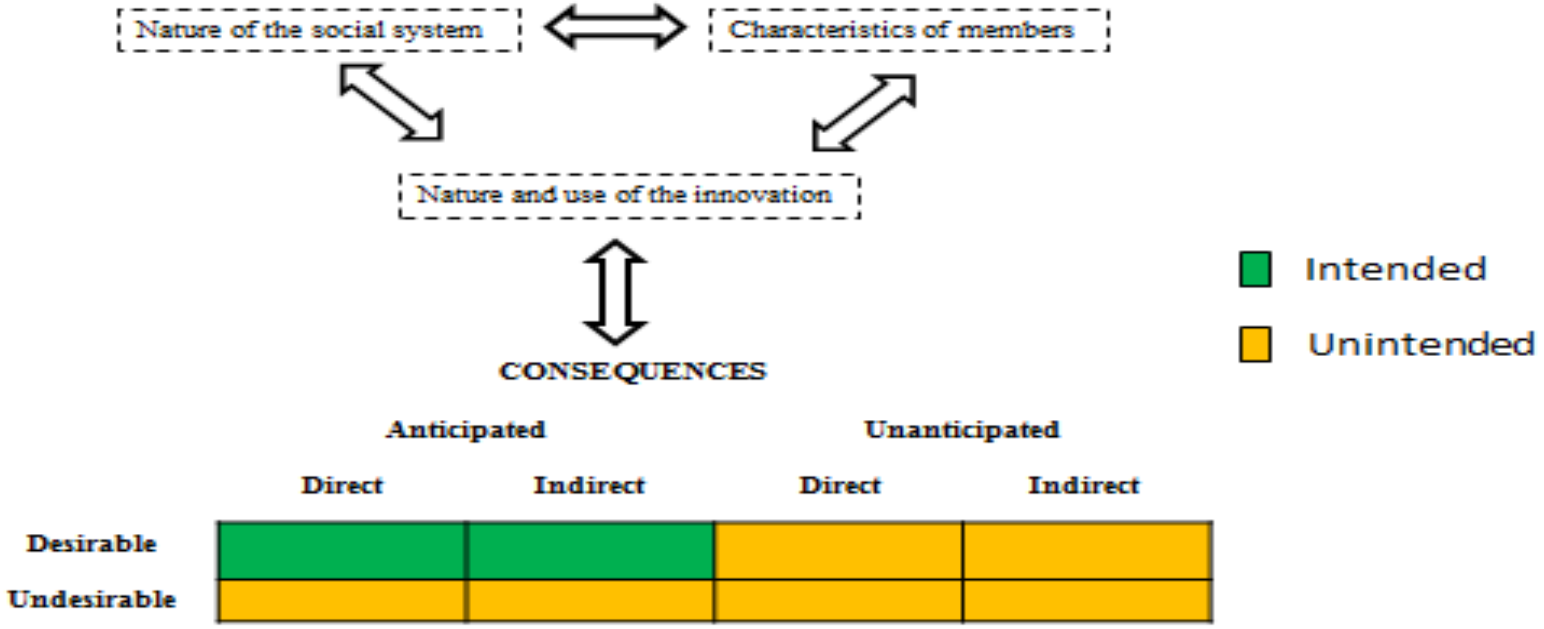
Objective: increase the scientific knowledge on the unintended consequences of the intervention

Unintended consequences : "*changes for which there is a lack of purposeful action or causation that occur to a social system as a result of the innovation*"

(Ash et al., 2007)

Conceptual Framework

Theory on diffusion of innovations (Rogers, 2003)



Methods

Design: Multiple case study

Data collection

- 6 health care centers
- Fieldwork for ~ 2 weeks/center
- Informal discussions, 74 semi-structured interviews
- Observation with systematic note taking

Analysis: content analysis with QDA Miner

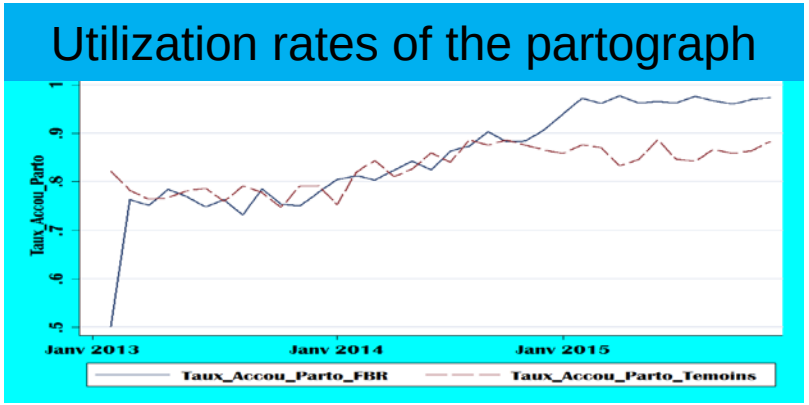
Results for PBF

- Important discrepancies between formal interviews vs informal discussions / behaviour
- "*No obstacles, difficulties or unintended consequences*" (participant)

Results for PBF (cont')

Arbitrary and retrospective filling out

- PBF pays for births monitored with a partographs to detect distress
- Observation: births not simultaneously followed



Results for Health Equity Measures

- Selection of worst-off based on personal interests and relations

- Financial difficulties: Fee for services does not cover expenses medication
  - ➢Cap the value of medication
  - ➢Filter between "real poor" vs "false poor"

A community health worker

Concluding with Lessons Learned

Strengths

- Highlights the pertinence of unintended consequences
- Rigorous design with observation, discussions & flexible interview guides

Difficulties

- Personal interests of actors

➢ **Results will serve to improve healthcare services**

Thank you for your attention!

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