

# Do school-focused Public Food Procurement Policies have nutritional benefits in sub-Saharan Africa: Implementation challenges and enablers

The HD4HL Project Multi-stakeholder Technical Task Team (M3T) Retreat

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# School Meal Programmes

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~ 418 million children in 176 countries received a school meal (WFP, 2022)

In Africa, an estimated 65.4 million children in 51 countries received a school meal (African Union, 2021)

Ghana School Feeding Program (GSFP)

Pantang Hospital Primary School, Greater Accra, May 2023

# Public Food Procurement (PFP) Policies

- Food procurement for public institutions represent large proportions of government budgets at the local and national level
- PFP are increasingly recognised as a relevant preventive strategy to reduce noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the context of increasing overweight/obesity in children and adolescents in SSA (WHO, 2021)
- Opportunity to improve the health and nutritional status of programme beneficiaries, such as pupils and overall nutrient quality and sustainability of food served

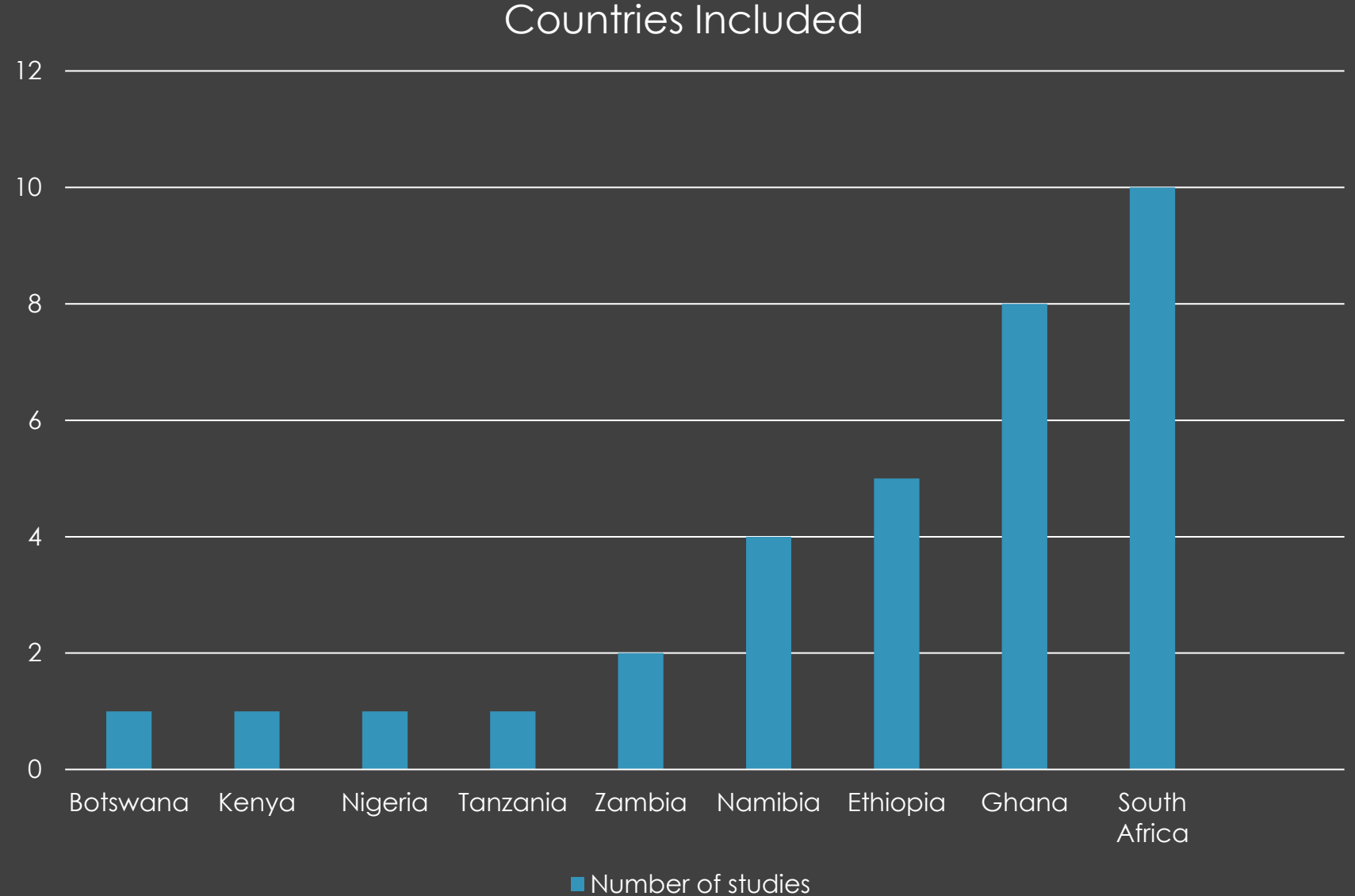


## **Systematic Review conducted:** Research questions

- 1:** What is the impact of Public Food Procurement Policies in schools on school food environments and nutritional outcomes of children/adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) ?
- 2:** What are the barriers and facilitators to implementing effective Public Food Procurement Policies in schools in SSA ?

# Results

**34 studies**  
included after a  
rigorous  
screening &  
selection  
process of 2922  
studies



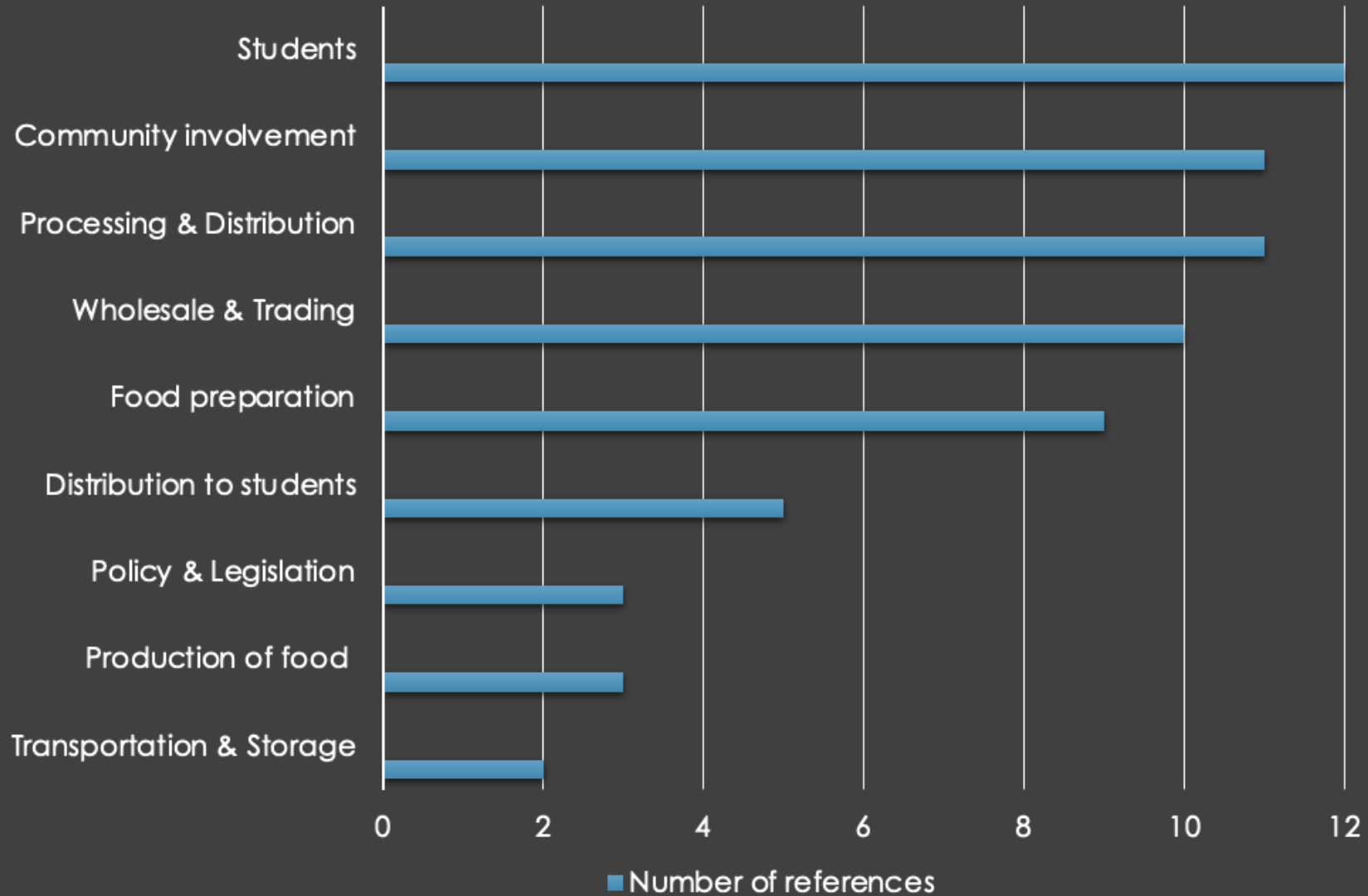


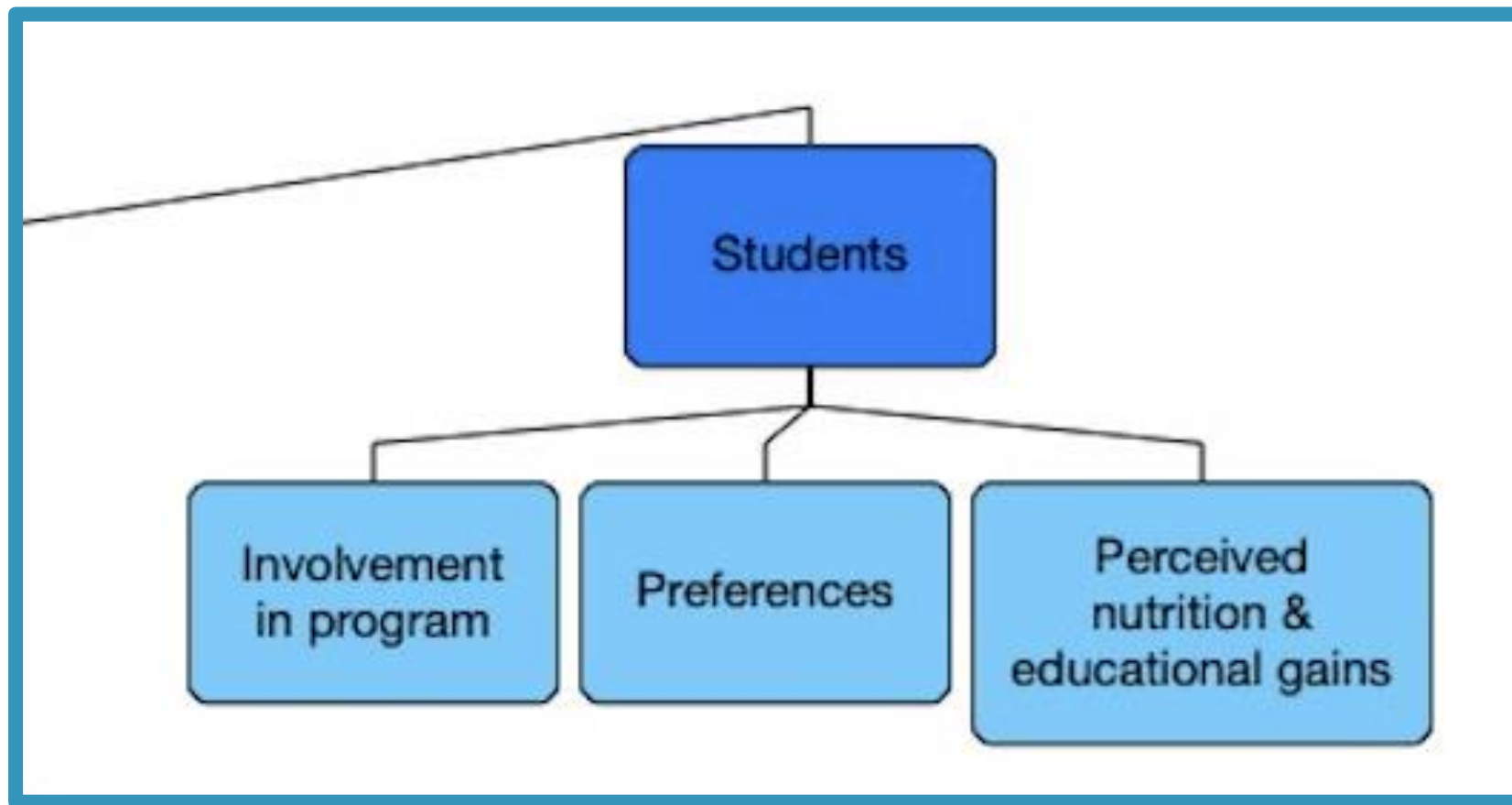
# School Food System Framework

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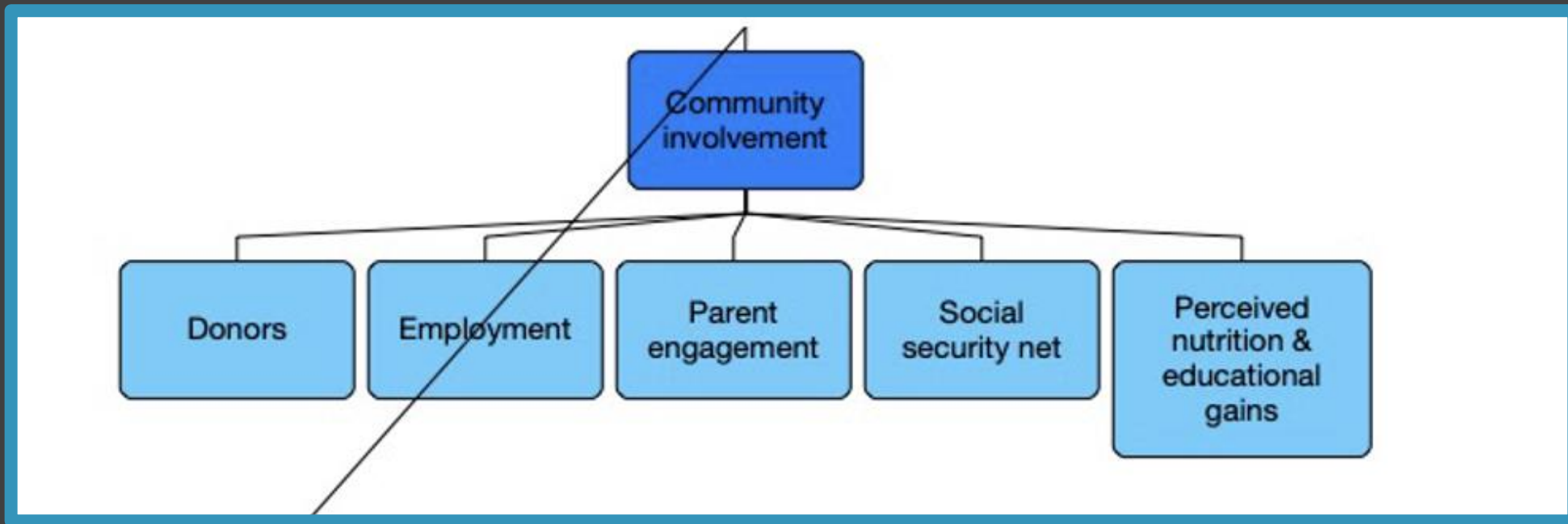
## Enablers





Theme	# referencing each theme	Ghana-specific references
<b>Students</b>	<b>12</b>	
Student perceptions (positive)	6	Dei, Desalegn, Khama, Sanousi, Sibanda, Sulemana





Theme	# referencing each theme	Ghana-specific references
<b>Community involvement</b>	<b>11</b>	
Shared responsibility	5	Molotaj, <b>Okae-Adjei</b> , Rendall-Mkosi, Sanousi, Sibanda
Perceptions (positive)	5	Banda, Daitai, Moepeng, <b>Okae-Adjei</b> , Rector

## Example quote: Community involvement

### The School Feeding Programme as a Social Security Net

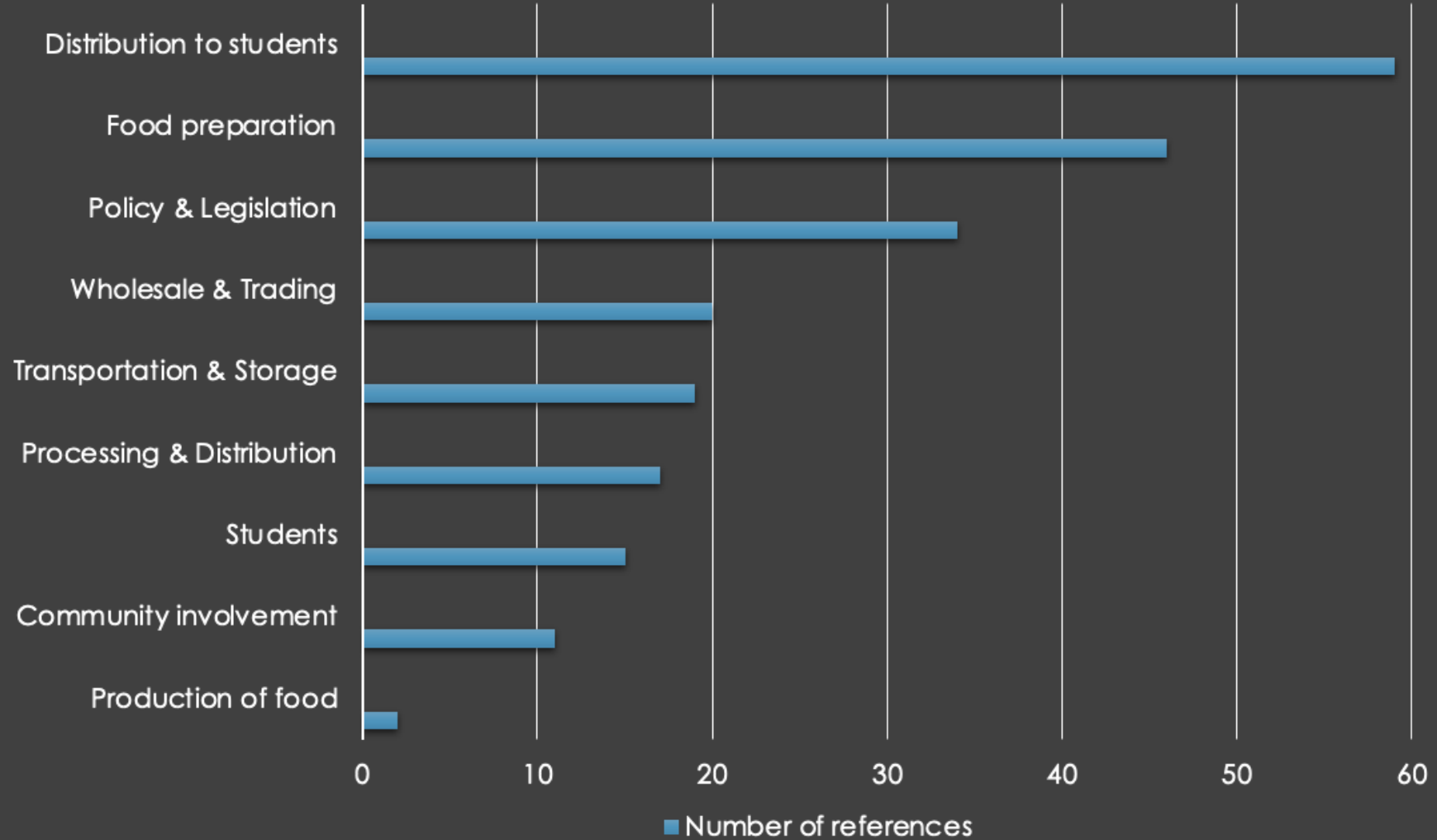
“Before the school feeding programme, you had to go and borrow money if you didn’t have for the child to buy something, but now the programme has reduced the burden such that even when there is no money, the child can fall back on what will be served in school”

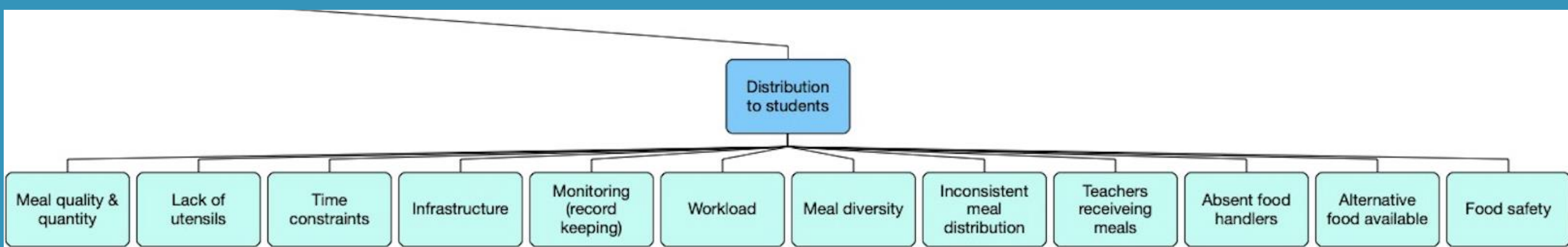
[Caregiver, Ghana] (Fernandes et al., 2016)



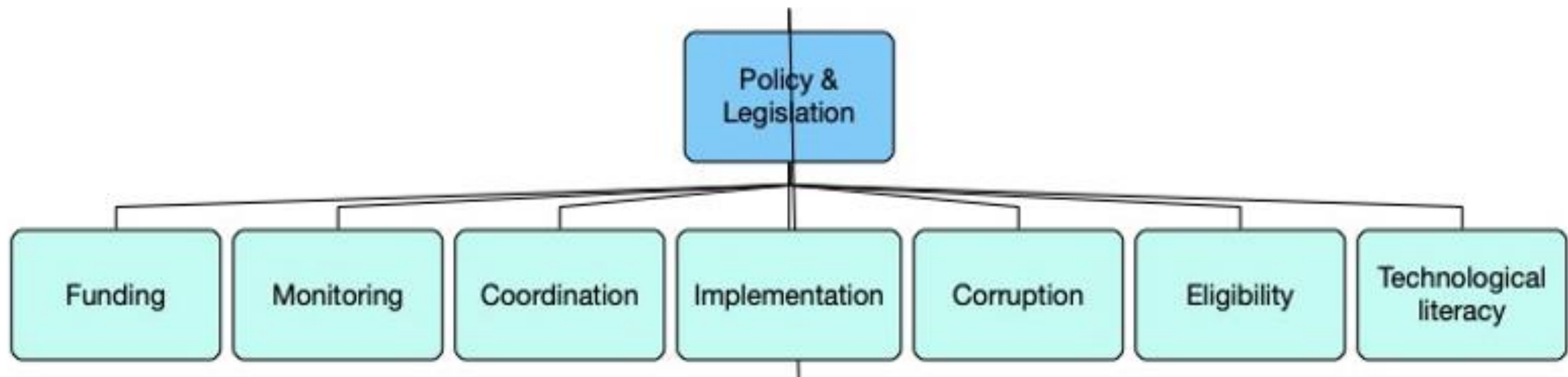


# Challenges





Theme	# of articles referencing each theme	Ghana-specific references
<b>Distribution to students</b>		
Meal quality and quantity	13	Daitai, <b>Darko</b> , Dei, Desalegn, Khama, Moepeng, Molotaj, <b>Okae-Adjei</b> , Rendall-Mkosi, Rep. of Namibia, Sanousi, Sichala, <b>Suelmana</b>
Lack of utensils	9	Banda, Dei, Desalegn, Hamupembe, Khama, Molotaj, Rep. of Namibia, <b>Sulemana</b>
Time constraints	8	Banda, Dei, Hamupembe, Khama, Rendall-Mkosi, Rep. of Namibia, <b>Sulemana</b> , Zenebe
Infrastructure	6	Khama, Langsford, Molotaj, Rendall-Mkosi, <b>Sulemana</b>
Monitoring (Record keeping)	6	<b>Fernandes</b> , Hamupembe, Moepeng, Rendall-Mkosi, Rep. of Namibia, <b>Sulemana</b>
Meal diversity	4	<b>Darko</b> , Khama, Moepeng, Rendall-Mkosi
Teachers receiving school meals	2	<b>Darko</b> , Rendall-Mkosi
Alternative food available	1	<b>Fernandes</b> (mixed)



Theme	# of articles referencing each theme	Ghana-specific references
<b>Policy &amp; legislation</b>	<b>31</b>	
Funding	9	Banda, Hamupembe, Langsford, Moepeng, Molotaj, Okae-Adjei, Sulemana, Yendaw
Monitoring	7	Banda, Hamupembe, Langsford, Moepeng, Molotaj, Okae-Adjei, Rendall-Mkosi
Coordination	6	Hamupembe, Khama, Langsford, Moepeng, Okae-Adjei, Rendall-Mkosi
Technological literacy	2	Fernandes, Khama

## Example quote: Policy & Legislation

### Government Funding

*“The government does not release money to the school on time, so the matron cannot do her best to provide good food. You see, the food sometimes is not that fine and even the quantity is sometimes small but what [to] do, the matron cannot use her own money to cook for the children. We just have to pray that the government increases the support” [Head Teacher, Ghana] (Yendaw & Dayour, 2015).*



# Recommendations (so far)

## For researchers:

- More rigorous methods at baseline and endline, larger sample sizes, larger scope
- More impact evaluations + frequency of evaluations
- Further research needed on: intersectoral programming, the purchase of locally grown food, monitoring mechanisms for food suppliers, decentralized food procurement models, tools

## For government and schools:

- Restructure the SFP, e.g. the eligibility criteria of the quintile system in South Africa
- More monitoring and evaluation of the SFP
- Expand school gardens
- Work with farmers to encourage them to grow more diverse and nutrient-rich crops
- Identify ways that challenges can be overcome and who can help address them

# Next steps

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- Analyse policy-specific recommendations
- Analyse the quantitative findings
- Finalise results and submit draft/report by July 2023



# Thank you!



Some of the review team members visiting Pantang Hospital Primary School  
in Greater Accra, May 2023