



THE WORLD BANK



Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence

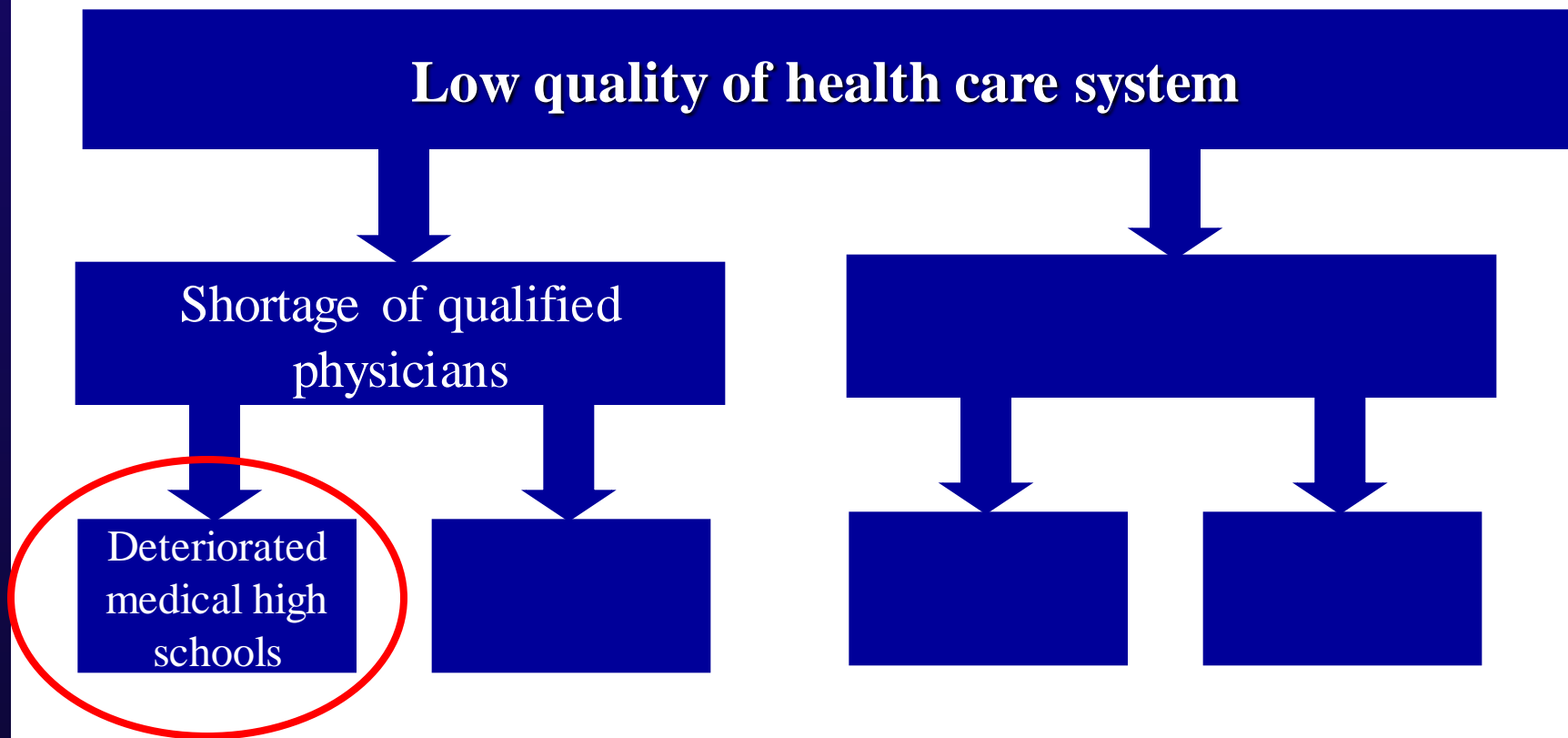
Scholarship program for physicians

Azerbaijan

September 2009

1. Background

Problems of health care system



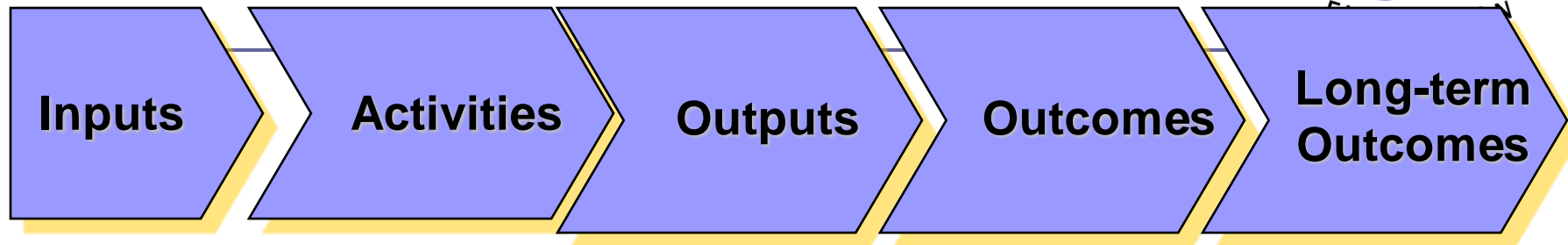
1. Background (cont'd)

Eligibility criteria for scholars:

- ❑ Attainment of a minimum score at exams on chemistry, biology and physics.
- ❑ Admission to one of the medical schools eligible for this program;
- ❑ Agreement to sign a mortgage contract to receive scholarship, study abroad, return and serve at least three years in the state hospital of Azerbaijan;



2. Results Chain



Funds

- Scholarship for physicians
- Placement services back in Azerbaijan

- Students received and completed education and have degree from medical schools
- All returned graduates have received placement services

- Medical services
- Household income
- Educational level of household

Community health increases

3. Primary Research Questions

1. How much does the scholarship program improve medical services?
2. How much does the scholarship program improve scholars' household educational attainment and income?

4. Outcome Indicators

- Number of patients in the scholars' hospitals compared to others;
- Rate of successful surgeries;
- Household income and education attainment subsequent to the scholar's return.

5. Identification Strategy/Method

1. Difference-in-difference for first research question;
 - Define Two groups hospitals:
 - 1) Treatment: Gets new physicians.
 - 2) Control: Gets no new physicians.
 - Measure difference in rate of successful surgeries and number of patients before the intervention (D_1).
 - Measure difference after (D_2).
 - $D_2 - D_1$
2. Discontinuity design for second research question.
 - Define cut-off based on weighted average of three exams;
 - Create two groups based on the cut-off;
 - Collect baseline and after-return outcome information on educational and income of households of both groups;
 - Measure the outcome (education and income);
 - Estimate how much difference is because of the scholarship program.

6. Sample and data

1. Poor performing hospitals:
 - Data on surgeries (hospital reports);
 - Number of patients.

2. Households of scholars and non-scholars around the cut-off
 - Data on education and income.

7. Time Frame/Work Plan

Program life – ongoing

Evaluation – 9 years (7 years of scholarship duration and 2 years of employment)

8. Sources of Financing

- State budget



Thank you

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