

Developing an action plan for a barrier to the cancer screening pathway: experience in 21 countries

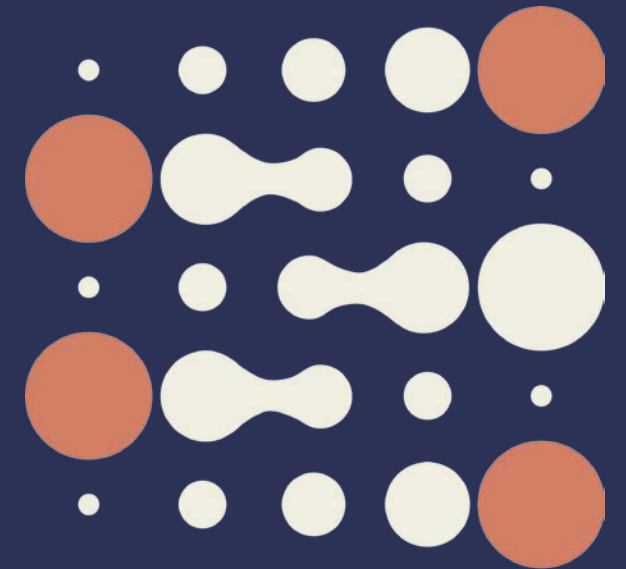
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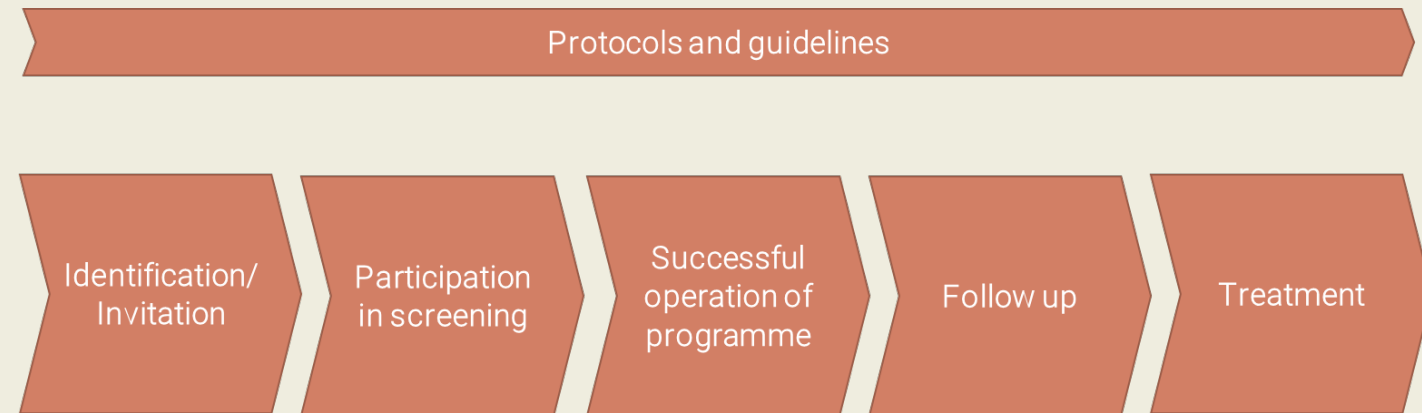
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Background

- Within the CanScreen5 project in the Community of Latin American and the Caribbean States (CELAC), representatives of Health Authorities in 27 **countries have identified and prioritized up to 30 barriers across the cancer screening pathway.**

Figure 1. Steps of the cancer screening pathway covered.



- A tool matching barriers and interventions to overcome them (**INTERVENER**) has been developed and is being tested.
- **Aiming to provide guidance on the next steps on improving their screening programmes, we supported countries in developing an action plan to overcome a selected barrier.**

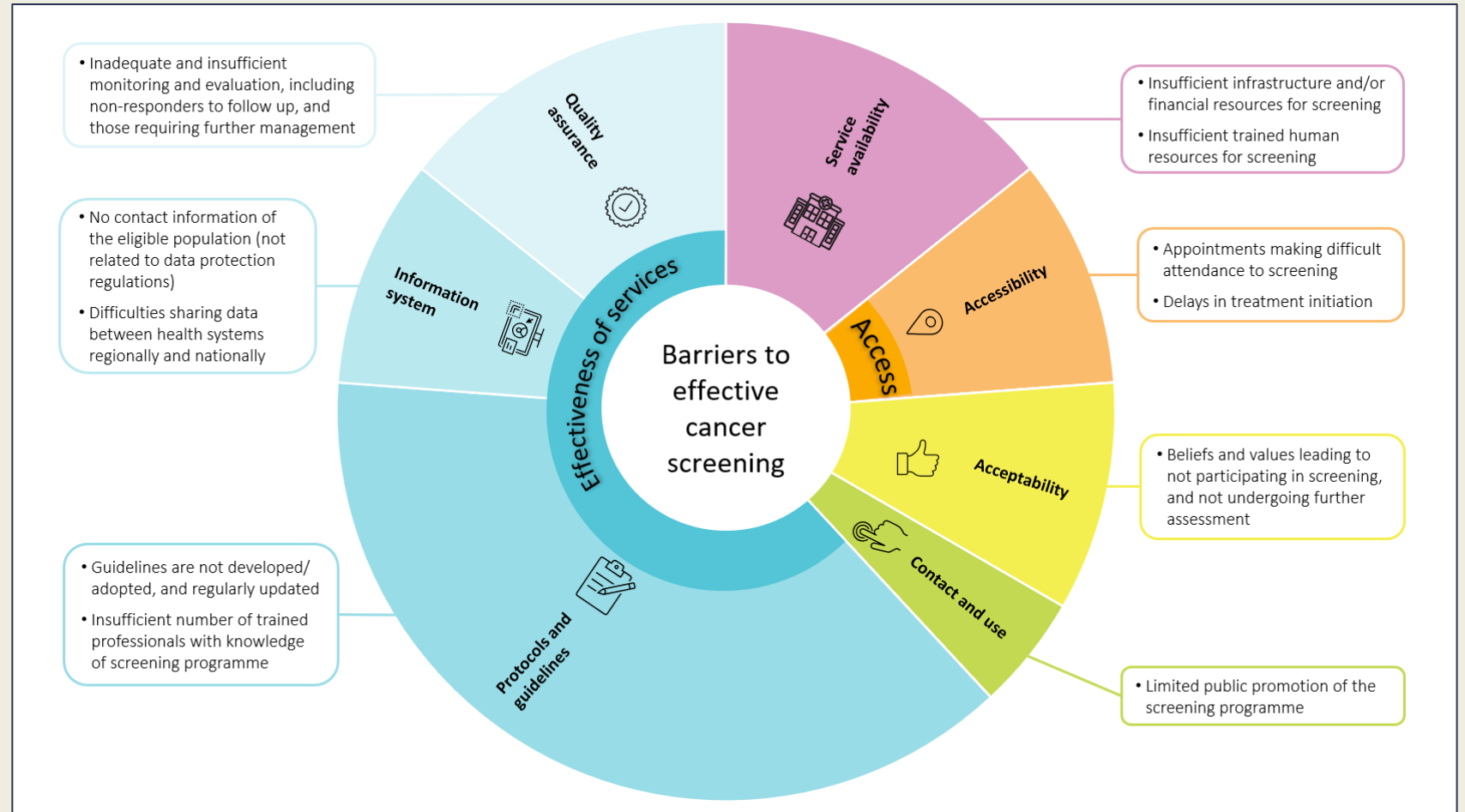
Design

- Countries were asked to **select 3 barriers** out of the up to 30 previously prioritized based on:
 - their perception of the possible impact on the screening pathway
 - feasibility of implementing an intervention to overcome the barrier.
- Representatives from 21 countries attended a **face-to-face workshop** on improving accessibility, coverage and impact of cancer screening programmes (13 Spanish speaking and 8 English speaking countries).
- Lectures and activities covered:
 - ✓ **Prioritization of barriers based on the impact on the programme and on equity of overcoming the barrier.**
 - ✓ **Stakeholder engagement**
 - ✓ **Selection of interventions to overcome the barrier**
 - ✓ **Development of an action plan for the selected barrier.**
- **The action plan included: a SMART objective, action(s), requirements, budget, responsible, key stakeholders, indicators and timeline (actions at short, medium and long term).**

Results

- 8/21 countries (38%) selected to act upon the development/update of guidelines and capacity building around them.

Figure 2. Barriers selected by countries to develop their action plan categorized by dimension (based on a framework of barriers adapted from Tanahashi's conceptual model).



- A key step when developing an action plan was setting the SMART objective.

Discussion and Conclusions

- This project provides guidance to representatives of Health Authorities on how to improve their cancer screening programmes.
- The template for the action plan can be useful for addressing issues for other health conditions.
- INTERVENER (tool matching barriers and interventions) is under use in another research project.

Acknowledgements

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Key take-home messages

- Among their prioritised barriers in the cancer screening pathway, and based on the potential impact on the programme and the feasibility of their approach, **38% of countries selected to act upon the development/update of screening protocols or capacity building.**
- **Setting a SMART objective in action plans and engaging stakeholders** are key to foster change and overcome barriers in the screening pathway.