

Improving governance to tackle health inequalities

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Twenty Years of Health Policy Studies: What difference have we made?

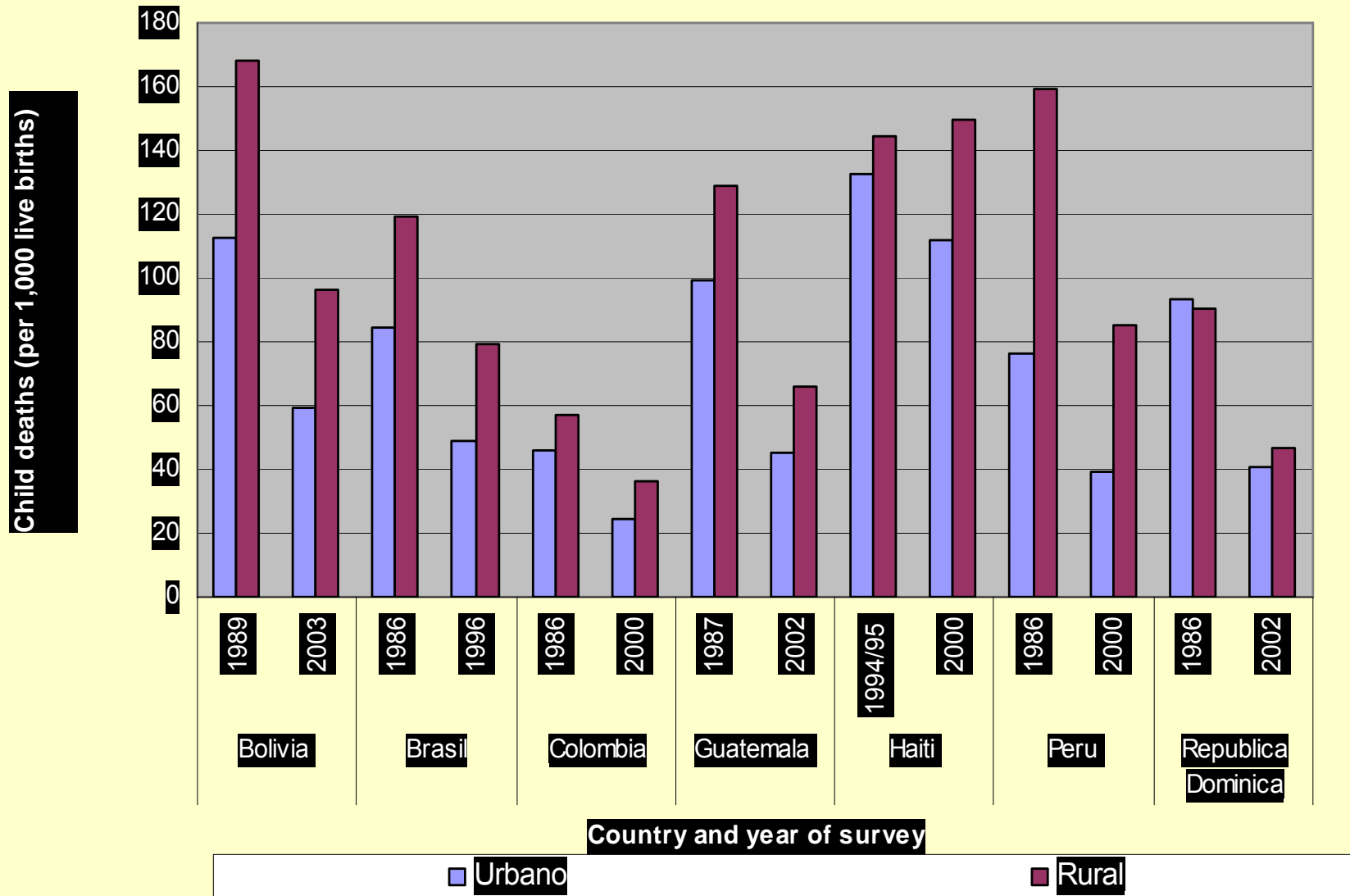
London School of Economics & Political Science / London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



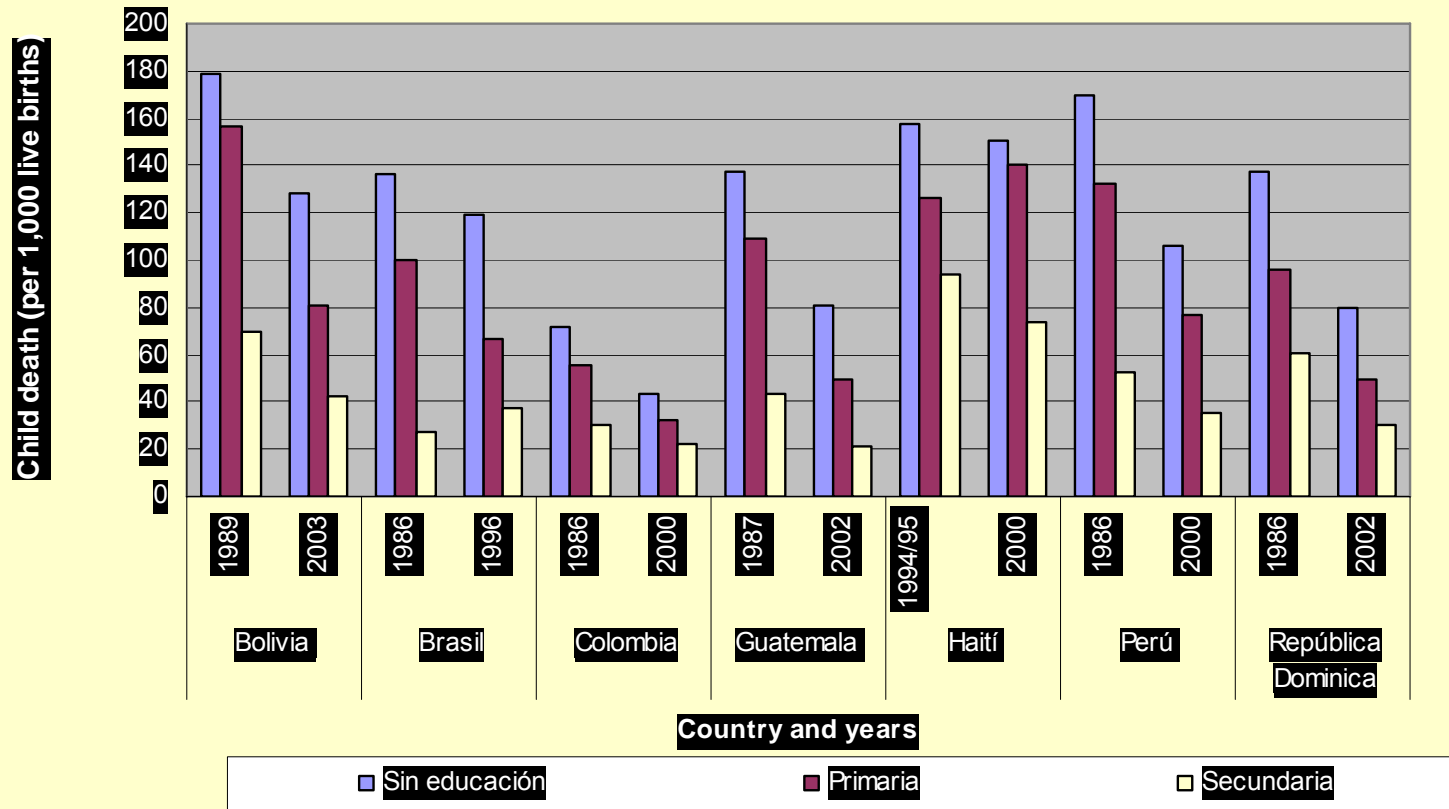
Second National Health Conference. Lima, 2004.

June 30th., 2006

Child Mortality trends at Latin America & The Caribbean by context of living (urban / rural) and year



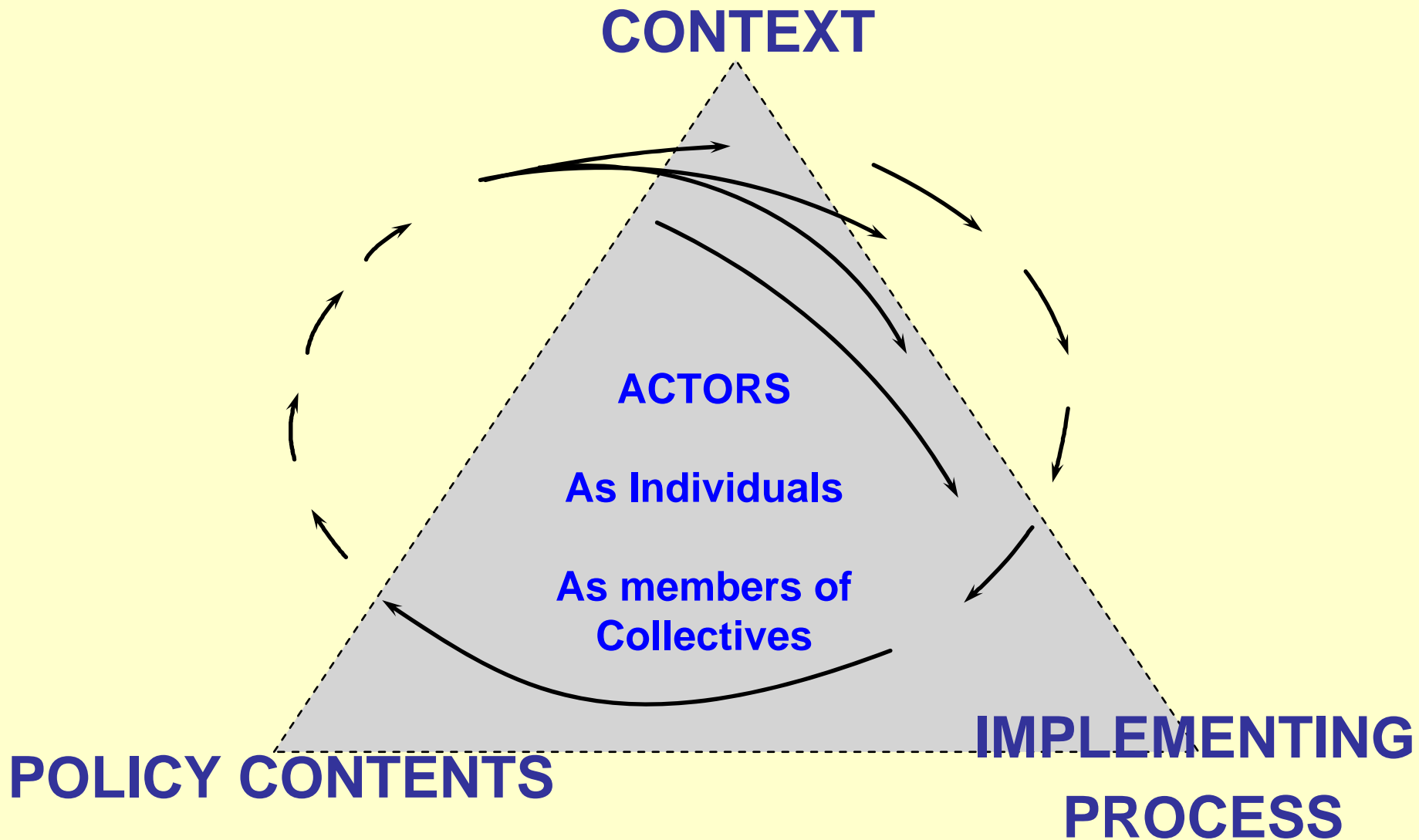
Child mortality trends in selected countries of Latin America & the Caribbean by mother's education and year



Efforts to reduce health inequalities by improving the health of the poor

- Multiple factors influence health status of different societies. Most LAC countries lack of comprehensive approaches / co-ordinations amongst public “sectors”
- Health policy goals with greater attention to specific health problems of the poor, instead of national averages
- Changes in health systems to address barriers faced by the poor for accessing good quality health services: tax-based reimbursements of health services’ costs / aid in cash to different categories of people / decentralization & democratization of decision making...
- Most initiatives oriented to promote WHO’s *2000 Fair Financial contribution to health systems*. Few measures to improve human resources performance / quality of health care or to address physical (geographical) barriers or cultural approaches (& expectations) of those most excluded

Health priorities & conditions for policy achievement

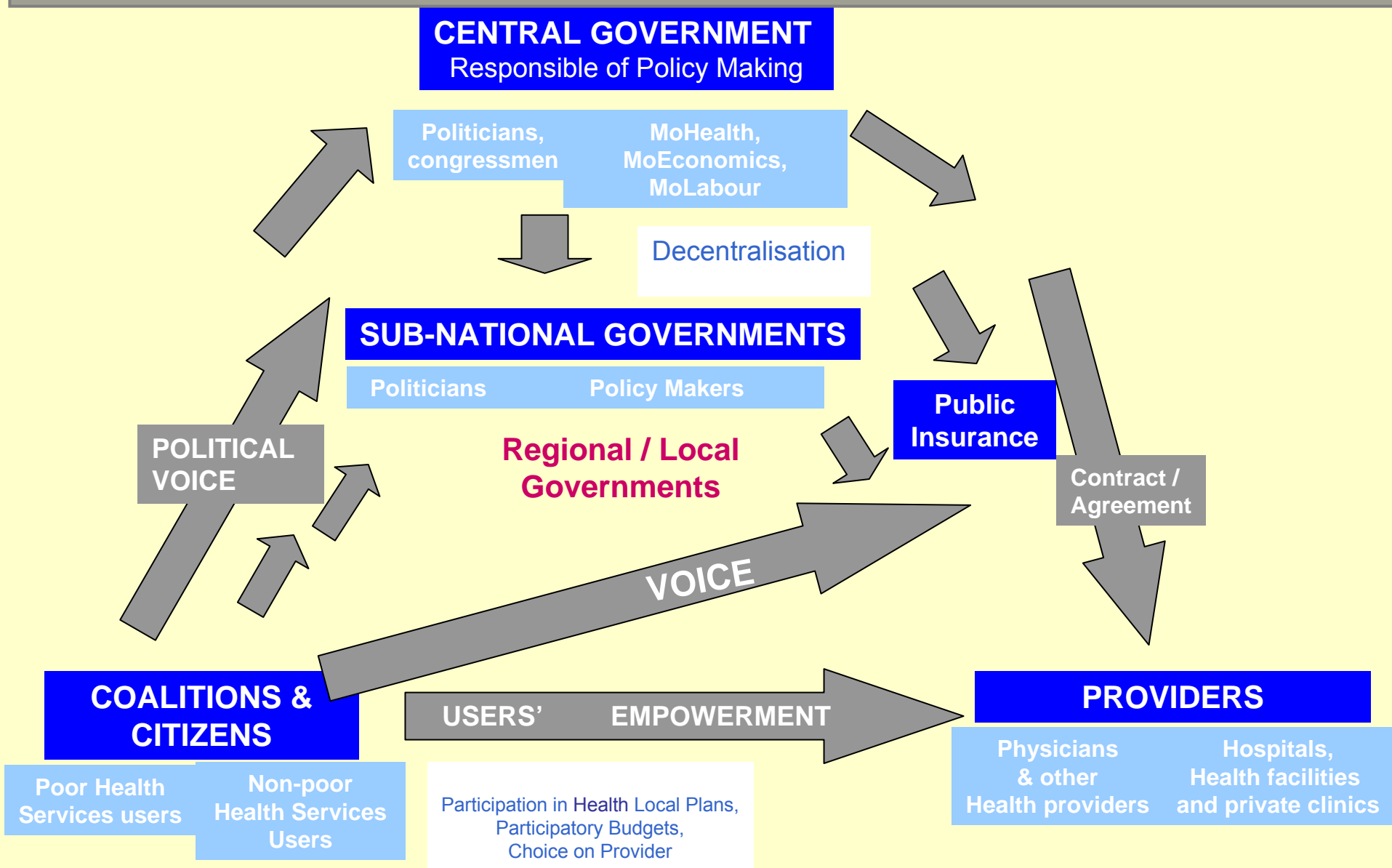


(Frisancho, A., adapted from Walt. G., Health Policy: An Introduction to Process & Power)

Who sets priorities? Health inequalities, health rights and the importance of citizen's voice

- Right to health involves universal access to good-quality health care and healthy environment and living conditions
- At LAC countries, social rights still have limited visibility, and the legal mechanisms to demand them are not complete. Moreover, it seems internationally agreed that the realization of health rights implies progressive development, excessively tied to resource availability
- *Where is resource allocation (and use) defined?*
Importance of public policies – particularly social policies – for the reduction of health inequalities and the realization of health rights
- Social participation as *a means* for influencing public policies, but also as *an end in itself*, for empowerment and citizenship building

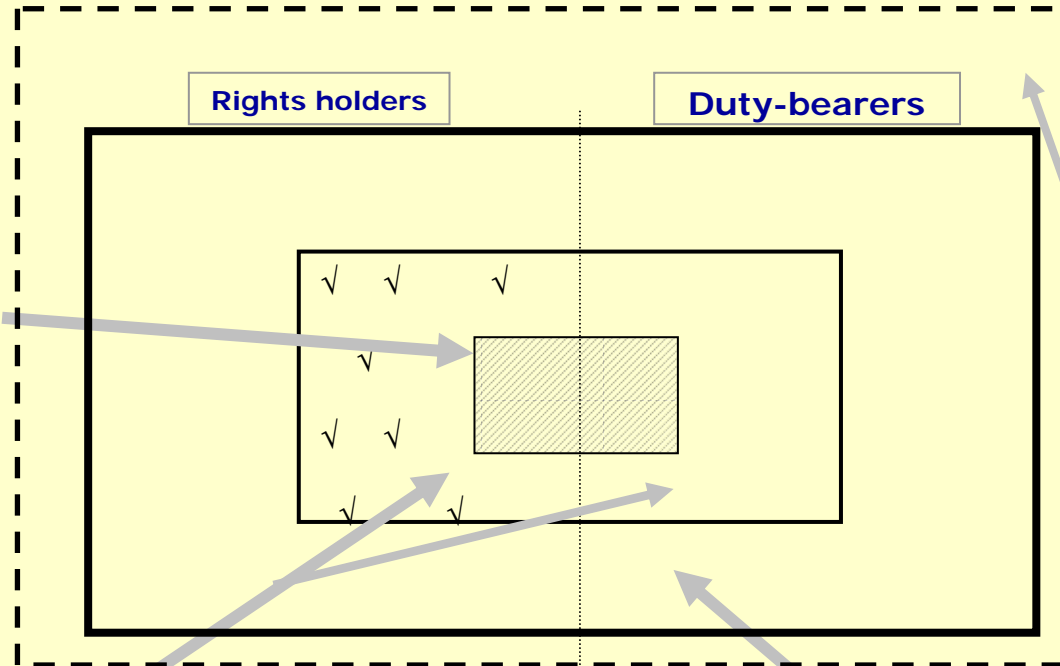
Working more responsive health services: World Bank Accountability Triangle



Working more inclusive health policies: a model for Governance & Rights Engagement

Layer 2:
Interface
between the
community and
duty-bearers,
where idea inter-
change, negotia-
tion and service
delivery occurs.

Layer 1: **Capacities both community and duty-bearers** need to enter effectively into a relationship of dialogue, negotiation and decision making



Layer 4:
International community
might become
very influential
in promoting
rights,
participation
and
government
fulfillment of its
obligations;
Or, it might
not.

Layer 3: **Broader policy environment**

Key assumption - strengthening 'Voice' is not necessarily enough to strengthen governance.

*(Based on a graphic of Goulden, J., adapted by Frisancho, A.
Please send comments and inquiries to: afrisancho@care.org.pe)*