

UMOYA OMUHLE: a whole systems approach to infection prevention and control for drug-resistant tuberculosis in South Africa



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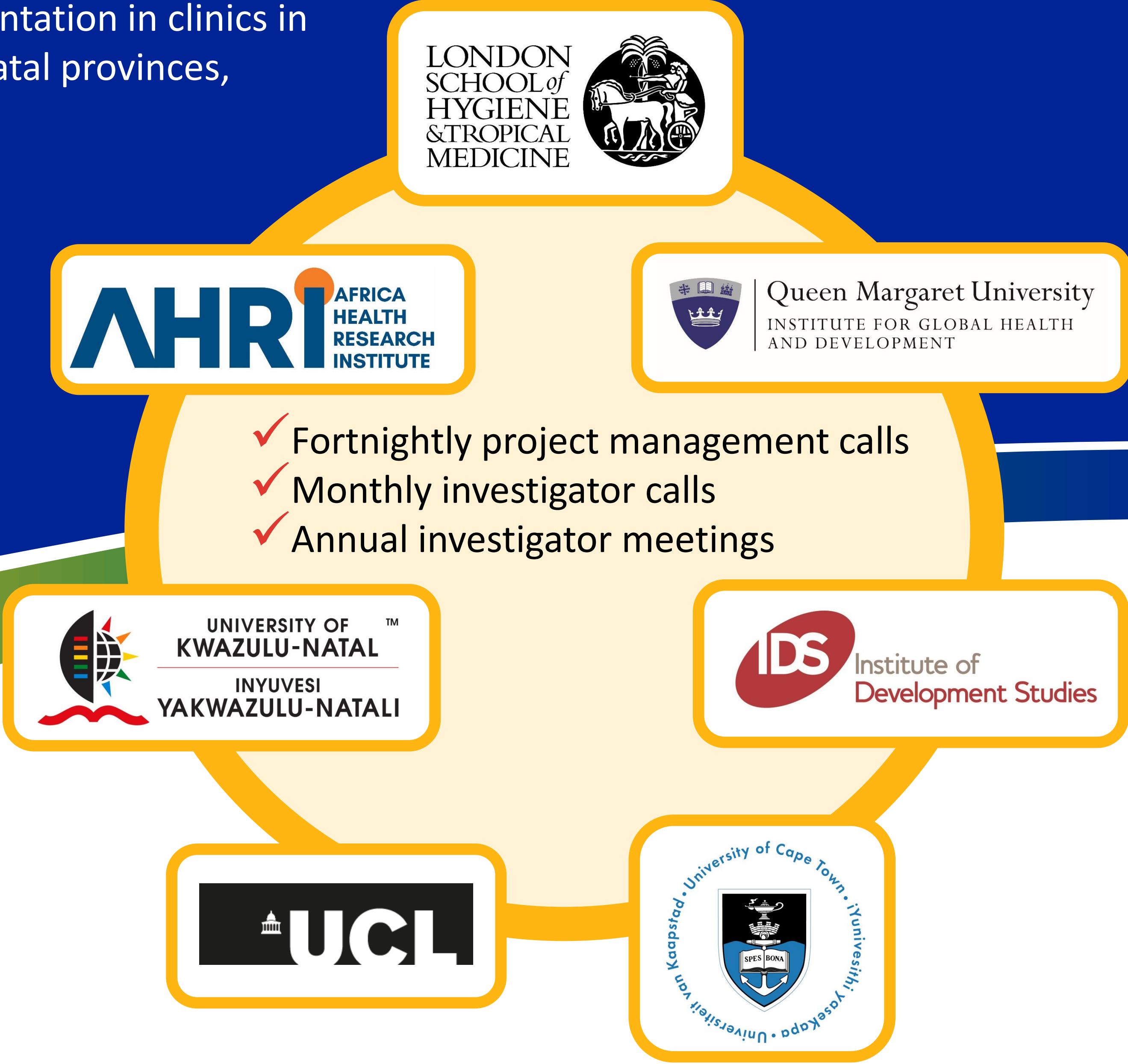
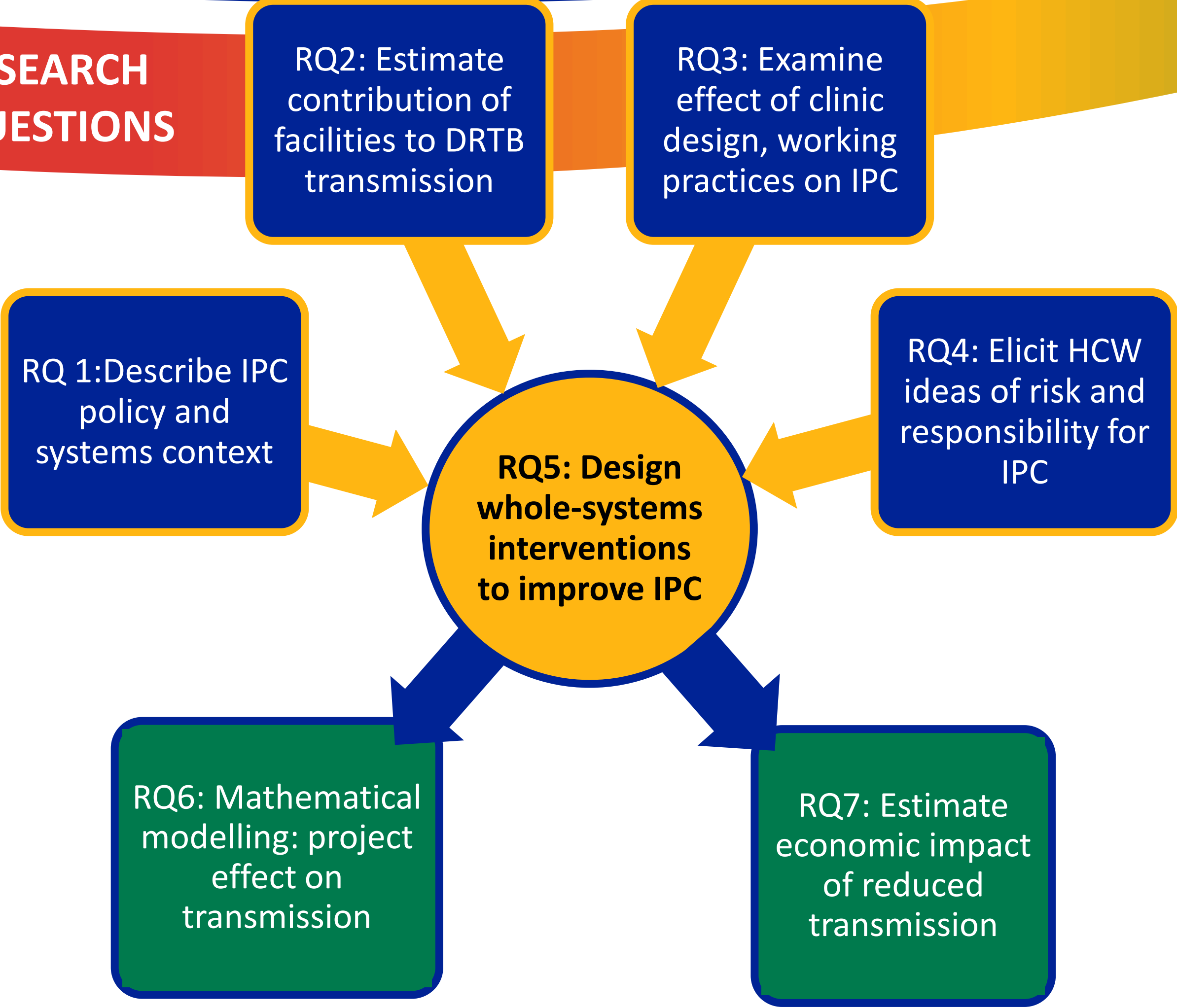
TB is one of the leading causes of death in South Africa.

In 2015, more than 20,000 people were diagnosed with drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB)

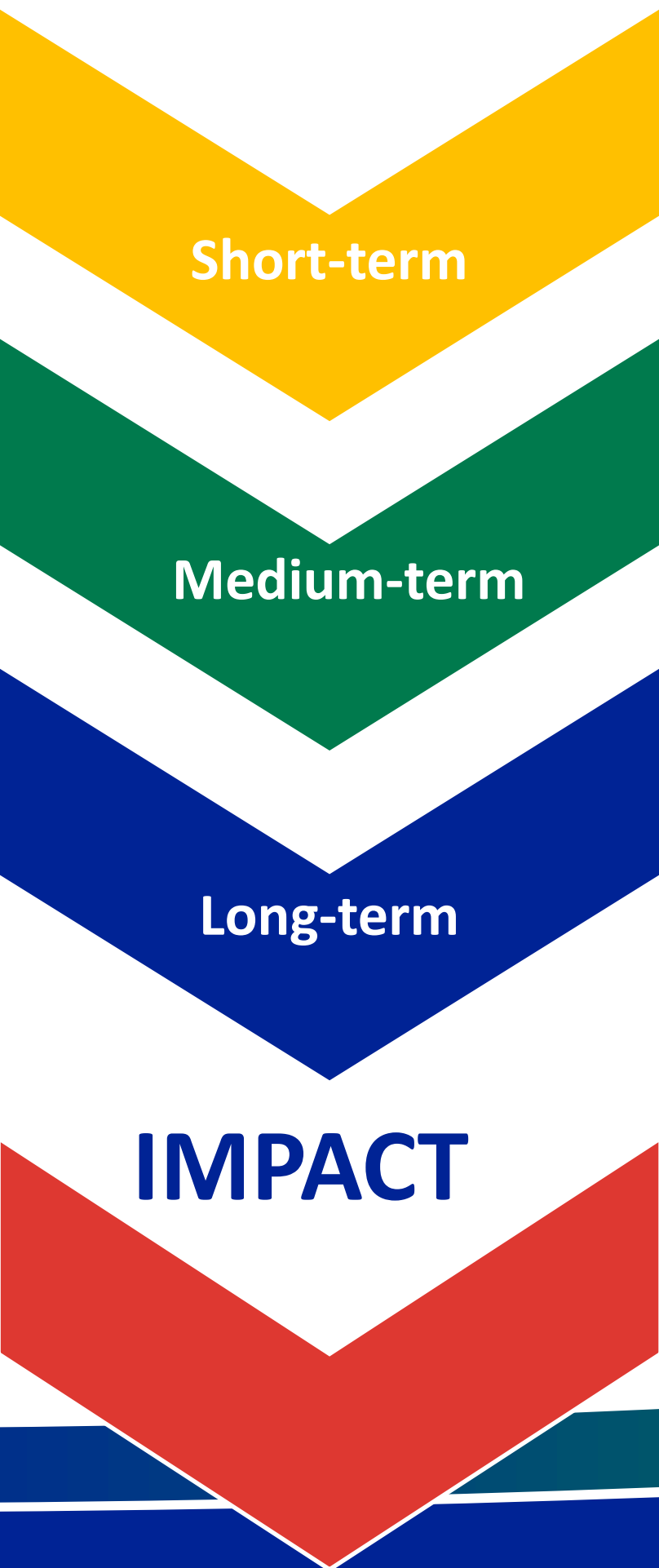
AIM
The project examines the social, biological and infrastructural dynamics of DR-TB transmission and IPC implementation in clinics in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, South Africa.

BACKGROUND
South Africa has one of the highest burdens of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) in the world, with more than 20,000 people diagnosed with DR-TB in 2015. Transmission of DR-TB occurs within hospitals and clinics, but it is not known how much exposure in clinics contributes to DR-TB transmission overall. Existing guidelines for airborne infection prevention and control (IPC) in health facilities are poorly implemented.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



PATHWAYS TO IMPACT



PATHWAYS TO IMPACT		
POLICY Policy makers	PRACTICE Programme Managers	ADVOCACY Health Care Workers and people with DR-TB
Research findings related to potential policy changes	Discussion of infection risk and mitigating strategies	Discussion of enablers and barriers to IPC for DR-TB
Proposals for changes to national or provincial policy	Proposals for changes to national or provincial practice guidelines	Proposals for positive shift to promote IPC for DR-TB as an occupational health issue
Policy changes informed by research findings	Practice changes informed by research findings	Change of risk perceptions and behaviours related to IPC for DR-TB
Strengthen the evidence base around IPC interventions; trace the policy-to-practice process; prioritise investments.	Inform the development of IPC intervention design and elements	Foster a paradigm shift towards local stewardship and effective use of information to prevent nosocomial transmission of DR-TB

This project contributes to the GCRF challenge areas of 'Equitable Access to Sustainable Development' and 'Good Governance and Social Justice' by promoting locally appropriate, systems-based approaches to sustainable health and wellbeing for both patients and health workers in South African health facilities.

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