

Reducing Maternal Mortality: Progress at Last!

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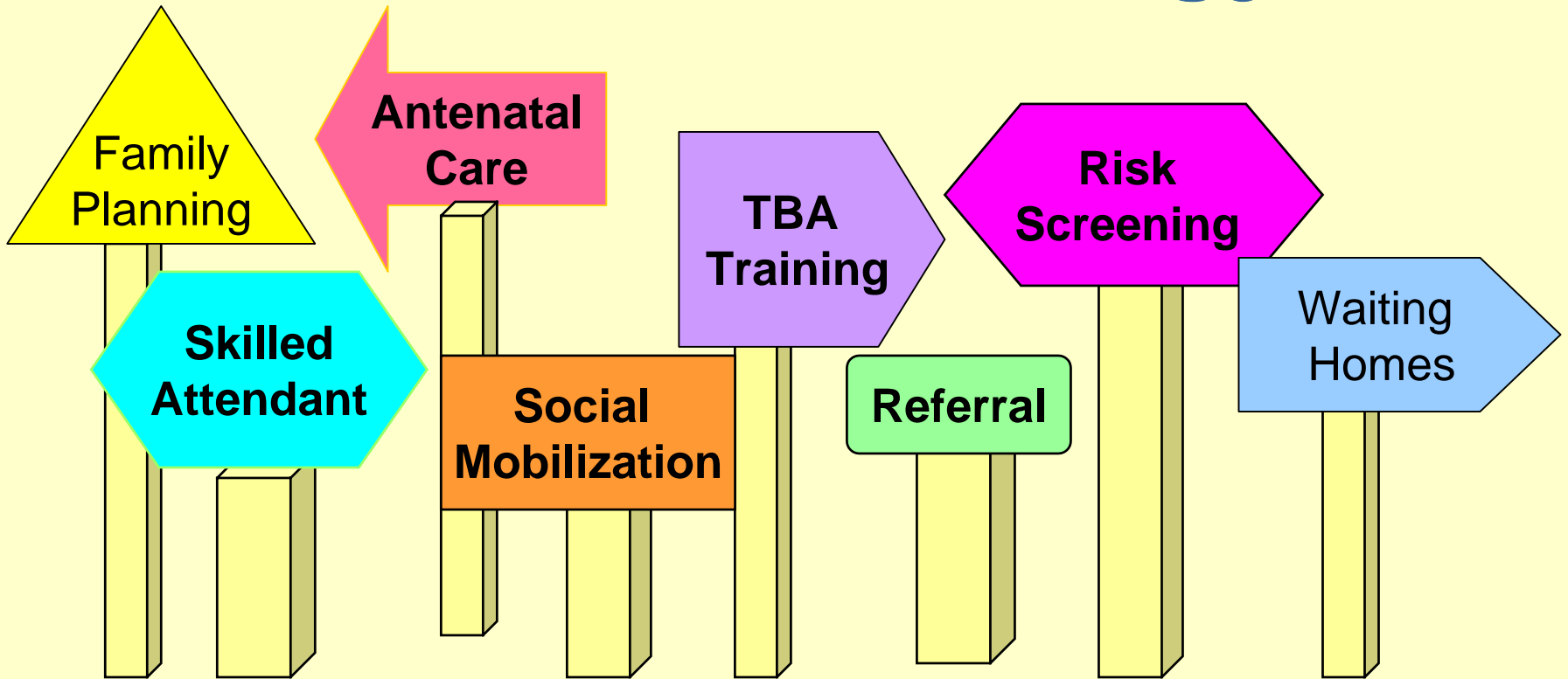
The Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI)

- Early 1980s: maternal mortality (MM) studies in Ethiopia, Egypt, Bali, etc.
- 1985:
 - 1st Inter-regional meeting on MM at WHO
 - “Where is the M in MCH?”

The SMI (cont.)

- 1987: Launching of the SMI in Nairobi
- 1987-97:
 - many conferences
 - No clear strategy
 - few programs

No Clear Strategy



Strategy: key fact #1

We know what causes most maternal deaths :

- Hemorrhage
- Hypertensive diseases
- Unsafe abortion
- Infection
- Prolonged labor

Strategy: key fact #2

Most serious obstetric complications
cannot be
predicted or prevented
But they **can** be treated

Strategy: key fact #3

Therefore,

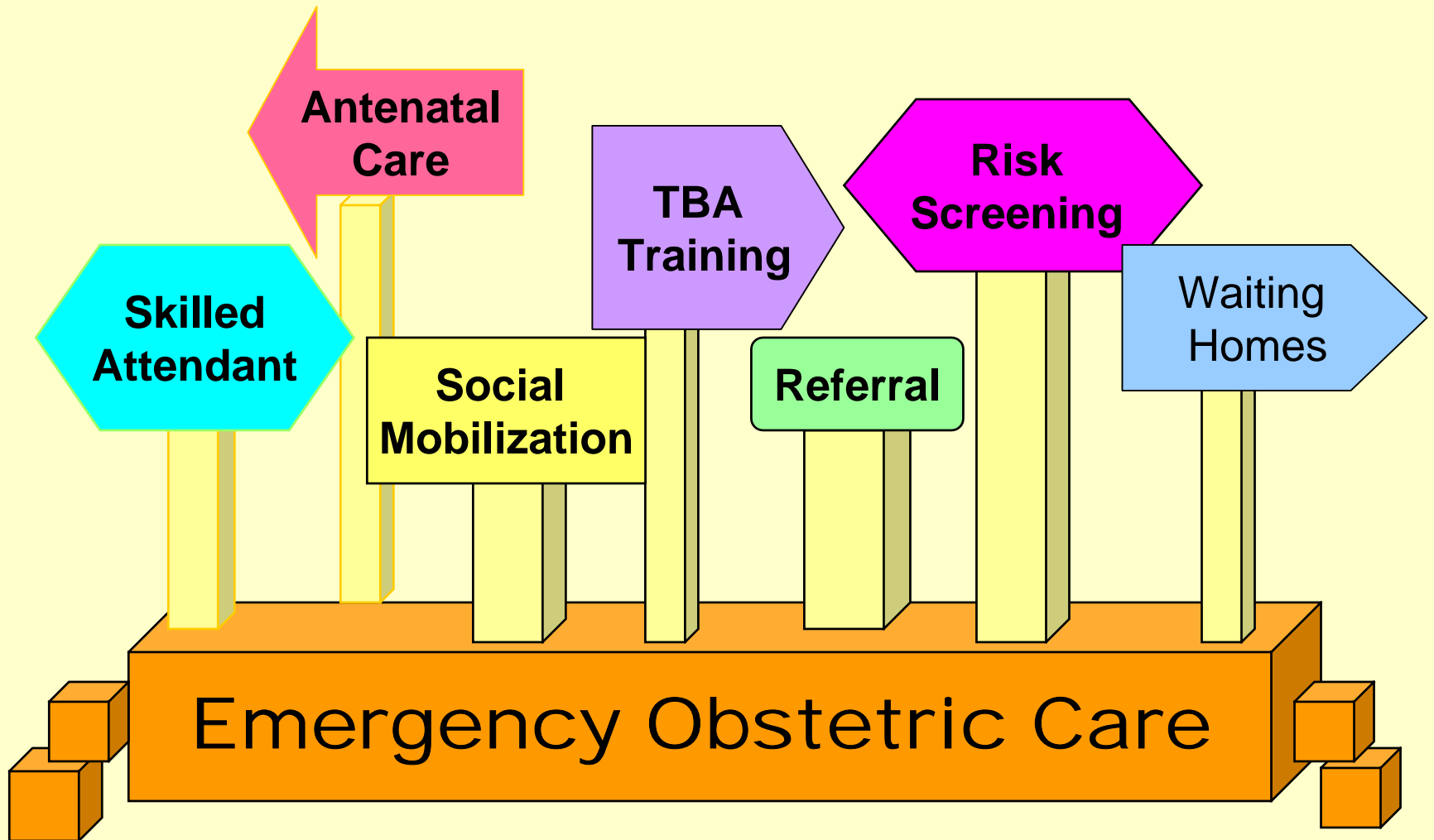
All pregnant women

Need access to

Emergency Obstetric Care

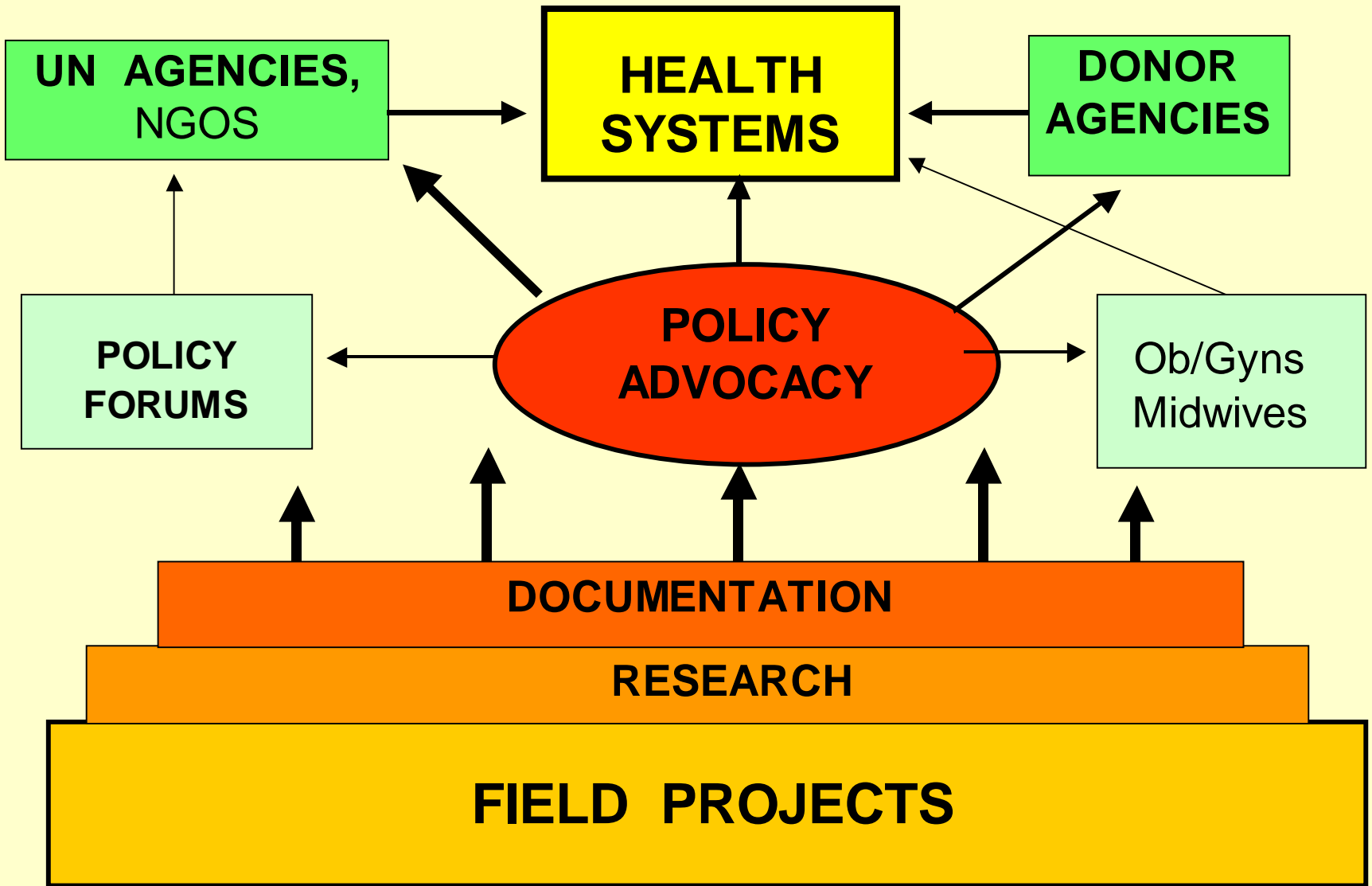
(EmOC)

EmOC is the foundation



Why we need field projects

- 1. To save women's lives !!**
2. To involve governments, agencies
3. To gain experience
4. To identify policy barriers



AMDD Program

Started: May 1999

Funder:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Budget

\$50 million for 5 years

AMDD =

**AVERTING MATERNAL DEATH
AND DISABILITY**

Our Goal

Improve the:

availability,
quality and
utilization of
emergency obstetric care

AMDD Structure

Principal Investigators:

A Rosenfield, D. Maine

Program Director: D. Maine

- Small staff at Columbia University
- Work through “project partners”
- Involve “technical partners”

AMDD Project Partners

- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- CARE
- Save the Children (USA)
- RPMM Network in Africa
- RHR Consortium

AMDD Technical Partners

- Family Health International
- EngenderHealth
- John Snow Inc.
- Johns Hopkins University
- Indian Institute of Management

AMDD-Supported Projects

83 projects in 51 countries

UNICEF = oldest, largest partner

– Field Projects in Asia:

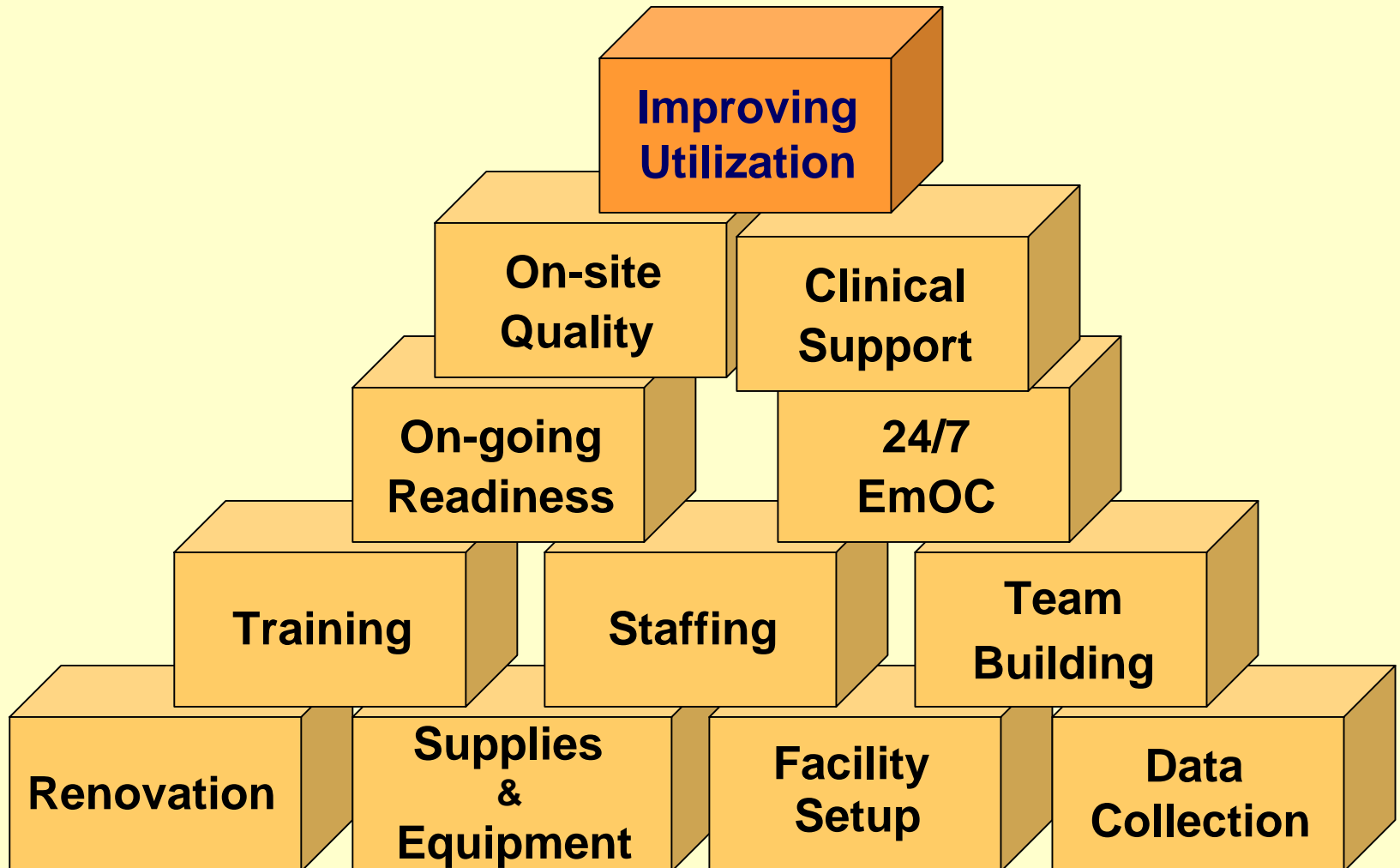
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan

– Needs assessments in Africa: Benin, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Uganda

Lessons learned

Improving services
is much more than just
training and equipment

Implementing EmOC

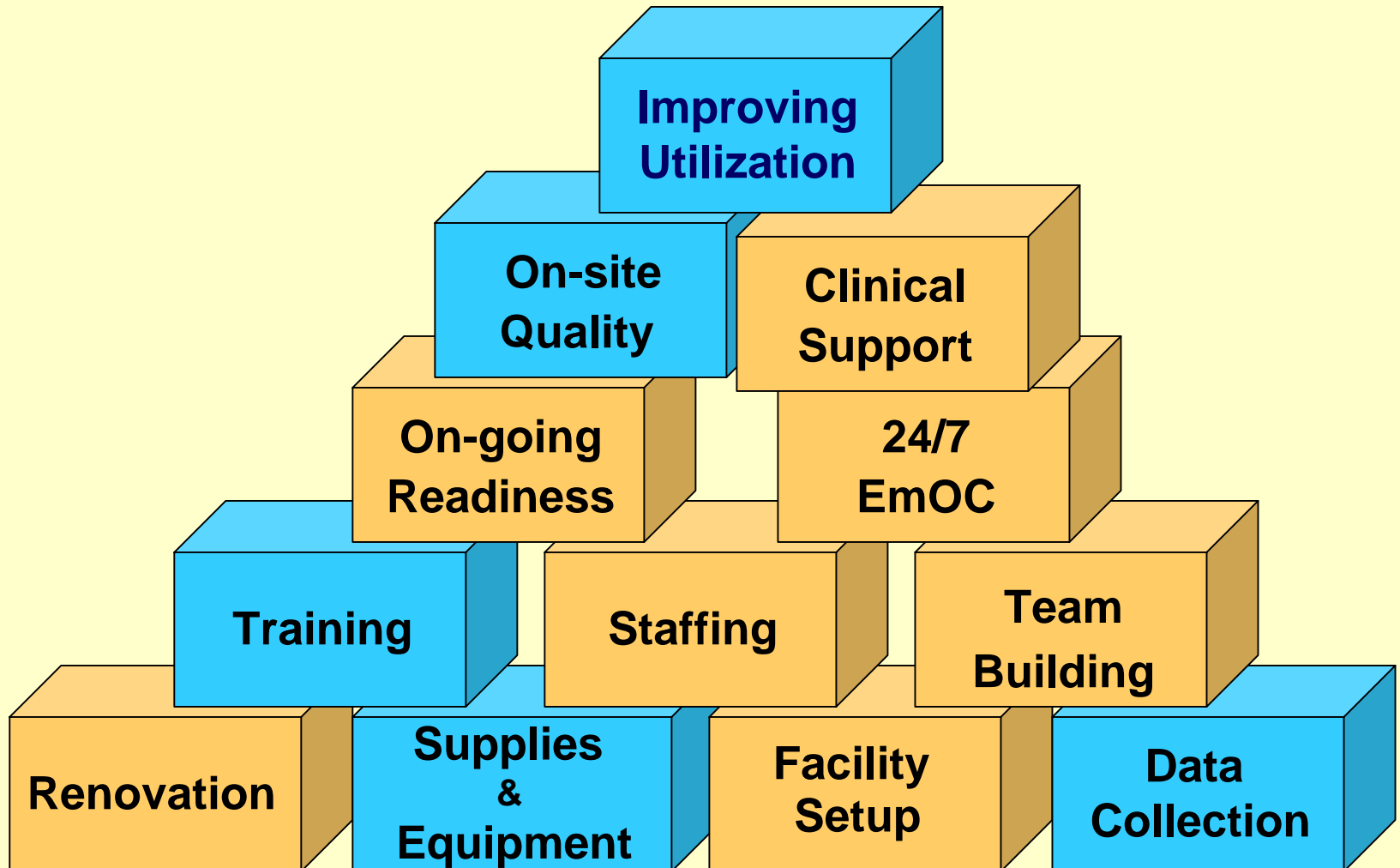


Good News!

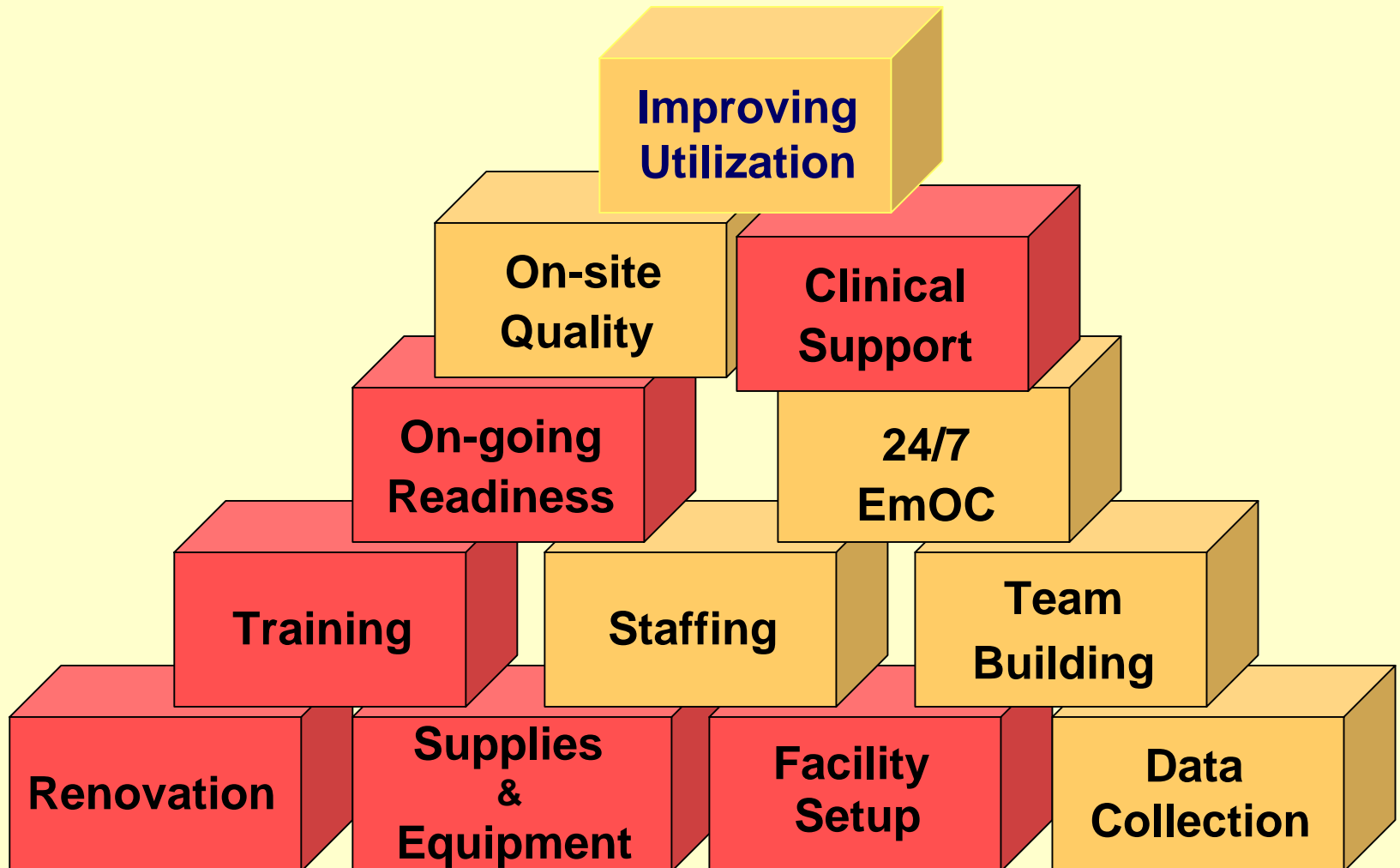
You don't need to do it
all at once,
or all yourself.

Use PARTNERSHIPS

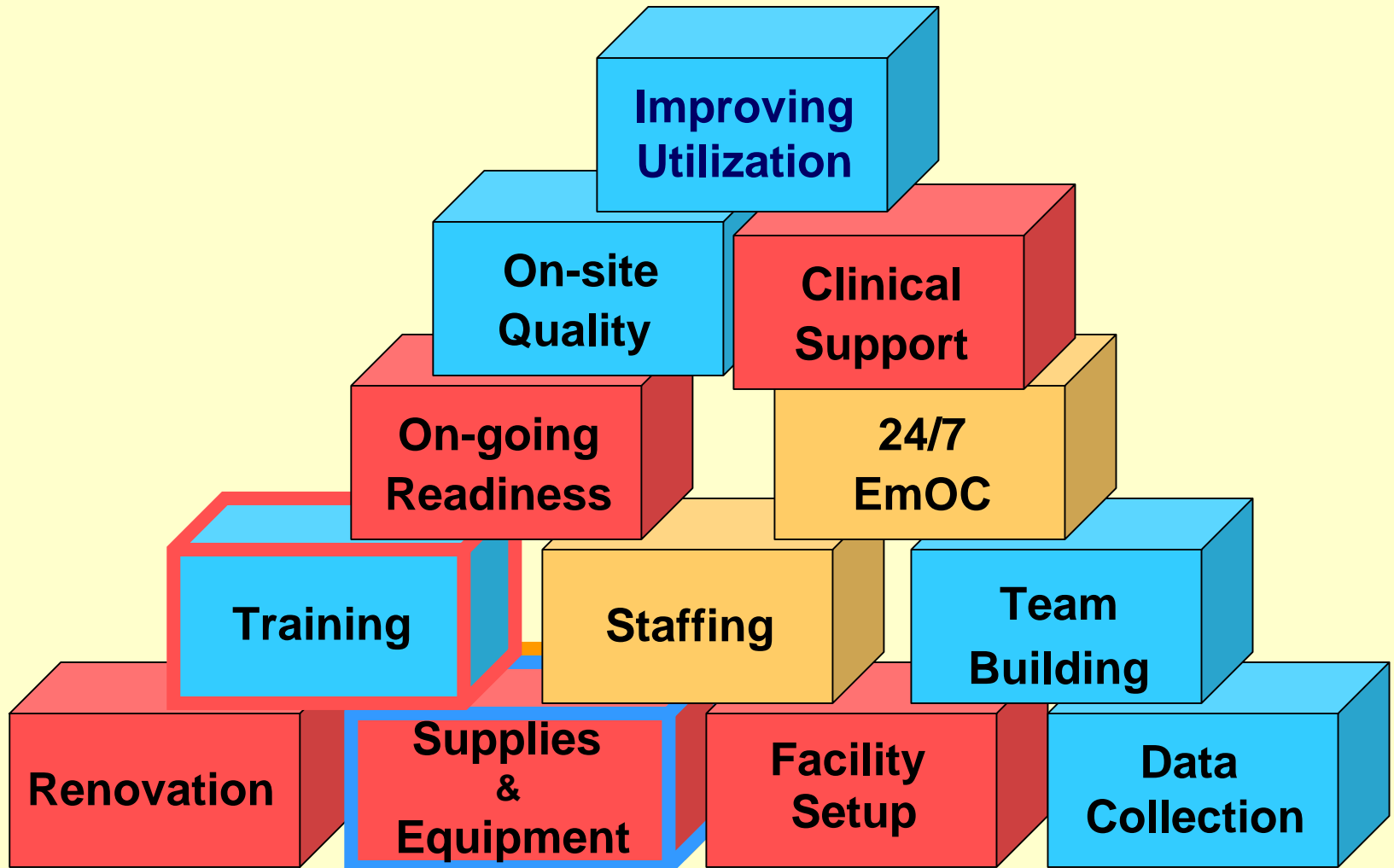
Partnership example: UNICEF role



Partnership example: Japan's role



Partnership example: Japan & UNICEF



Conclusion

There is now a global momentum,
based on learning from field project,
involving governments,
UN agencies, NGOs
collaborating to improve
EmOC.

Conclusion (cont.)

Partnerships
such as that between the
Government of Japan and UNICEF
can lead to real progress
in reducing maternal deaths,
at last.