A woman with braided hair, wearing a red and black striped shirt, is sitting at a desk in a room. The wall behind her is covered with various posters and notices. One poster on the left says 'SCALE UP 2015'. Another poster on the right says 'SPACE YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING'. The room has blue curtains in the background. The text is overlaid on an orange semi-transparent background.

Understanding refusal: perceptions of SP affecting IPTp delivery. A cross-country qualitative analysis

Yara Alonso, Anthropologist

Rationale

Gap between ANC and IPTp-SP coverage: **Why do pregnant women not take SP?**

TIPTOP project aims at evaluating a community-based approach to IPTp delivery (C-IPTp) through community health workers (CHWs)

Qualitative research: assess the acceptability of C-IPTp, and factors influencing its adoption

BARRIERS TO UPTAKE

Health system related factors

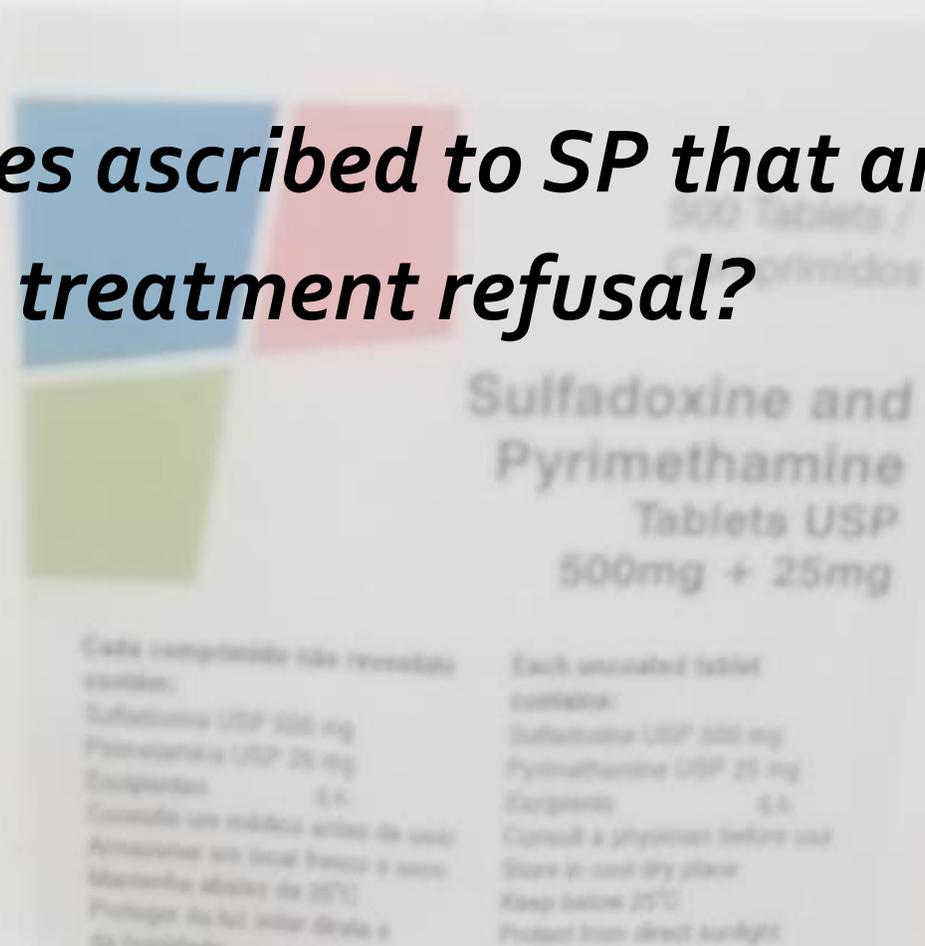
User/Patient related factors

TREATMENT REFUSAL

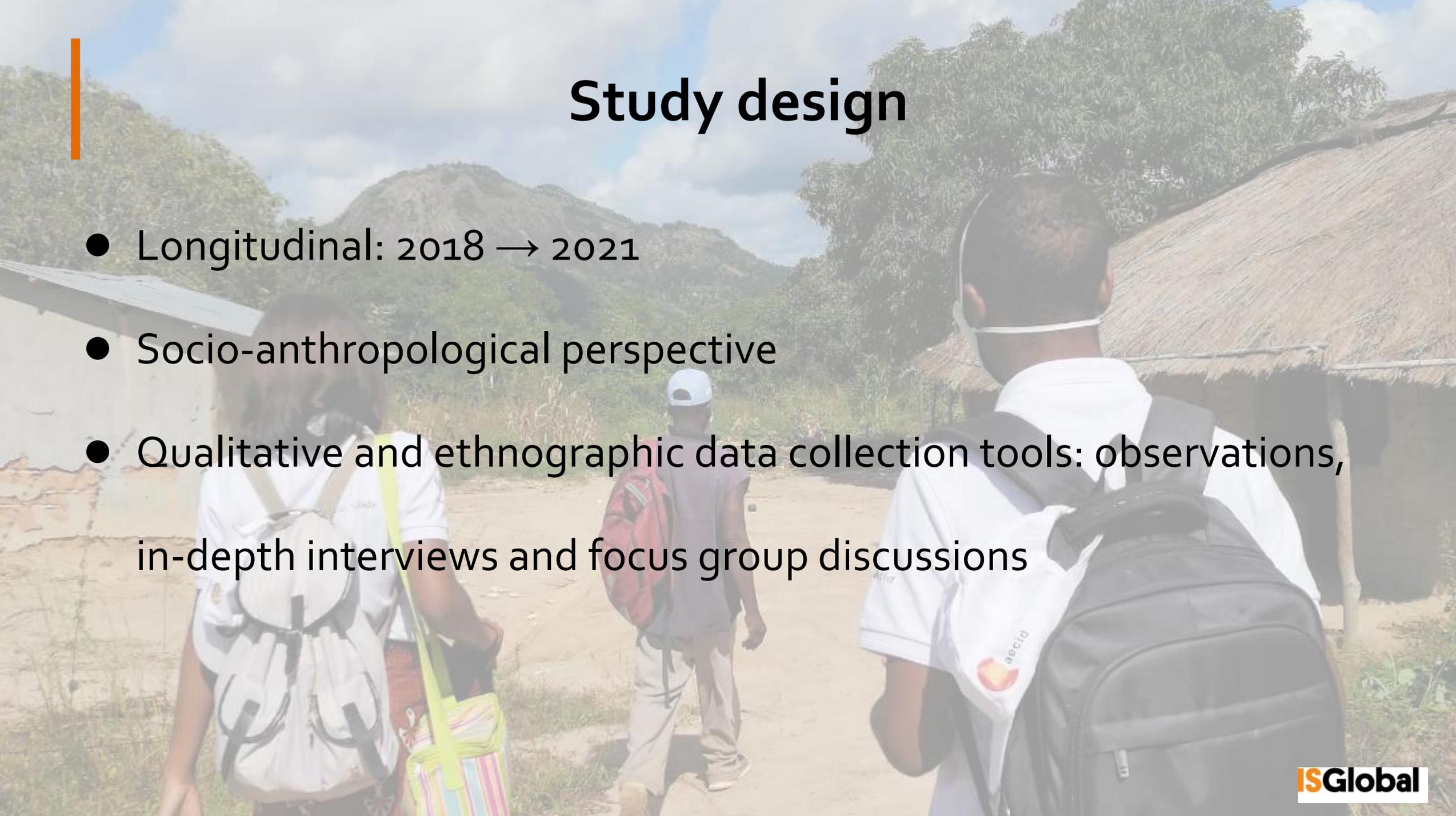


Analysis

What are the attributes ascribed to SP that are associated with treatment refusal?



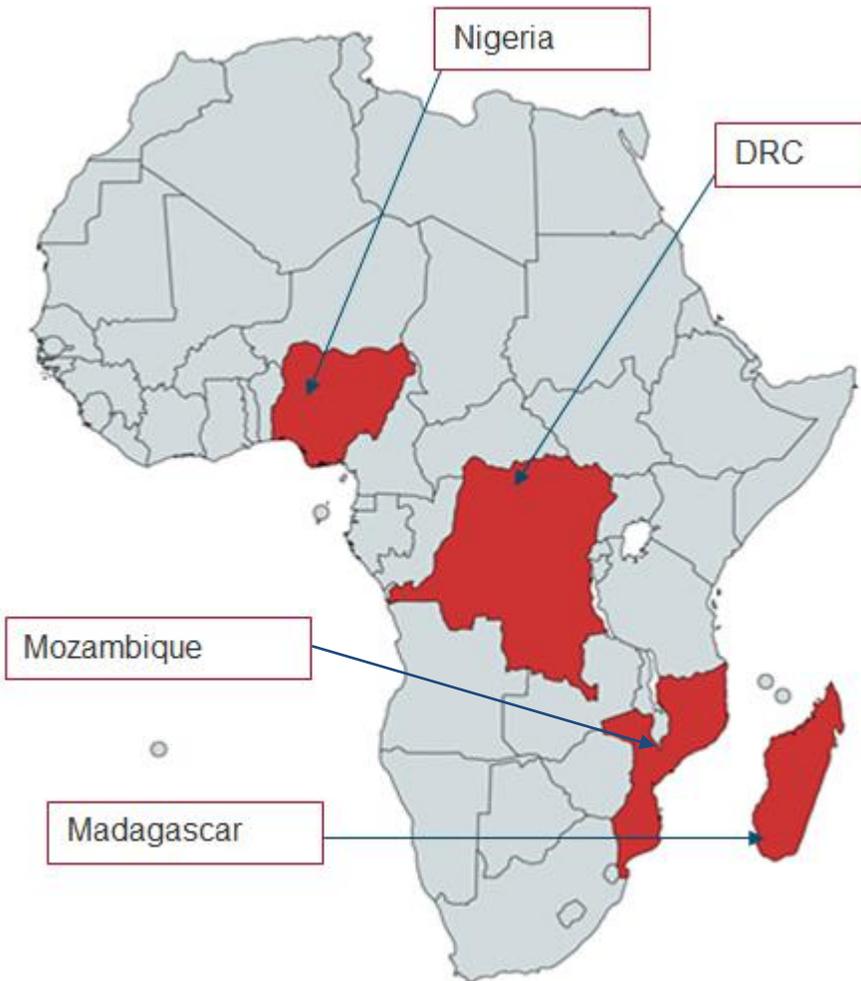
Methodology



Study design

- Longitudinal: 2018 → 2021
- Socio-anthropological perspective
- Qualitative and ethnographic data collection tools: observations, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions

Study sites and participant profiles

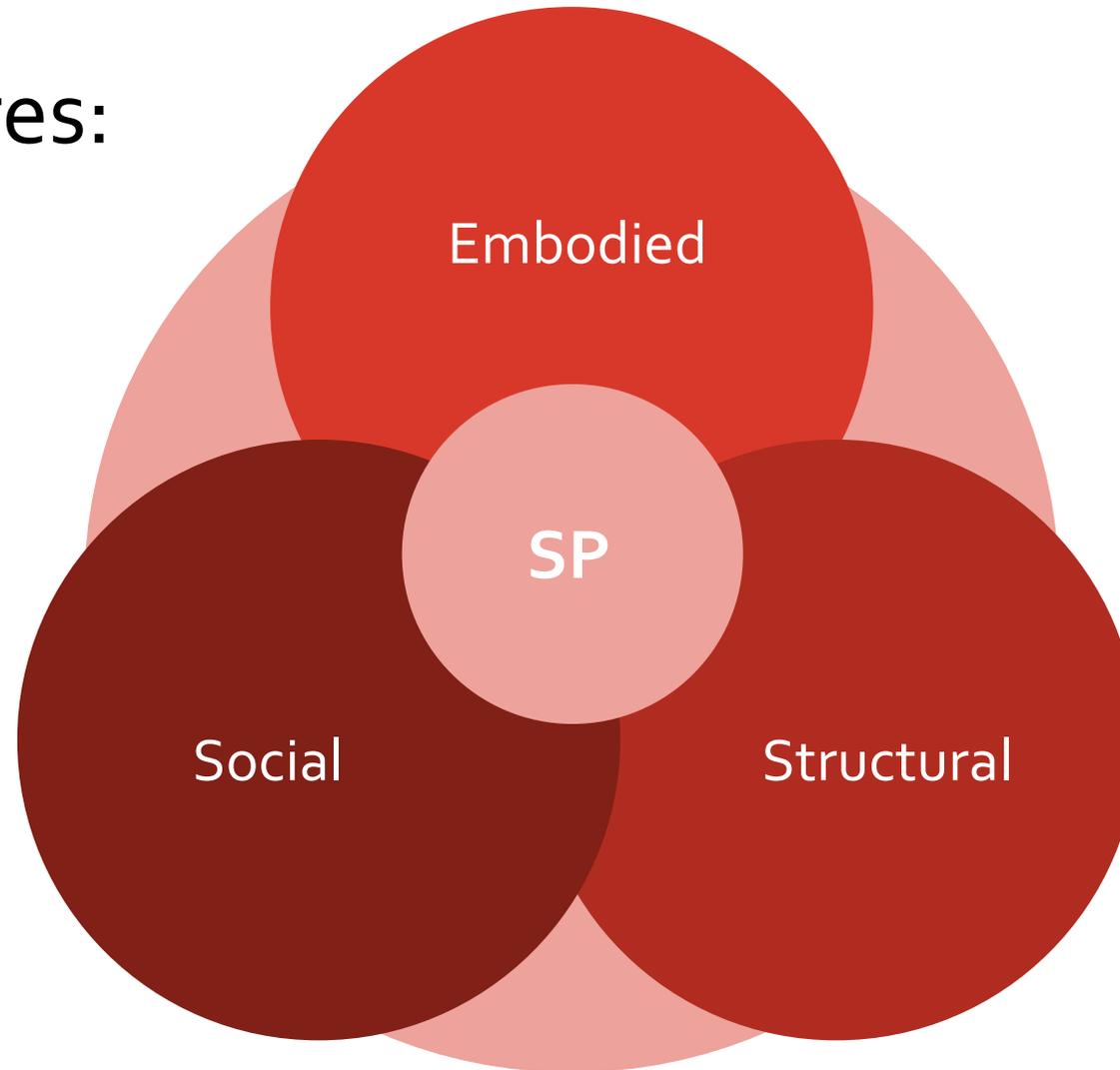


- Pregnant women
- Women of reproductive age
- Relatives of pregnant women
- Community leaders
- Traditional healers
- Traditional birth attendants
- Health providers: facility-based; CHWs
- Local gov. health authorities

Findings

Perceived attributes of SP

Three Spheres:



Embodied attributes

They are difficult to swallow because they are quite large. They are not bitter but it's the size what takes us aback. (FGD, pregnant woman, Madagascar)

Sensorial characteristics: taste, smell, appearance

I don't take this medicine because in my previous pregnancy I took it but I vomited so much that I became ill and was even hospitalized; I almost lost my pregnancy. Since then, I don't take it anymore and will not take it anymore. (FGD, pregnant woman, DRC)

Immediate adverse effects: nausea, vomiting, dizziness, weakness

Socially embedded attributes

A friend told me that this product [SP] is not good, it fattens the baby in the belly and then during delivery the doctor has to recur to the caesarean, there won't be a way to have a vaginal delivery; this is why I avoid it [SP]. (FGD, pregnant woman, DRC)

R – No, I can't take it [SP]. F – Will pregnant women take it? R – No, if it's not from the nurse. F – Why won't you take it? R – And if not from those that are genuine, I won't take it. (IDI, woman of reproductive age, Nigeria)

Feared pregnancy outcomes: miscarriage, cesarean sections, delivery complications

Quality of the drug: potency, fake/genuine

Socially embedded attributes (cont)

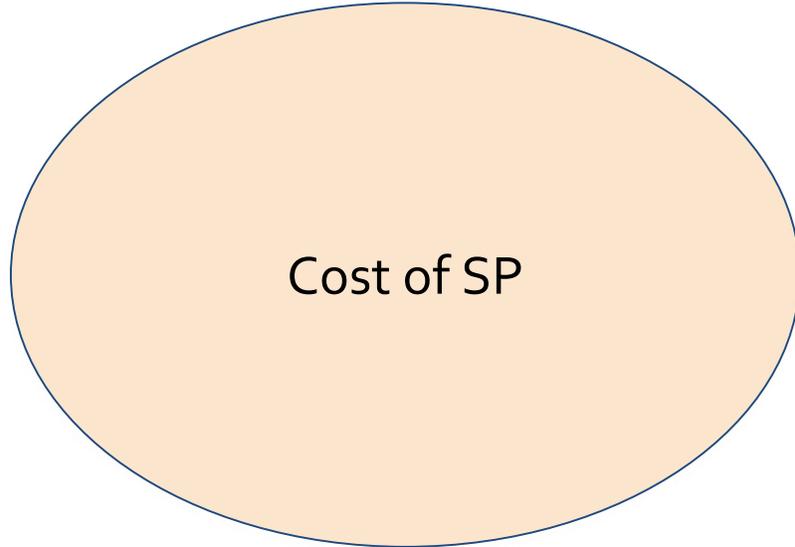
In the end they [CHWs] will sell us the pills because when they were doing the registry for the mosquito nets some were selling the ticket for 50 MT and many did not receive the nets. (FGD, pregnant women, Mozambique)

Some people are not taking. Such people normally ask, why are you asking me to take malaria drug when I don't have malaria? (FGD, health workers, Nigeria)

Cost of SP

Perceived purpose:
preventive, curative

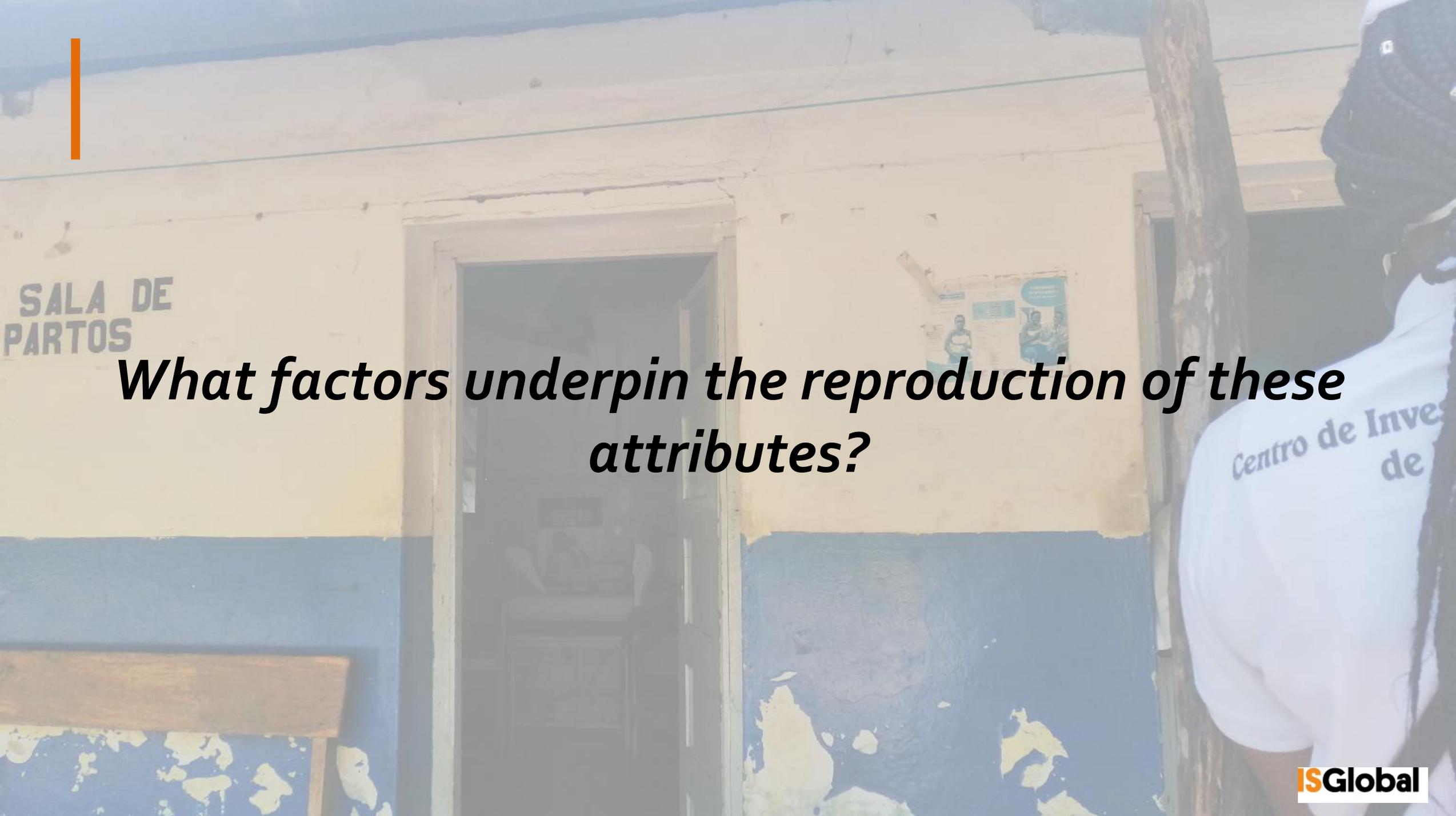
Structurally embedded attributes



Yes, I know that among us there are some that avoid taking SP because they don't have the means to pay at the ANC. So, when you come deliver the medicine at home we can only accept, especially because it is free. (FGD, pregnant woman, DRC)

Some pregnant women don't go to the ANC due to lack of money, and others go but we give them a prescription to go get the Fansidar from the pharmacy. Imagine a woman that has no money but we ask her to go get the product that is supposed to be free at the pharmacy, which is a commercial locale. (IDI, community leader, DRC)

Further reflections



SALA DE
PARTOS

What factors underpin the reproduction of these attributes?

Centro de Inves
de

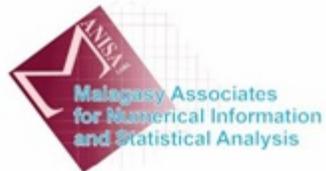
Underpinnings

Fears of C-section and delivery complications

1. Fear of or C-sections is central to pregnancy management strategies in certain local therapeutic traditions
2. Association between facility-based care and surgical interventions during delivery
3. Valued attribute of SP – expectations of healthy, strong babies (“large” babies)

The advantage is that she gives birth to a strong baby and the disadvantage is that it delays her due date and can she can even surpass her month.

(FGD, community leaders, Mozambique)



THANKS!



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