

Assessing costs of SBI in Latin America

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Overview

- Why a costs study
- Current study
- Method (costs identification, measurement, valuation)
- Some preliminary results
- Conclusion

Why a costs study

- Scarce information regarding the **exact costs** associated with SBI (Bray et al, 2012).
- In publications, costs of SBI sessions range between **~\$3** per session (Zarkin et al, 2003) and **~\$90** per session (Neighbors et al, 2010).
- Costs information is highly relevant for policy makers, to decide whether a policy can be adopted in their country/municipality.

Why a costs study

- Papers assessing costs of SBI typically look at **patient costs** (i.e., costs related to the actual delivery of the SBI session, such as costs of materials).
- **Programme costs** should also be included (Johns et al, 2003)
 - > costs which take place before the SBI session (trainings, community actions)
 - > overhead costs (building costs, electricity, heating).
- Generally, no publications on costs of SBI in Latin America.

Aim of our study

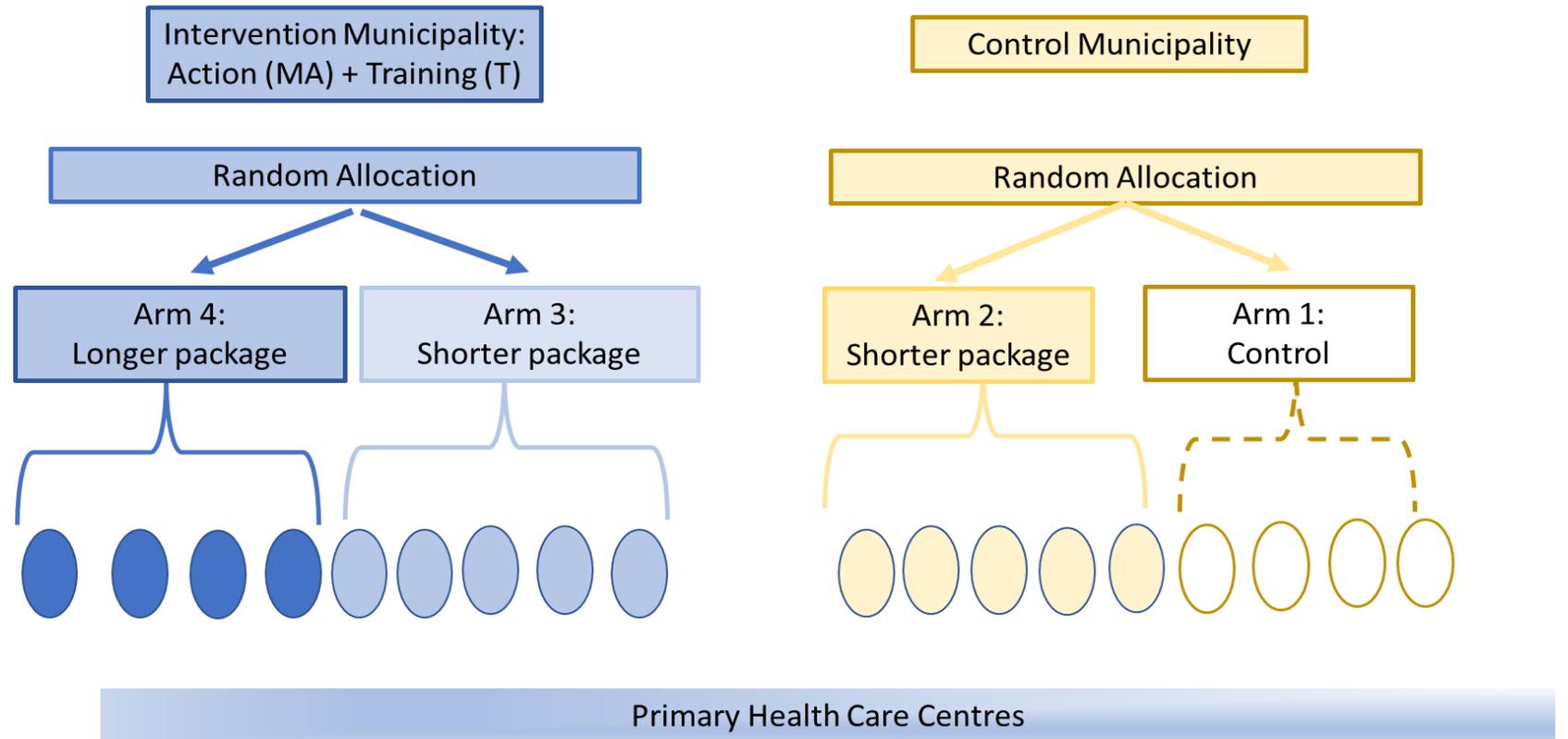
To assess the costs to **set-up** and **implement** a SBI program in three Latin American countries, taking into account both **patient and programme costs**.

-> Results will be used as a component of the SCALA economic evaluation (Return of Investment).

SCALA study

Four intervention scenarios:

1. simple clinical package without training
2. simple clinical package with training
3. simple clinical package with training and community support
4. complex clinical package with training and community support



Method

- Ministry of Health perspective, rather than societal perspective
- > Full social costs of the intervention (e.g., productivity loss) are not taken into account.
- > Research costs are not included.

Three main tasks in a costs study:

- costs identification
- costs measuring
- costs valuation

Costs identification

- through discussions with the local research teams

Activity	Time (#hours)	Costs
CAB meetings, Trainings, User Panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing the agenda • contacting participants • arranging the venue • traveling • participating in the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renting venue • food & refreshments • materials • transportation
Tailoring materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarizing input and feedback from user panel and CAB members • adaptation of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • printing materials
Community actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conceptualization of community actions • preparation of community actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • producing communication campaign materials • printing communication campaign materials • disseminating communication campaign materials • transport
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contacting the PHCCs administration with regard to implementation related questions • duration of SBI session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • printing tally sheets and intervention materials • transporting tally sheets and intervention materials

Costs measuring

- Through questionnaires.
- For repeated activities (e.g., CAB meetings, user panels, trainings), **unit costs** are determined.

Three categories of respondents:

- local research teams
- PHCC managers (~60)
- Participating health care providers (~450)

Cost measuring

- Local research teams
 - > report time and costs of **setting-up** the intervention (e.g., training, CAB meeting) and **implementing** the programme (e.g., printing materials)
- PHCC managers
 - > report average providers' **salaries**, **overhead** costs, other implementation costs
- Health care providers
 - > report how much **time** they spent on an average screening

Cost valuation

- Initially valuated in the local currency of each country.
- Will be transformed in international dollars, to allow comparability.

Some preliminary results*

Activity	Colombia	Peru
1 CAB meeting	20 hours preparation (2 members) ~43\$ venue rent 110\$ food & refreshments 8\$ materials 30\$ transport	26 hours preparation (3 members) 75\$ food & refreshments 23\$ materials 90\$ transport
1 User Panel	20 hours preparation (3 members) 30\$ food & refreshment 8\$ materials 15\$ transport	18 hours preparation (3 members) 30\$ food & refreshment 36\$ materials 45\$ transport
Tailoring materials (in the previous 3 months)	6 hours (1 member)	20 hours (3 members) 15\$ printing materials

*presented in US dollars

Conclusion

- Important to distinguish between research-related costs and intervention implementation-related costs.
- Correct cost identification is crucial and should be adapted to the local circumstances, not just previous literature.
- Different respondents are needed to identify and measure costs (e.g., PHCC finance workers to assess overheads).
- Transportation is a more substantial cost in Peru, compared to Colombia.