



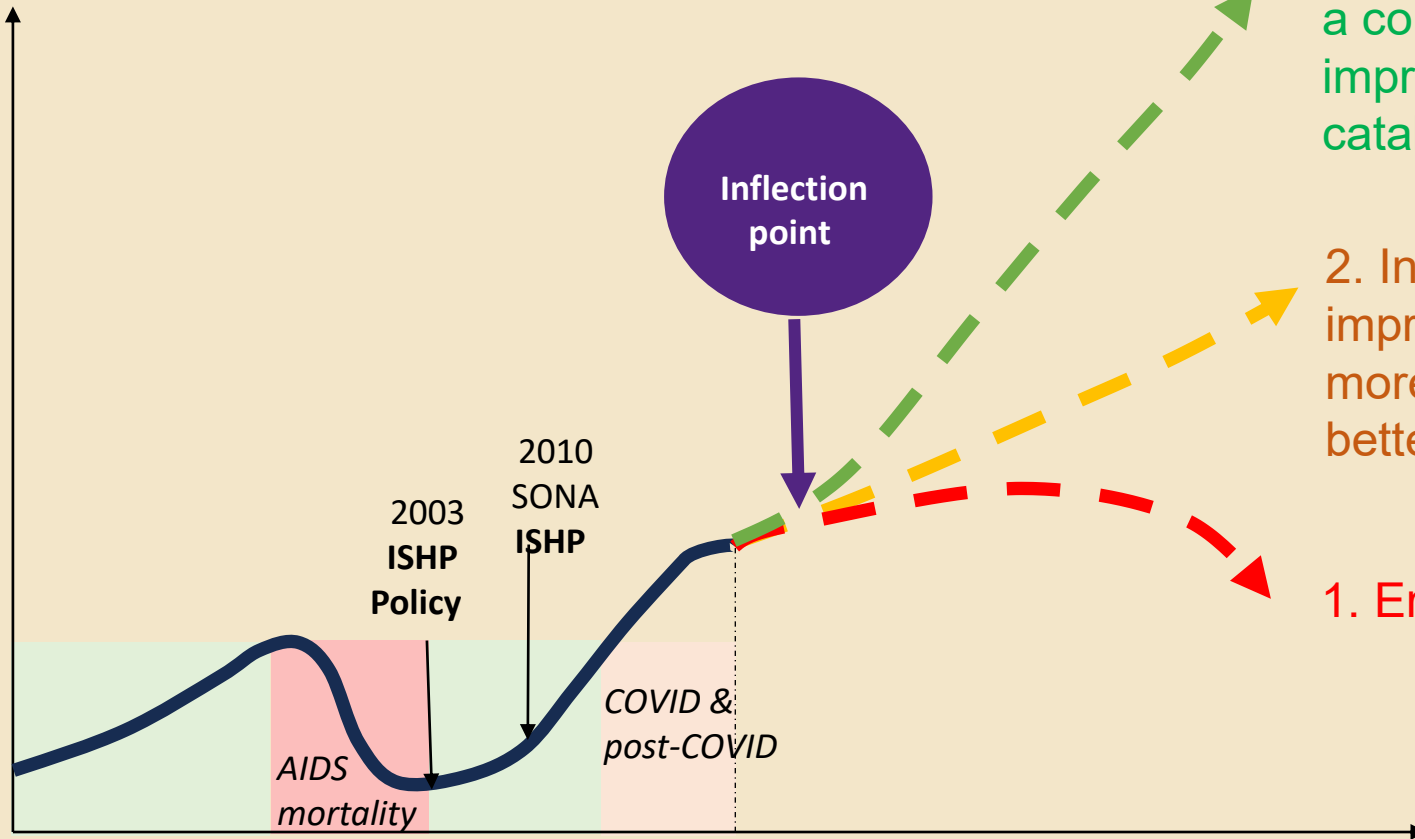
An integrated screening model for **UNIVERSAL** vision screening in children

Leveraging public-private partnerships to scale
vision screening in Grade R



Transitioning from survive to thrive

Child well-being & development



3. Acceleration through a combination of improved action and catalytic interventions

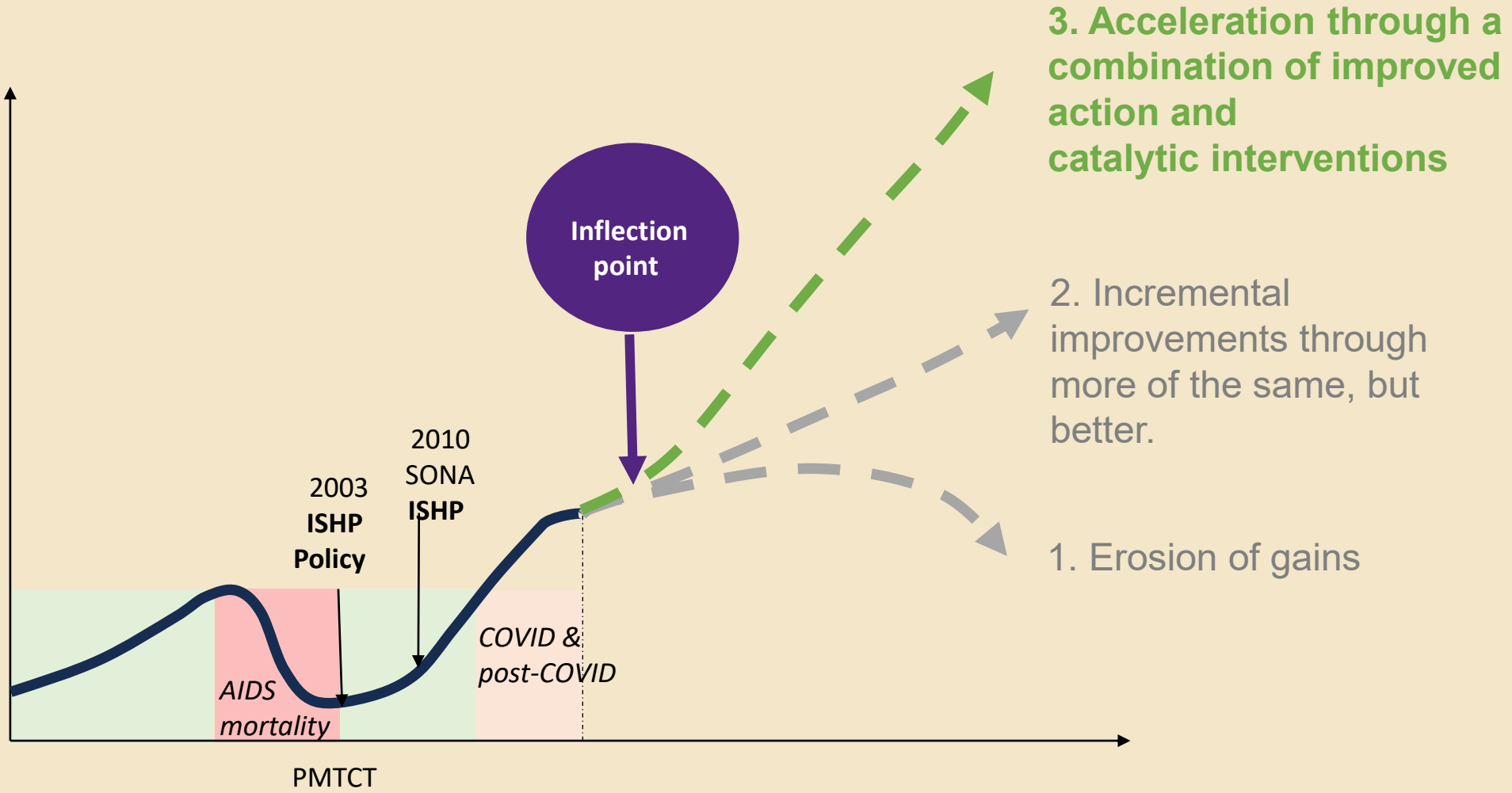
2. Incremental improvements through more of the same, but better.

1. Erosion of gains



Transitioning from survive to thrive

Child well-being & development



**Sensory screening supports
optimal development,
ensuring children reach
their full potential**





Presidential mandate: National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children

Sona 2025

*"The government will soon adopt the **National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children, which focuses on 10 key priorities, including poverty reduction, child protection and addressing malnutrition.**"*



hold my hand
Action for Children and Teens

www.holdmyhand.org.za 0800 411 01

We call on the nation

Get behind the new strategy and campaign for children

Cabinet has just approved the BIGGEST plan yet to boost child & teen wellbeing: the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC)!

This is a turning point for South Africa's children and teenagers.

Swipe
To see the 10 national priorities



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SONA 2026

What it means for children

The President has foregrounded the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children, and supported by Hold My Hand, will focus on the first 1,000 days of a child's life and these priorities...



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The National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children

- 1 Presidential leadership** for children and teenagers
- A clear set of **national priorities** to accelerate progress
 - o Identification of gaps and opportunities
 - o Clearly defined government mandates
- Mechanisms for **combined action** by government, civil society, trade unions and the private sector

VISION: All children in South Africa achieve optimal wellbeing and can grow to their full potential



NSAAC's ten priorities to accelerate progress for children and teenagers

Nurturing care for young children

1. Empower parents & caregivers to care for their children.
2. Reduce infant and child deaths.
3. Eliminate HIV transmission to babies.
4. Improve child nutrition.
5. Grow children's brain power through early learning.
6. Prevent disability in children and give those with disabilities the same opportunities as others.
7. Protect children & teens from all forms of abuse, violence and harmful substances.
8. Give teenagers good access to health care, including sexual & reproductive health.
9. Increase participation in quality education and training and link school-leavers to work.
10. Build teenagers' sense of identity, agency and connectedness.

Adolescent wellbeing

Reduce child poverty

Enable every child and teenager to thrive



Universal vision screening in Grade R



Vision impairment is common, but screening is fragmented

Vision screening



3%

learners are screened for eye health/vision impairment

1.3 million
Learners: eye health & vision

130,000
Learners: vision impairment (10%)

55%

are in primary school



School based screening



Universal



On site diagnostics



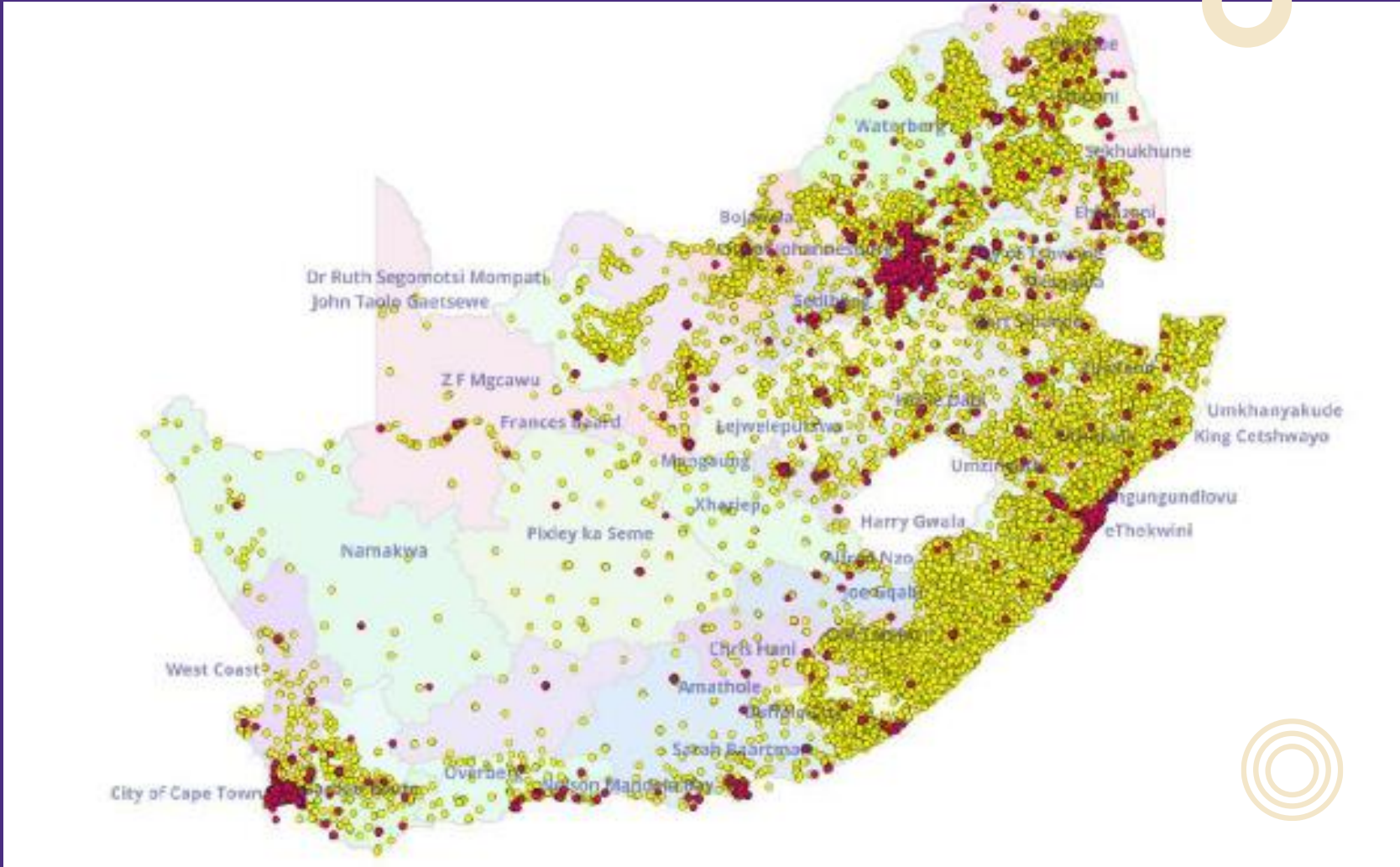
Fast track dispensing




The bottleneck

This map show clusters of schools (yellow dots) in regions with no nearby optometrists (red dots).

Inequitable distribution of health professionals




96% of optometrists are employed in the private sector (2022)

The Solution

NHI is a strategic entry point for PPPs at scale

1 Designated trained screeners are critical



Train non-professionals as screeners

2 Screening equipment is easy to use, enabling task shifting



Scale screening leveraging technology for easy implementation and monitoring

3 Clear referral pathways are needed



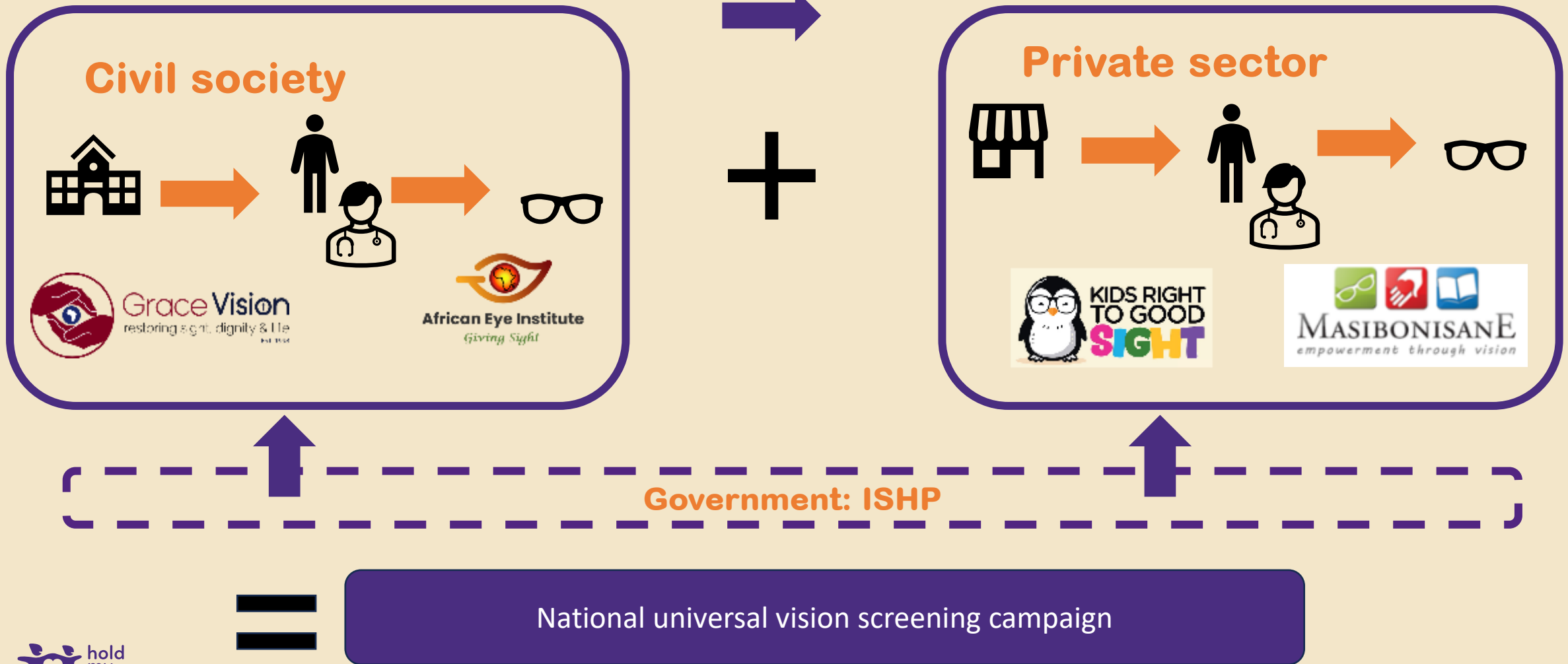
Public Private Partnerships are needed



Data is critical



The Plan: integrate and scale existing models



Take Home Message

1. **Vision screening supports optimal development**
2. **Vision screening must be universal**
3. **SA needs an integrated delivery model: cross-sectoral**



Thank You

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