

# The Current Landscape of Research on World Health Assembly Indicators in West Africa: A Systematic Map to Guide Decision-Making



**Burkina Faso**

International Food Policy Research Institute

# Introduction

The West Africa (WA) Region has been one of the slowest in reducing its many burdens of malnutrition. The World Health Assembly's (WHA) 2025 nutrition targets were developed to track countries' nutritional situations, and measure progress in reducing malnutrition. These indicators are therefore essential to guide decision making. Understanding the regional and in-country dynamics are an essential first step to highlight gaps and trends in evidence in the region.

## Objective

This study aimed to identify and catalogue peer-reviewed research on the WHA indicators in West Africa, and create a map of recent research evidence to inform decision-making for nutrition policies and programs in the region.

# Methods

The MEDLINE database was searched for research published on World Health Assembly (WHA) indicators from 2010 to June 2021

Search terms were developed to capture evidence on the prevalence, drivers, programs (Randomized Controlled Trials), and policies relating to the WHA indicators. These include stunting, wasting and overweight in children under 5, low birth weight (LBW), exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) up to 6 months, and anemia in women of reproductive age (WRA)

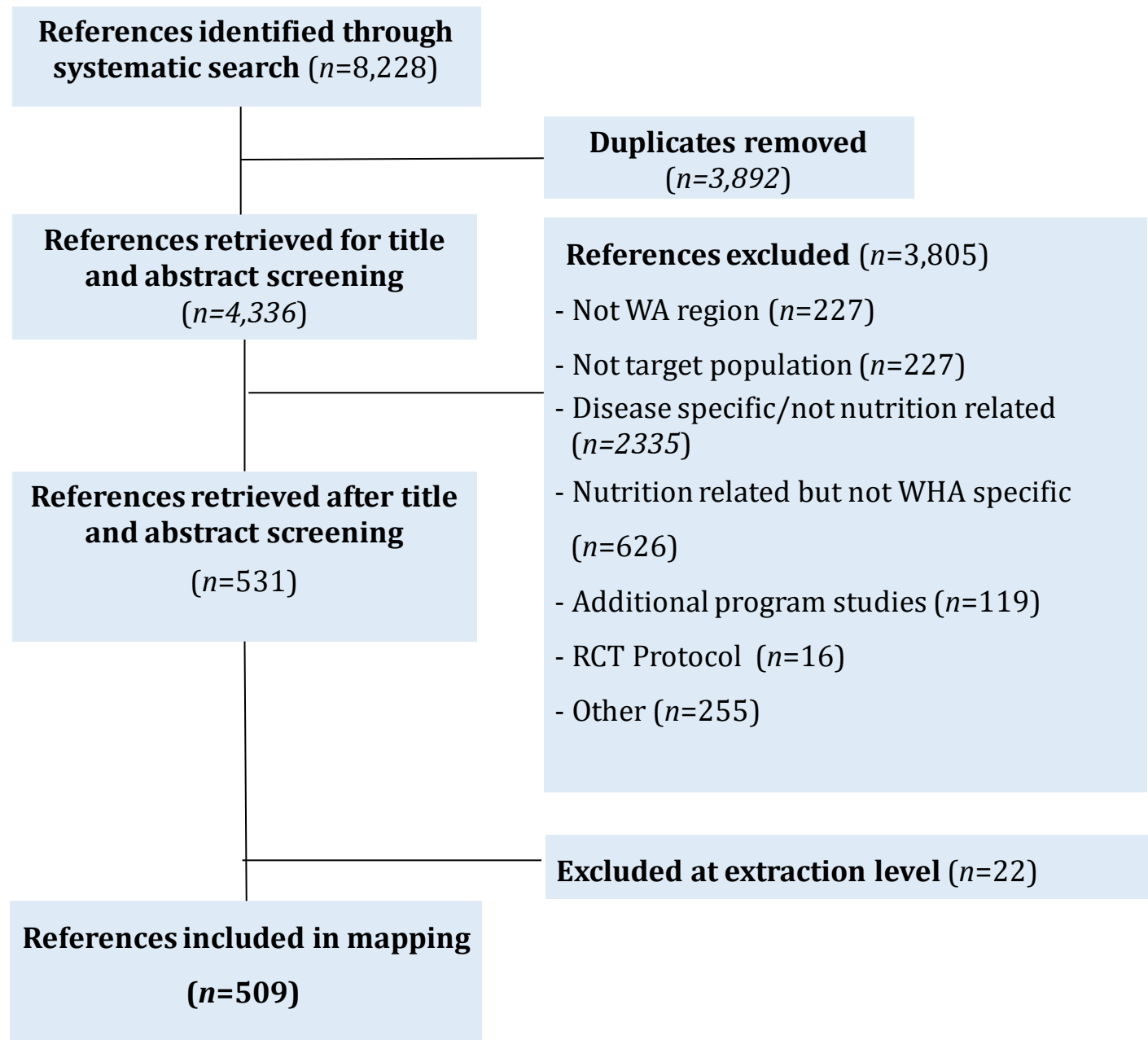


A systematic approach was applied to literature searches, developing inclusion criteria, screening, coding, taxonomy, data extraction, and study synthesis

Data were extracted at abstract level.

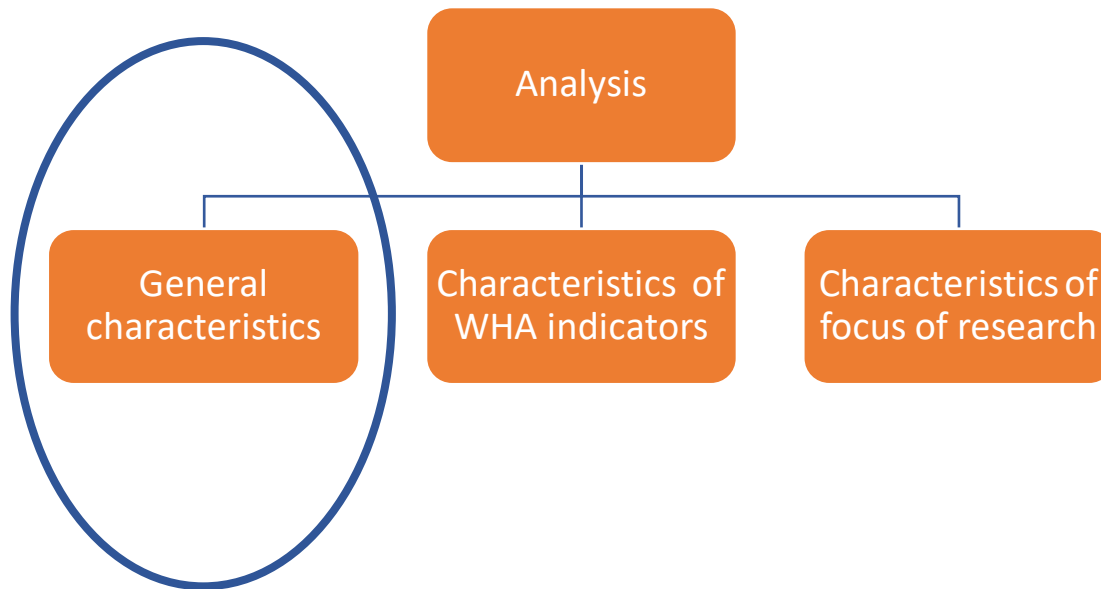
No quality appraisal of publications was undertaken

# Flow chart of search approach

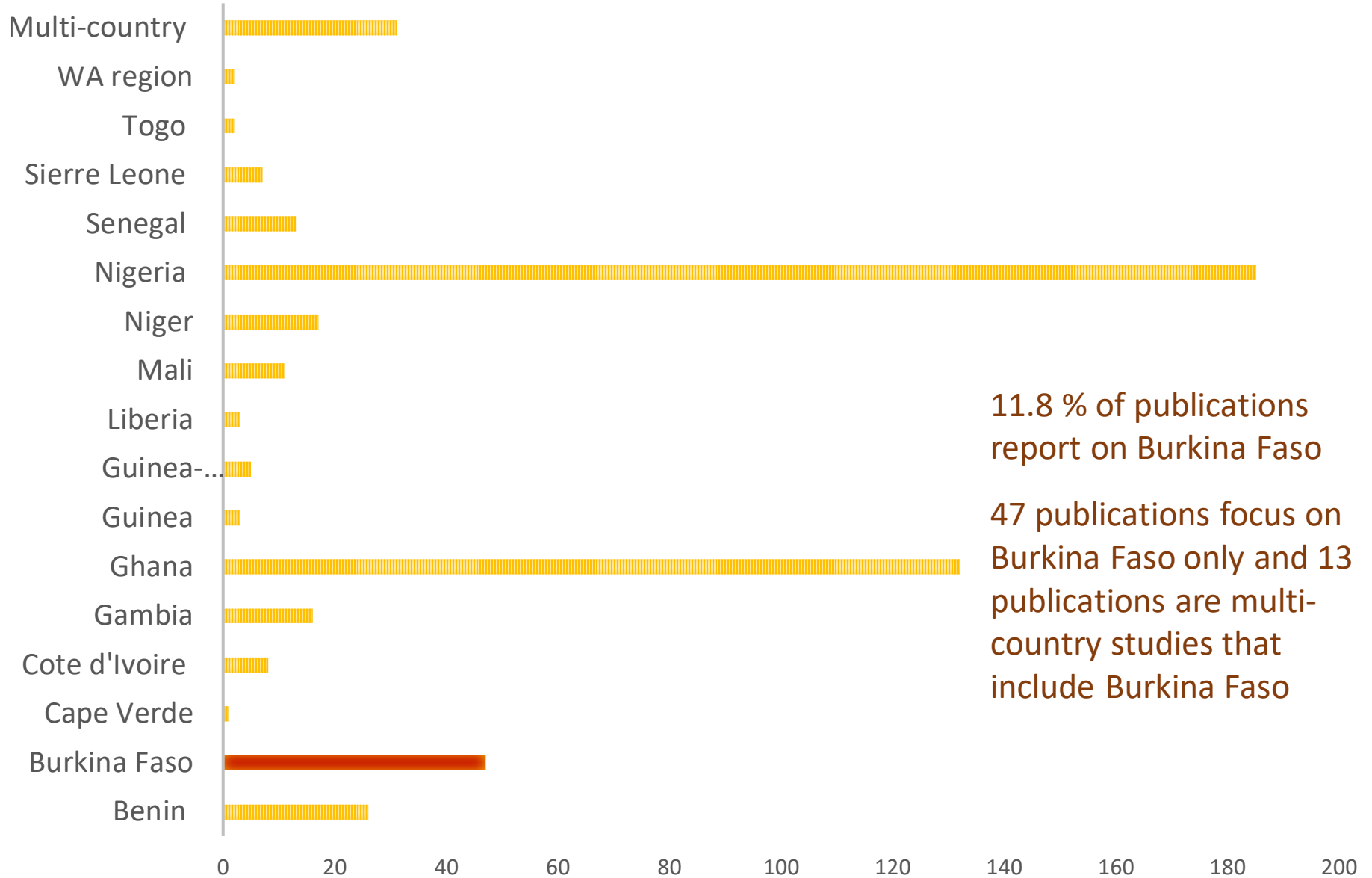


# Results – Burkina Faso





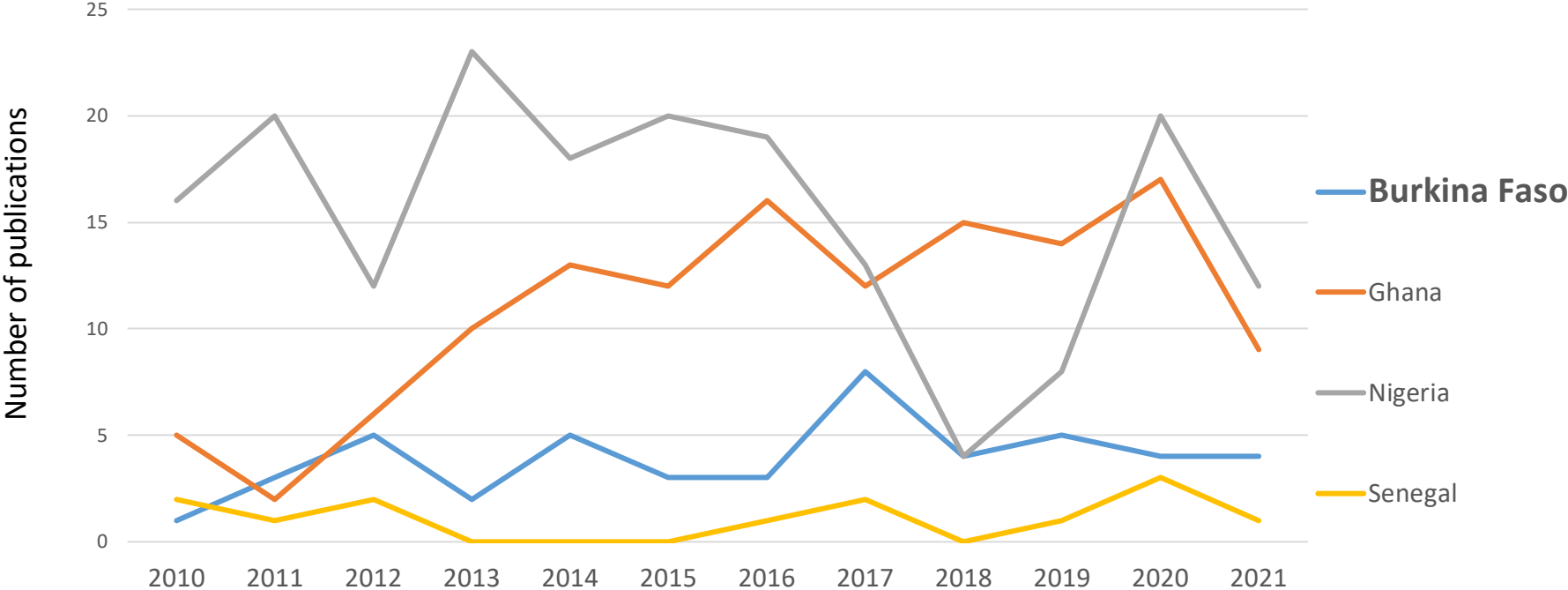
# Number of publications by country



11.8 % of publications report on Burkina Faso

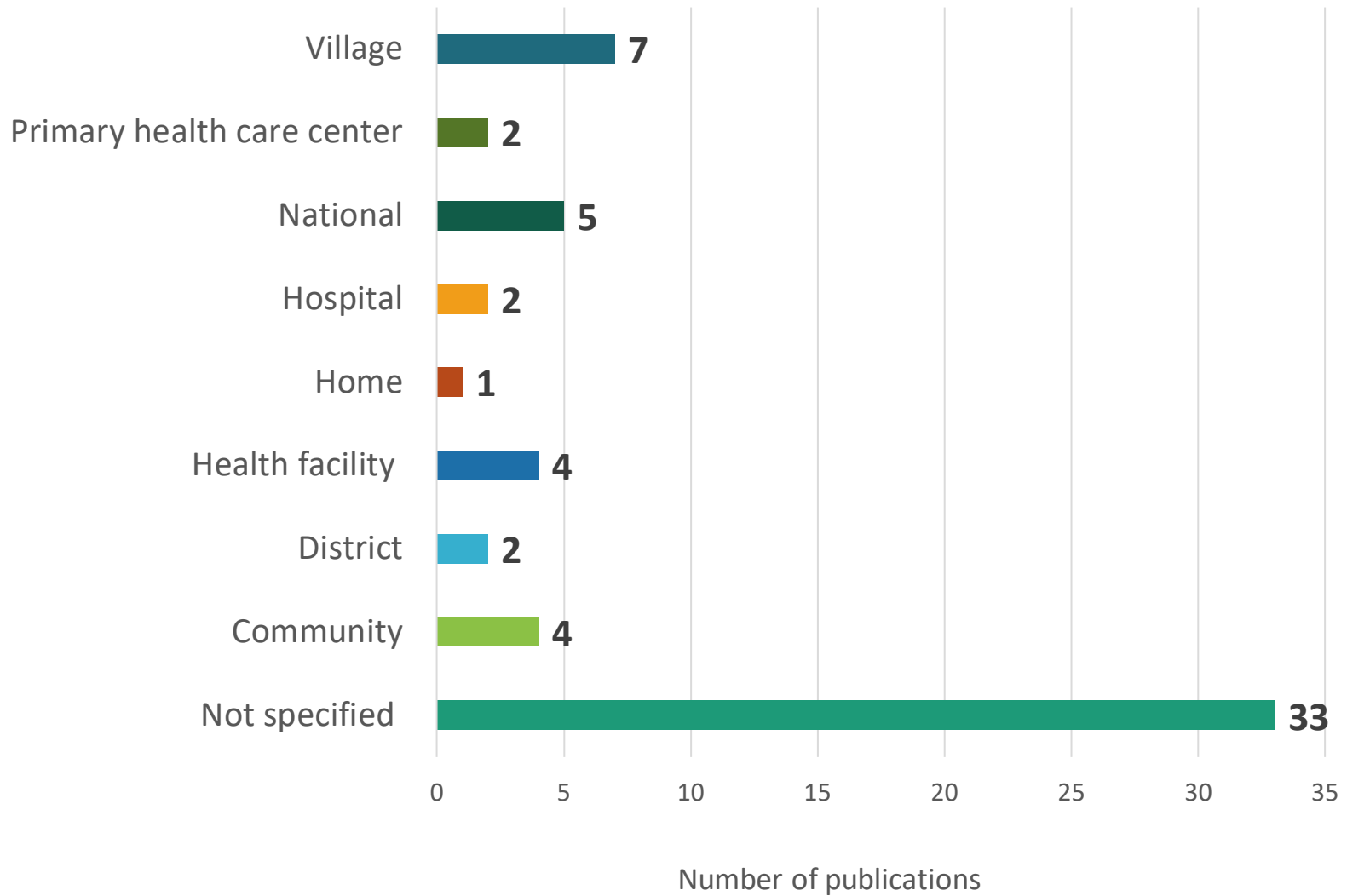
47 publications focus on Burkina Faso only and 13 publications are multi-country studies that include Burkina Faso

# Publications per year in four focal countries



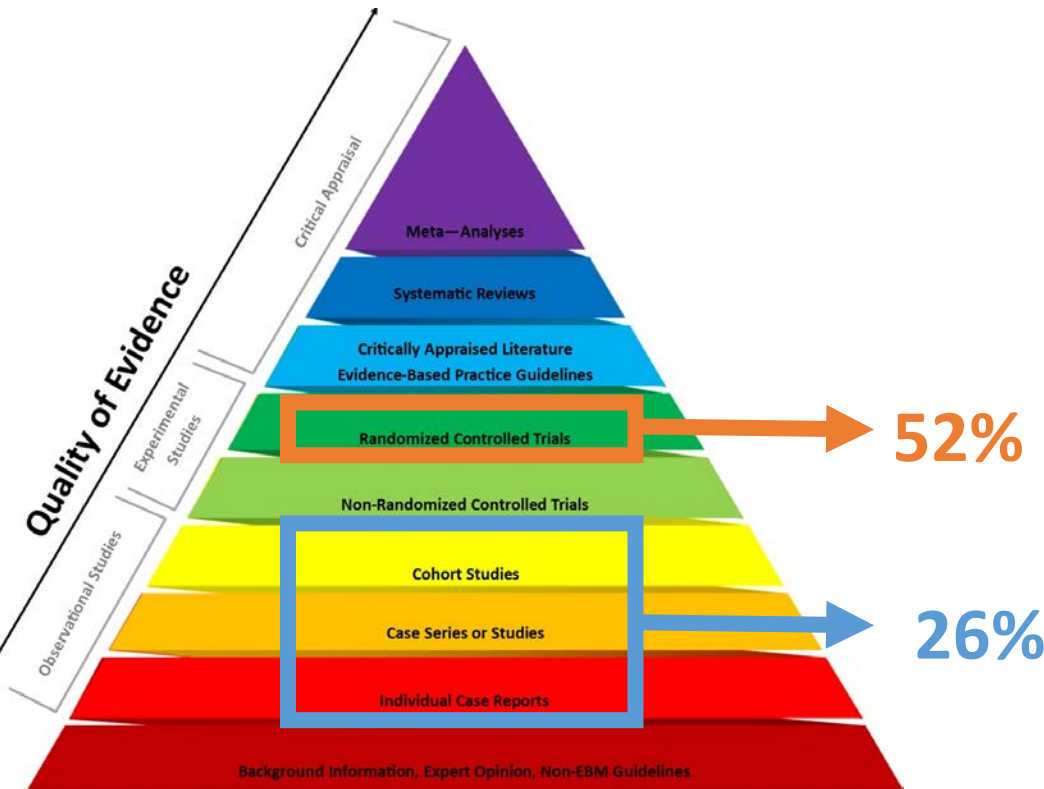


# Publications reporting on Burkina Faso by study setting

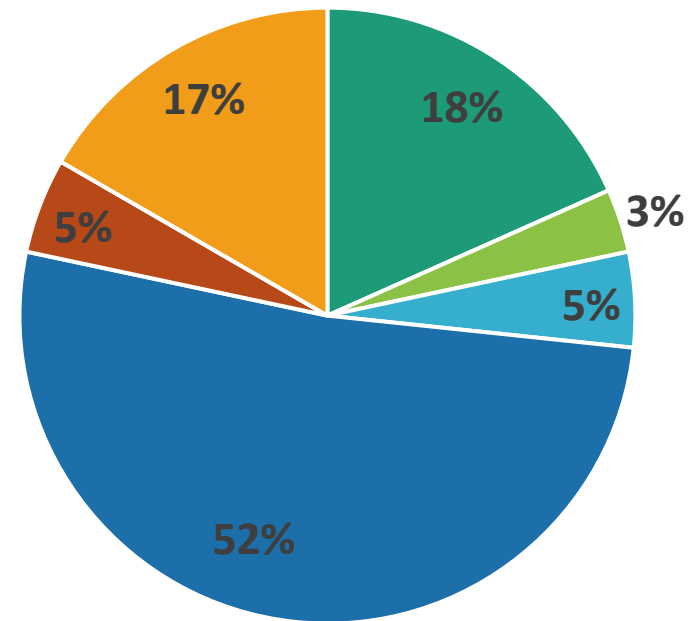


# Publications reporting on Burkina Faso by study design

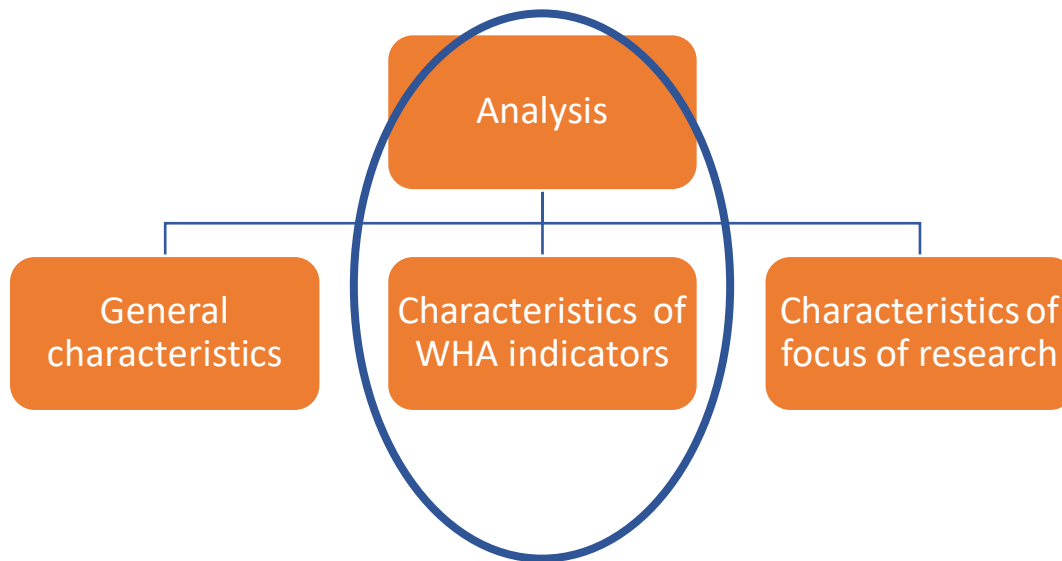
Hierarchy of evidence



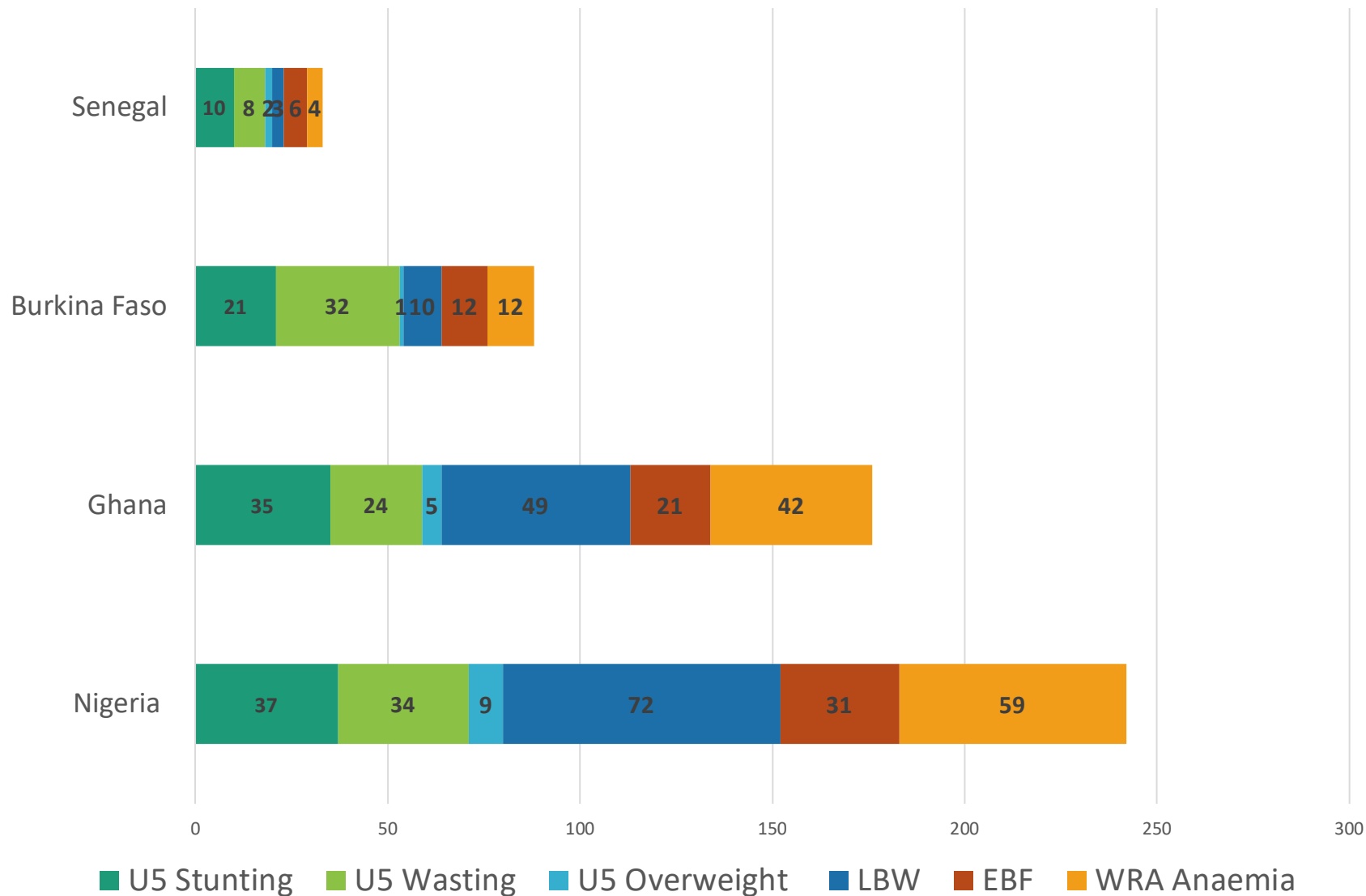
Percent of publications per study design (n=60)



- Cross-sectionnal
- Case-control
- Cohort
- RCT
- Other
- Not specified

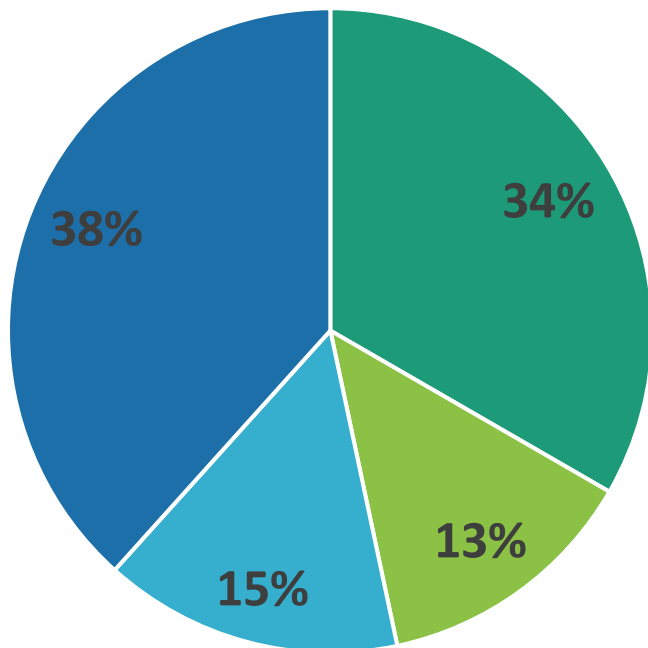


# Publications per indicator category grouping for four focal countries

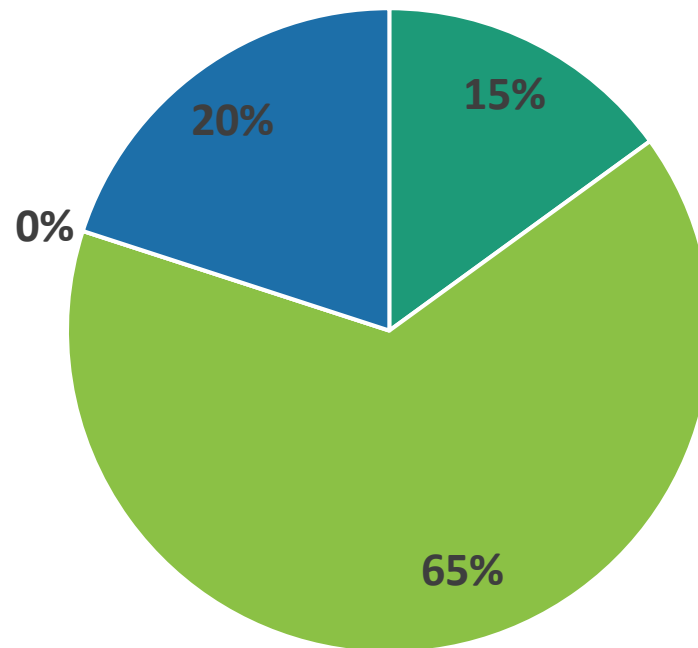


# Publications reporting on Burkina Faso per indicator category

Percentage of publications per indicator category (n=60)

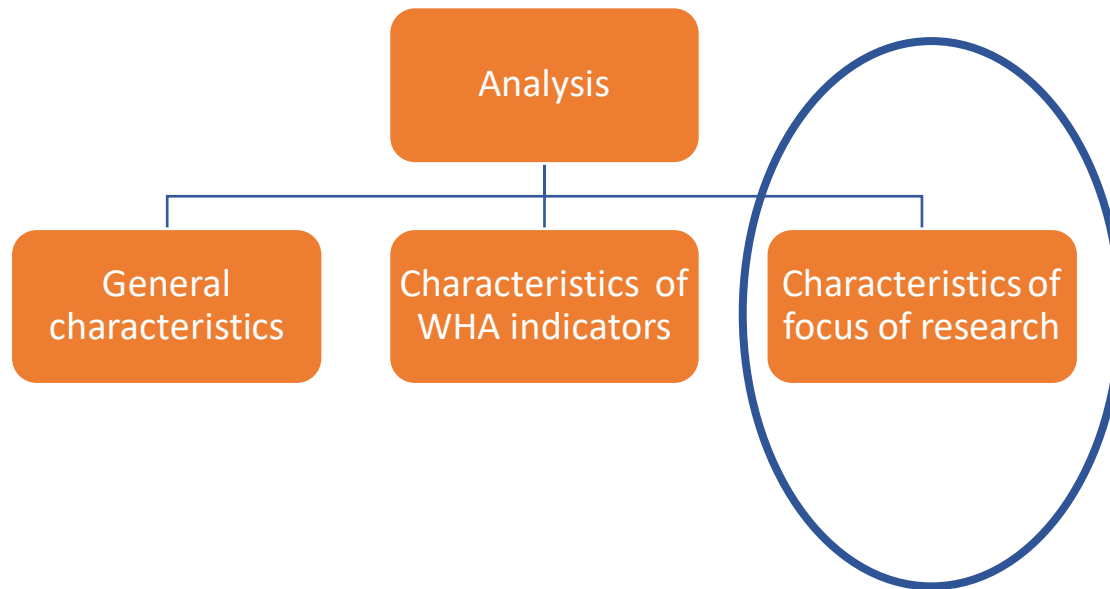


Percentage of publications within U5NS (n=20)

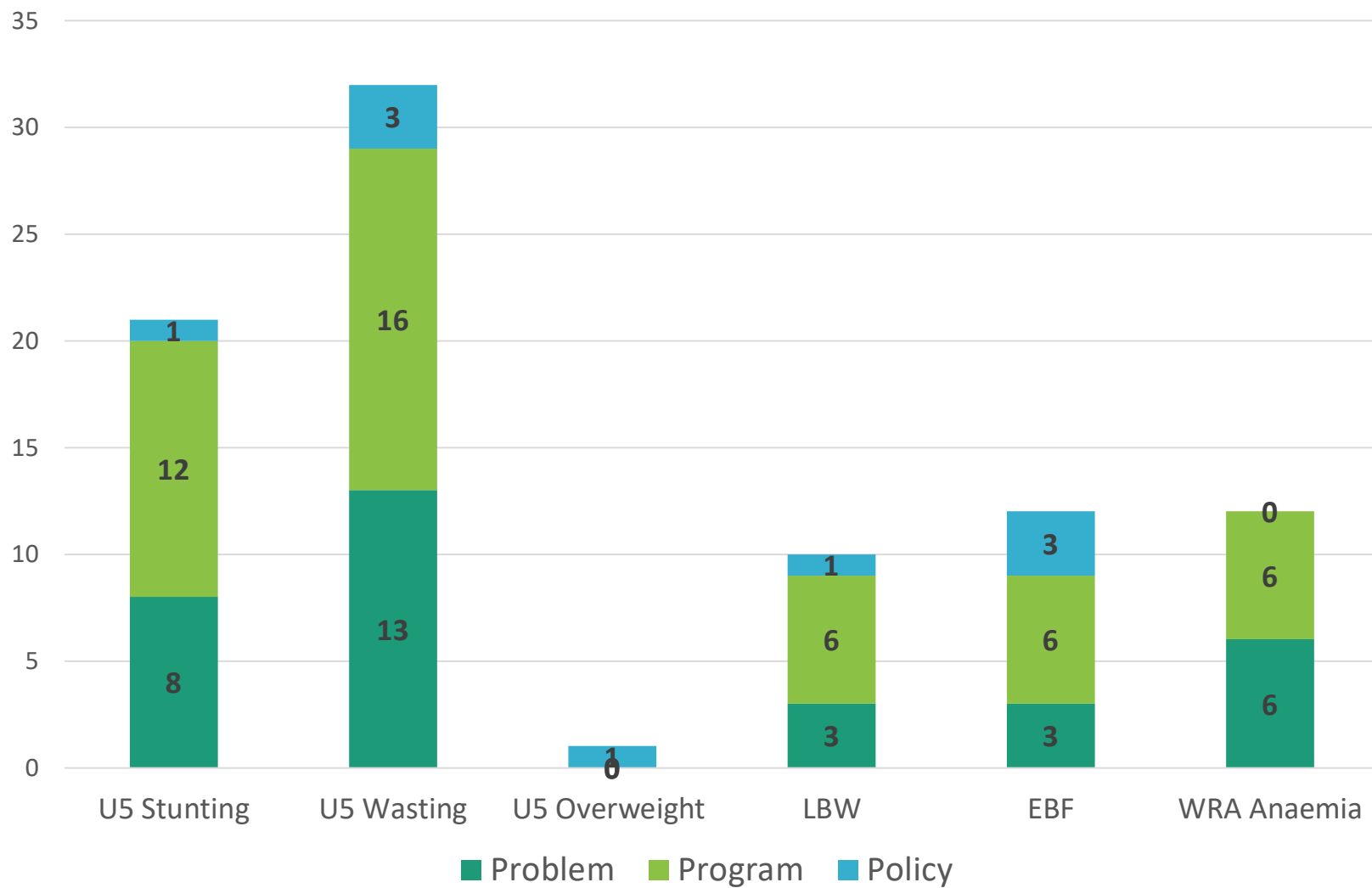


■ U5NS ■ WRA Anaemia ■ EBF ■ More than 1 indicator ■ U5 Stunting ■ U5 Wasting ■ U5 Overweight ■ LBW

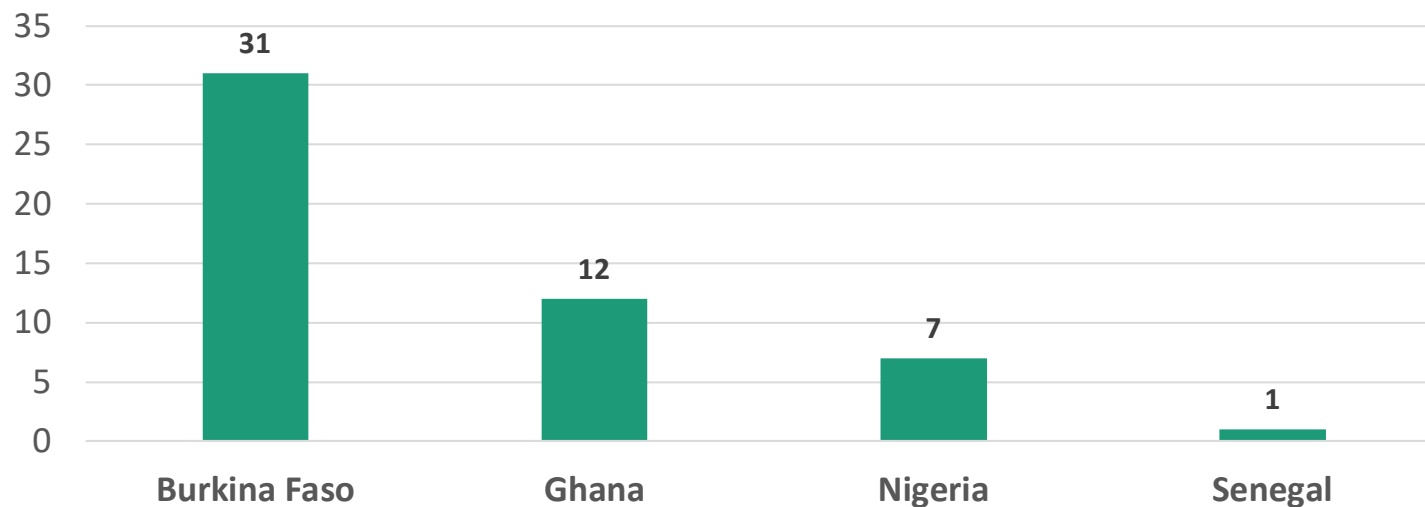
*U5NS = Under 5 nutritional status including U5 stunting, U5 wasting, LBW and U5 overweight*



## Publications reporting on Burkina Faso per indicator category and research focus



## Program studies by intervention type and outcome



### Burkina Faso's programs

Intervention description	U5NS (n=34)	EBF (n=6)	Anaemia (n=4)
Supplementation	16	0	2
Counseling/health promotion	5	4	1
Cash transfers	3	0	0
Malaria treatment/ screening	1	0	1
Behavior change communication	5	1	0
Other	4	1	0



## Key Messages

12% of publications in the region report on Burkina Faso

The majority of publications report on under 5 nutritional status (stunting, wasting, low birth weight), but only 1 on under 5 overweight

Burkina Faso has the highest amount of program publications in the region (n=31)

Majority of programs deliver supplementation (n=18) or counselling/health promotion (n=10)