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Developing a Child Protection Systems Index in Refugee Settings: Learning from Uganda and Rwanda

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Child Protection Index

1. Child protection measurement in complex systems
2. Illustrative findings
3. Next steps



Child protection measurement - systems

- Definition of a child protection *system*
- Shift towards systems thinking in child protection work globally
- Systems mapping approaches
 - Bottom-up mapping of individuals', families' and communities' child protection systems (Wessells et al.)
 - Mapping of formal systems (Maestral)
 - Combination of formal systems mapping with utilization/ perceptions from communities (Child Frontiers)



UNHCR Framework and systems approaches

- UNHCR's Framework for the Protection of Children 2012
 - “marks an institutional shift from mainly targeting categories of children at risk towards a systems approach to protecting children”*
- Definition of child protection system in UNHCR's framework
 - “A child protection system includes functions undertaken by a range of **formal** and **informal** actors to prevent, mitigate and respond to the risks faced by children.”*



Child Protection Index: in the context of systems measurement

Goal: Develop and implement a Child Protection Index [CPI] in humanitarian settings, to demonstrate 'proof of concept' that a well-implementing child protection system can protect refugee children from harm.

- Build on previous definitions, discussions and research on measurement of child protection systems
- Gaps in previous attempts at systems mapping
 - Does a strong child protection system actually result in changes for children, families and communities? If so, what changes?
 - What are the *impacts* of a strong child protection system, or changes in the child protection system?

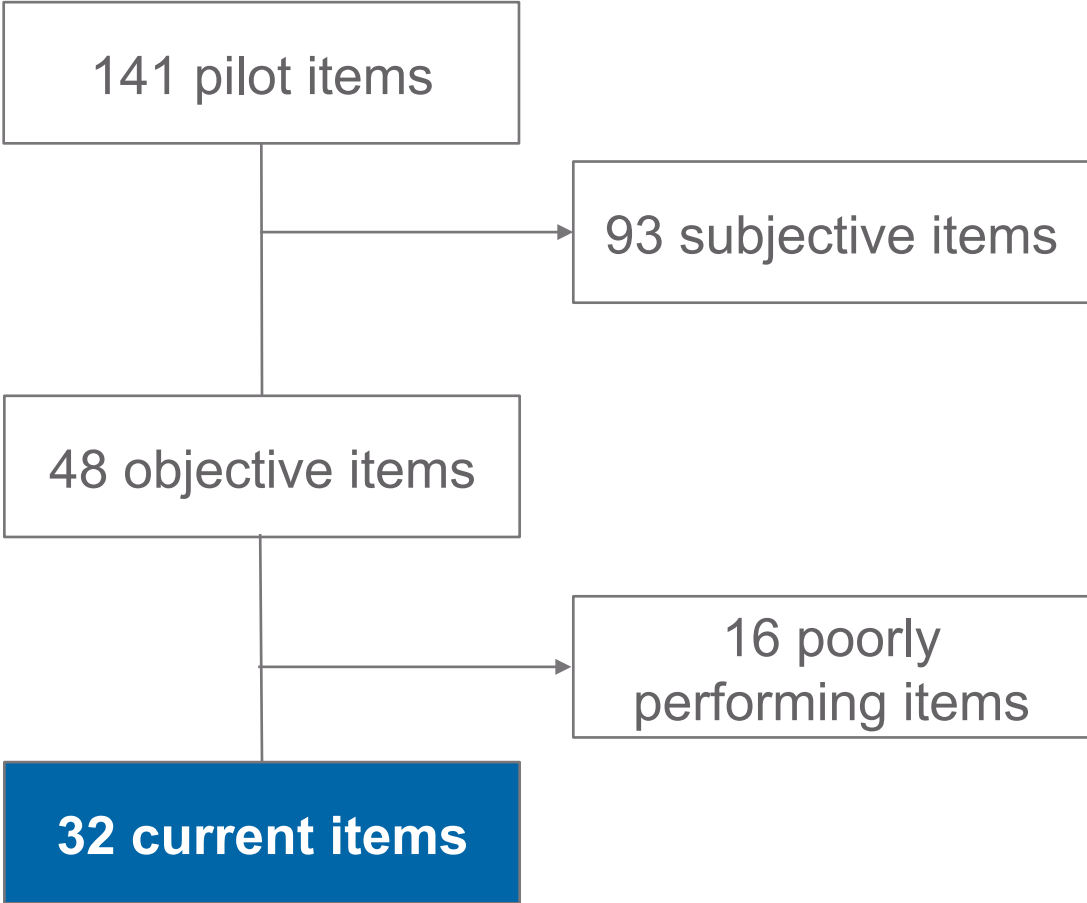


Child Protection Index (CPI) development

- Based on indicators in the UNHCR Framework (2012)
- Key system components
 - Services
 - Utilization
 - Policies and procedures
- Developed through observational checklists and key informant interviews
- Data primarily drawn from key informant interviews; some items based on findings from surveys



Child Protection Index Development



Child Protection Index – selected items

Services	Utilization	Policies and procedures
<p>Are there communal spaces that meet the Child Protection Minimum Standard for adolescents to meet? (Yes/ No)</p>	<p>% of adolescents who experienced sexual violence who reported their experience (reported by adolescent, to anyone)</p>	<p>For UASC, what durable solutions are currently available: resettlement, local integration, voluntary repatriation, none</p>
<p>Which of the following activities do the community-based child protection mechanisms do in this location? i. Identification of cases (Yes/ No) ii. Prevention and awareness campaigns (Yes/ No)</p>	<p>% of adolescents who have attended school regularly in Terms 2 or 3 (recent school period)</p>	<p>Is this country a signatory of the 1951 Convention or does it have national asylum procedures in place? (Yes/ No)</p>
<p>Are referral pathways for reporting violence and abuse clearly displayed around the settlement? (Yes / No)</p>	<p>% of adolescents reporting they feel safe at school all or most of the time</p>	<p>Are there laws and policies in place against use of corporal punishment in schools that refugees attend? (Yes/No)</p>



Child Protection Index – selected items

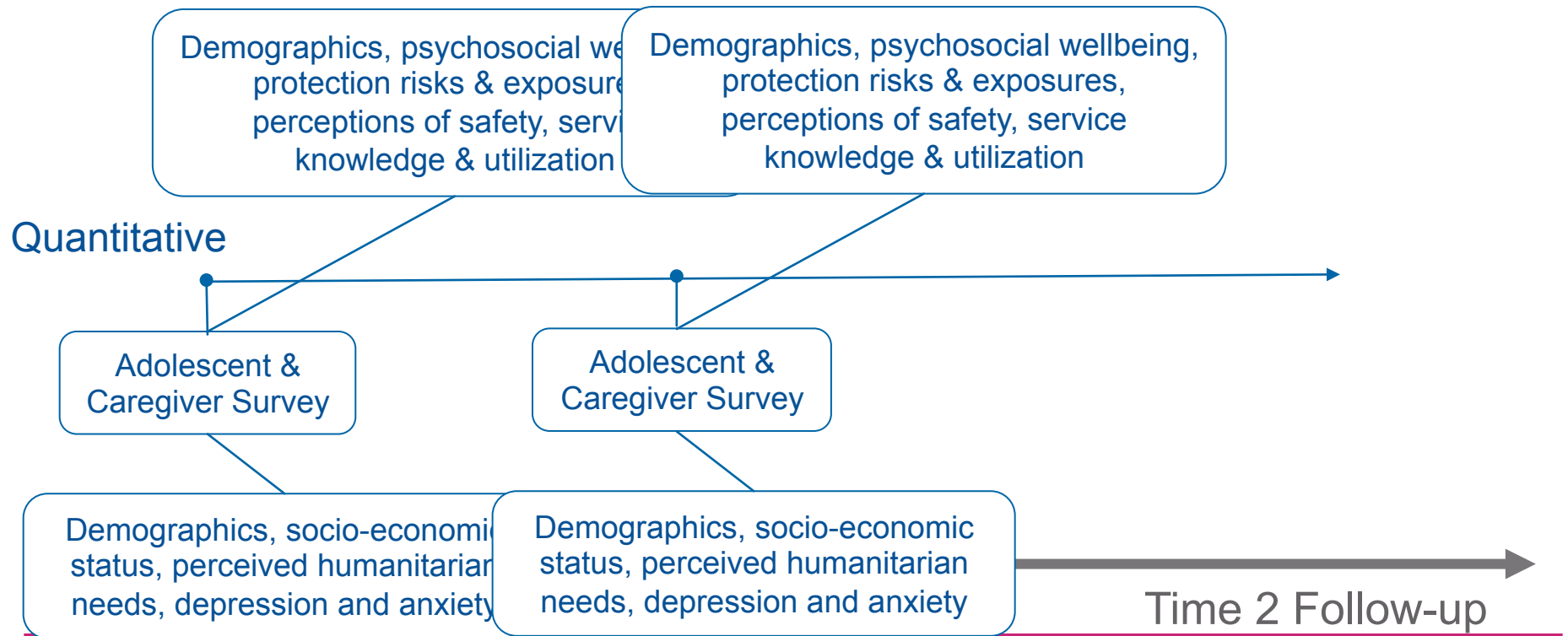
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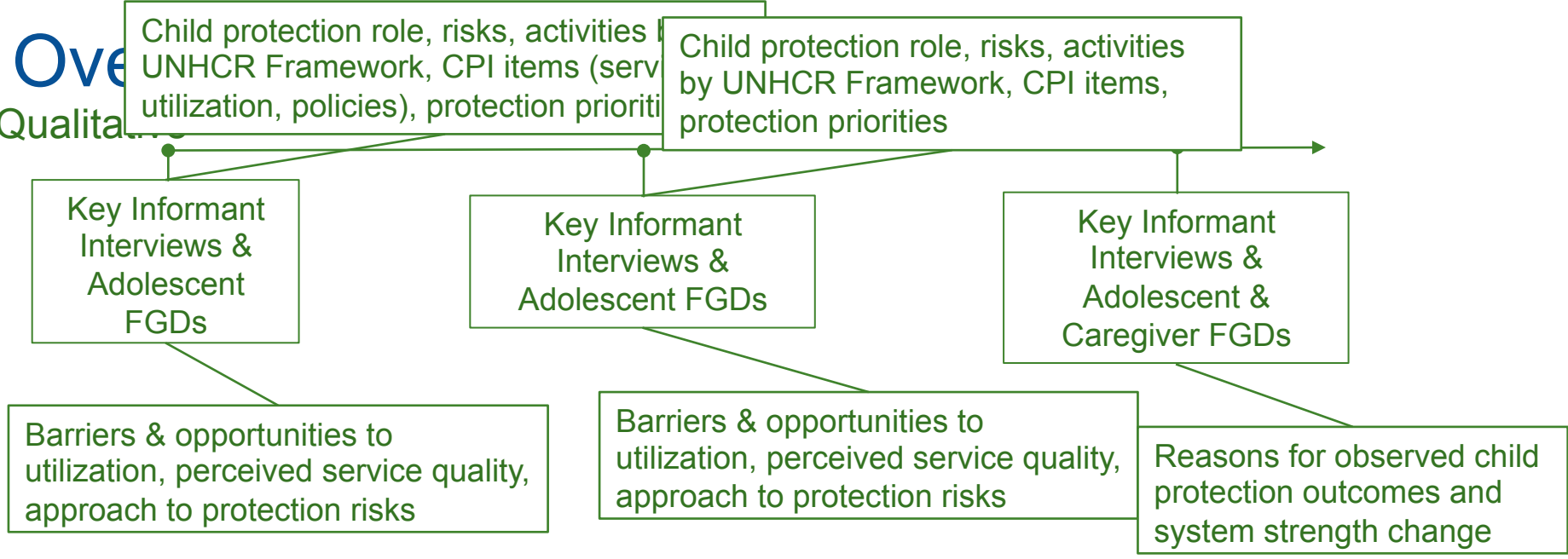
Now that draft Child Protection Index is developed,
time to test it...



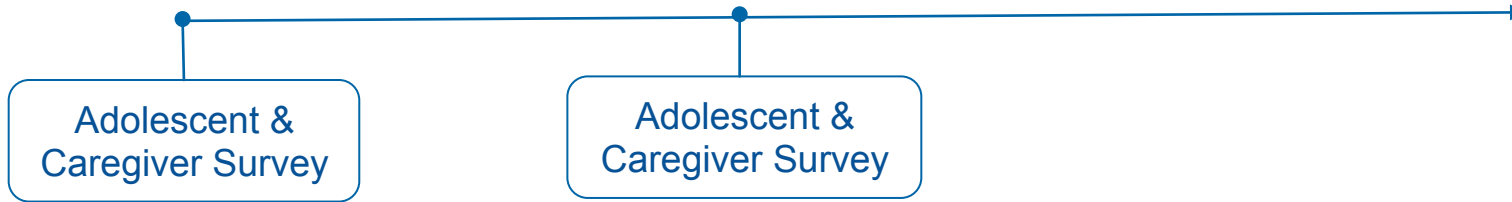
Overall study design, quantitative



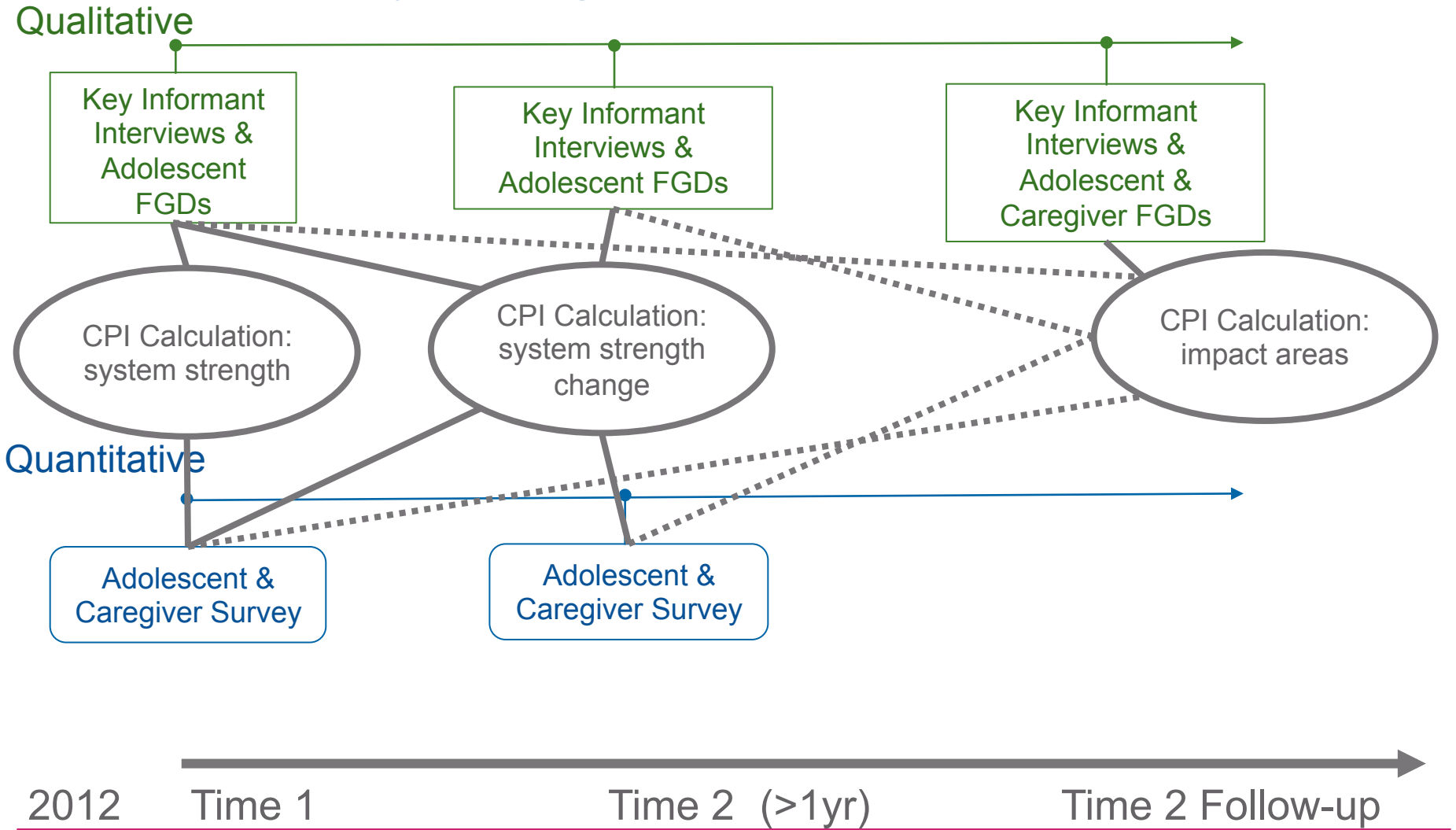
Overall Qualitative



Quantitative



Overall study design, CPI



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Note. Outputs and outcome research goals omitted for simplicity

CPI study locations

Rwanda: Kiziba camp

- Household survey with adolescents (13-17) and caregivers/parents (~250 pairs)
- Qualitative interviews and FGD (~150)

Uganda: Kiryandongo & Adjumani refugee settlements

- Household survey with adolescents (13-17) and caregivers/parents (~130 pairs)
- Qualitative interviews and FGD (~50)



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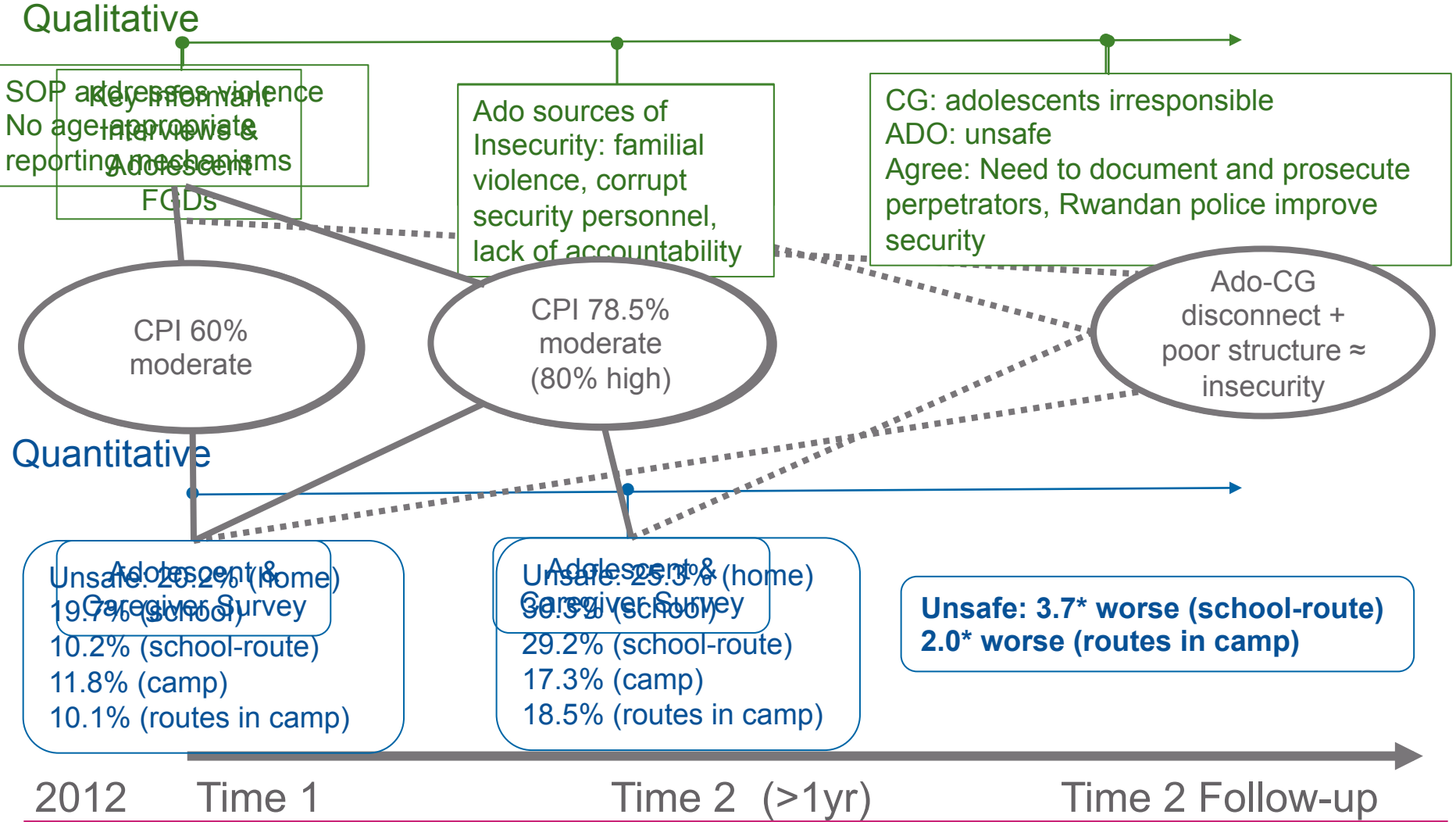
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'No punishment to the perpetrators'



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Challenges

- Weighting of items in CPI
- Is service utilization a good proxy for service quality?
- Interpretation of system strength
- Specificity vs. generalizability



Next steps

Longitudinal component (Rwanda analysis, Uganda data collection)

- How or if system strength changes over time?
- How or if these changes relate to changes in child protection outcomes?
- Linking system strength and child protection outcomes

Based on findings, refine and validate CPI in other locations with a focus on ease of adaptability, data collection, analysis, and interpretation



Thank you

Questions?



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