



**Partners  
In Health**

# **HEALTH SYSTEM RECONSTITUTION SYNDROME: AN OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD PHENOMENON IN GLOBAL HEALTH PRACTICE**

Anatole Manzi, PhD, MPhil, MSPH  
Director of Clinical Practice and Quality Improvement  
Clinical Operations Department  
Partners In Health

# OBJECTIVES

- Describe Health Systems Reconstitution Syndrome in global health
- Understand the evolution and implications of HSRS
- Discuss important considerations to mitigate negative impact of HSRS in global health

# FROM CLINICAL TO GLOBAL HEALTH JARGON

HIV infection and depletion of CD4 T cells

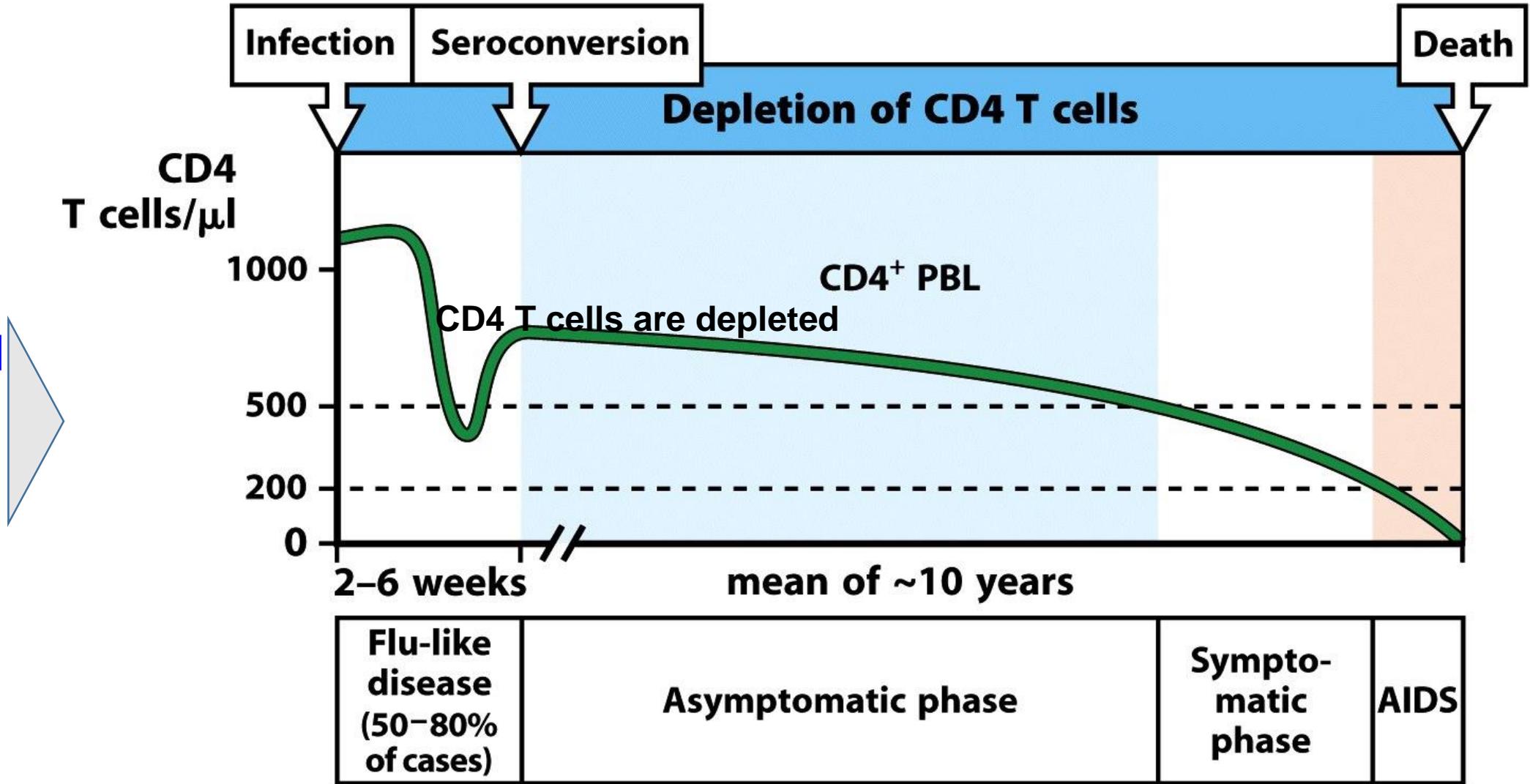
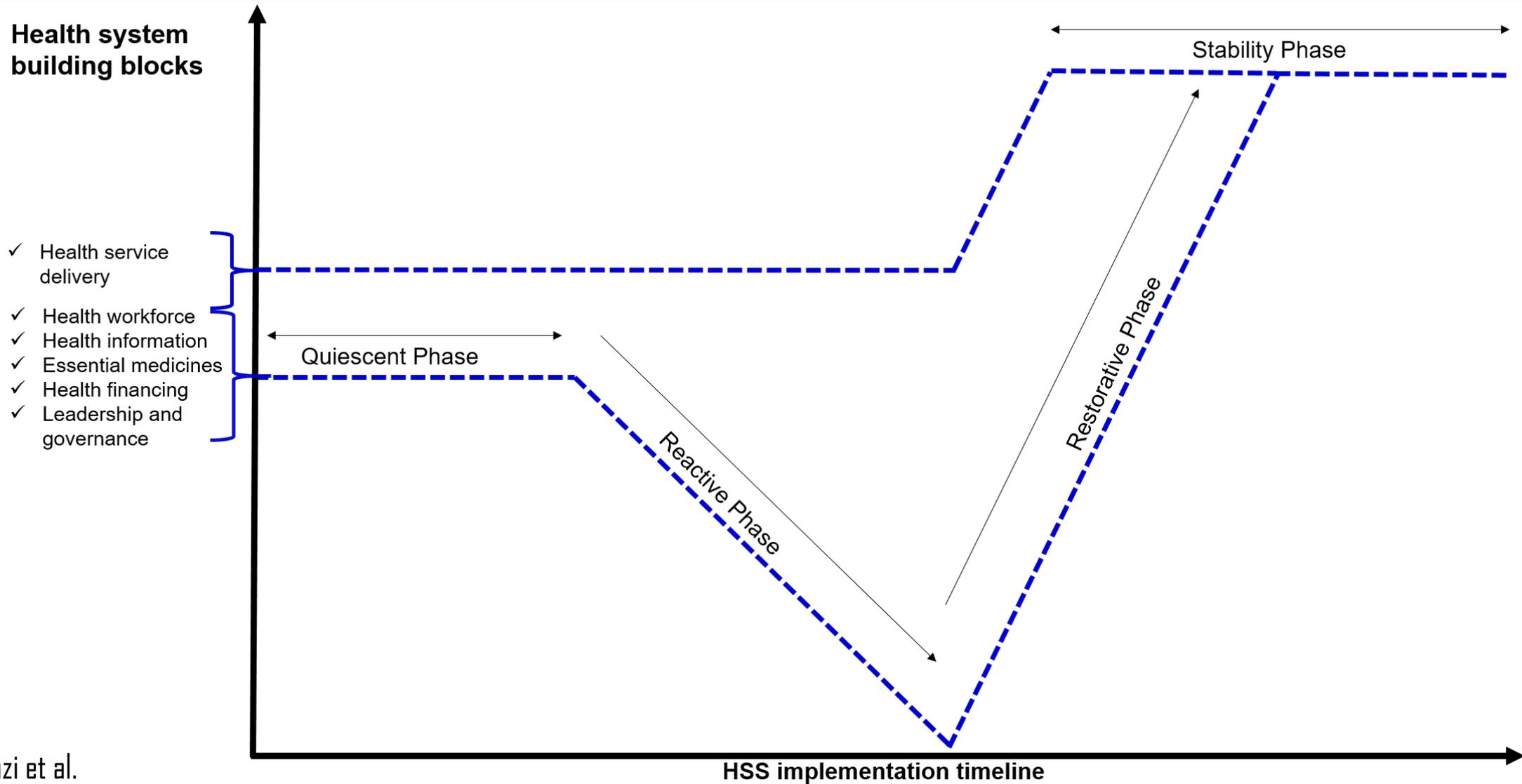


Figure 12-19 Immunobiology, 7ed. (© Garland Science 2008)

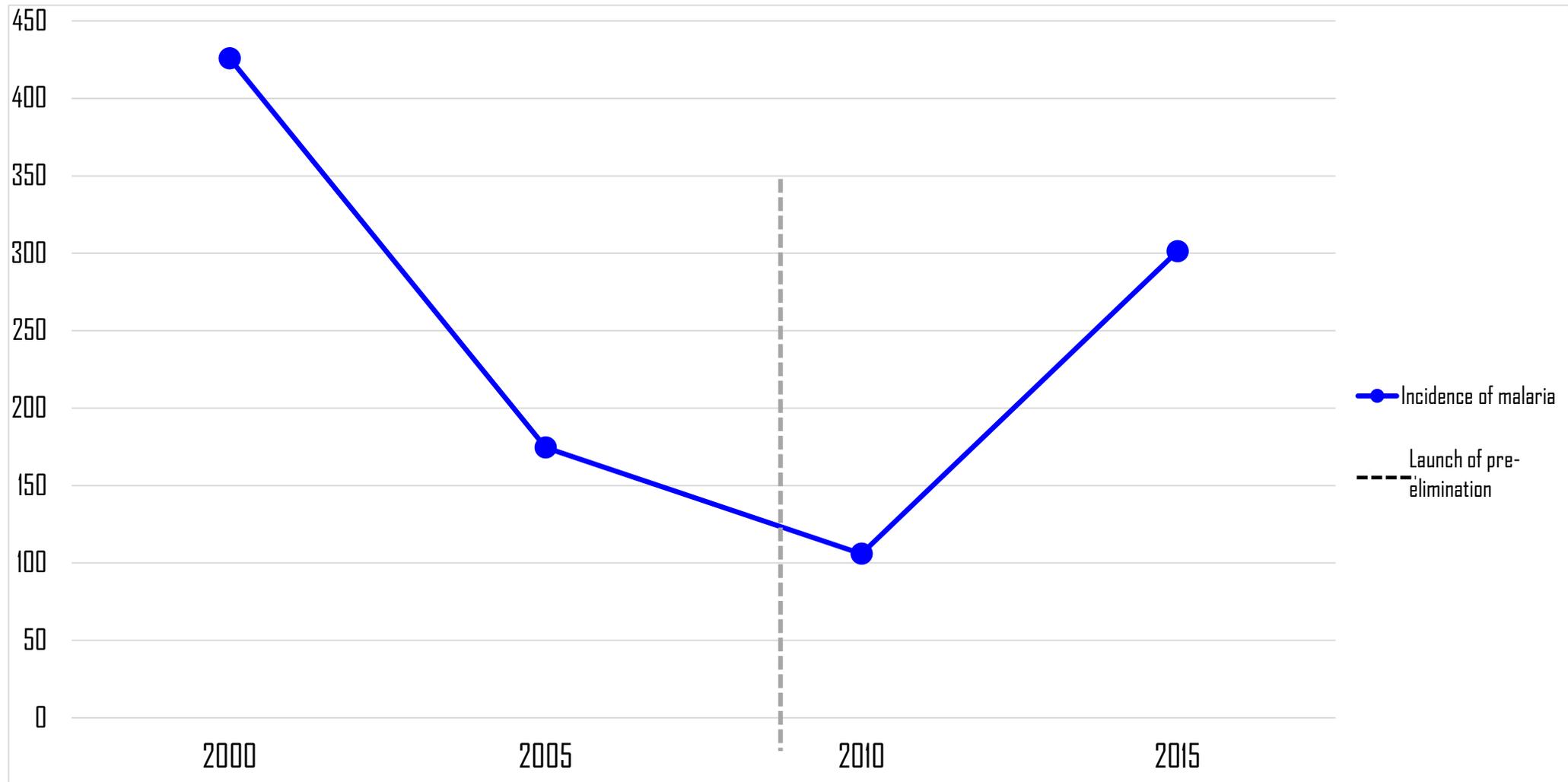
# EVOLUTION PHASES



# SIGNS OF HSRS

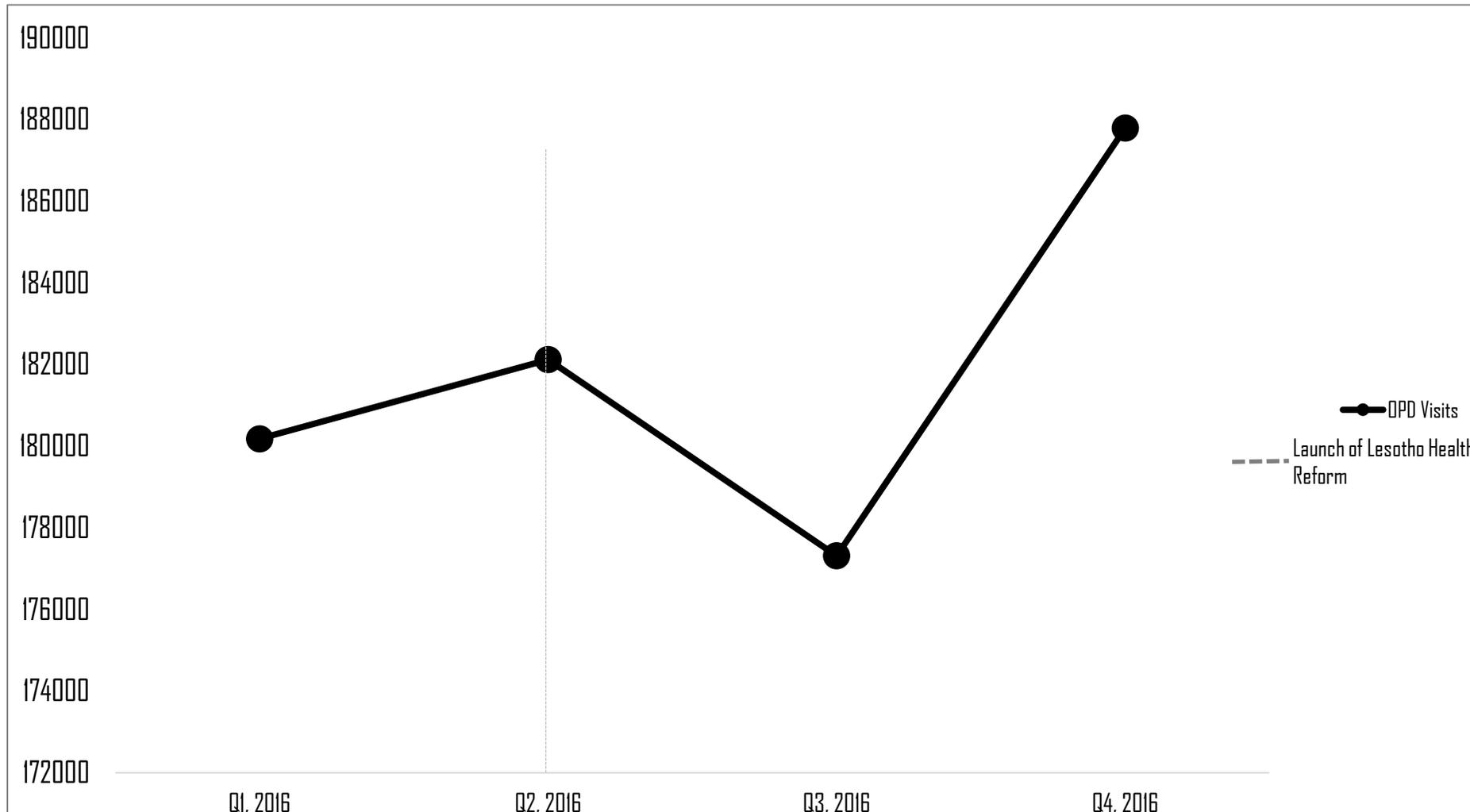
HSS building blocks	Quiescent phase	Reactive phase	Restoration	Stability phase
<b>Health service delivery</b>	Improved care delivery coverage and service utilization		Improved quality of care at all dimensions Remarkable increase in processes and outcomes	High quality care delivery (safety, effectiveness, patient-centeredness, equity, timeliness) Effective care delivery systems
<b>Health workforce</b>	Increased number of HR Increased staff satisfaction	Remarkable increase of HR needs Low staff satisfaction and retention Increased training and capacity building needs	Controlled HR needs Increased staff satisfaction and retention Balanced staff capacity	Increased confidence and staff retention Emergence of expert workforce
<b>Health information</b>	Unknown baseline or errors in performance measurements Unexpressed needs of policies and standards	Improved data quality Apparent worsened outcomes Notable needs of policy and standards on data sharing and reporting	Excellent data quality Improved data used for decision making Development of standards and protocols	Increased data utilization/ evidence-based practices Health information drives HSS strategy
<b>Essential medicines</b>	Increased medication and consumables Supply of equipment and basic materials	Frequent stock-outs Poor forecasting of essential drugs and supplies Increased medication errors Equipment overuse with less frequent maintenance	Limited stock-outs Increased precision in forecasting Reduced medication errors Appropriate use of medical equipment and timely maintenance	Constant availability of medical supplies and consumables Standardized formulary for essential medicine and supplies Appropriate use of medical equipment and timely maintenance
<b>Health financing</b>	Increased investments	Mismatch between financial inputs and systems performance Increased financial needs to avoid collapse of the HSS	Alignment of financial inputs and system's performance Increased production and cost benefits	Increased production and self-sustained growth Constant and smooth health financing
<b>Leadership and governance</b>	Expressed enthusiasm for close collaboration Active stakeholder involvement	Gaps in leadership and accountability Competing priorities limiting management practices High attrition of key stakeholders	Improved accountability and management practices Essential decision matrix established Increased stakeholder involvement	Highly competent and capable management teams Strong system to model best practices Increased stakeholder involvement and ownership

# MALARIA INCIDENCE IN RWANDA (PER 1,000 POPULATION AT RISK): BEFORE AND AFTER NATIONAL MALARIA ELIMINATION STRATEGY



Source: World Bank Data, 2018

# OPD PATIENT VISITS BEFORE AND AFTER LESOTHO NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM



Source: Lesotho national health care reform, 2018

# IMPLICATIONS OF HSRS

- Health financing: Termination of contracts due to poor outcomes esp. when PBF is into play.
- Implementers: Adapt or abandon HSS interventions
- Data: Misinterpretation especially based on pre-post evaluation design were used.
- Partnership and policy/advocacy: Poor relationship/trust and future resistance.

# IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Individual donors and funding institutions should consider HSRS as they set grants' timeframe
- The length of HSRS depends on inputs and target (size & context). This should drive the design of global health interventions
- Thorough assessments are needed prior to any modifications/adaptations of HSS interventions
- Pre-post evaluation design (most used in LMIC) does not capture the evolutive aspects of HSRS

"It's not how far you fall,  
but how high you bounce  
that counts." Zig Ziglar

**THANK  
YOU!**