Books for Every Child: The Global Book Fund, Part I of III: Promoting Quality While Increasing Access to Content

# *Quality of books and policy implications of the book chain*
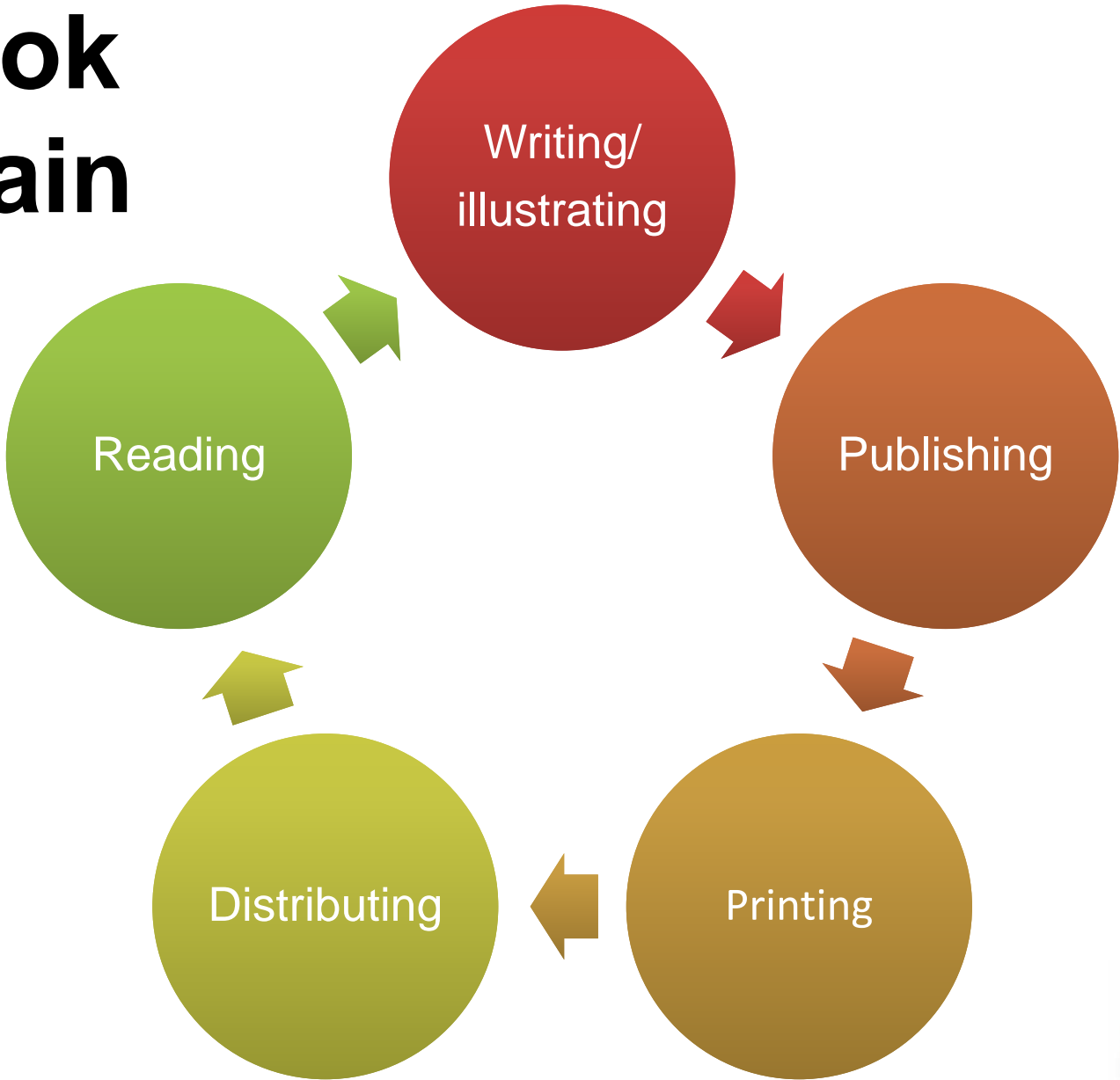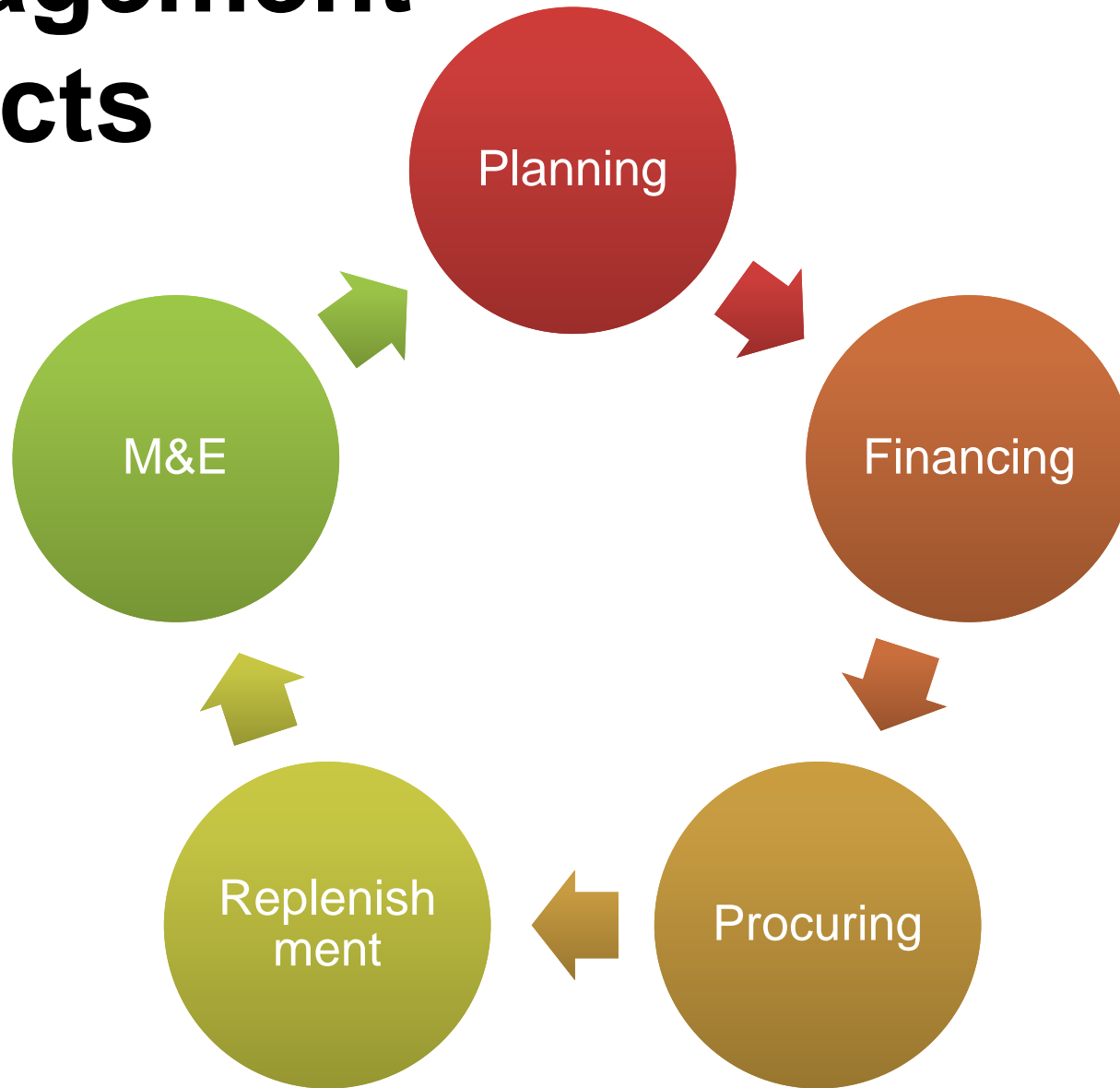
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# Outline

✓ The Book Chain

✓ Management aspects and challenges

✓ Policy implications of the book chain and their impact on quality

# Book Chain



Writing/illustrating

Publishing

Printing

Distributing

Reading

CIES 2016

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# Management aspects



Planning

Financing

Procuring

Replenishment

M&E

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# Planning

Lack of reliable, real-time data

Insecure finance streams

Fragmented approaches and timing of efforts

Lack of understanding of clear roles and responsibilities

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# Financing

Lack of awareness of importance/lack of commitment
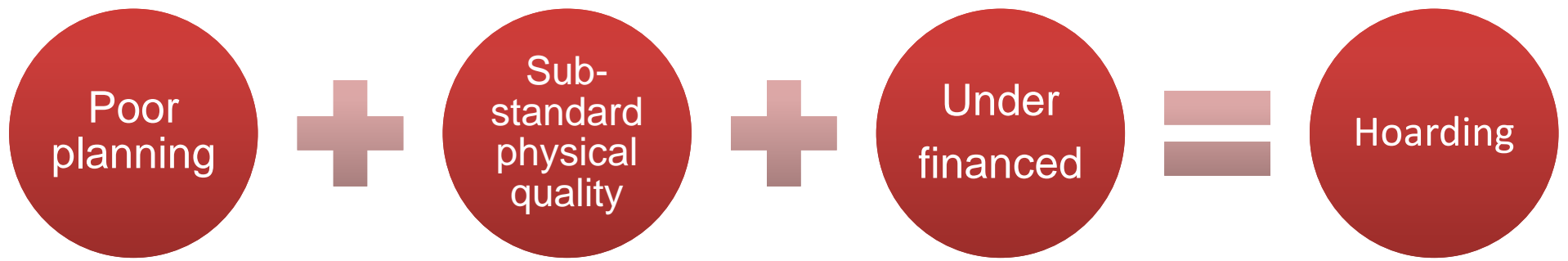
Donor dependency

Lack of a comprehensive approach

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# Procuring

Late initiation

Lack of quality standards in bid/inspection

Lack of knowledge leads to increased costs

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# Replenishment

Poor planning **+** Sub-standard physical quality **+** Under financed **=** Hoarding

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# Monitoring & Evaluation

Needed in each process

Lack of understanding roles & responsibilities

Lack of transparency

Lack of accountability

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# Policies and practices and their impact on the book chain

# National Book Policy

✓ Basic guide for all stakeholders

✓ Informed policy choices

✓ Roles and responsibilities per stakeholder

***Impact on book quality:*** *basic guide for all stakeholders, ensuring efficiency of the system needed to deliver quality books in time*

# Book evaluation and approval policy

✓ Liberalized book market or not?

✓ If so: gov't evaluates books on pedagogical quality and physical quality

✓ List of approved books

*Impact on book quality: key process in setting the standards for quality and approving only those that meet the criteria*

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# Language of Instruction policy

- ✓ Importance of mother tongue education and feasible implementation policy
- ✓ Implications on book chain: fragmentation of demand
- ✓ Replicate processes for each language version
- ✓ Manage increase of unit costs so benefit of mother tongue learning outweighs additional costs

*Impact on book quality: the language of a book will determine the readability for the learner*

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# Procurement policy

- ✓ Centralized or decentralized
- ✓ School based choice = decentralized
- ✓ School ownership, matches demand and priorities, book relevance

**Relevance for book quality:** *school choice and ownership of the books selected, based on their quality and relevance*

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# Communication policy

✓ Lack of communication causes above challenges

✓ Change would improve:

1. Stakeholder collaboration and preparation
2. Demand aggregation
3. Coordinate efforts and facilitates PPP's
4. Accountability mechanism
5. Accommodate user feedback

**Impact on book quality:** *supports efficiency of the book chain and facilitates user feedback that can help improve quality continuously*

# Thank you!

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