

Theory of Change

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International Initiative for Impact
Evaluation (3ie)

Terminology



Theory of Change

Program Theory

Causal Chain

Theory-Based Evaluation

Logic Model

Terminology



Theory of Change

Program Theory

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Theory-Based Evaluation

Logic Model

vs the “Black box” approach

Terminology



Theory of Change

Program Theory

Causal Chain

Theory-Based Evaluation

Logic Model

vs the “Black box” approach

Ultimate goal: Answer the “why?” question

Questions



1. What is the program?

Questions



1. What is the program?
2. What outcomes does the program aim to achieve?

Questions



1. What is the program?
2. What outcomes does the program aim to achieve?
3. What intermediate steps lead to those outcomes?

Questions



1. What is the program?
2. What outcomes does the program aim to achieve?
3. What intermediate steps lead to those outcomes?
4. What assumptions are associated with each link in the causal chain?

School-Based Malaria Intervention



1. What is the program?



Campaign for Clean Water

School-Based Malaria Intervention

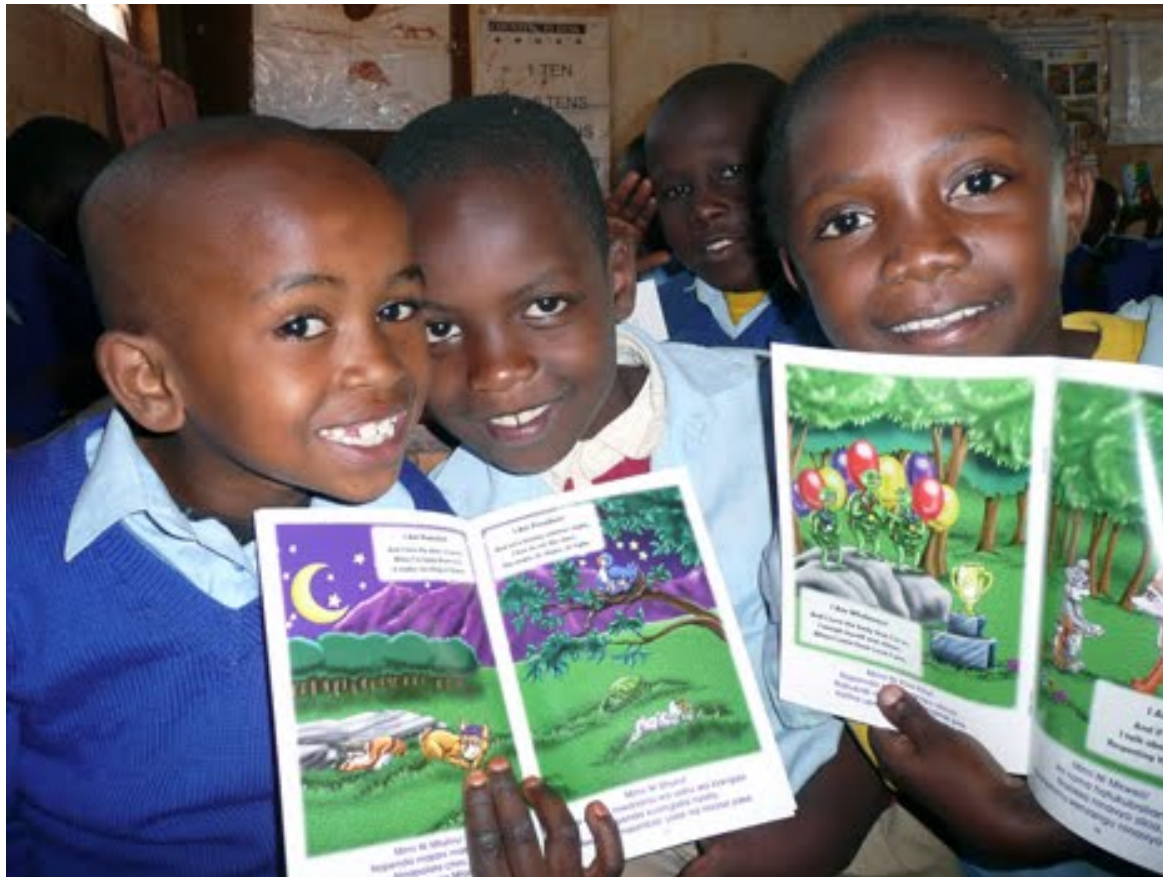


Malaria
Intervention

School-Based Malaria Intervention



2. What outcomes does the program aim to achieve?



Village of Love

School-Based Malaria Intervention



Malaria
Intervention

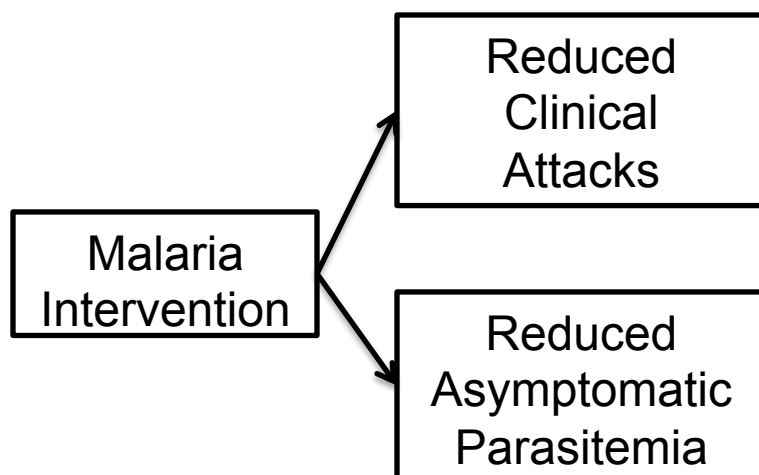
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3. What intermediate steps lead to those outcomes?

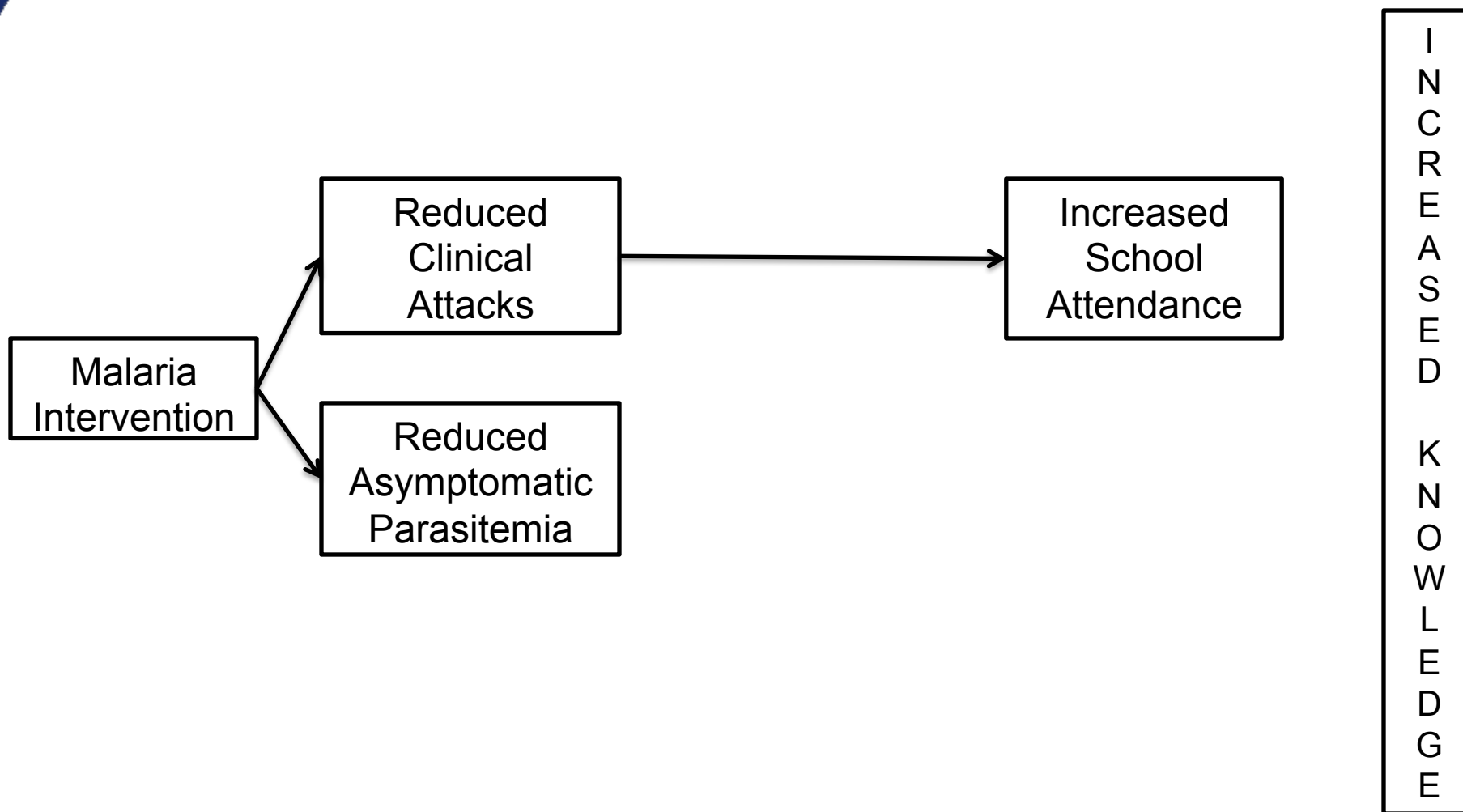
School-Based Malaria Intervention



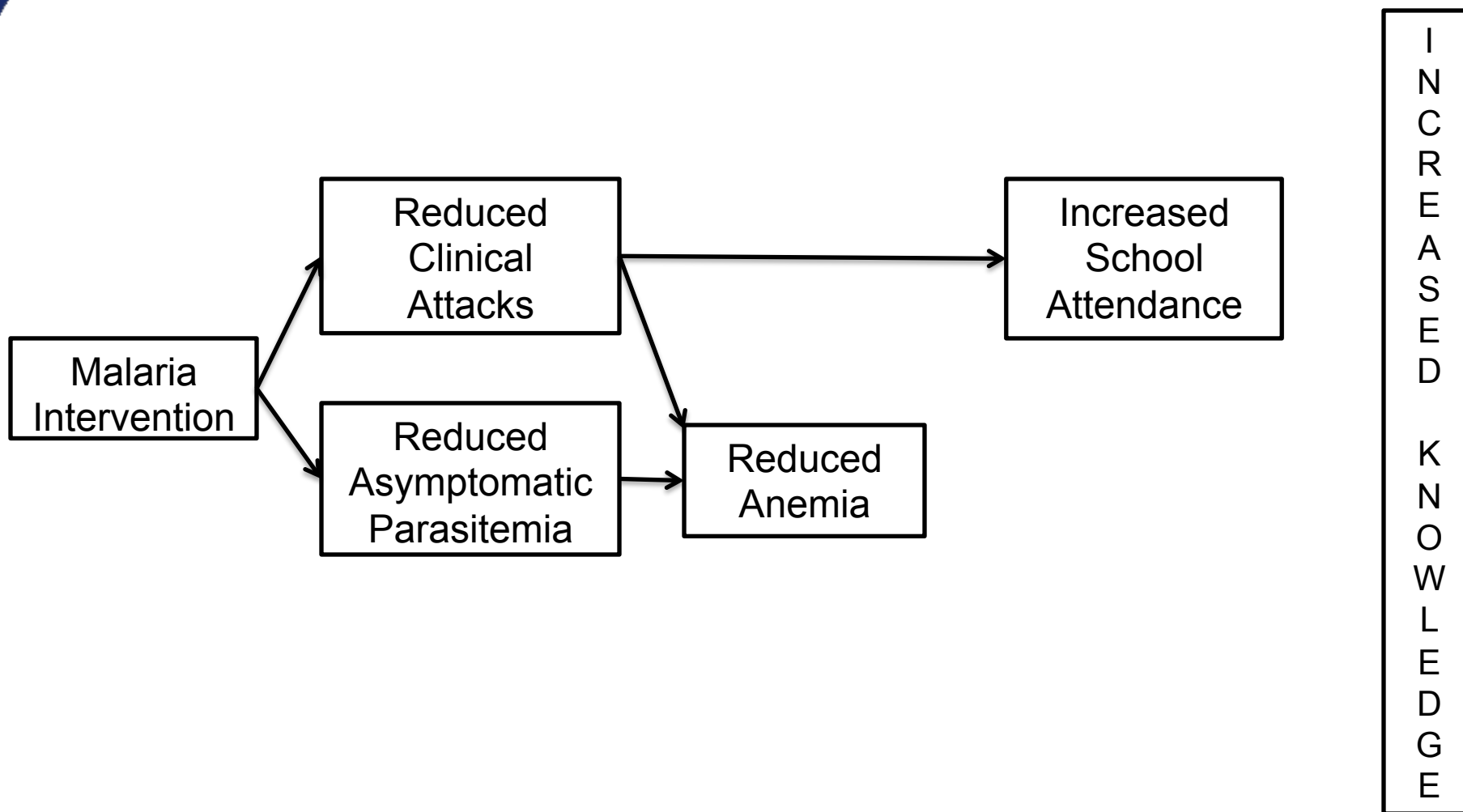
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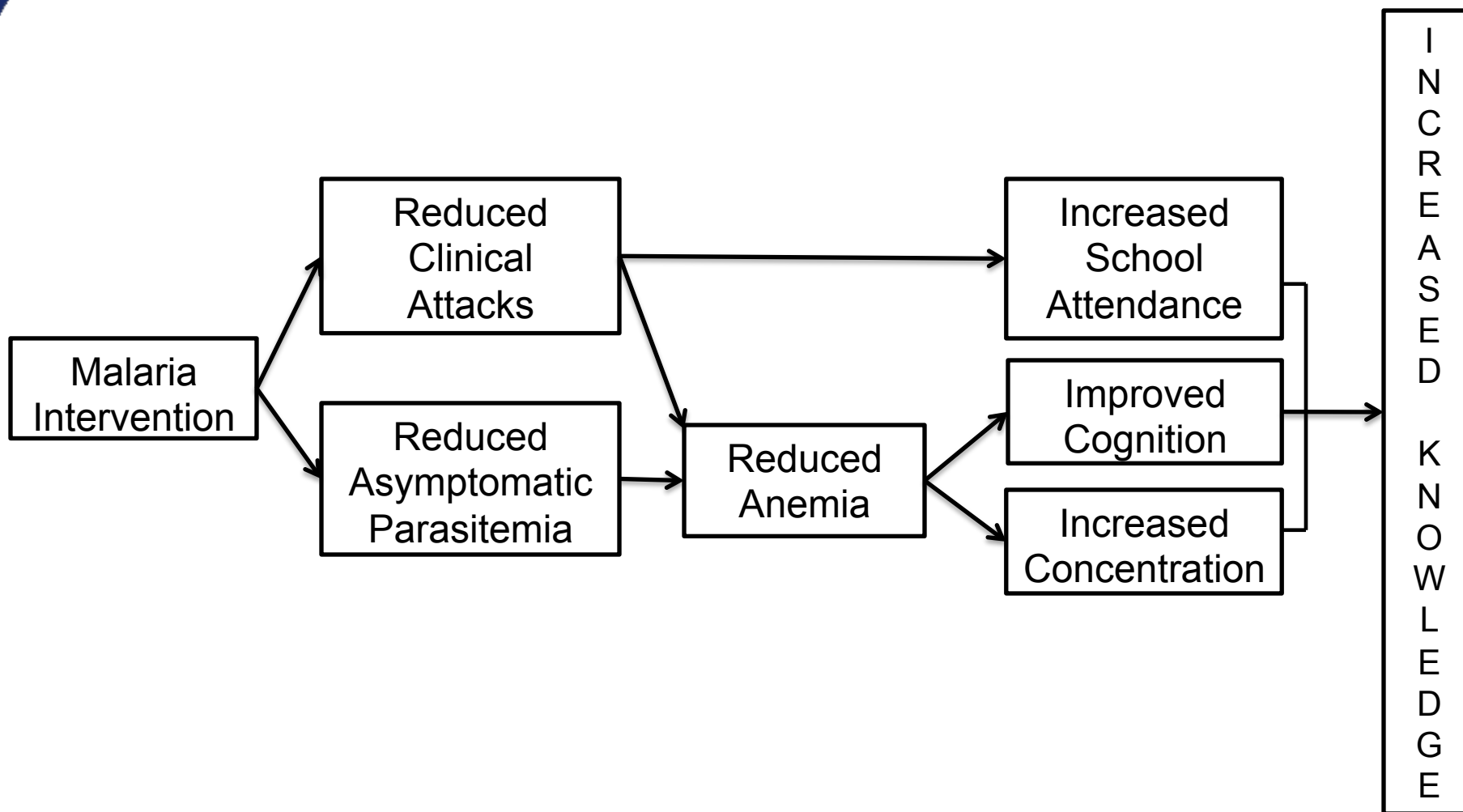
School-Based Malaria Intervention



School-Based Malaria Intervention



School-Based Malaria Intervention

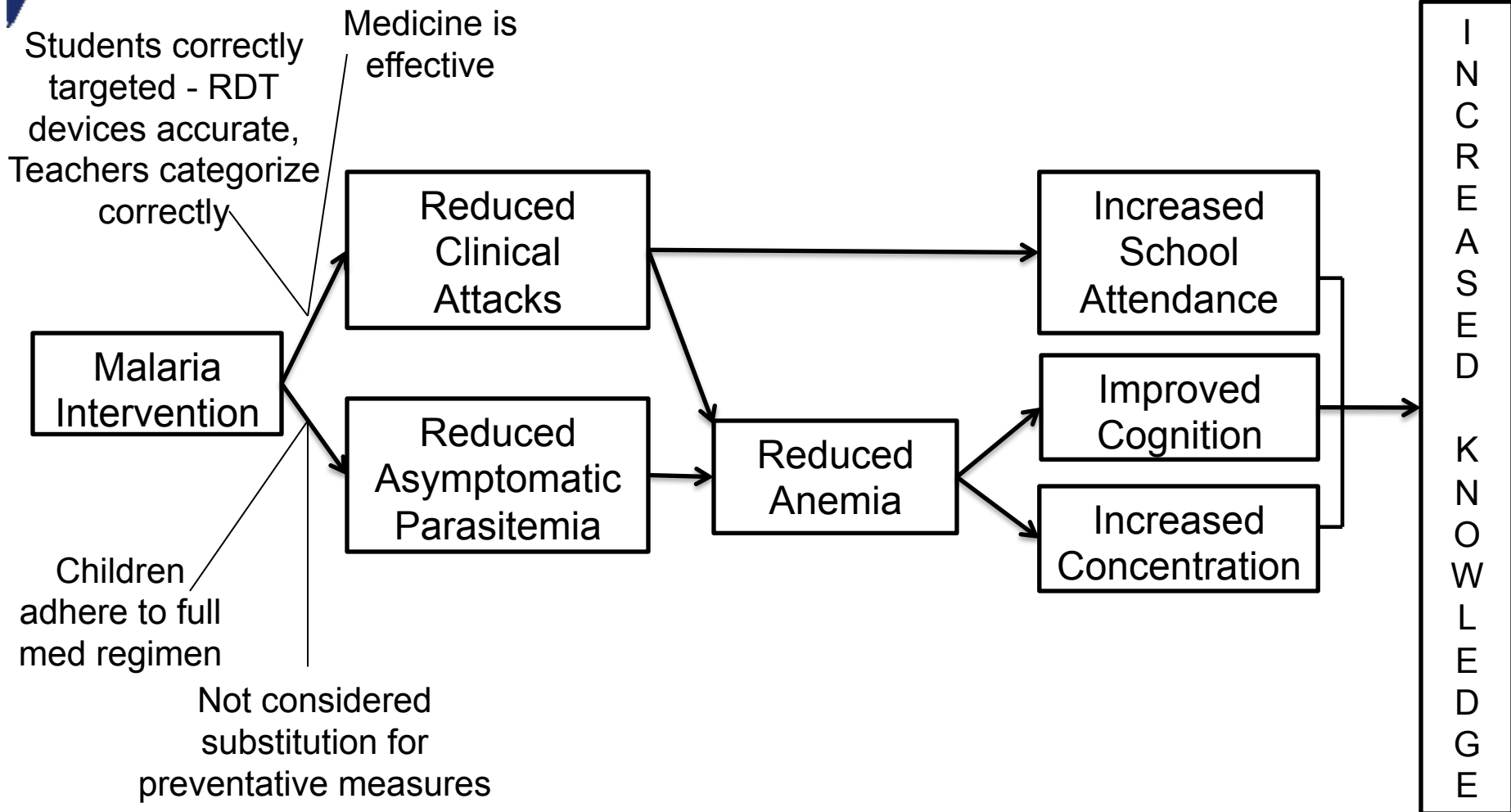


School-Based Malaria Intervention

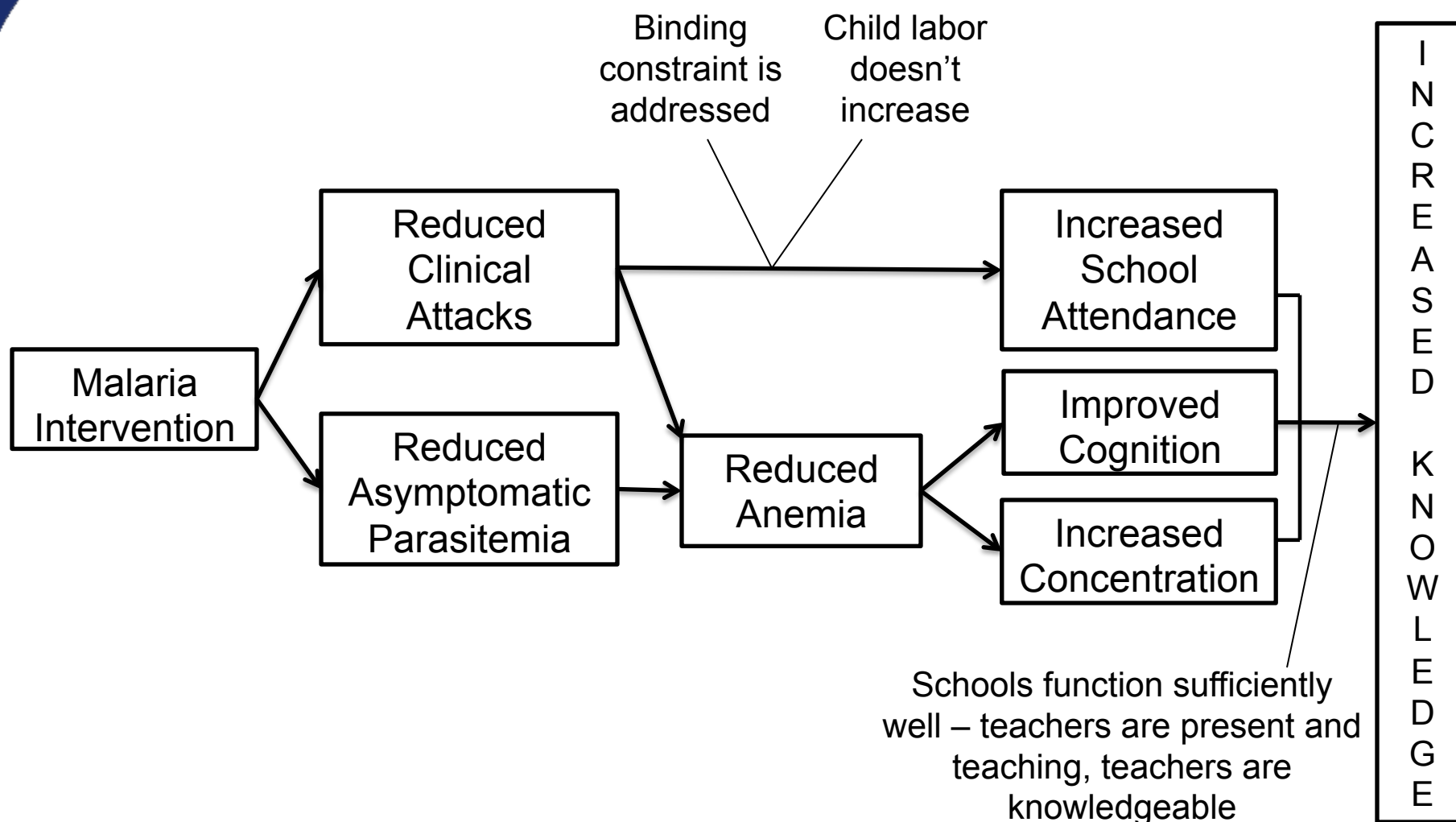


1. What outcomes do you want to achieve?
2. What program will induce those outcomes?
3. What pathways theoretically lead to those outcomes?
4. What assumptions are associated with each link in the causal chain?

School-Based Malaria Intervention



School-Based Malaria Intervention

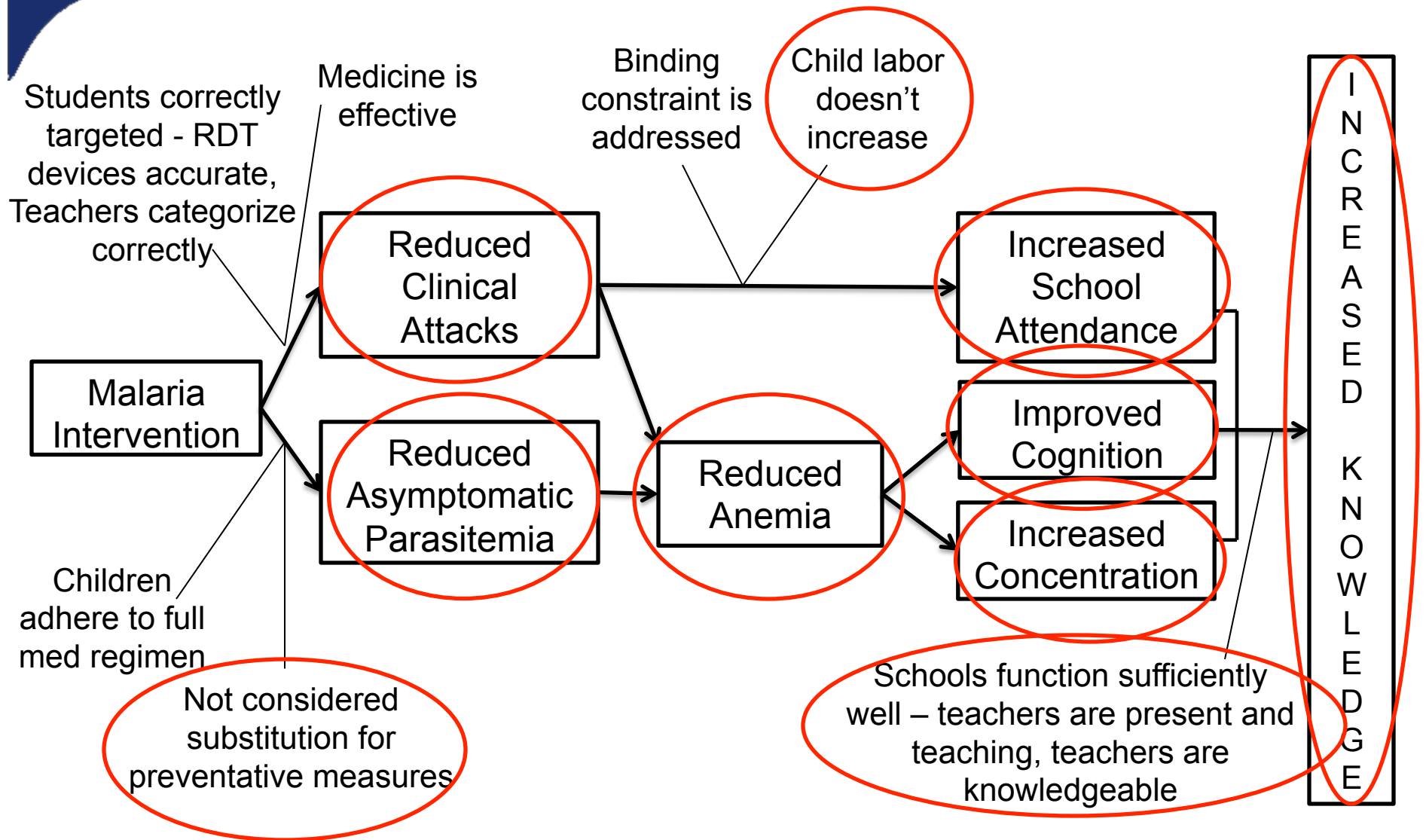


Data Collection



- Outcomes and assumptions can be tested by:
 - Counterfactual analysis

Data Collection

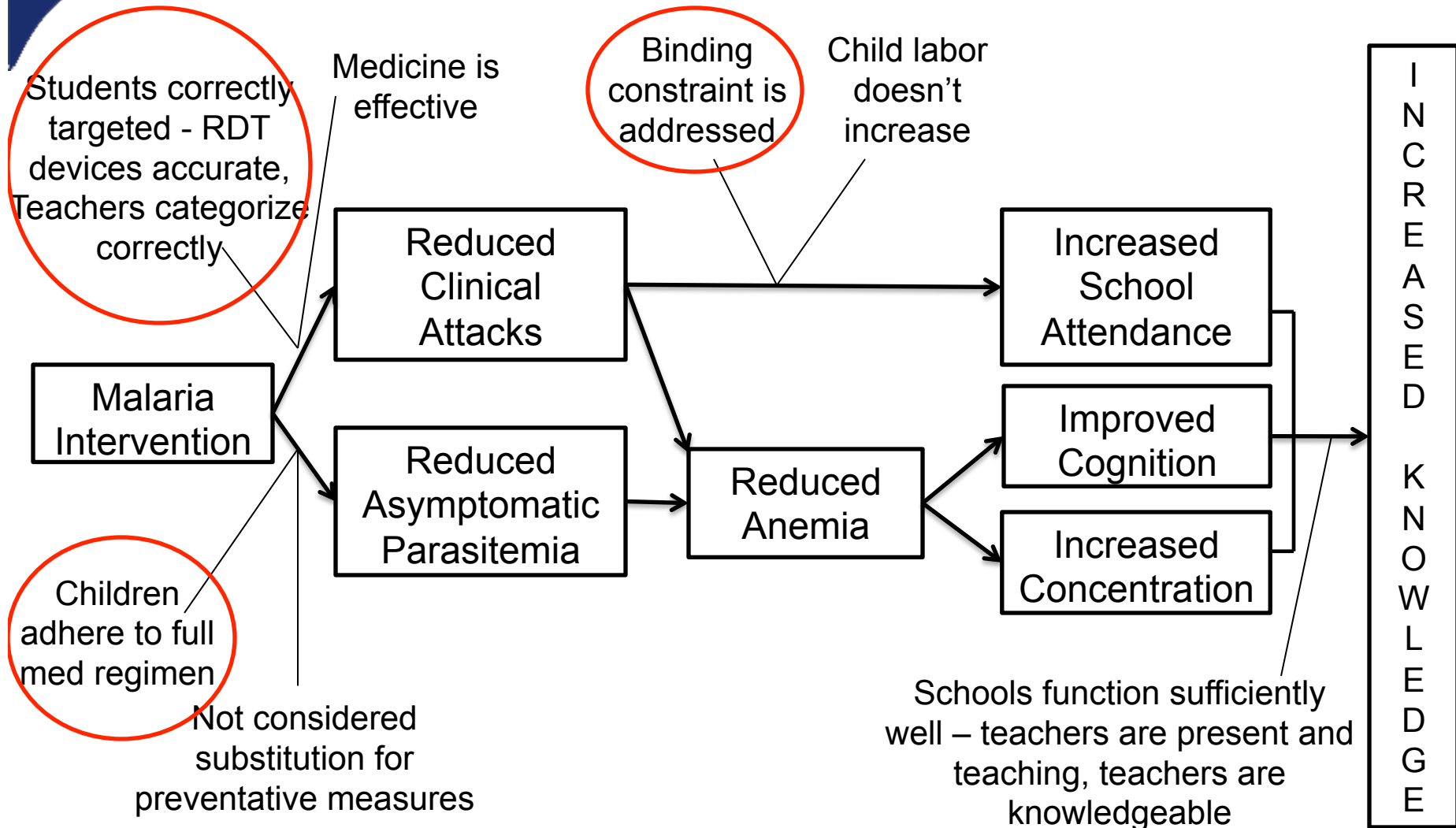


Data Collection



- Outcomes and assumptions can be tested by:
 - Counterfactual analysis
 - Factual analysis

Data Collection

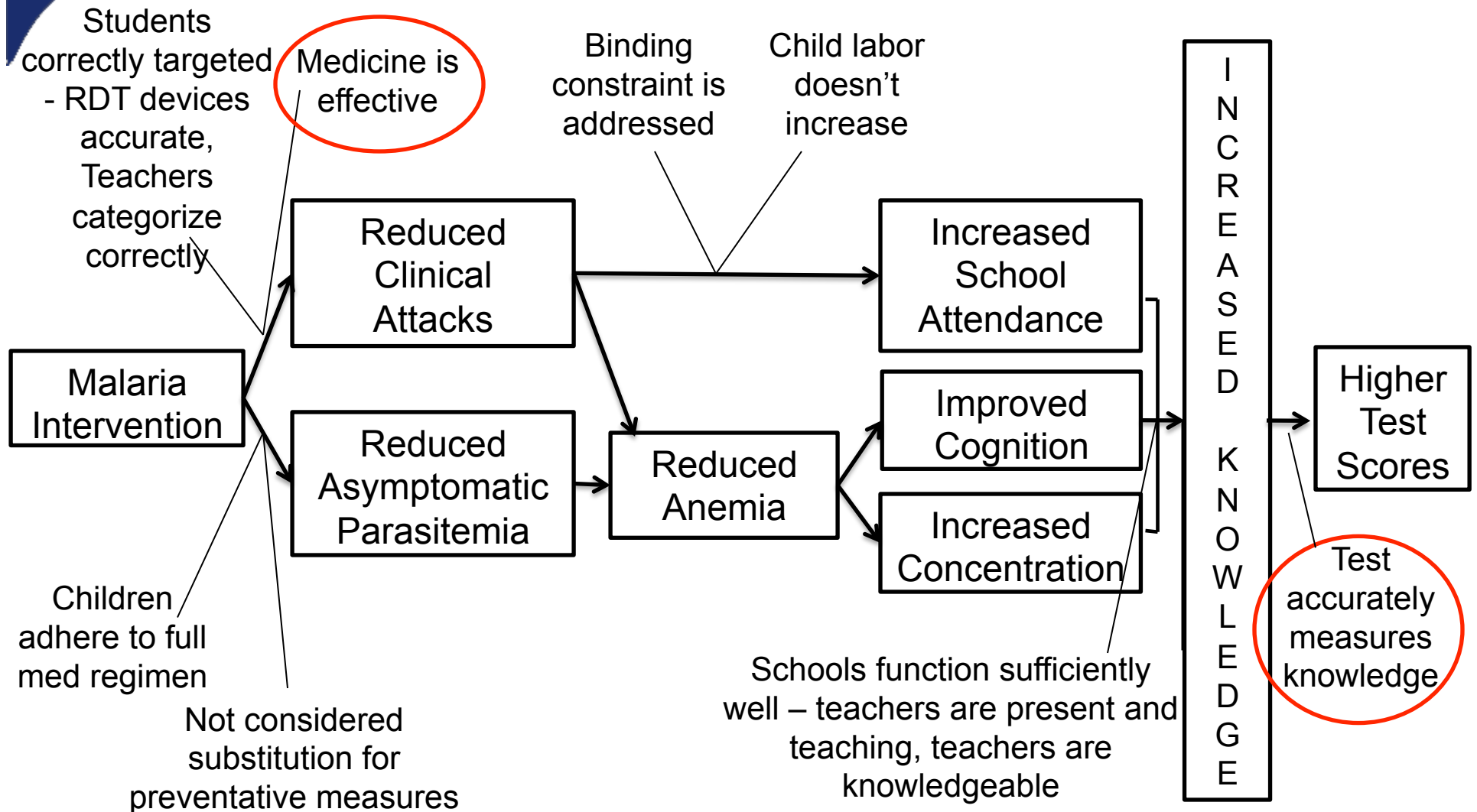


Data Collection



- Outcomes and assumptions can be tested by:
 - Counterfactual analysis
 - Factual analysis
 - Some outcomes and assumptions cannot be measured or tested

Data Collection



Criticisms of Theory of Change

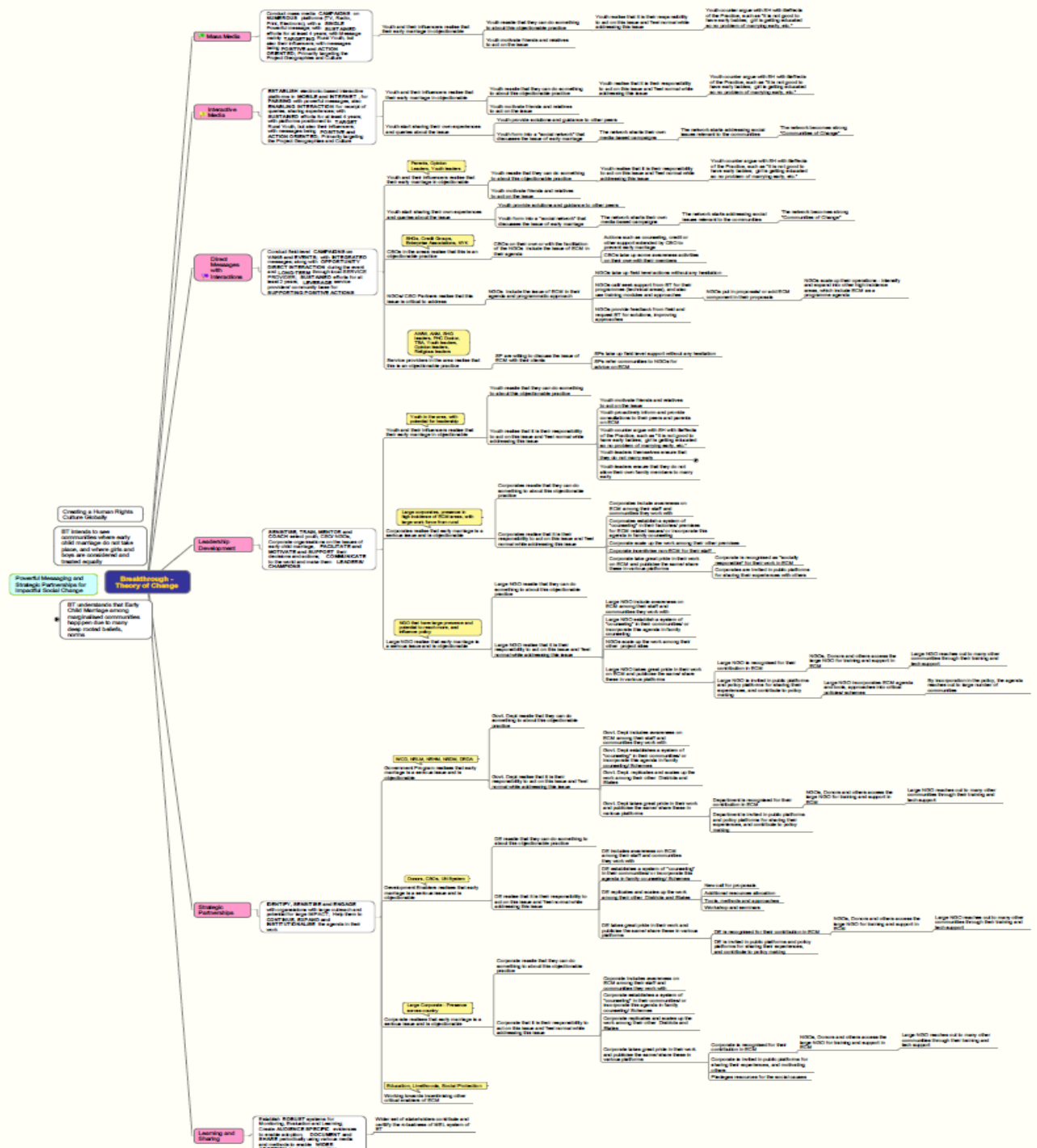


- Over-simplify the program

Campaign Against Child Marriage in Bihar & Jharkhand

Breakthrough & Catalyst Management Services

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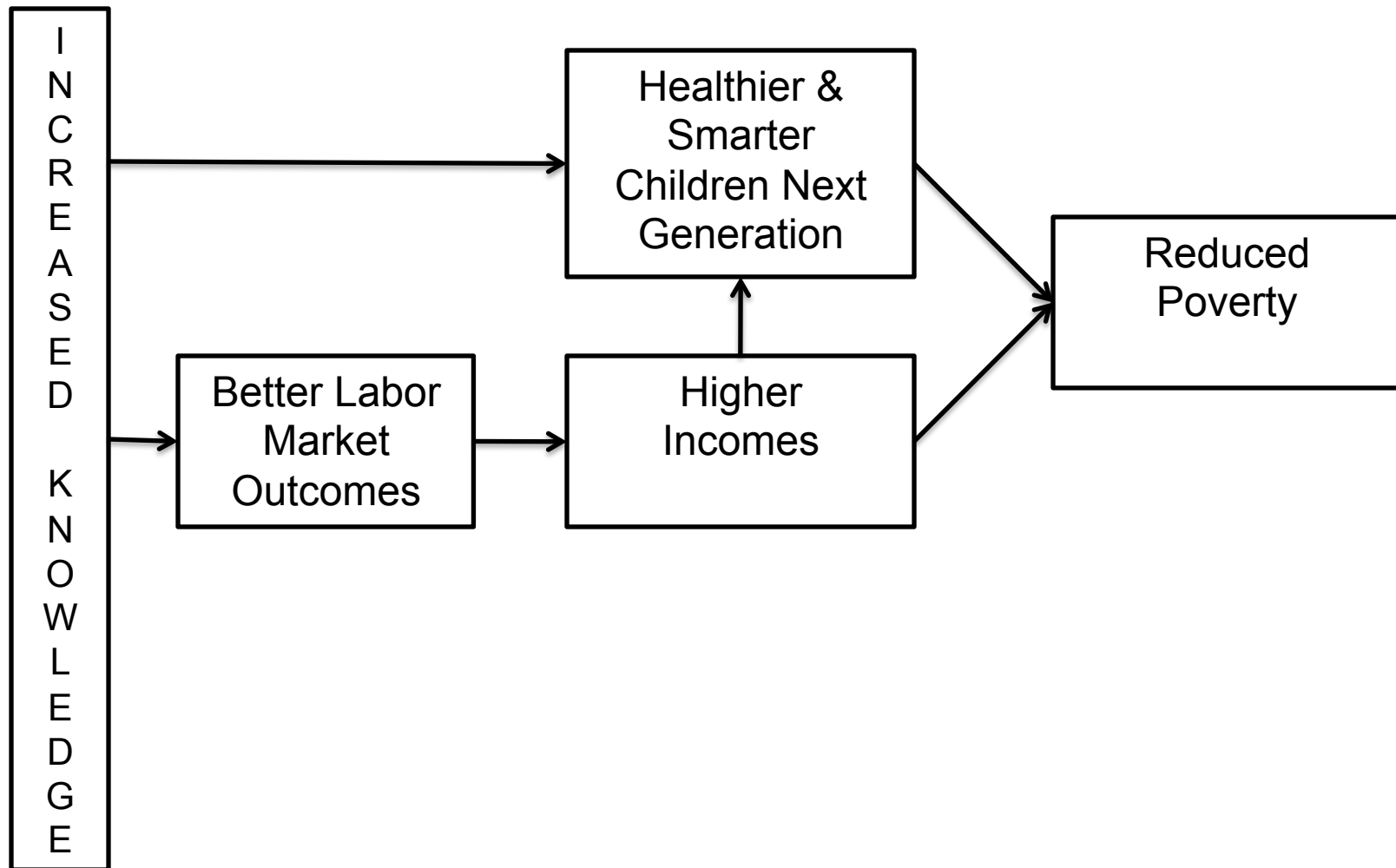


Criticisms of Theory of Change



- Over-simplify the program
- Long-term effects not considered

Long Term Effects

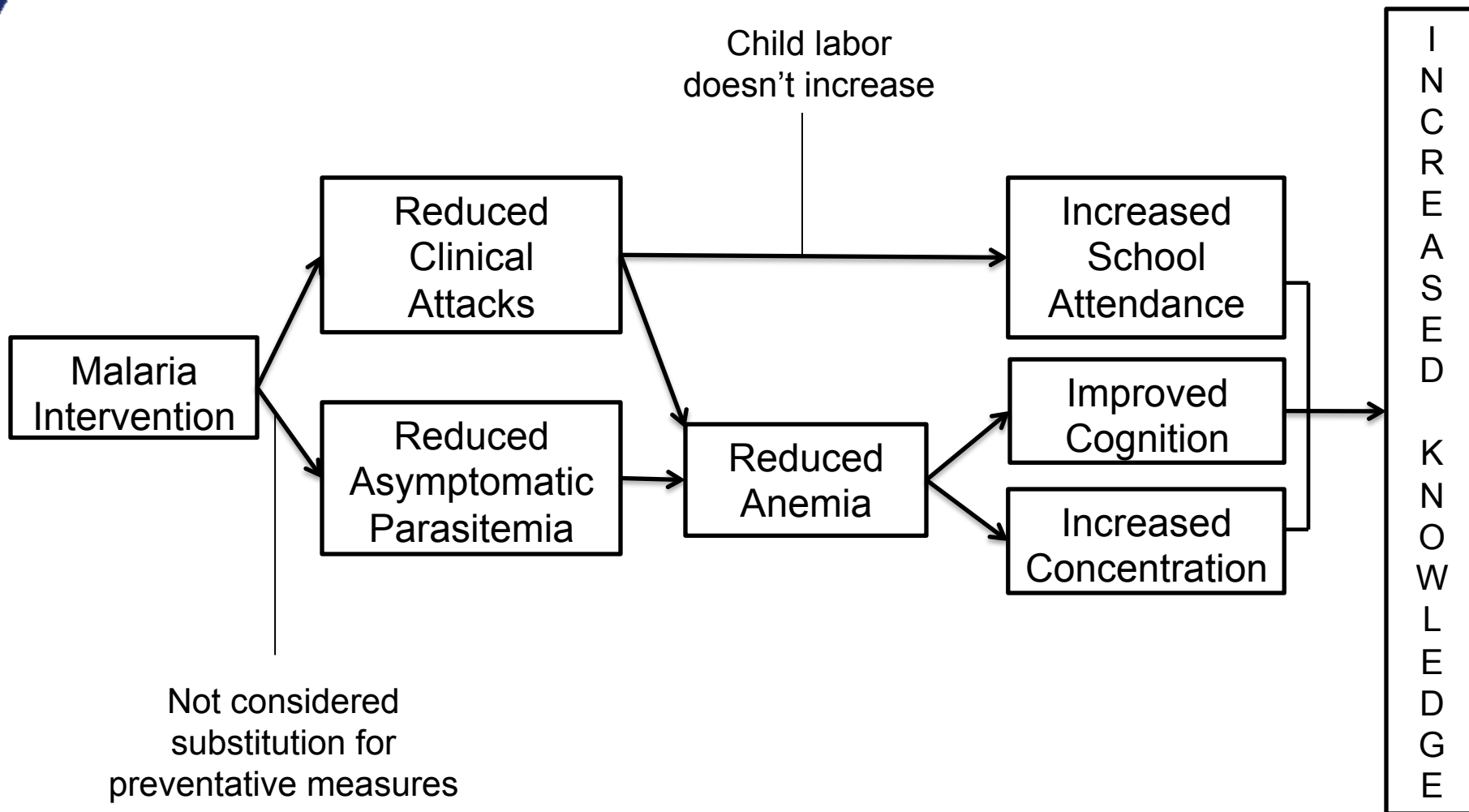


Criticisms of Theory of Change



- Over-simplify the program
- Long-term effects not considered
- Unintended consequences not considered

Unintended Consequences

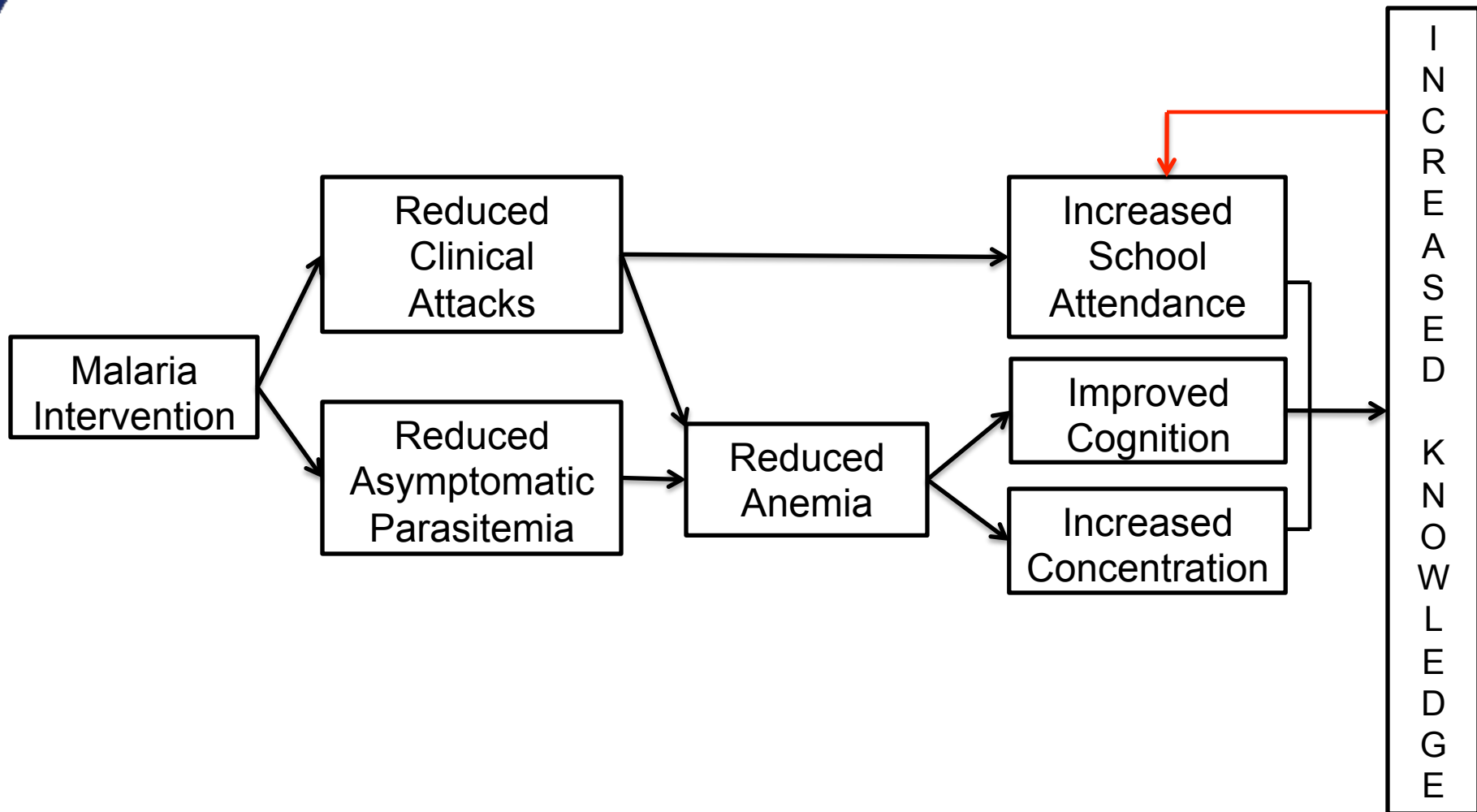


Criticisms of Theory of Change



- Over-simplify the program
- Long-term effects not considered
- Unintended consequences not considered
- Does not consider that program to outcomes is not uni-directional

Feedback



Criticisms of Theory of Change

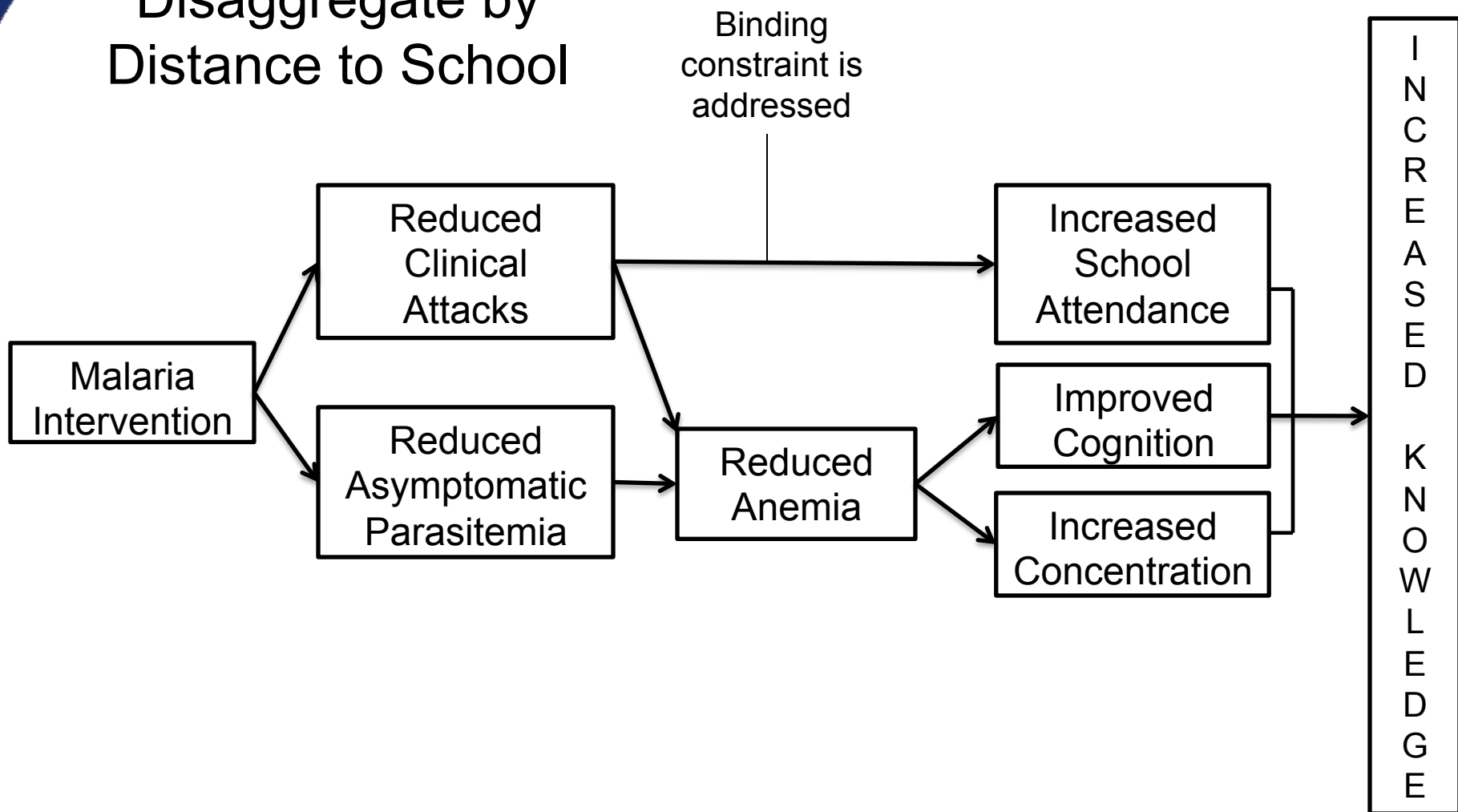


- Over-simplify the program
- Long-term effects not considered
- Unintended consequences not considered
- Does not consider that program to outcomes is not uni-directional
- Heterogeneous effects are not considered

Heterogeneous Effects



Disaggregate by
Distance to School



Timing



- What is the best time to create a theory of change?
 - During the program design
 - Before data collection
 - Before data analysis

Closing Remarks



- Ultimate goal: Answer the “why?” question
- Identifies assumptions and creates testable hypotheses
- Identifies areas of potential weakness in the program
- Can be created for new and existing programs