

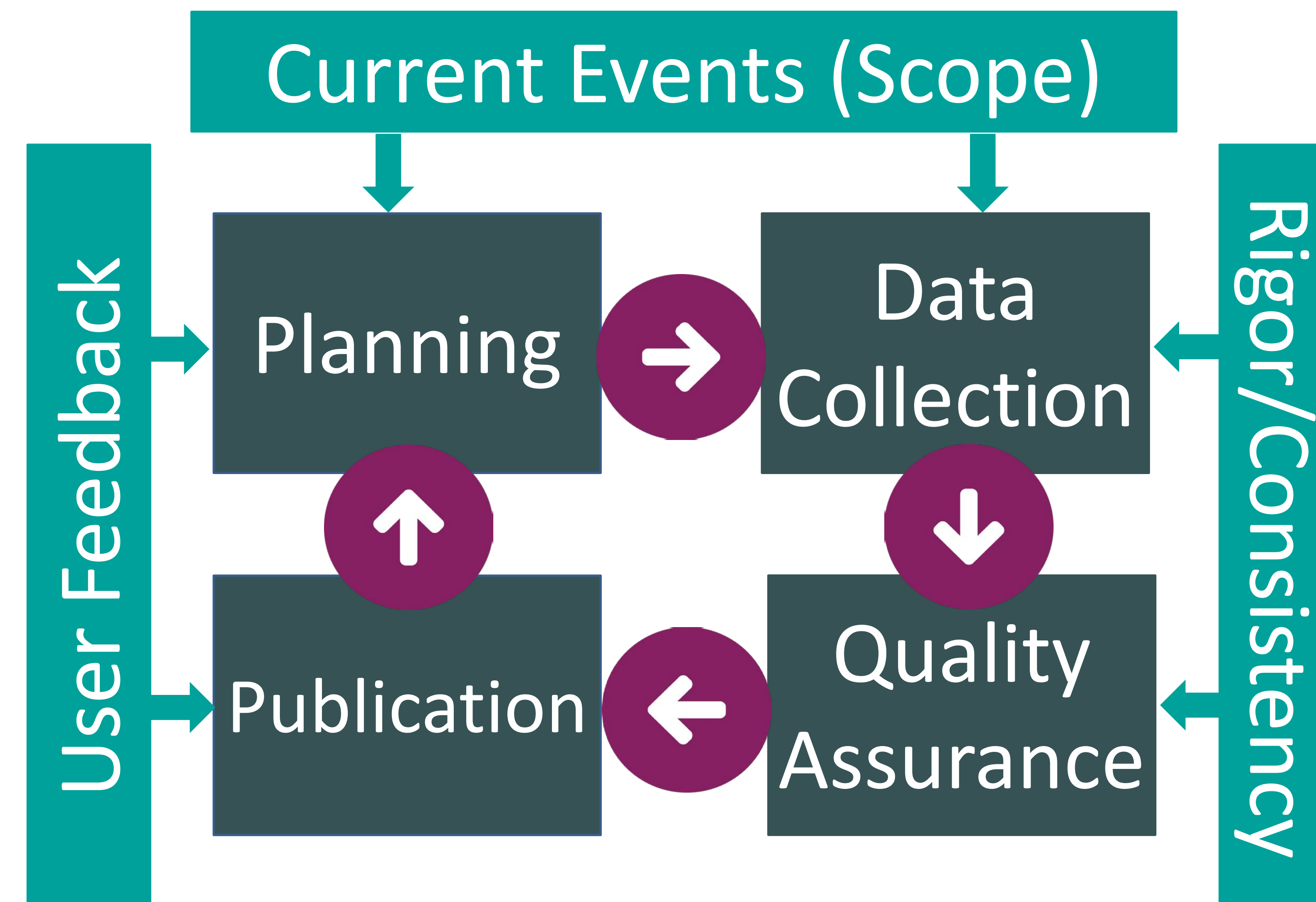
Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, and responses continues to evolve rapidly across Canada. Health systems are relying on Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) policy interventions and public health measures to reduce transmission, improve health outcomes, and manage health workforce capacity. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) developed and maintains a comprehensive public repository of interventions across Canada, to enable the monitoring and management of the current pandemic, as well as retrospectively evaluate Canada's COVID-19 response.

Methods

To undertake such a task requires ongoing systematic web searching by multiple team members to capture information on relevant COVID-19 interventions such as case management, distancing, health workforce capacity, health services and travel restrictions. Additionally, with various team members contributing, ensuring consistency across syntax and of what is in-scope/relevant can be challenging. Thus, throughout this process, I was involved in every stage of development leading up to publication. This allowed me to take part in the planning, data collection, and quality assurance steps, as well as be an active member in regular scoping and consistency meetings.

Current Events (Scope)



Planning:

- I was involved in team meetings determining what was in-scope, considering the evolving situation of the pandemic and vaccination response.

Data Collection:

- I tracked and categorized relevant COVID-19 interventions, for the province of Alberta, related to policy interventions/public health measures to reduce transmission, improve health outcomes, and vaccination progress.

Quality Assurance:

- I reviewed other team members' jurisdictions in order to ensure accuracy and consistency, while also addressing feedback received on my data collection.

Publication:

- Senior staff then compiled all jurisdictional data, updated the scan and timeline on the front-end, and translated products for French speaking users.

Results

These tools I have contributed to, the interactive timeline and scan, have been accessed over 18,000 times, cited in 9 peer reviewed journals, and requested or linked to by 45 organizations or individuals since their inception. This data has been used by public health units to develop their own tracking initiatives, by Canadian researchers to inform modeling and analysis (e.g., assessing whether interventions were tailored towards priority populations), and by an international research group as a key source of Canadian data. The intervention data, when considered alongside other epidemiological data (e.g. case counts, mortality rates), has helped users understand the timing and type of policy measures implemented related to COVID-19.

Key Practicum Takeaways

Conducting a Pan-Canadian policy and intervention review, in an actively evolving pandemic, is both challenging and resource intensive:

- Requiring significant commitment to understanding "social/global" context.
 - Continual adaptation to the evolving situation.
- Additionally, team collaboration is vital, requiring:
- An intuitive process and metadata all members can follow.
 - Communication is effectively facilitated, and questions are appropriately streamlined, through meetings, emails, or instant messaging platforms.