



Low & Middle Income Countries: Overcoming Barriers to CI Access

Prepared for:
CIICA LIVE

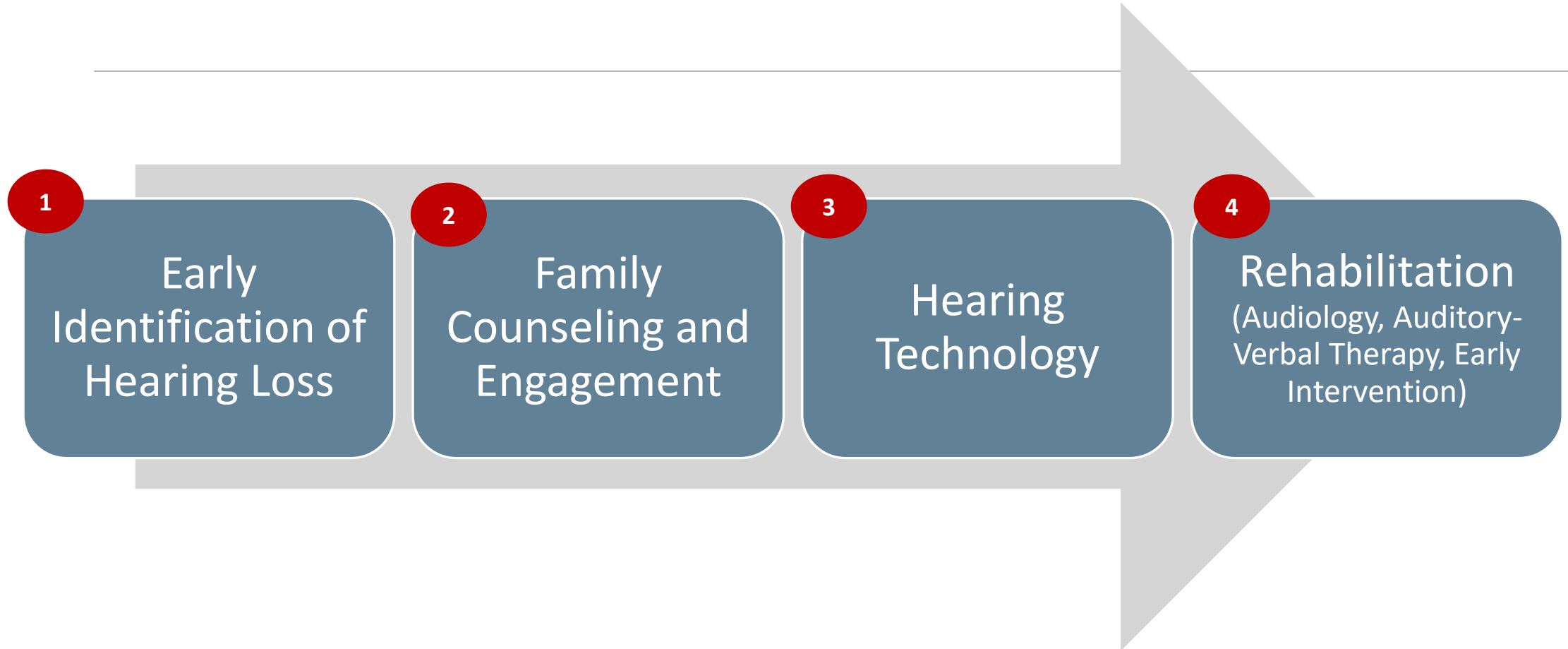
PAIGE STRINGER, MA, MPH

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Global
Foundation
For Children
With Hearing Loss**

Continuum of Care



Common Challenges

- Expensive upfront costs of CI surgery, initial device
- Ongoing, life-long costs of device maintenance, upgrades, mapping, therapy
- One processor, sometimes older models
- Family misconceptions of device potential, their role in child's success
- Health care system not adequately prepared to support post-implantation
- Limited number of CI audiology and therapy professionals
- Stigma and discrimination for deaf children who can hear and speak

Potential Solutions

- Make accessible quality, low-cost (or refurbished) implants and processors
- Encourage continuum of care be in place before implanting children
- Strengthen education and counseling for families before implantation
- Increase awareness among government and health care officials about the entire continuum of care required for success and cost/benefits
- Educate mainstream teachers, community health workers, religious leaders, community at large so deaf children with CI are supported and accepted

Partnership to Help Address Challenges in Vietnam



What Can WE Do?

