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# Capacity of District Hospitals in Providing Surgical Services in Tanzania

SURG Africa Group

**WCS 2019, Krakow, Poland**

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# Conflict of interest

Authors have no conflict of interest to declare



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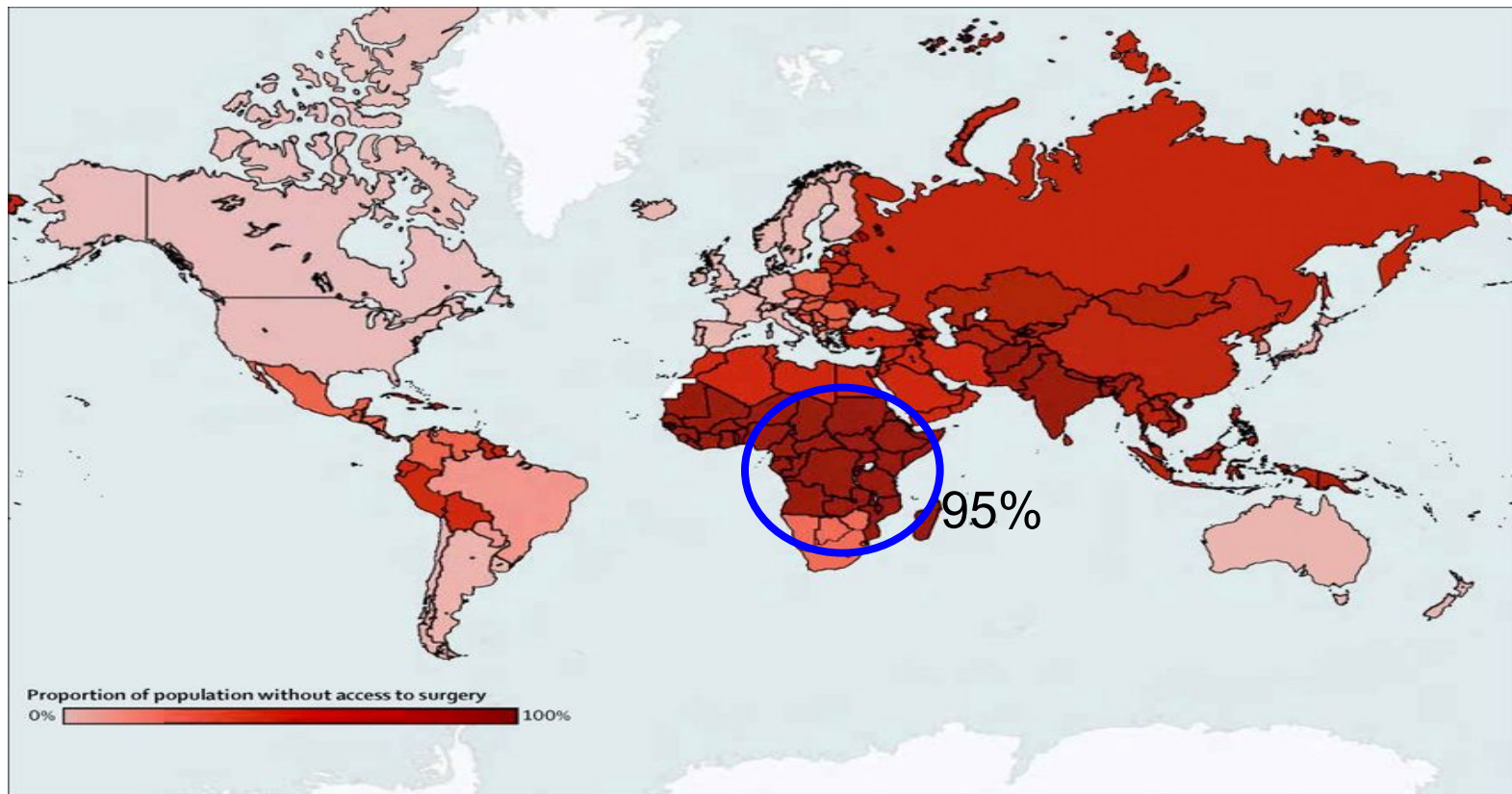


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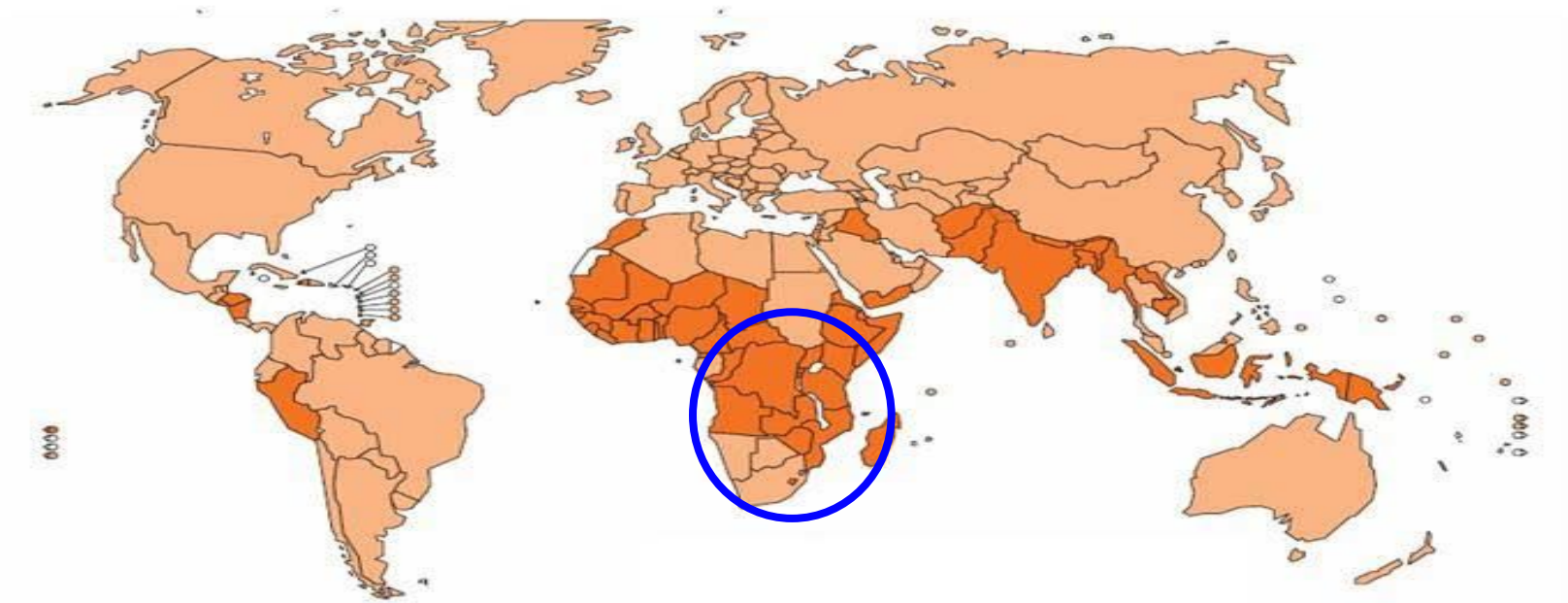
# Goal of presentation

- Understand the importance of improving availability and accessibility of safe surgical services
- Understand the capacity of DHs in providing surgical services

# Proportion of the population without access to surgery



# Countries with critical shortages of access to healthcare providers



- **Design:** Mixed-methods study done in 2017 involved 36 District-level Hospitals
- **Where:** Northern Tanzania.
- **Who:** At least two key informants on surgical care provision (Surgeons & Matrons)
- **Data collection:** Semi structured interviews using PIPES tool



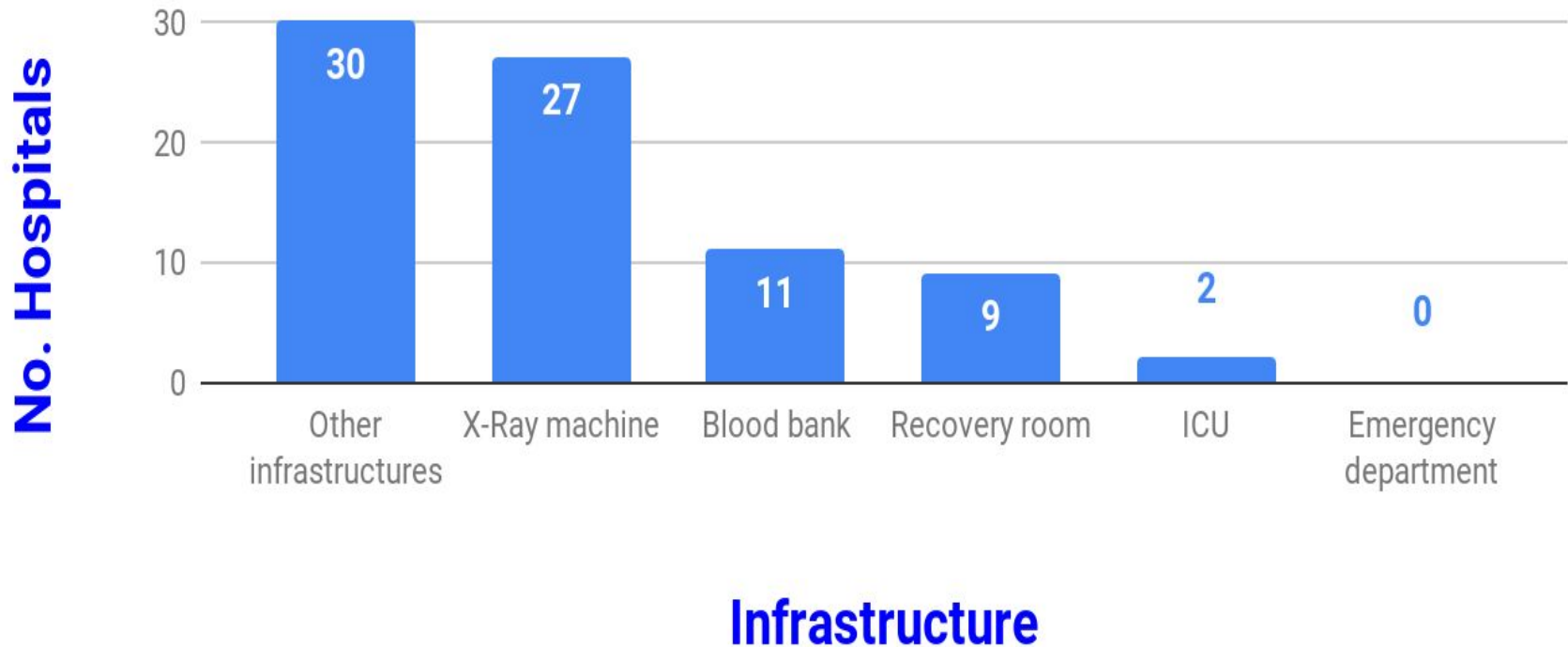
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# Results

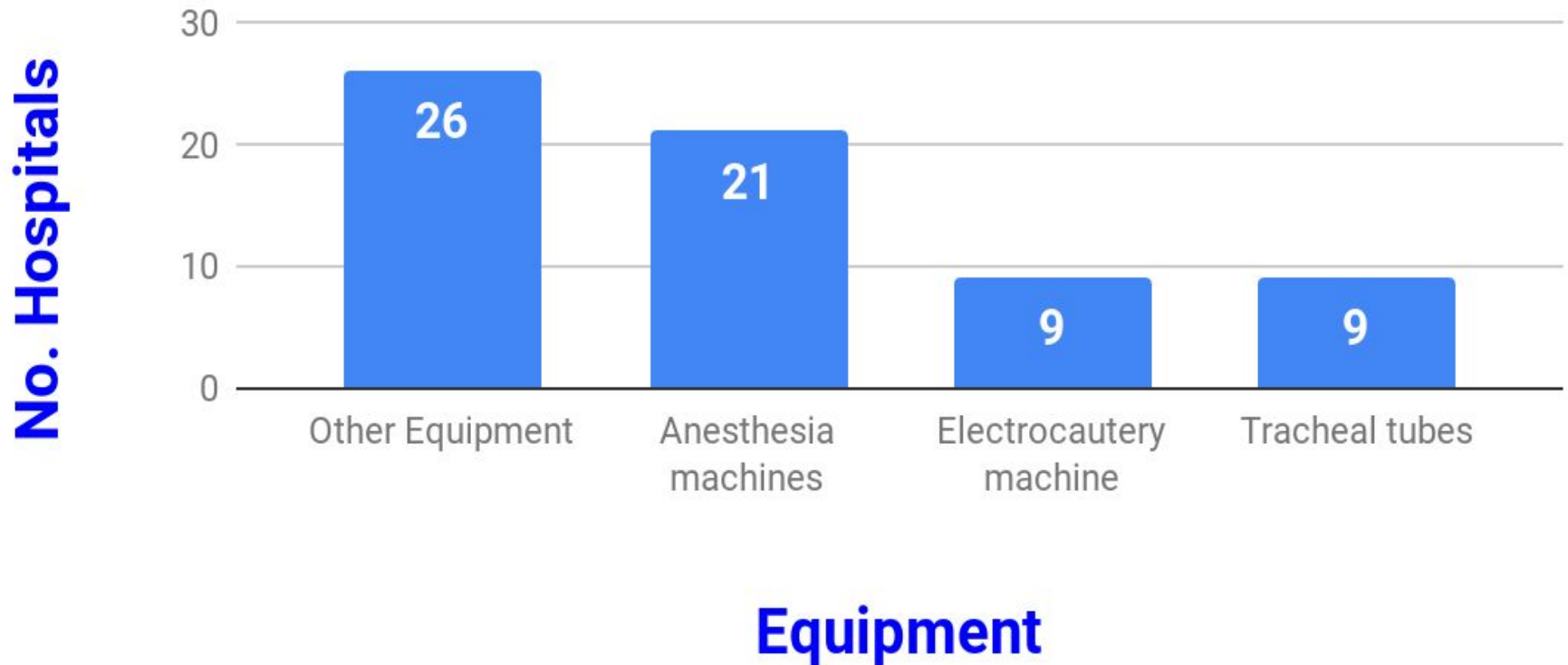


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## Capacity: Infrastructures



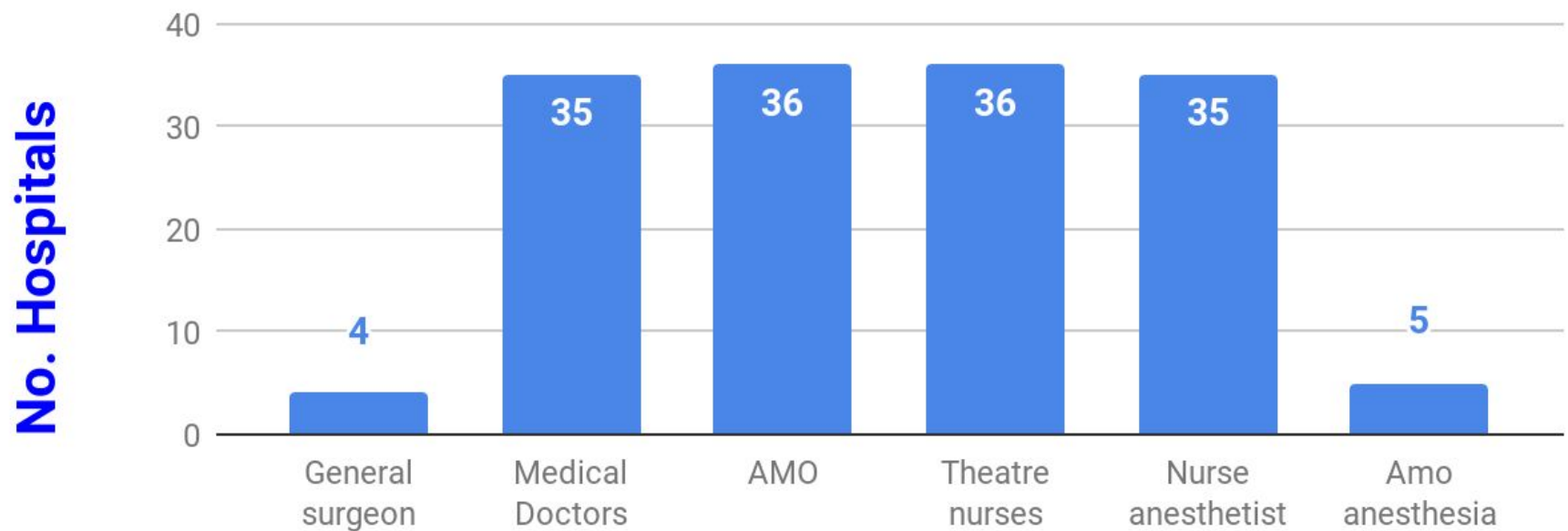
# Capacity: Equipment







# Capacity: Healthcare providers



**Cadres of HCWs**

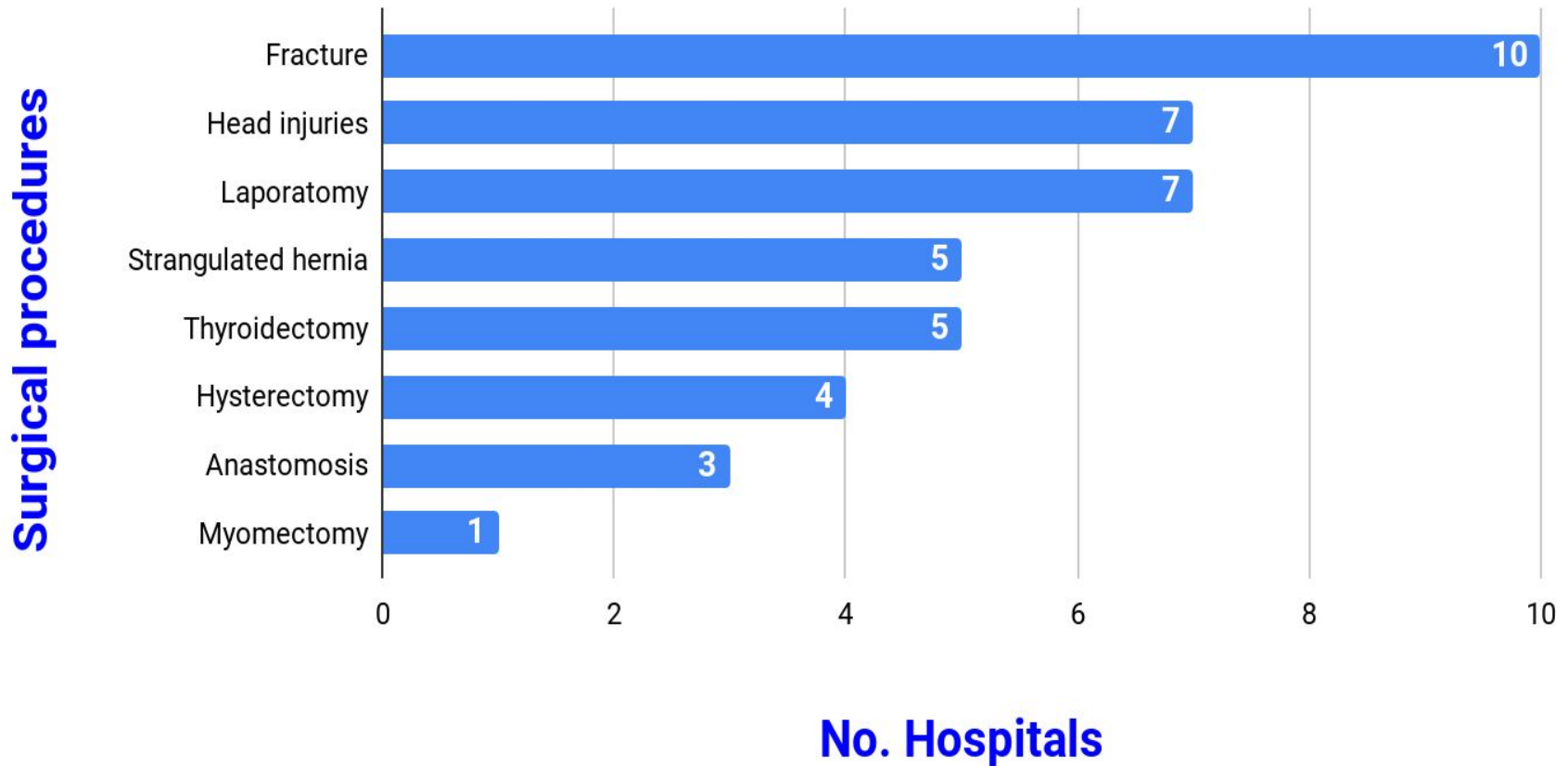


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# Capacity: Skills gap in surgical services provision

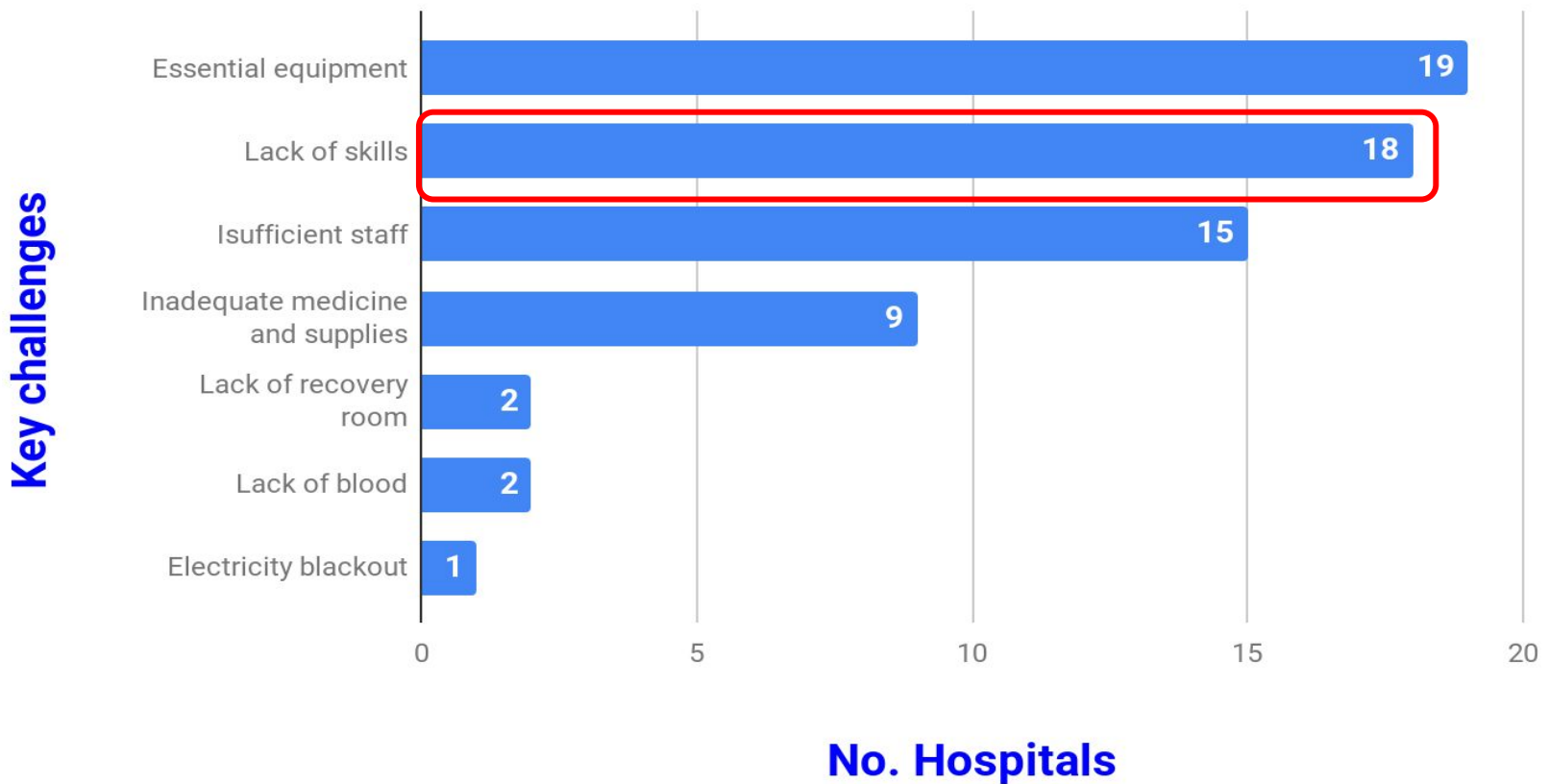


# Capacity: Skills gap in surgical services provision

- 78% (28/36) of the sample sites believe the level of skills in their facility is not adequate
- 72.7% of the district hospitals refer **Bellwether** conditions
- **No supervision program for surgical care providers**



# Key challenges



## Conclusion

- District Hospitals in the Northern Zone of Tanzania have HR capacity gaps
- Of the HR gaps identified, anesthesiologists are mostly needed
- There was lack of supportive supervision to the DHs of the Northern Zone of Tanzania
- Context specific solutions are needed to address to improve surgical services provision and access



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# SURG Africa intends to scale up safe surgical services by building capacity of HCWs





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The Surgical Society of Zambia



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