Stigma, coupled with lack of disabled children in school, leads to minimal disability awareness and stigma reduction.

LACK OF DISABILITY EDUCATION

STIGMA

Disabilities are often

attributed to religious

or karmic grounds.

There is currently no system.

SEEK
CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS
HEALERS

Although helpful in their own rite, certain disabilities require modern medical care and specific treatment. Thus, many disabled children are not getting the help they need.

DISABLED CHILDREN ARE HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE REST OF SOCIETY

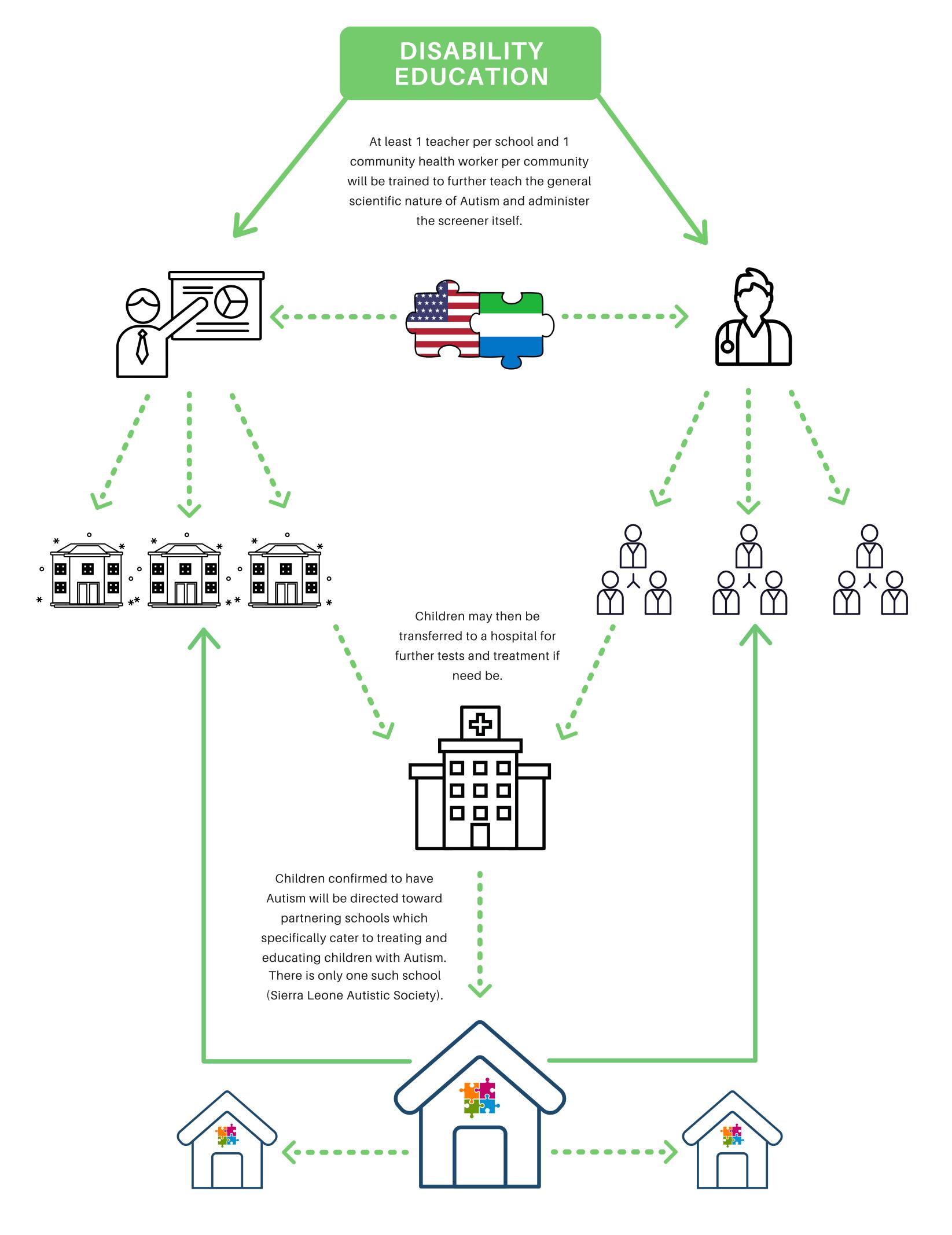
Families often remove their disabled children from schools for poor treatment and stigma reduction, as they may be seen as unfit parents who cannot control their child.

INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

Only 1 psychiatric hospital exists for Sierra Leone's population of 7.65 million.

NO STRUCTURED PROCESS OR SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY AND FURTHER TREAT DISABLED CHILDREN

No standardized/verified screening tool exists in Sierra Leone and much of Sub-Saharan Africa.



The more children screened for Autism, the more cases we will find which need services such as this. With reduced stigma catalyzed by widespread disability education, it is likely more special schools will begin to open up *and* those with less severe forms may be reintegrated back into the traditional school system with new safeguards in place (specially trained teachers) to ensure proper social inclusion.