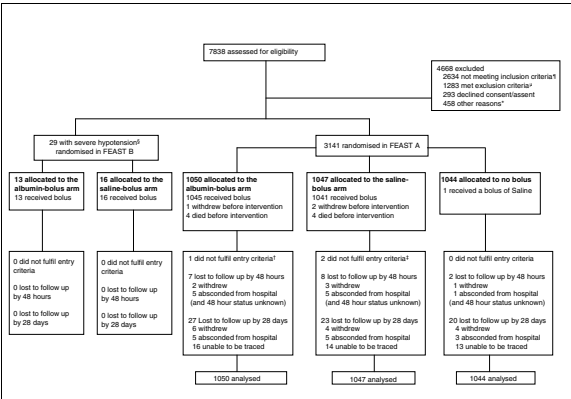


a) CONSORT diagram for participant enrolment



¹**Inclusion criteria:** Children aged >60 days and <12 years with severe febrile illness (history of fever in last 48 hours and/or axillary temperature >37.5°C or <36°C) including impaired consciousness (prostration or coma) and/or respiratory distress (increased work of breathing) were screened for clinical evidence of impaired perfusion (shock) to be eligible for the trial. Impaired perfusion was defined as one of: CRT 3 or more secs, lower limb temperature gradient, a weak radial pulse volume or severe tachycardia: (<12 months: >180 beats per minute (bpm); 12 months to 5 years: >160bpm; >5 years: >140 bpm).

²Severe hypotension defined as systolic blood pressure <50mmHg if <12m; <60mmHg if 1-5years; <70mmHg if >5years- eligible children with severe hypotension were enrolled into FEAST B (see text) 2634/4668 children with severe illness had either no impaired perfusion, no impaired consciousness, no fever or no respiratory distress and were therefore not included in the trial.

³**Exclusion Criteria:** Evidence of severe acute malnutrition (visible severe wasting or kwashiorkor) (254); gastroenteritis (792); chronic renal failure, pulmonary edema or other conditions in which volume expansion is contraindicated (90); non-infectious causes of severe illness (68); if they already received an isotonic

b) Governance structure for the trial

