

## Achieve the MDG5: a case study

### The Process and Implications of Rural Institutional Delivery Policy in Guangxi Autonomous Region, China



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## Background of the policy process in Guangxi, China

- ▶ **International events and China's commitment:**
  - The goal to reduce maternal mortality set at the World Summit in 1990 and 2000
  - Chinese government made commitment to lower MMR.
- ▶ **National policy background**
  - “two national programs” on both women and children set the goal of lowering MMR.
  - One law on women and child health care issued in 1995
  - the political philosophy of the Chinese government was transforming into a more ‘people-centered’ one
  - China open policy and economic reform is deepening
- ▶ **Serious problem on MMR in Guangxi**
  - Maternal mortality ratio in Guangxi is higher than the national average level because of the low institutional delivery rate due to cultural, geographic and financial barriers.

## Local situation in Guangxi Region

- ▶ Minority autonomous region
- ▶ Many places were remote, mountainous rural areas
- ▶ Limited health and human resource in rural Guangxi
- ▶ Low capacity of family birth attendants at village level
- ▶ International evidence showed it useless to develop training on TBAs without the support of a functioning health system to lower MMR.

first-level  
service ×

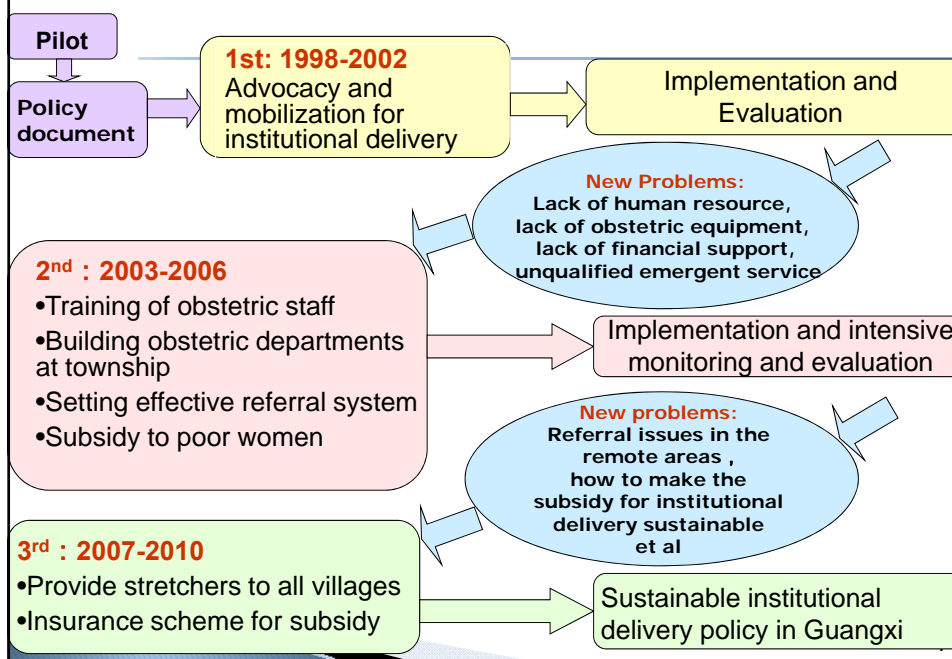


Institutional  
delivery ✓

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## Phased policy development and implementation



## Integration of four themes

	Good
	Middle
	Poor

Theme	Elements	SBA
Human Resource	Staff supply	
	Performance management	
	Personnel administration and employee relations	
	Education and training	
Health system	Health financing	
	Governance/ Decentralisation	
	Form or aid architecture and role of external partners /Donors	
	Public-private relationships/mix	
	Support systems(HMIS)	
Service delivery	REFERRAL	
	SERVICE SETTING	
Civil society	Policy making	
	Policy implementation	

## Actors involved in the policy process

- ▶ Government sector
- ▶ Service provider organization
- ▶ Donor
- ▶ CSOs :
  - Women's federation
  - Youth organization
  - Research and professional association
- ▶ Private sector

## Mechanisms for actors involvement

- ▶ Spaces: invited and demanded
- ▶ Consultation processes
- ▶ Advocacy and lobbying practices
  - Lectures
  - Meetings
  - Medias
- ▶ Regulation and management
  - Administrative regulation
  - Coordination committee
- ▶ Dual role of the policy maker

### Analysis

## Special strategies in Guangxi

- ▶ Stretcher action --fitting the remote and mountainous location, poor traffic conditions
- ▶ Sending specialists to rural areas for training and capacity building -- linking this policy with the job promotion of specialists
- ▶ Subsidy to poor for institutional delivery -- combining with national rural insurance policy
- ▶ Whole society mobilization and advocacy

## Analysis

### Strong commitment from local government

*"I always had two nightmares, one of which was about maternal death, another about AIDS..."*

*...The two nightmares make me always strong, insistent, and fearless [in the face] of any difficulty" (local governor).*

-- Set safe motherhood as the top priority of all the issues

## Analysis

### Effective Monitoring & Evaluation System

- ▶ Three-monthly maternal death notification system with incentive and sanction mechanism
- ▶ Vertical supervision system with pressurized performance management and evaluation

## Evidence used in the policy process

Type of evidence	Source	Role of evidence
Laws and regulations	The People's Congress	The framework for local policy making
Health statistics data	Health institutions	Needs for change, Implementation monitoring
International evidence	International organizations	Provided useful policy strategies and options
Personal experience	Policy makers	Speeded up the problem recognition and decision of policy making
Results from researches, surveys and projects	Researches, surveys and projects	provided useful needs and intervention strategies for policy making
News and report	media	Case report, favorite social environment establishment

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### Conclusion

## Implications for policy processes

**Guangxi rural institutional delivery policy succeeded because of the following :**

- ▶ The Whole society had mostly reached consensus on lowering maternal mortality – this facilitated agenda setting and the multi-department cooperation during implementation.
- ▶ Provincial government made a strong commitment to reducing maternal mortality, which facilitated the resource allocation.
- ▶ Clear implementation system and feasible action plans were set during the policy process for the possibility of real actions.
- ▶ Special pressurized performance management made implementation more effective

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## Recommendation

### Essential components for health policy process

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- ▶ Be sure the commitment from the local government
- ▶ Use phased policy development process with evidence-based and local-oriented decision mechanism
- ▶ Consider the local feasibility in terms of the intervention strategies
- ▶ Set up the effective monitoring and evaluation system during the implementation

## Acknowledgement

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# Thank you!



Guilin, Guangxi Autonomous Region, China