

Innovation in Fistula Prevention: Legislating for Safe Motherhood in Ebonyi State, Nigeria

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Presentation Overview

- ▶ Context of Maternal Health
 - ▶ Creation of the Mother and Child Care Initiative Program (MCCI)
 - ▶ Rationale for the Law on Safe Motherhood
 - ▶ Stipulations and Intended Outcomes
 - ▶ Implementation
 - ▶ Successes
 - ▶ Challenges
 - ▶ Conclusions
 - ▶ Acknowledgments
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Context

- ▶ National antenatal care attendance = 59%
- ▶ About 65% of deliveries occur outside the health facilities
- ▶ The burden of obstetric fistula in Ebonyi state
 - 500 repaired within the past 18 months and 200 women currently awaiting repair

Data from 2008 Nigeria DHS



The Mother and Child Care Initiative

- ▶ Formed in 2007
- ▶ Members from state govt line ministries and agencies

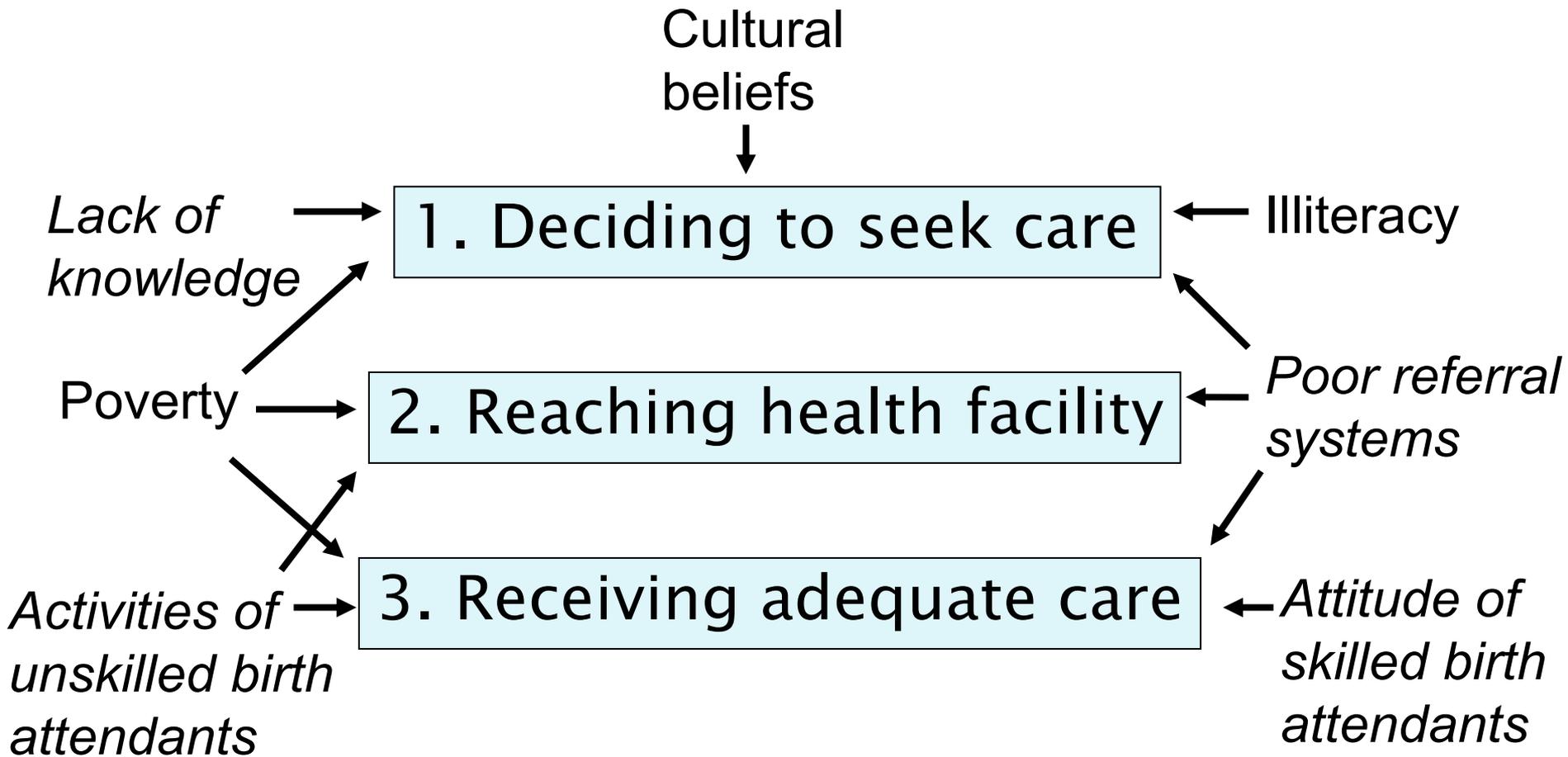


- ▶ Creating synergies between the public and private sectors

Focused on:

- Maternal mortality/
morbidity (e.g. fistula)
- Breast and cervical cancer
- Rural girl child education
- Orphans, vulnerable children,
widows
- HIV/AIDS

Delays and Underlying Factors



Need for the Law

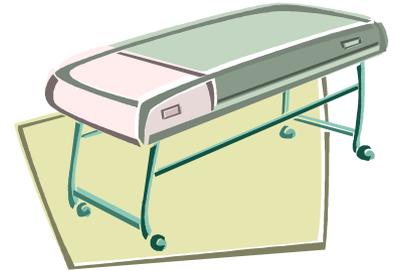
- ▶ The three delays contribute significantly to maternal death and disability
 - ▶ Activities of quacks and unskilled birth attendants
 - ▶ No deterrent/incentive for birth attendants to make timely referrals
 - ▶ No State audit into maternal mortality
 - ▶ Absence of reliable data to assist in policy formulation
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Stipulations of the Law

- ▶ Birth attendants must refer women who labor longer than 10 hours to a higher level facility.
 - ▶ Maternal deaths must be reported to authorities at the ward, local govt and state levels within one month (institutions) or two months (others).
 - ▶ The legislation also institutes maternal mortality committees at ward, local govt and state levels that will collect data and investigate maternal deaths.
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Intended Outcomes

- ▶ Reduce delays in accessing care
- ▶ Improve quality of care provided to parturients by skilled birth attendants
- ▶ Deter quacks and unskilled birth attendants from hiding maternal deaths
- ▶ Provide data on maternal mortality and morbidity to help in policy formulation



Implementation of the Law

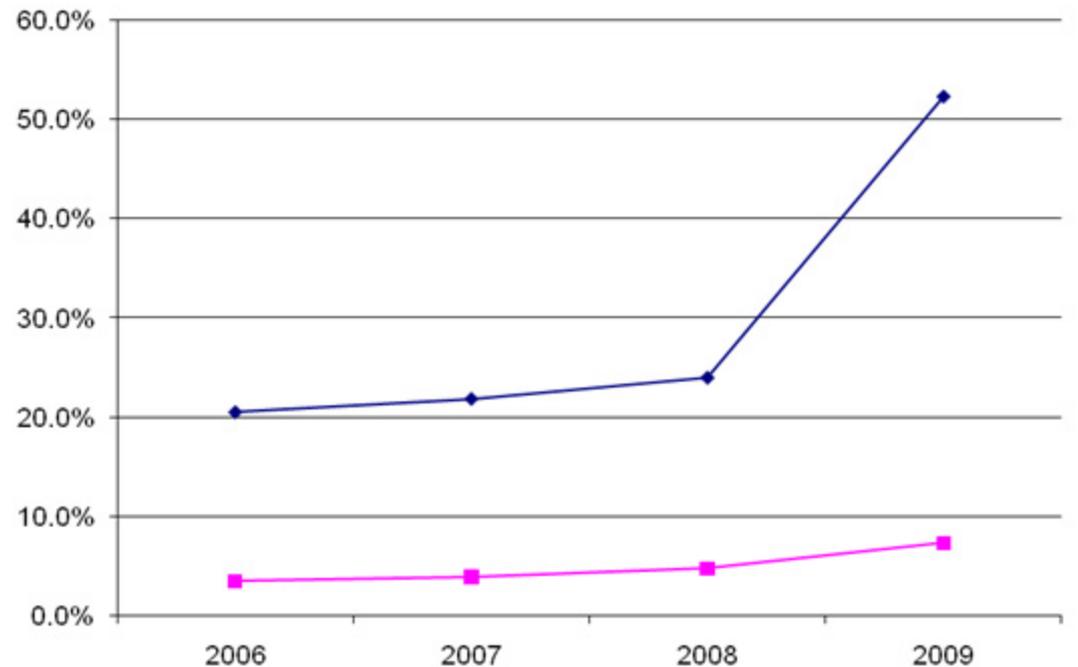
- ▶ Free rural maternal health care policy started in 2008
- ▶ Law passed in 2008 and amended in 2009
- ▶ Awareness-raising on the law and maternal health:
 - Two major workshops on maternal health (One in Collaboration with UNFPA)
 - Several workshops for stakeholder (Collaboration with Fistula Care)
 - Sensitization campaigns using various media (Collaboration with Fistula Care, a project funded by USAID and managed by EngenderHealth)



Increases in Antenatal Care and Deliveries in Health Facilities

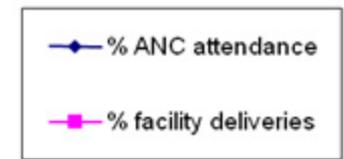
ANC attendance increased from 22,303 (20.5% of pregnant women) in 2006 to 61,762 (52.3%) in 2009

Deliveries increased from 2,829 (3.5% of pregnant women) in 2006 to 8,666 (7.3%) in 2009



Projected populations based on last census.

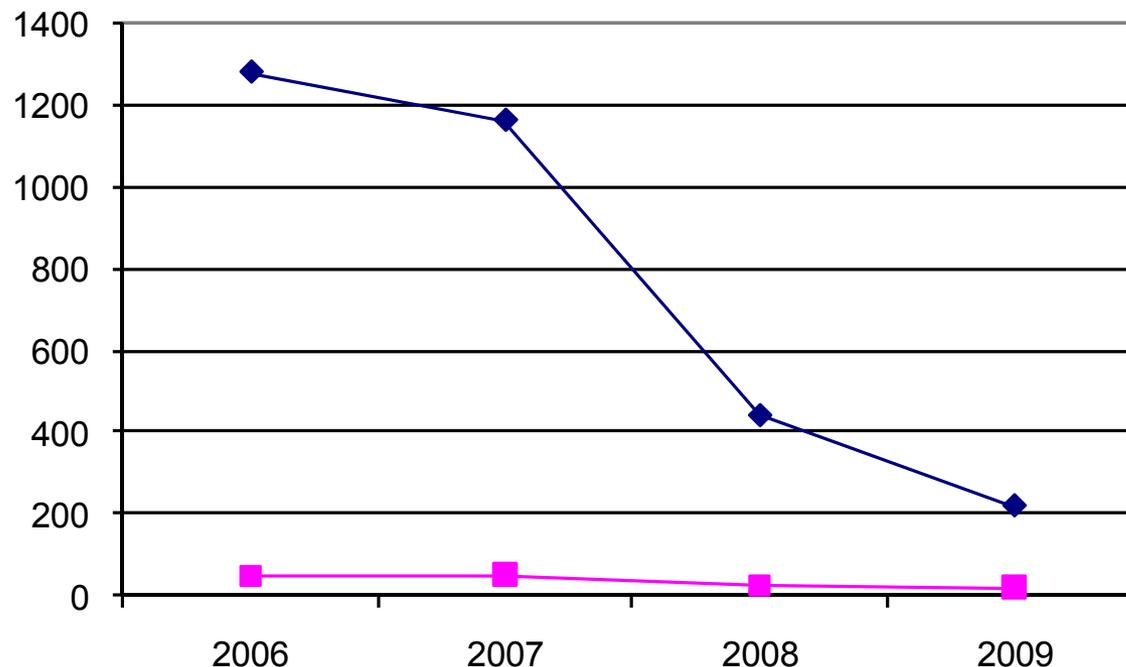
Data are from the 21 largest medical facilities in Ebonyi State.



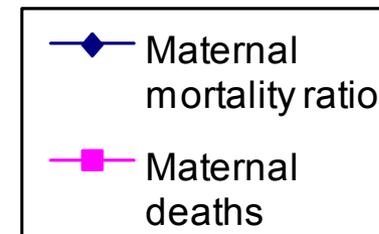
Decrease in Maternal Deaths and Maternal Mortality Ratio

Maternal deaths decreased from 49 in 2006 to 19 in 2009

MMR decreased from 1,280 per 100,000 live births in 2006 to 219 per 100,000 deliveries in 2009



Data are from the 21 largest medical facilities in Ebonyi State.



CHALLENGES



- ▶ Incentives to retain members of the implementing monitoring committees
- ▶ Enhancing the referral process through provision of ambulances and tricycles to augment that provided by the state
- ▶ Conducting a post evaluation maternal health survey in 2011 and 2013 to document effectiveness of the entire program

Conclusions

- ▶ The important role of the partnership between champions, political leadership, health care professionals and the community.
 - ▶ To sustain the gains already made we call for more robust, elaborate and enhanced assistance from more international partners.
 - ▶ We are particularly grateful to USAID, the Fistula Care Project, UNFPA, UNICEF, for their sustained collaboration and assistance to the State.
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EAST REGIONAL
FISTULA CENTRE**

**SOUTH EAST REGIONAL
FISTULA CENTRE
ABAKALIKI, EDO STATE
NIGERIA**



Thank you!

Acknowledgments

- FMOH
- FMOWA
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SYSTEMS
- USAID
- ENGENDERHEALTH/FISTULA CARE
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- RENTMEISTER FOUNDATION
- ROTARY CLUB OF ABAKALIKI SOUTH

