

# Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Experience Sharing among Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative Workshop Handbook



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**Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection:  
Experience Sharing among Countries along the  
Belt and Road Initiative**

**Workshop Handbook**

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## Background

Gender-biased sex selection in favour of sons (GBSS) is a manifestation of gender inequality and the unequal value given to girls in many countries. It is a symptom of pervasive social, cultural, political and economic injustices against girls and women. Patriarchal structures reinforce son preference and perpetuate a climate of violence and discrimination against women and girls in society. Declining fertility and rapid technology developments that allow prenatal sex selection have exacerbated this practice.

GBSS leads to distorted levels of sex ratio at birth (SRB). China has witnessed the most prolonged and significantly skewed SRB among the countries facing a similar challenge. An imbalanced SRB first occurred as a problem in China in the early 1980s. It exceeded 110 in the 1990s and reached an unprecedented 121.18 in 2004. As per official data and statistics, the SRB in China has hit a plateau and consistently dropped for the last seven years - from 119.45 in 2009 to 113.51 in 2015. Although the ratio has fallen, it is still higher than a normal ratio of 103-107. In response to imbalanced SRB, the Government of China has enacted various policy and intervention measures to curb the distorted SRB. Through its Country Programmes of cooperation with the Government of China, UNFPA has worked with its national partners in China to support the Government's efforts to address the GBSS with good practices and lessons learnt that have been summarized. China has accumulated rich experiences in policy responses and programme interventions addressing the issue of GBSS and skewed SRB.

Globally, analysis of data indicates that in recent decades, imbalanced SRB favoring boys have grown in a number of South Asian, East Asian, and Central Asian as well as East European countries. The trend has shifted geographically over time; thus, it began in a number of Asian countries (the Republic of Korea, China and India) in the 1980s, followed by some countries of the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia) in the 1990s, and has more recently been followed by Montenegro, Albania, and Vietnam. In 2017, UNFPA received funds from the European Union (EU) in support of *The Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender Biased Sex Selection* addressing GBSS in six countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. The Global Programme aims to contribute to and strengthen evidence-based national policies and programmes in addressing son preference, low value of girls and gender inequalities resulting in GBSS in the identified countries in Asia and the Caucasus.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, provides an overarching framework to accelerate and expand efforts to respond to the underlying drivers and consequences of GBSS. Governments have already taken action in a number of ways, with varying degrees of success, and there are lessons that can be learnt. However, renewed and concerted efforts are now needed by governments and civil society, including efforts to address the deeply rooted gender discrimination against women and girls which lies at the heart of sex selection resulting in sex ratio imbalances. China's Belt and Road Initiative provides a new cooperation platform to advance gender equality and women's health and rights in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative for achieving SDG target 5.3 on elimination of all harmful practices.

# Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Experience Sharing among Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative

## Workshop Agenda

| Time                              | Activity  | Moderator   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Day 1 (25 October 2018, Thursday) |   |   |
| 8:30-9:00                         | <b>Registration</b>   |   |
| 9:00-9:20                         | <b>Opening Ceremony</b><br><b>Opening remarks by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China</li> <li>- Ms. Cai Fei, Deputy Director General, Aging Health Department, National Health Commission of China</li> <li>- Mr. Ed Kronenburg, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</li> </ul>   | Ms. He Dan, Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre |
| 9:20-10:35                        | <b>Keynote Presentations: Global Trend and Perspectives</b><br><b>Objective:</b> to present worldwide prevalence of sex ratio at birth (SRB) and efforts of response: a snapshot of the situation of son preference and efforts addressing gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Follow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, <b>Sex selection and its future</b></li> <li>- Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO), <b>Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Perspectives and Interventions</b></li> <li>- Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), <b>Skewed SRB in China: Historical Review and Policy Response</b></li> </ul> <b>Q &amp;A (15 minutes)</b> | Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China               |
| 10:35-10:55                       | Group Photo + Coffee break  |   |

| Time        | Activity   | Moderator   |
|-------------|--|---|
| 10:55-12:10 | <p><b>Session 1: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part I</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> to present and discuss the current trend, effective policy and legislative frameworks, and programme measures in addressing GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Elgun Safarov, Head of Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan, <b><i>Azerbaijan Experience: Best Practice, Problems and Challenges</i></b></li> <li>- Ms. Dhanashri Brahme, Programme Specialist on Gender, UNFPA Country Office in India, <b><i>Sex Ratio Dynamics in India - patterns and Possibilities</i></b></li> <li>- Mr. Luong Quang Dang, Deputy Director of Personnel Department General Office for Population and Family Planning, Ministry of Health, Vietnam, <b><i>Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Response by the Government of Vietnam</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp;A (15 minutes)</b></p> | Prof. Yang Juhua, Professor, Renmin University of China   |
| 12:10-13:30 | Lunch  |   |
| 13:30-15:10 | <p><b>Session 2: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part II</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To present and discuss the current trend, effective policy and legislative frameworks, and programme measures in addressing GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Yang Juhua, Professor, Renmin University of China, <b><i>China's Missing Girls and Governance of Gender Imbalance</i></b></li> <li>- Ms. Lela Bakradze, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Country Office in Georgia, <b><i>SRB Trends and Its Drivers in Georgia (1999-2016): National Policies and Programmes to Sustain Social Change</i></b></li> <li>- Mr. Anand Tamang, Director, Center for Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities (CREPHA), Nepal, <b><i>Exploring Socio-cultural Factors Underlying Son Preference and the Practice of Gender-biased Sex Selection in Selected Communities of Nepal</i></b></li> </ul>      | Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Follow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris |

| Time                                   | Activity  | Moderator   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. AKM Nurun Nabi, Professor, Population and Sciences Department of the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, <b><i>Exploring Gender-Biased Sex Selection in Bangladesh: A Review of the Situation</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp;A (20 minutes)</b></p>  |   |
| 15:10-15:25                            | Coffee break  |   |
| 15:25-17:05                            | <p><b>Session 3: Findings from Cutting-edge Research: Influencing Factors and Consequence</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To present and discuss the evidence, and available studies on drivers and consequence of GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University, <b><i>Gender Imbalance and Cross-border Marriage between China and Vietnam</i></b></li> <li>- Dr. Khuat Thu Hong, Director, Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), Vietnam, <b><i>Cross-border Marriage between Vietnam and China as an Outcome of Gender-biased Sex Selection</i></b></li> <li>- Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India, <b><i>Daughter Aversion in India: understanding it, fixing it</i></b></li> <li>- Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, <b><i>Preventing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Policy Lessons from South Korea, India and Vietnam</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A (20 minutes)</b></p> | Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) |
| <b>Day 2 (26 October 2018, Friday)</b> |   |   |
| 9:00-10:15                             | <p><b>Session 4: Social Norm Change and Advocacy: Mobilizing Communities for Change</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To discuss initiatives designed to mobilize communities to change social norm to abandon the harmful practice of GBSS, and successful experiences on advocacy and media engagement</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Li Huiying, Professor, Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, <b><i>China's Experiences on Revising Gender-Discriminatory Village Rules and Regulations</i></b></li> </ul>  | Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University  |

| Time        | Activity  | Moderator   |
|-------------|---|---|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Mary Elavinakuzhy John, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, India, <b>"The Son Will Betray You, and the Daughter will Steady You": The Political and Social Economy of Gender Biased Sex Selection</b></li> <li>- Mr. Mher Manukyan, Communications Officer, UNFPA Country Office in Armenia, <b>Reversing the Negative GBSS Trend: Armenian Experience</b></li> </ul> <b>Q &amp;A (15 minutes)</b>  |   |
| 10:15-10:30 | Coffee break  |   |
| 10:30-11:45 | <p><b>Session 5: What Works Out: Experiences from the Past and Lessons from Countries</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To present and discuss examples, different approaches to evaluating impact of interventions, as well as global experiences in measuring and evaluating impact of complex interventions and similar harmful practices</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Monica Das Gupta, Research Professor, University of Maryland, USA, <b>Measuring the Impact of GBSS Interventions</b></li> <li>- Dr. Heeran Chun, Assistant Professor, Jungwon University, South Korea, <b>Experiences and Lessons from SRB Transition in South Korea</b></li> <li>- Dr. Ashish Bajracharya, Country Representative, Population Council, Cambodia, <b>Gender-Biased Sex Selection in South and Southeast Asia: Situational Analyses and Promising Approaches to Counter the Practice</b></li> </ul> | Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Follow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris |

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_20084](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20084)

