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UNFPA is the United Nations' sexual and reproductive health agency. UNFPA works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

中国人口与发展研究中心是国家卫生健康委下属的智库机构，服务于政府人口与发展决策。

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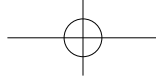
应对性别选择和治理出生人口性别失衡 项目案例

Addressing Gender-Biased Sex Selection and Skewed Sex Ratio at Birth in China: Case Summary

联合国人口基金
United Nations Population Fund

中国人口与发展研究中心
China Population and Development Research Center





Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection and Skewed Sex Ratio at Birth: Case Summary

Gender equality is a human right and a precondition for further development and poverty alleviation. Empowered women can contribute to health and productivity of family and community, which would benefit the prosperity of next generation.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 5 aims to eliminate all kinds of discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-biased sex selection (GBSS). It also calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

To address gender-biased sex selection

Strong son preference, availability of modern technologies and decreased total fertility rate, altogether have contributed to gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) and skewed sex ratio at birth (SRB), which has brought profound and long-term impacts on society and individuals, such as a marriage squeeze, gender imbalance, discrimination and violence against women, and violation of rights of women and girls.

In the Eighth County Programme (2016-2020) in China, UNFPA continues to support the following interventions to address GBSS:



- Advocate and strengthen multi-sectoral mechanism to address the imbalanced SRB in selected sites.
- Provide technical assistance to strengthen evidence-based policy making and effective implementation.
- Encourage research on policies to deal with issues on GBSS and skewed SRB in the context of dynamic policy environment and rapid social transformation.
- Engage grassroots in addressing skewed SRB through collaboration among media, social media, companies and civil society.
- Facilitate international exchanges and dialogue on experiences, lessons, and best practices in addressing GBSS and SRB between China and other countries confronted with similar challenges.

With funding support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, UNFPA and China Population and Development Research Center have implemented a project to address gender-biased sex selection and skewed sex ratio at birth in China and this case summary is prepared to document the project experiences for knowledge sharing and learning.



Project Profile

Background

China has confronted the most prolonged and significantly skewed sex ratio at birth (SRB) among the countries facing a similar challenge. An imbalanced SRB first occurred as a problem in China in the early 1980s. The sex ratio at birth exceeded 110 in the 1990s and reached an unprecedented 121.18 in 2004. Although there has been a constant decline since 2009 with a SRB of 112.88 in 2016, it is still far above the normal ratio of 103-107. The high sex ratio at birth roots in gender inequality and requires policy and programmatic responses to address root causes.

Objective

To enhance policy environment and public engagement in addressing the root causes of gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) and the skewed sex ratio at birth (SRB) in China.

Project Cycle

Three years from 2016 to 2018



Geographic Location of Project Sites





Table 1: Basic Information of Project Sites

	SRB in 2015	Population (million)	Township	Village	2015 GDP (billion, RMB)	SRB in 2017
Changfeng County, Anhui	110.6	760	15	171	36.1	109.5
Yongqiao District, Suzhou City, Anhui	109.5	1,890	34	368	32.6	106.0
Huangmei County, Hubei	122.0	1,000	16	517	17.5	116.0
Jiayu County, Hubei	120.1	370	8	82	20.1	114.0
Ningming County, Guangxi	108.5	420	13	162	10.8	108.2
Binyang County, Guangxi	114.2	1,050	16	192	18.5	113.7

Strategies of the Project

With gender equality as the core idea, the project introduces gender mainstreaming strategy, changes social norms and culture and customs of son preference, emphasizes multi-sectoral participation in governance, and engages communities and families as basic actors and entry point of intervention to enable a societal change.

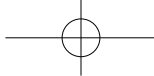


Intervention Framework

- **Macro-level:** At the county and district level, the project is designed to promote gender mainstreaming, to integrate gender equality approach into government work and social development, and to change social policies, systems, laws, culture and macro-environment to ensure women's equal participation in social development with men. It is carried out mainly by district government departments, county and district institutions, non-governmental organizations and public media. Various training and advocacy activities are organized to improve gender awareness of decision makers and governors, as well as to enhance policy coordination and multi-sectoral cooperation.
- **Meso-level:** At the community level, the project aims to develop positive community culture and environment to encourage public participation. Township governments and village committees/community self-governing bodies launch culture-sensitive advocacy activities, revise gender discriminatory village rules and regulations, and promote women's participation in public affairs.
- **Micro-level:** At the level of family, the project aims to change traditional gender roles; improve resource distribution among family members; encourage family members to change traditional gender understandings and practices. Village committees/community self-governing bodies and families act as actors of intervention by improving women's economic and family status and promoting equal domestic division of labor.

Sources of Funding

The project is funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and matching funds are provided by local governments.



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Project Management

The project is implemented jointly by the UNFPA China Office and the China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) under the China National Health Commission (NHC) (formerly known as the National Health and Family Planning Commission before March 2018, NHFC) and coordinated by the International Department, with operational guidance provided by the Family Development Department of the NHFC.

The health and family planning commissions at the provincial level provide funding and policy support for the project. The project is organized and implemented by the health and family planning commission at the county and district levels under the collaboration of the leaders of the county governments and other functional departments.

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