



# Removing User fees

Review of the policy process in six sub-Saharan African countries

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# Outline



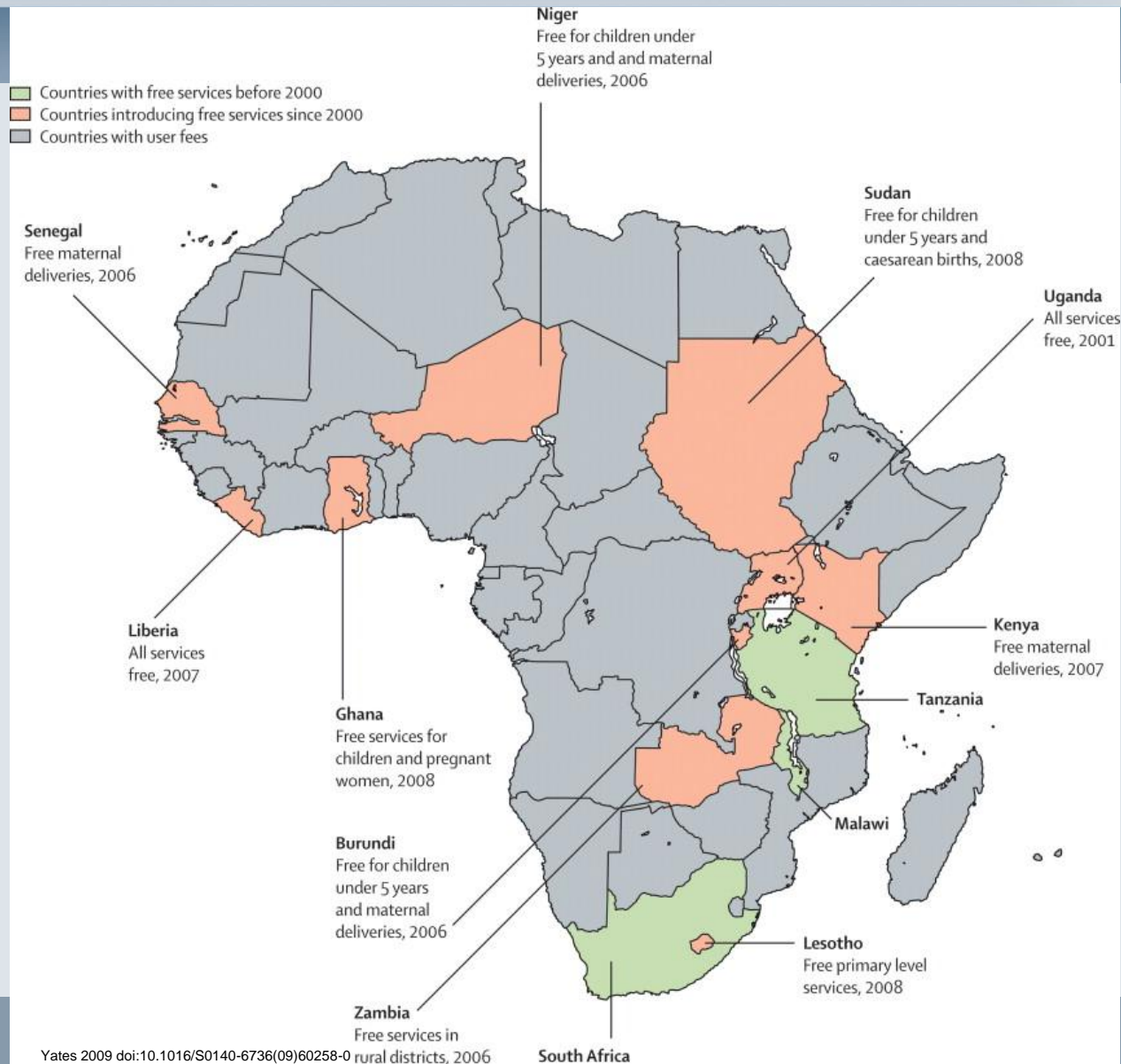
- Context
- Objectives
- Methodology
- The framework
- Results
- Main Lessons
- Conclusion

# Context



- Bamako Initiative 1987
- Structural adjustments
- Scientific debate
- Out of Pocket Payment's negative impact

# Context (2)



# Objectives



- To draw lessons that could guide the future formulation and implementation of ‘user fees abolition’ policies in other countries.

This review is not :

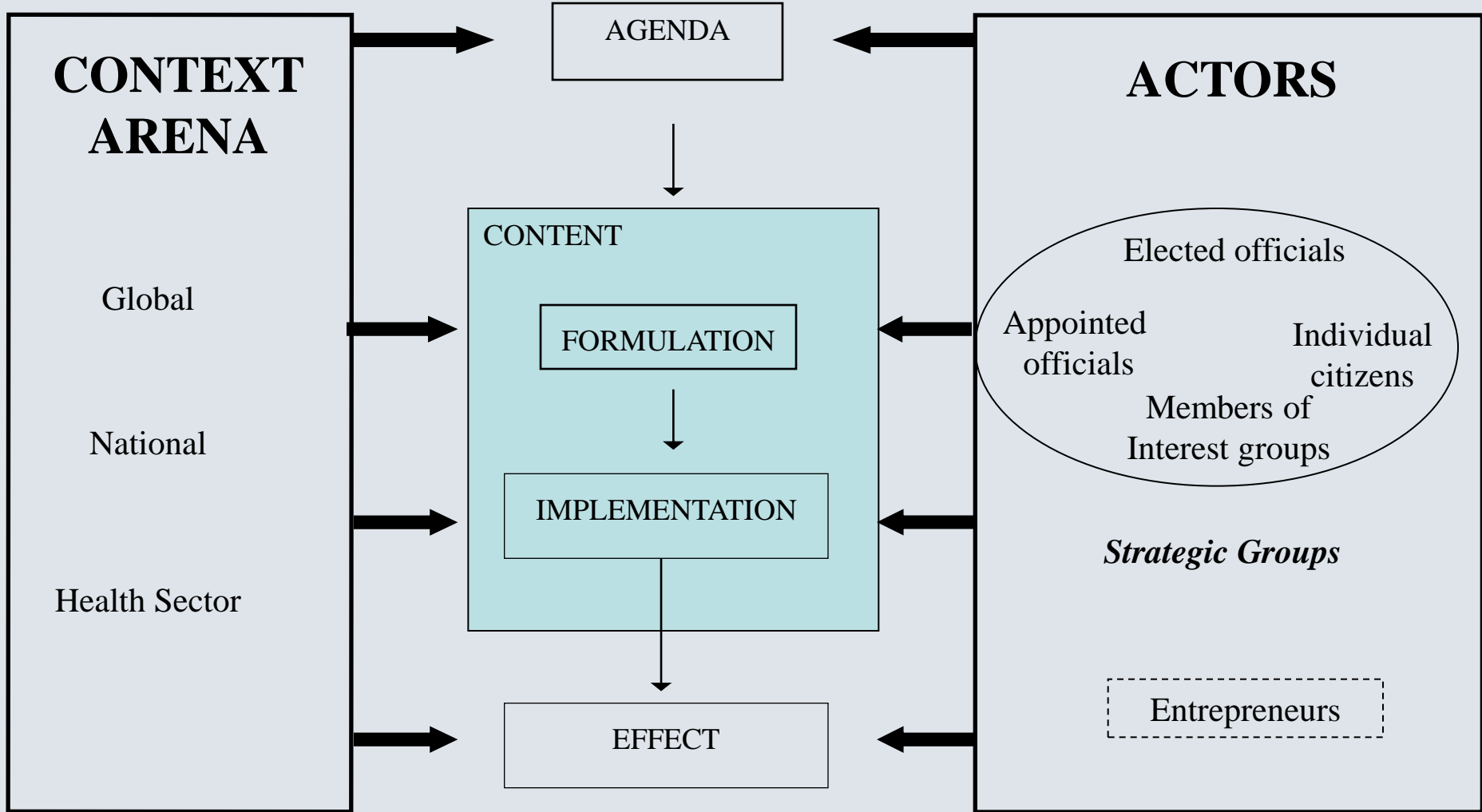
- an advocacy tool (user fee abolition is right or wrong)
- a scientific research.

# Methodology



- Six countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Development of an analytical framework building on Walt & Gilson Health Policy Analysis Triangle
- To describe the process of policy reform
- Field visits and literature review
- Data analysis and synthesis exercise
- Production of a report and guidance note

# Framework





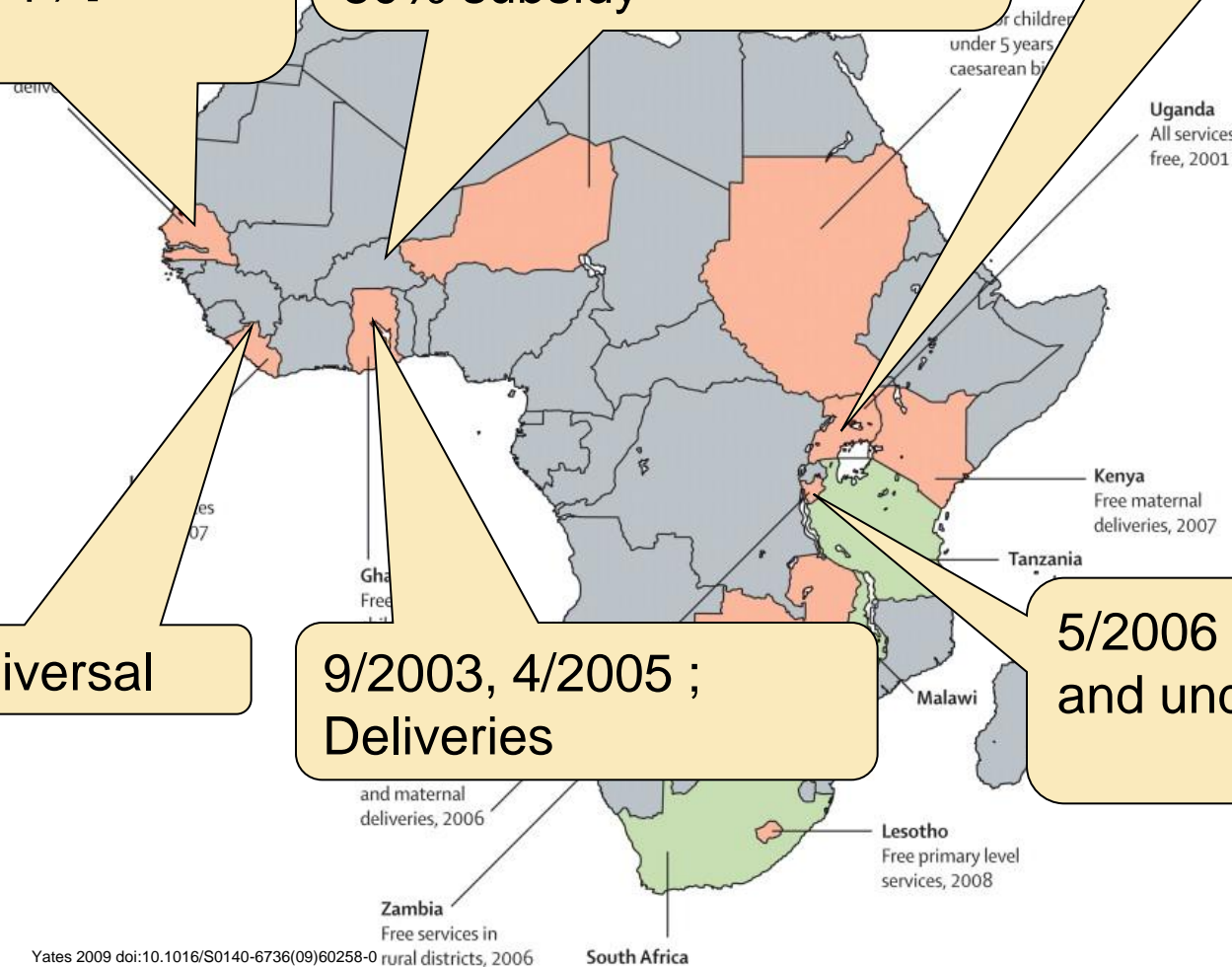
# Results

# Content of the reform in the six countries

3/2005, 1/2006 ;  
Deliveries (HC), C-  
section (hosp) [but  
Dakar]

1/2007 ; Deliveries, C-  
sections and neonates,  
80% subsidy

3/2001 ; Universal  
in public facilities



4/2006 ; Universal

9/2003, 4/2005 ;  
Deliveries

5/2006 ; Deliveries  
and under 5

# Context, Content



- Abolition of user fees happens; environment is favourable
- Content is context specific
- Focus on children and pregnant women
- Accompanying measures are inadequate

# Actors



- Strong national ownership of the decision
- International actors setting the scene but absent during remainder of process
- Implementers are not involved

# Formulation



	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Liberia	Uganda	Ghana	Senegal
	na	ndi	a	da	a	al
Preliminary situation analysis	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	+/-
International and National Scientific evidence	+/-	No	No	No	Yes	
Clarity of the policy objectives	Yes	+/-	+/-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Considering different policy options	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Thorough assessment of the option	Yes <sup>[1]</sup>	No	No	No	No	No
Early identification of accompanying measures	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Vision, ownership and leadership	Yes	+/-	Yes	Yes	+/-	+/-
Involving in the formulation stage stakeholders crucial for the implementation	+/-	No	No	No	No	No
The content of the reform meets preferences of stakeholders	Yes	Yes	Yes	+/-	Yes	Yes

# Implementation



	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Liberia	Uganda	Ghana	Senegal
Sequencing of the reform	No	No	+	No	+	+
Planning process	+	No	+	+	No	+
Communication strategies – Stakeholders (not users)	++	No	No	+	+	+
Communication strategies – Users	+	+	+	++	+	+
Medium term commitment on budgetary burden	++	+	++	++	No	No
Channelling of resources	Same	New	Adapt	Same	New	New
Leadership by the government	++	+	++	+++	+	+
Capacity building	+	No	No	No	No	No
Empowered coordination unit	+	+	++	++	No	+
M&E of the reform	+	+	+	+++	No	No

# Process



- Perceived as a “Quick Win” strategy
- Technical issues underestimated
- Abolition of user fees and output-based financing ?
- Monitoring and Evaluation is crucial

# Effects



- Clear increase in utilisation in the short term.
- Higher increase in utilisation for poorer households in Uganda and Ghana
- Mainly generating satisfaction among population
- No evidence of impact on child and maternal mortality
- No evidence on financial protection

# Main Lessons



- Technical dimension is often under-estimated.
- Increase resources at local level
- Other barriers should be tackled
- International partners should be more supportive

# Conclusions



- User fee removal is a means, not an aim
- When you go for it, do it right

Thank You

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