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Sommario/riassunto	The stimulus of this study was the question as to whether programme strategies can reduce maternal mortality quicker than in the historically successful countries for Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Through case studies, research and analysis of extent data of safe motherhood programmes in seven countries, the answer is yes: lessons learned concern six factors associated with success in reducing maternal mortality.; This work provides an analysis of factors reducing maternal mortality through three retrospective case studies in China, Honduras and Zimbabwe; and four research studies in Bolivia, Egypt, Indonesia and Jamaica.; Reduction of maternal mortality has now become an explicit focus of many programmes. Where such is targeted and strategies

adapted to address the local barriers to move women into appropriate care for birth has resulted, this has impacted on the reported maternal mortality.

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