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Quality, Equity, Dignity
A Network for Improving Quality of Care
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Updates – July 2020



Delivering quality essential maternal, newborn and child health services during COVID-19: Health workers' perspectives, challenges and solutions

Thursday 3 September, 2020 at 11 am GMT, 1 pm CEST, 2 pm EAT and 4.30 pm IST



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This webinar, co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the QoC Subgroup of the Child Health Taskforce will share the perspectives of health workers striving to deliver essential, quality MNCH services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The speakers will present the findings of the recent 'Voices from the frontline' survey^[1] documenting experiences of frontline maternal and newborn healthcare providers during COVID-19. A representative from the Malawi Ministry of Health will share the challenges that midwives are facing and the solutions they have come up with to provide quality care during COVID-19. The experience of Nepal will also be shared.

The presentations will be followed by an 'Ask the experts' session.

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- Dr. Lenka Benova, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium
- Dr. Andrew Likaka, Director of the Quality Management and Digital Health Department, Ministry of Health and Population, Malawi
- Dr. Abha Shrestha, Consultant obs/gyn at Dulikhel hospital, and Professor at Kathmandu University, Nepal

This is the fifth webinar in a series on 'Delivering quality essential maternal, newborn and child health services during COVID-19'. The series is co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the QoC subgroup of the Child Health Task Force, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

See the whole series and register: <http://www.qualityofcarenetwork.org/webinar-series2>

Photo: Rina Dayra giving early breastfeeding to her newborn in Baria District Hospital, Gujarat, India, in June 2020. ©UNICEF/UNI341101/Vinay Panjwani

[1] Voices from the frontline: findings from a thematic analysis of a rapid online global survey of maternal and newborn health professionals facing the COVID-19 pandemic. See also last item in these updates.

Introducing quality of care standards for small and sick newborns

Wednesday 12 August, 2020 at 8 am GMT, 10 am CEST, 11 am EAT and 1.30 IST

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Watch live on YouTube: bit.ly/QoCLive

UNICEF and the World Health Organization are organizing a webinar to introduce WHO's new standards of care for small and sick newborns.

Each year, an estimated 2.5 million newborns die during the first 28 days of life; approximately 80% of these are low-birth-weight, and two thirds are born prematurely. A further estimated 1 million small and sick newborns survive with a long-term disability[1].

This webinar will present WHO's eight new standards of care that aim to guide countries in caring for this specific, vulnerable population. The standards define what is expected and required to deliver effective, high-quality health services for small and sick newborns in health facilities.

The webinar will detail how the standards can provide a resource for policy-makers, health care professionals, health service planners, programme managers, regulators and professional bodies or technical partners involved in care, to help plan, deliver and ensure the quality of health service delivery.

[Read more](#)

This webinar is the last in a WHO/UNICEF series on 'Transforming care for small and sick newborns', organized with the collaboration of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Access the [summaries](#), [recordings and presentations](#) of the series. See the [recordings only](#)

[1] UNICEF/WHO 2019. *Survive and Thrive: Transforming care for every small and sick newborn*



What is quality of care in humanitarian settings?

The Global Health Cluster Quality Improvement Task Team has

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humanitarian settings. It is relevant for both acute and protracted crises and throughout the response phases.

The Global Health Cluster Quality Improvement Task Team brings together over 30 agencies and partners working together to develop a mutual understanding of quality improvement mechanisms in humanitarian settings and learn from each other's experiences.

[See the policy paper](#)

Have your say in ensuring continuity of maternal and newborn care during COVID-19

Take part in the second round of the global 'Voice from the frontline survey' of maternal and newborn health providers during COVID-19. The Survey seeks to understand the range of actions taken to ensure care continues to be provided during this pandemic.



The survey is available [here](#) in 11 languages.

In the first round of the survey, the responses of nearly 2,000 health providers have contributed to a better understanding of how maternal and newborn care is affected by the pandemic. The findings are summarised [here](#).

This research is led by the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium.

Photo: Binta Djal holds her yet unnamed newborn baby at the maternity ward of the Simao Mendes hospital in Bissau, Guinea Bissau, in January 2020. UNICEF/UNI285081/Prinsloo.

The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network) works to ensure that every pregnant woman and newborn receives good quality care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, with the ambitious goal to halve maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in health facilities within five years in the participating countries.

The Quality of Care Network is led by countries that are already taking leadership to improve quality of care in health services: Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda. More countries are expected to join the Network. It is backed by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNFPA, and supported by a growing partnership of development organisations, NGOs, professional associations and universities.

It is underpinned by the values of quality, equity and dignity and contributes to achieving the targets of the *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*.

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Top photo: Christelle, a 3 months old baby is waiting to be weighted and vaccinated in the health center of Gonzagueville, a suburb of Abidjan, in the South of Côte d'Ivoire in July 2020. © UNICEF/UNI316678// Frank Dejongh

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