



Quality, Equity, Dignity

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

Updates- March 2021



## EVENTS

### Join the Network at the AlignMNH Collective Opening Forum to launch our progress report

The AlignMNH Opening Forum marks an important moment for the Network. On April 21, in the opening day of the Forum, the Network will launch a new report which documents the progress made over the past 4 years of activity across the Network: *The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health: Evolution, Implementation and Progress 2017-2020 (WHO, 2021)*. This Report documents the evolution of the Network since its launch in 2017 and progress made to date and provides reflections on successes and shortfalls during implementation of Network activities. The Report also shares how quality of care improvement has been catalyzed over the past years with country examples of implementation in Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda. It comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is having a hugely disruptive impact on services for maternal, newborn and child health. The report will be launched during an AlignMNH Concurrent Session on April 20 at 10.00am EDT.

Register [here](#) for the Opening Forum of the AlignMNH Collective



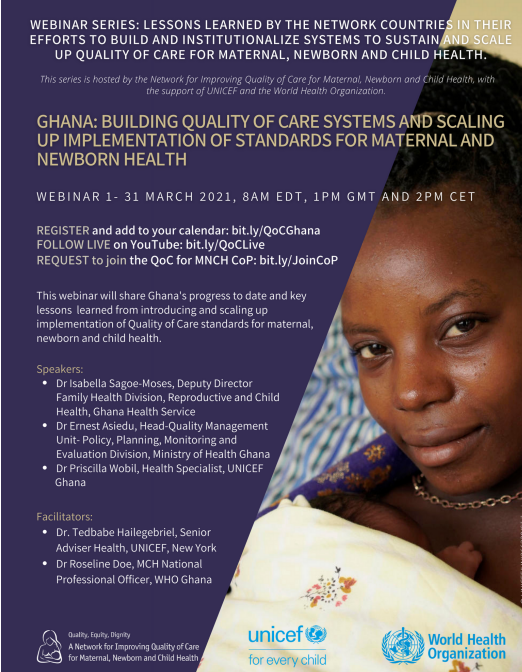
A more in-depth discussion between countries on this progress will be held in a webinar hosted by the Quality of Care Network on 4 May 2021 at 2pm CET.

Register [here](#) for this webinar

## Sierra Leone's National forum

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone hosted a National Quality Improvement Forum between March 15 and 19, 2021 with objective to take stock of the progress made and challenges encountered during the implementation of the national Quality of Care plan which has set national and district level targets. Further, the Forum focused on exchanging lessons learned and best practices gained in the journey to improve the quality of care. Finally, and significantly, the Forum aimed to continue to mobilize and renew the commitments of government and of stakeholders taking stewardship to remove barriers and bottlenecks affecting the quality of care for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services.

## WEBINARS



**WEBINAR SERIES: LESSONS LEARNED BY THE NETWORK COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD AND INSTITUTIONALIZE SYSTEMS TO SUSTAIN AND SCALE UP QUALITY OF CARE FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH.**

*This series is hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization.*

**GHANA: BUILDING QUALITY OF CARE SYSTEMS AND SCALING UP IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS FOR MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH**

WEBINAR 1- 31 MARCH 2021, 8AM EDT, 1PM GMT AND 2PM CET

REGISTER and add to your calendar: [bit.ly/QoCGhana](https://bit.ly/QoCGhana)  
FOLLOW LIVE on YouTube: [bit.ly/QoCLive](https://bit.ly/QoCLive)  
REQUEST to join the QoC for MNCH CoP: [bit.ly/JoinCoP](https://bit.ly/JoinCoP)

This webinar will share Ghana's progress to date and key lessons learned from introducing and scaling up implementation of Quality of Care standards for maternal, newborn and child health.

**Speakers:**

- Dr Isabella Sagoe-Moses, Deputy Director Family Health Division, Reproductive and Child Health, Ghana Health Service
- Dr Ernest Asiedu, Head-Quality Management Unit- Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Health Ghana
- Dr Priscilla Wobil, Health Specialist, UNICEF Ghana

**Facilitators:**

- Dr. Tedbabe Hailegebriel, Senior Adviser Health, UNICEF, New York
- Dr Roseline Doe, MCH National Professional Officer, WHO Ghana

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unicef for every child World Health Organization

## Lessons Learned by the Network countries in their efforts to build and institutionalize systems to sustain and scale up Quality of Care for maternal and newborn Health

This webinar series will share countries' experiences in building and institutionalizing systems to sustain and scale up quality care for maternal and newborn Health.

This series is hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

### Webinar schedule:

1. Experience of Ghana, Wednesday 31 March at 2 pm CET: [Register](#)
2. Experience of Bangladesh, Wednesday 7 April at 2 pm CET: [Register](#)
3. Experience of Tanzania, Thursday 13 April at 2 pm CET: [Register](#)
4. Lessons learned from all Network countries, 26 April at 2pm CET: [Register](#)

## Newborns and COVID 19: Now is the time to act for every newborn, everywhere

**Tuesday 30 March 2021**  
**11-12:30 pm GMT / 1pm-2:30 pm CET**

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar  
[WATCH LIVE](#) on YouTube

*Organized by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and the Every Newborn Management Team with the support of WHO and UNICEF.*

The event will take a deep dive into newly published findings on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on small and sick newborns care and will discuss the actions needed to protect past gains made for newborns and use our learnings during COVID 19 to date to improve health systems to deliver for newborns.

[Read more](#)

**NEWBORNS AND COVID 19: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT FOR EVERY NEWBORN, EVERYWHERE**  
WEBINAR-TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2021 AT 12-1:30 PM GMT, 1-2:30PM CET

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar  
[WATCH LIVE](#) on YouTube  
[REQUEST](#) to join the Quality of Care Community of Practice

Register for this webinar for a deep dive into newly published findings on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on small and sick newborns care and to discuss actions needed to protect past gains made for newborns and use learnings during COVID-19 to date to improve health systems to deliver for newborns.

Introduction: Dr Anshu Banerjee, Director for Maternal, Newborn and Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing, World Health Organization

**Part 1: News for newborns in the COVID-19 era**

- Evidence and risks - Professor Joy Lawn, Director MARCH Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Reality from around the world - Dr Suman Rao, Medical Officer, WHO HQ

**Part 2: Now is the time to act for every newborn, everywhere**

- Macrotrends from data to guide journey of recovery- Dr Gagan Gupta, Health Specialist, Maternal and Newborn Health, UNICEF
- Government roles and large-scale innovation - Ministry of Health Malawi: Dr Queen Dube, Director Health Services Ministry of Health, Malawi
- Health workforce challenges, adaptations and lessons: Dr. Shamima Sharmin, Health Specialist, Maternal and Newborn Health, UNICEF Bangladesh

**Part 3: Q&A**

Closing: Dr Luwei Pearson, Deputy Health Director, UNICEF

The webinar is organized by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and the Every Newborn Management Team with the support of WHO and UNICEF.










## PharmAccess and Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme: Partners in delivering quality maternal and newborn health services in public and private facilities

**Thursday 1 April 2021**  
**2pm CET and 1 pm WAT**

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar  
[WATCH LIVE](#) on YouTube

*Part of a series on 'Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health'. This webinar is co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, MSD for Mothers and the Child Health Task Force.*

Lagos State, Nigeria and PharmAccess Foundation have jointly developed a health insurance scheme that aims to improve access to quality health maternal, newborn and child health services in public and private health facilities.

The speakers will present on this collaboration, a public private partnership which has been working to fill the gap on service provision in primary health care. PharmAccess has further introduced innovative financing mechanisms including as health insurance, and standards to assess and stimulate improvement of the quality of care delivered through the SafeCare programme. One lesson learned as the collaboration deepened has been the need to develop a regulatory framework to ensure quality improvement for MNCH and this development will be in particular focus in the webinar presentation.

[Read more](#)

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**PHARMACCESS AND LAGOS STATE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME: PARTNERS IN DELIVERING QUALITY MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FACILITIES**  
WEBINAR - THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021, AT 1PM GMT, 1PM WAT AND 2PM CET

Part of a series on 'Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health'

REGISTER and add to your calendar: [bit.ly/PharmAccessweb](https://bit.ly/PharmAccessweb)  
WATCH LIVE on YouTube: [bit.ly/QoCLive](https://bit.ly/QoCLive)  
REQUEST to join the Quality of Care Community of Practice: [bit.ly/JoinCoP](https://bit.ly/JoinCoP)

Lagos State, Nigeria and PharmAccess Foundation have jointly developed a health insurance scheme that aims to improve access to quality health Maternal, Newborn and Child Health services in public and private health facilities in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The speakers will present on their collaboration to fill the gap on service provision in primary health care through a public private partnership. PharmAccess has also introduced innovative financing mechanisms such as health insurance, and standards to assess and stimulate improvement of the quality of care delivered through SafeCare. One lesson learned as the collaboration deepened was the need to develop a regulatory framework to ensure quality improvement for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and this development will be in particular focus in the webinar presentation

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Ibrinke Dada, Director of Quality, PharmAccess Foundation Nigeria
- Dr Abiola Idowu, Executive Secretary, Lagos State Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency

**Facilitator:**

- Dr. Nuhu Omeiza Yaqub, Technical Officer, Quality Management World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa

This is the fourth webinar in a series on 'Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health'. This webinar is co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, MSD for Mothers and the Child Health Task Force.

See the whole series and register: [bit.ly/PrivateSectorseries](https://bit.ly/PrivateSectorseries)




## UPCOMING WEBINARS HOSTED BY PARTNERS

### Overcoming Challenges in Maternal and Newborn Health During the COVID19 Pandemic: Best practices from around the world

**Tuesday 30 March 2021, at 9-10 am EDT, 1-2pm GMT and 2-3pm CET**

Register [here](#) to join

The [BetterBirth Community of Practice](#) will host a webinar on Tuesday, March 30th on the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on maternal-newborn health. Four panelists from around the globe will share their lessons learned and best practices for overcoming challenges in maternal-newborn health during the COVID19 pandemic.



## PUBLICATIONS



### WHO technical package on quality of care in Fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable setting

Given the significant health needs and increasing population numbers in fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings, there is an urgent need for attention to quality of care in the push for universal health coverage. In March 2021, WHO has published a [technical package on quality of care in fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable \(FCV\) settings](#).

This technical package provides a starting point for planning and implementing action for quality health services in FCV settings, focused around a practical set of quality interventions comprises two documents: [Quality of care in FCV settings: taking action](#) and [Quality of care in FCV settings: tools and resources compendium](#).

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Small and Sick Newborn Care

'[Small and sick newborn care during the COVID-19 pandemic: global survey and thematic analysis of healthcare providers' voices and experiences](#)' (BMJ Global Health, March 2021). This survey in 62 countries, conducted by a collaboration between St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, India and NEST360 and facilitated by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, found that 85% of respondents reported 'fearing for their own health', with PPE shortages, stress and safety concerns among the issues reported. In some hospitals, vital resources including staff and equipment, notably oxygen supplies, being moved from newborn wards to COVID-19 care wards are reported.

A crucial finding from the study was that two-thirds of health workers wouldn't support Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a life-saving technique involving early, prolonged skin-to-skin contact for preterm babies and exclusive breastfeeding, for mothers having a positive or unknown COVID-19 test status. Instead, these newborns are separated from their mothers and are at increased risk of death. The importance of this finding is reinforced by new research published in E-ClinicalMedicine (Feb 2021): '[Preterm care during the COVID-19 pandemic: A comparative risk analysis of neonatal deaths averted by kangaroo mother care versus mortality due to SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)'. This study conducted by a collaboration led by the World Health Organization with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of California San Francisco undertook analyses for 127 countries and found that if universal coverage of KMC was achieved more than 125,000 newborn lives would be saved. Conversely, the risk of newborns catching COVID-19 and dying would result in fewer than 2,000 deaths.

Read more about the publications [here](#) and join our webinar on March 30th [here](#)

## ONLINE COURSE

### Online certification course in Point of Care Quality Improvement

Point of Care Quality Improvement (POCQI) is a simple WHO accredited, easy to understand and implement four-step Quality Improvement methodology being used by thousands of teams of doctors and nurses across South-East Asia. This has proven to be an essential skill for day-to-day service delivery by not only in-service doctors and nurses but also by medical and nursing students.

India's Nationwide Quality of Care Network (NQOCN) is providing training in the POCQI methodology through workshops and online mentoring. To continue this training & facilitate learning in these challenging COVID-19 pandemic times, NQOCN has developed a fully online learning module on POCQI, with support from WHO-SEARO, in collaboration with its technology partner, Aastrika. This course has been developed with a vision of facilitating remote learning in Quality Improvement methodology. It is a self-paced online certificate course that enables learners to acquire knowledge of POCQI methodology through a digital learning management system.

Click [here](#) to register for this course

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 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*.

[www.qualityofcarenetwork.org](http://www.qualityofcarenetwork.org)

#### Contact:

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

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