

Quality Of Care Network Updates - October 2019

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

Updates – October 2019



1st Africa Regional Forum on Experience of Care

The 1st Africa Regional Forum on Experience of Care took place in Dakar, Senegal, 21 to 23 October. Organized by the French Fund Muskoka, the Forum sought to ensure that national policies and strategies for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health include experience of care and a commitment to eradicate all forms of violence in health facilities.

Leaders. decision-makers. health professionals. development partners and civil societv

organisations shared information on women's, newborns' and children's experience of care in health facilities, knowledge and know-how on the efficiency of the tools and methodologies used to assess experience of care, countries' experience in improving quality of care, and the steps to implement interventions that will lead to a better experience of care.

The Quality of Care Network presented its system approach to improving quality of care at facility, district and national level, and oriented participants on the most recent tools to implement that approach.

Read more: <https://ffmuskoka.org/forum-regional-dakar-octobre>

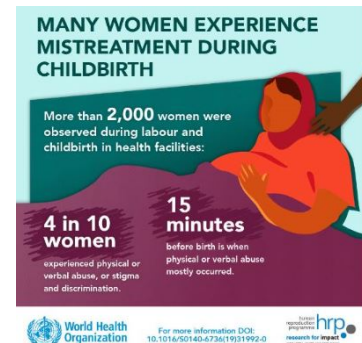
Photo: Midwife Susan Acom, in Apeitolin Health centre II, Uganda checks a mother who during her antenatal care visit to the facility. ©UNICEF/Adriko/2018

Report shows alarming mistreatment of women during childbirth

A WHO-led study published in the Lancet reveals that more than a third of women experienced mistreatment - physical or verbal abuse, or stigma or discrimination - during childbirth. Women who were younger and less educated were most at risk, suggesting inequalities in how women are treated during childbirth. The study was conducted in twelve facilities in Ghana, Guinea, Myanmar and Nigeria.

[Read the study](#)
[Read the WHO story](#)

Related: [Listen to the BBC Health Check on the report's findings: Abuse of women in childbirth](#)



Respectful maternal care: the universal rights of women and newborns



The Global Respectful Maternal Care Council, convened by the White Ribbon Alliance, launched the Respectful Maternal Care Charter: the universal rights of women and newborns. The revised charter is designed to help educate, inform and advocate for all women to receive respectful care during pregnancy and childbirth. It seeks to raise awareness for women's and newborns' human rights guarantees that are recognized in international texts; increase the capacity of maternal, newborn and child health advocates to participate in human rights processes;

align women's demand for high-quality maternal and newborn care with international human rights law standards; provide a foundation for holding governments, the maternity care system and communities accountable to these rights; and support healthcare workers in providing respectful care to women and newborns.

Download the [Respectful Maternal Care Charter and resources](#)
Download the [social media toolkit](#) for advocates

World Prematurity Day: get involved!

Born too Soon:

Mark World Prematurity Day on 17th November, with the theme 'Born Too Soon: Providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place' and help raise awareness about the issues of premature birth, newborn health and survival.

Every year, 15 million babies are born prematurely – more than one in ten of all babies around the world.



World Prematurity Day is a key moment to focus global attention on the leading cause of child deaths under age 5: [complications from preterm birth](#), which account for *nearly 1 million deaths each year* (UNICEF). Without a major push to reduce these deaths, we will not reach the global goal endorsed by 193 countries to end all preventable newborn and child deaths by 2030.

Get involved! The Healthy Newborn Network (HNN) has compiled tips for activities, social media content and other promotion material to share your World Prematurity Day experience and plans. Access [HNN World Prematurity Day materials](#).

Photo: ©IFCNI/Quirin Leppert accessed on Healthy Newborn Network website

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. 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: A woman plays with 24-day-old Youssouf who is being held by his mother, Hawa Diawara at home in Koumatou, Mali, in March 2018. © UNICEF/UN0198218/Njiokiktjen

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