

# Quality Of Care Network - September 2019 Updates

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

Updates – September 2019



**Call for Implementation Research (IR) Concept Proposals:**  
To Address Programme Implementation Challenges in *The network for improving quality of care for maternal newborn and child health (QEC) or Possible Serious Bacterial Infection in Newborns (PSBI) Programme*

Deadline: 27 September 2019

UNICEF and USAID are soliciting letters of intent for implementation research that seeks to address issues that influence the effective implementation of QEC programmes or services within health systems in eligible countries. **Grants of up to USD \$25,000 will be available to support research studies of up to 18 months duration.**

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 1) Countries implementing maternal, newborn and child quality of care improvement within **The network for improving quality of care for maternal newborn and child health (QEC) or PSBI programme** countries with UNICEF/PMAC or USAID funding
- 2) Teams comprised of research leaders of QEC programmes and services as Principal Investigators, collaborating with in-country researchers are eligible to submit letters of intent in response to this call. Researchers are those individuals who are directly involved in implementation of a QEC or PSBI programme or service within the health system in an eligible country (a list of eligible countries is provided below). Programme managers, programme managers, district health officers, non-governmental providers, public or private practitioners, and other health workers are **not** eligible for such individuals. Additionally, the research team must include at least one researcher affiliated with an academic or research institution based in the study country. Please note that **both** **local academics (in-country) OR non-academic researchers** must be on the proposals to be eligible for funding.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Concept Notes will be judged on the potential of the research to address a priority topic within

## Call for proposals: implementation research for quality of care or possible serious bacterial infection

The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNICEF and USAID released a call for implementation research proposals for the Quality of Care Network or the Possible Serious Bacterial Infection in Newborns (PSBI) Programme.

See the [call for proposals](#)  
Deadline: 27 September, 2019

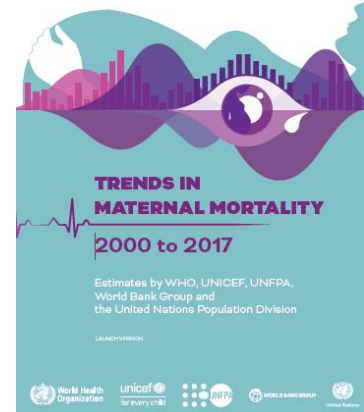
AN INTERESTED PARTY ACCEPTING A SALARIED, RETIRED OR OTHER FORM OF PENSION, PROGRAMME OR SERVICE. OTHER CRITERIA THAT WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCLUDE VALUE FOR MONEY AND NATIONALITY. SEE ALSO CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE END OF THIS CALL.  
DEADLINES

## Maternal deaths decline slowly with vast inequalities worldwide

A new report on maternal mortality, released by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division, estimates a worldwide number of 295 000 maternal deaths in 2017. This figure represents a 38% reduction since the year 2000 - an average reduction of just under 3% per year.

The report presents internationally comparable global, regional and country-level estimates and trends for maternal mortality between 2000 and 2017. It highlights the inequalities between the world's least developed countries and the rest of the world.

[Download the report](#)  
[Read the WHO web story](#)



## Over one million women and girls worldwide share their priorities for maternal and reproductive healthcare

*What Women Want* - a global advocacy campaign to improve quality maternal and reproductive healthcare for women and girls and strengthen health systems - released the findings of its global survey. The survey asked directly 1.2 million women and girls, in 114 countries, what their demands for maternal and reproductive healthcare were. Here are their top twenty demands:

[Download the full survey findings](#)  
 Learn more: [www.whatwomenwant.org](http://www.whatwomenwant.org)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Respectful and dignified care: <b>103,584</b>                                   | 12. Improved health, well-being, maternal, reproductive and/or general health services: <b>37,076</b> |
| 2. Water, sanitation and hygiene: <b>90,625</b>                                    | 13. Family planning information, personnel, services and supplies: <b>36,121</b>                      |
| 3. Medicines and supplies: <b>82,805</b>   | 14. Ethical, lawful, non-abusive and secure care : <b>34,081</b>                                      |
| 4. Increased, competent, and better supported midwives and nurses: <b>65,028</b>   | 15. Food and nutrition information, personnel, services and supplies: <b>31,688</b>                   |
| 5. Increased, fully functional and closer health facilities: <b>59,388</b>         | 16. Child health and welfare information, personnel, services and supplies: <b>30,601</b>             |
| 6. Increased, competent and better supported doctors: <b>59,015</b>                | 17. More female providers : <b>26,267</b>   |
| 7. Free and affordable services and supplies: <b>58,268</b>                        | 18. Increased, competent and better supported health providers (general): <b>21,873</b>               |
| 8. Antenatal information, personnel, services and supplies: <b>53,668</b>          | 19. Counseling and awareness on maternal, reproductive and general health and services: <b>20,840</b> |
| 9. Labor and delivery information, personnel, services and supplies: <b>45,323</b> | 20. Menstrual health: <b>17,729</b>   |
| 10. Timely and attentive care: <b>43,290</b>                                       |   |
| 11. Transportation infrastructure: <b>39,557</b>                                   |   |



## Have your say in developing pain management guidelines

The World Health Organization is updating its *2012 Guidelines on the pharmacological treatment of persisting pain in children with medical illnesses* and is looking for the following experts to support the development of the new guidelines:

- **Relevant technical experts** in the field of clinical treatment of chronic pain in children, academic research on effectiveness of pharmacologic treatment of chronic pain in children, or addiction research
- **End-users** who will adopt, adapt and implement the guidelines: health professionals, programme managers, policy makers, medicines regulators, health systems experts
- **Representatives** of groups most affected by these guidelines, for example, representatives from parents' groups, youth groups, cancer support groups, consumer groups
- **Experts in assessing evidence** and developing guidelines informed by evidence, such as methodologists and epidemiologists
- **Other technical experts** such as health economists, bioethicists, experts on equity and human rights, gender experts

If you would like get involved in developing these guidelines:

Indicate your interest to be part of the Guideline Development Group: [here](#) (username: whoexpert, password: whoexpert)

Submit a proposal for the systematic review on effectiveness and safety: [here](#)

Submit a proposal for the qualitative synthesis of values and preferences: [here](#)

### [More information](#)

Photo: ©World Health Organization

## Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities - from resolution to revolution

Zambia hosted a major global conference on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities in September in Livingstone.



Four of the Quality of Care Network countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania - were among the 21 countries that detailed their efforts and commitments to implementing the core elements of the [2019 World Health Assembly \(WHA\) resolution on WASH in health care facilities](#). Check their commitments [here](#).

See also a [video](#) that WHO and UNICEF released recently a to inspire action around the 2019 WHA resolution on WASH in health care facilities.

## Job opening at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

### Job Alert

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Maternal, Newborn and Child Health team is looking to recruit a Senior Program Officer, Newborn Health. The position is based in Seattle, WA.

See the full job description and apply [here](#)

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*.

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

**Contact:**

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

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

*Benedicte Walter, World Health Organization Headquarters consultant*

*walterb@who.int*

*Skype: benedicte57*

*Top photo: A portrait of a mother and her child at Padibe Health Centre IV, Lamwo District, Uganda, in February 2019. ©UNICEF/UN0310652/Bongyereirwe*

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