



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

Updates –January 2020



How do you improve quality of care in unstable settings?

Most preventable maternal and child deaths occur in settings of conflict, displacement and natural disasters.

While the first priority is to restore service provision to save lives, all actors involved in providing health services must also ensure quality of care.

The World Health Organization and partners propose key elements to take into consideration when developing a strategic approach to quality action planning in fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings. Read more in the [January 2020 WHO Bulletin](#)

Photo: Iftikhar cradles her son, Hassan, in the neonatal intensive care unit at Al Sabeen Maternal Hospital in Sana'a, Yemen, in October 2019. © UNICEF/UNI224661/AIGhabri

Tanzania: when birth companions are part of the problem

In a new episode of the [Quality Talks podcast](#), Adrienne Strong, a medical anthropologist and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida shares her observations of a birth companionship programme in Western Tanzania.

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outcomes failed to reduce the disrespect and abuse directed at the patients. In fact, in some cases, the birth companions themselves justified the mistreatment or took part in it, targeting the very women they were meant to support.

[Listen to the episode](#); [Subscribe to Quality Talks](#)



Toward value-based care: what will it take to transform health systems?

Join an event organized by the Center for Global Development which will focus on how countries can adopt value-based care:

February 6, 2020 - 9:30AM-11:00AM EST
Register to attend [in person](#) or by [webcast](#)

Health systems around the world can suffer from a crisis of distrust; patients may question the quality of government clinics and newspapers expose private hospitals for peddling unnecessary procedures. These are symptoms of volume-based health systems that focus on the quantity of care delivered rather than quality or outcomes. Panelists will reflect on the feasibility of value-based care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), share innovative models from the public and private sectors, and highlight important opportunities to experiment and build the evidence base.

Read [more about the event](#)

Resources: [Leapfrog to Value report](#)

Leaving no woman, no child, and no adolescent behind – a SDG promise

One third of the way through the SDG era, what will it take to ensure that no woman, child or adolescent is left behind? The BMJ published a [collection of articles](#) in which leading researchers from around the world explore the data on health inequalities in an attempt to answer this question.

Sustainable Development Goals



These articles are part of a series proposed by the [Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health](#) and the [Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health](#).

Photo: Leaving no one behind is an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Note from the Secretariat: Our colleague Zainab Naimy, who has been working with the Quality of Care Network Secretariat since the Network launch in early 2017 will be leaving the World Health Organization in February. We would like to thank Zainab for her dedication in supporting Network countries teams in their efforts to plan and implement quality of care, her role in helping to develop quality of care implementation tools and her ability to connect people and ideas. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

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

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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

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Top photo: Fatoumata Traore cradles her sleeping 3-day-old twins at the Reference Health Centre in Bougouni, Mali, in March 2018. © UNICEF/UN0198195/Njiokiktjien

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