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Quality, Equity, Dignity

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

Updates- May 2021

NEW PUBLICATION

Immediate “Kangaroo Mother Care” and Survival of Infants with Low Birth Weight

The results of a new clinical trial published on May 27 2021 in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), shows:

- Kangaroo mother care, which involves **skin-to-skin contact and exclusive breastfeeding**, significantly improves a premature or low birthweight baby’s chances of survival
- Starting kangaroo mother care **immediately after birth** has the potential to save up to 150,000 more lives each year (a further increase in survival of 25%), compared with the current recommendation of starting it only once a baby is stable
- **Mother-Newborn Intensive Care Units will be critical** to support the mother, or a surrogate, in providing this immediate, ongoing skin-to-skin contact from birth.

Understanding of the lifesaving benefits of kangaroo mother care for babies born early or small and its [continued importance](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic are further strengthened with this pivotal new evidence on the benefits of starting the intervention immediately after birth. This provides the clear message that keeping the mother and the baby together helps the baby to survive and thrive. New WHO recommendations are expected later in 2021.

Read the paper: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2026486>

Read the WHO story: bit.ly/3uqz6U9

UPCOMING NETWORK WEBINARS

Lessons from a review of programmes to improve health worker performance in low- and middle-income countries and Malawi country experience

Tuesday 15 June 2021
2pm Geneva and Lilongwe

[REGISTER](#) & add to your calendar

Improving health worker performance in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) remains a major challenge. This webinar will look at the global level sharing the findings from a systematic review of the effectiveness of more than 100 strategies in LMICs to improve the performance of health workers (hospital- and clinic-based health workers, CHWs, pharmacists, and drug vendors) in both the public and private sector. The Health Care Provider Performance Review (HCPPR) considers the effectiveness of interventions to improve health worker performance in low- and middle-income countries and will be presented by Dr Alex Rowe. The Ministry of Health Malawi will then share country experience and learning to support improvement of health worker performance. The Ministry will share their experience in capacity building for QI which has been undertaken in learning sites and also share assessment tools have been developed to assess health worker performance.

This webinar is co-hosted by the Quality of Care Subgroup of the Child Health Task Force and the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.



LESSONS FROM A REVIEW OF PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE HEALTH WORKER PERFORMANCE IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES AND MALAWI COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Webinar
Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 2pm Geneva and Lilongwe

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Improving health worker performance in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) remains a major challenge. This webinar will look at the global level sharing the findings from a systematic review of the effectiveness of more than 100 strategies in LMICs to improve the performance of health workers (hospital- and clinic-based health workers, CHWs, pharmacists, and drug vendors) in both the public and private sector. The Health Care Provider Performance Review (HCPPR) considers the effectiveness of interventions to improve health worker performance in low- and middle-income countries and will be presented by Dr Alex Rowe. The Ministry of Health Malawi will then share country experience and learning to support improvement of health worker performance. The Ministry will share their experience in capacity building for QI which has been undertaken in learning sites and also share assessment tools have been developed to assess health worker performance.

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CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE



WEBINAR
Thursday 10 June 2021, 12pm GMT and 2pm CEST

LESSONS FROM ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DELIVERING QUALITY MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICES IN GHANA

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The Quality of Care Network in partnership with the World Health Organization is exploring mechanisms for engaging the private sector in delivering maternal and newborn health services with quality. Beginning with scoping exercises in Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria, the exploratory project is documenting the lessons from private sector delivery of quality health. The project objectives are to:

1. Analyze the drivers and the current engagement of the private sector to deliver quality maternal and newborn health services in Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria;
2. Identify opportunities for involving the private sector in working within the national health system to deliver quality maternal and newborn health services in Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria; and
3. Propose models for effective engagement of the private sector within the national health system for implementing quality maternal and newborn health services in Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria and other Network countries.

The Ministry of Health, Ghana will share their findings in this first webinar, which will be following over the coming months by further webinars to share the findings from Nigeria and Bangladesh.

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

World Health Organization

Lessons from engaging the private sector in delivering quality maternal and newborn health services in Ghana

June: TBD

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The Ministry of Health, Ghana will share their findings in this first webinar, which will be

following over the coming months by further webinars to share the findings from Nigeria and Bangladesh.

This is the fifth webinar in series on 'Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health', hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health with the support of the World Health Organization.

**Transforming care for small and sick newborns:
Human resources for clinical care of small and sick newborns**

**Tuesday 30 June 2021
8am New York/ 2pm Geneva/ 3pm Nairobi/
5.30pm New Delhi**

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This webinar will take a closer look at strategies for countries to transform their policies on human resources for health and provide health workers with the knowledge and technical skills necessary for high-quality care by 203, to ensure that all newborns survive and thrive. The Human resource strategies to improve newborn care in health facilities in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO recommendations published in 2020 and country experience in developing a neonatal nursing cadre will be presented.

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

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**TRANSFORMING CARE FOR SMALL AND SICK NEWBORNS:
HUMAN RESOURCES FOR THE CLINICAL CARE OF SMALL AND SICK NEWBORNS**

WEBINAR: 1 hour - Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 8am New York, 2pm Geneva, 3pm Nairobi, 5.30pm New Delhi

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

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Part 1: Implementing the roadmap on human resource strategies to improve newborn care in health facilities in low- and middle-income countries
- Dr. Ornella Lincetto, Medical Officer, WHO HQ

Part 2: Country experience in developing a neonatal nursing cadre

Part 3: Q&A

World Health Organization
unicef

EVENTS

WHO events at 32nd International Confederation of Midwives Virtual Triennial Congress 2021

[Register](#) for the 32nd ICM Virtual Triennial Congress for events each Wednesday in June 2021.

Access the program of the congress: <https://www.icmvirtualcongress.org/programme-at-a-glance/>

Wednesday 2 June 2021:

16:00- 17:30 CET : WHO - Framework for Action - Strengthening Quality Midwifery Education for UHC

Wednesday 9 June 2021:

11:30- 13:00 CET : WHO/Global Water 2020/UNICEF - The journey to safe childbirth starts with water, sanitation & hygiene

13:30- 15:00 CET: Transforming the care of small and sick newborns: why, how and who - The essential role of a multidisciplinary team with neonatal competencies

Wednesday 16 June 2021:

17:00-18:00 CET: Midwifery in India: progress and the way forward.

Thursday 30 June 2021:

04:30- 05:30 CET: Improving care during labour and childbirth: Implementing WHO recommendations for a positive childbirth experience.

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

Contact:

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