



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

Committed to Quality, Equity and Dignity

Statement of the third meeting of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

16 March 2023, Accra, Ghana

- Committing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3) to ‘ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’, to the principles of quality, equity and dignity, and to achieving universal health coverage through primary health care.
- Committing to the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health, in particular the targets to end preventable maternal newborn and child mortality, and the implementation of the Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM), Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP), and Child Survival Action (CSA);
- Reaffirming our commitment to the statements of the 1st meeting of the Quality of Care Network in February 2017 in Malawi, and 2nd meeting in Ethiopia in 2019;
- Recognizing the value of working as a learning network of countries and partners in developing practice-based solutions for sustaining and scaling up quality of care;
- Recognizing the progress that the 11 Network pathfinder countries – Bangladesh, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda – have made since the Network’s launch in February 2017 to put in place national structures, policies and strategic plans for quality of care; adopt and implement WHO’s standards for improving quality of maternal, newborn and child health in facilities; and set up learning systems and implement interventions to improve quality of care at the national, district and facility levels;
- Recognizing the importance of rights and equity in quality of care for the most vulnerable women, newborns and children;
- Acknowledging that there has been unprecedented improvement in coverage of essential care and services in the last decade, yet these improvements have not translated in improved estimates of maternal, newborn, child deaths and stillbirths;
- Acknowledging that countries continue to face challenges in scaling up and sustaining quality of care efforts at all levels of the health system;

- Acknowledging that improving quality of care requires sustained investment to build the infrastructure and health workforce competencies required to scale and sustain better systems of care;
- Reaffirming that quality includes respectful and nurturing care for mothers, newborn and children;
- Recognizing that health systems that provide quality care are resilient, equitable and able to reach everyone, everywhere;
- Recognizing the need to learn from and share emerging innovations to improve quality of care;
- Recognizing the need for continued promotion, development and integration of quality of care measures in health information systems for learning, quality improvement, and accountability.

We, the participants of the 3rd global meeting of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health from 11 countries, national, regional and global partners, development organisations, NGOs, private sector, academia and research institutions:

- Reaffirm our commitment to the goals of the Network to halve maternal, newborn and child deaths and stillbirths and to improve quality of care via the Network strategic objectives of Leadership, Action, Learning and Accountability and reach the SDG targets for mothers, newborn and children;
- Reaffirm our commitment to improving people centered care, including women’s newborns’, children’s and families experience of care;
- Reaffirm our commitment to work under the government leadership and in collaboration and coordination with implementing partners, professional associations, private sector entities, academia, research institutions, civil society and communities;
- Reaffirm our commitment to integrate our efforts on quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health with national efforts to reorient health systems towards primary health care.

And commit to:

- Continue to contribute to the development and implementation of national and sub-national quality care policies, strategies and operational plans as part of country health strategies and plans that provide a foundation for quality of care at all levels, with improvements in maternal, newborn and child health as a pathfinder and goal;
- Scale up the implementation of quality of care best practices and interventions beyond the learning sites and address all components of maternal, newborn and child health with focused attention to strengthening health systems;
- Continue to develop national learning systems that facilitate documentation and knowledge exchange in support of scaling up of high-quality maternal, newborn and child health services;

- Advocate for increased domestic and external financial resources to support implementation of country quality of care strategy and operational plans and promote sustainability of quality of care at scale and across all programmes;
- Deliver maternal, newborn and child health interventions in essential health services packages with quality through a primary health care approach and supported by financial protection in our efforts towards universal health coverage;
- Continue to integrate quality improvement in mentoring, supervision and review processes at national, subnational and service delivery levels, and in-service and pre-service training;
- Support the development of quality improvement capabilities for all relevant health worker cadres;
- Institutionalize mechanisms for engaging with the community, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, and health providers, in the design, implementation and assessment of programmes to improve quality of care;
- Continue to develop actions and measures to improve and monitor respectful care for women, newborns and children as a key element of care;
- Sustain a vibrant global learning network to improve cross-country learning and collaboration and provide coordinated and integrated technical and financial support in service of scale-up and sustainability of country-defined models of care;

Finally, as members of the Network, we gratefully acknowledge the dedicated efforts of thousands of leaders, managers and health workers across the Network countries who are striving for better care for pregnant women, mothers, newborns and children and populations at large; the technical leadership and support of the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNFPA, and implementing partners; and the support of the funding partners to facilitate the Network, and enable the transformation in health and sustainable development for every woman, newborn, and child everywhere to survive and thrive.