Demonstrating accountability and learning from implementation

On March 12-14, 2019, the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network) will hold its 2nd meeting on Demonstrating accountability and learning from implementation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting will bring together representatives from the ten countries that lead the Quality of Care Network and partners to share their progress, learn from their experiences in developing quality of care programmes, and inform the future directions of the Network.

When launching the Quality of Care Network in February 2017, the countries leading it - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, joined in 2018 by Sierra Leone - committed to halving the number of maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in participating health facilities by 2022 and to improve the experience of care. Under the leadership of their Ministries of Health, with the support of a broad coalition of partners and of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, the Quality of Care Network supports the implementation of national strategies for quality of care in the health sector by using maternal, newborn and child health as a pathfinder.

Two years on, these countries are coming together to take stock and discuss what it takes to implement quality of care improvement - what systems need to be in place to support this implementation, the challenges in improving quality of care for women and children at national, district, and facility levels and the lessons learnt from implementation in designated learning sites. One strong message that is emerging is that sustained quality of care requires changes at all level of the health system, facilitated by: on-site support for quality improvement in facilities, a data system to report on process and patient outcomes, a learning system for solution seeking, community engagement to respond to needs, and an agile management system to respond to continuous changes to sustain improvements.
Each country in the Quality of Care Network will share their data and learning from the first phase of implementation. Participants will attend skill-building labs on topics including, among others, community engagement, advocacy for quality of care, or the links between Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and quality of care. Innovation labs, led by organisations that are developing and implementing innovative solutions to improve the quality of maternal and newborn health, will give participants the opportunity to discuss the relevance and feasibility of these solutions in their context.

Representatives from the Ministries of Health as well as from districts and health facilities of each country, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, bilateral development partners, non-governmental organisations and academia will attend the meeting. In addition to the Network countries, 15 other countries will attend this meeting to learn about a systems approach to improving quality of care at national, district and facility level, using maternal, newborn and child health as a pathfinder.

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, 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.
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