





■ Essential Resources (2020–2023)




KEY GLOBAL TECHNICAL RESOURCES FOR MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

June 2023





This document provides a consolidated, although not exhaustive, set of key evidence-based guidance documents, resources, repositories, and communities of practice in maternal and newborn health that have been released since 2020.



GLOBAL DATA, TARGETS, AND METRICS

	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
Ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM): a renewed focus for improving maternal and newborn health and well-being (WHO 2021)	In 2020, EPMM, co-chaired by World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and partners renewed focus on working with countries to accelerate progress towards improving maternal survival and wellbeing. In October 2021, EPMM launched coverage targets and milestones for 2025. EPMM closely collaborates with Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) in rolling out the activities at national, regional, and global levels.	Ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM)	
Every Newborn: an action plan to end preventable deaths (WHO 2014)	The Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP), endorsed in 2014, sets global and country goals and targets for ending preventable neonatal mortality and reducing stillbirth rates. ENAP implementation is overseen by global committees and cochaired by WHO and UNICEF. A results framework with milestones, objectives, activities, and timelines has been jointly developed by partners and endorsed by the ENAP Management committee. The ENAP and EPMM groups have identified joint priority countries and have developed a common results framework to guide implementation.	Every Newborn Action Plan	




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Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UNDESA/Population Division (WHO 2023)	The United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG)—comprising WHO, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA, the World Bank Group, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)/Population Division—collaborated with external technical experts on a new round of estimates covering 2000 to 2020. The estimates represent the most up-to-date MMEIG estimates of maternal mortality, using refined input data and methods from previous rounds. The report presents internationally comparable global, regional, and country-level estimates and trends for maternal mortality.	Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020	
UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)	UN IGME was formed in 2004 to share data on child mortality, improve methods for child mortality estimation, report on progress towards child survival goals, and enhance country capacity to produce timely and properly assessed estimates of child mortality. UN IGME updates its child mortality estimates annually after reviewing newly available data and assessing data quality. The web portal contains the latest UN IGME estimates of child mortality at the country, regional, and global levels.	Child Mortality Estimates	
Randomized Trial of Early Detection and Treatment of Postpartum Hemorrhage (The New England Journal of Medicine, 2023)	The E-MOTIVE trial, recently published in <i>The New England Journal of Medicine</i> , is a three-year, multi-country, randomized trial that involved training and equipping health providers to rapidly respond to postpartum hemorrhage (bleeding) using a low-cost plastic drape to collect and measure blood loss and a bundle of first-response treatments, including uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, and tranexamic acid. E-MOTIVE showed impressive results—that the bundle could reduce heavy postpartum bleeding by 60% and the rate of maternal death due to postpartum bleeding by 20%. The trial’s results made headlines around the globe and was described as “game-changing” in its potential to significantly reduce deaths from postpartum hemorrhage.	E-MOTIVE Postpartum Hemorrhage Bundle Research	

QUALITY OF CARE








	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
<p>Improving the quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health: Implementation guide for national, district and facility levels (WHO, 2022)</p>	<p>Launched by WHO in September 2022, this implementation guide is a “living document,” developed from implementation experience from the 10 countries in the Network to Improve the Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and from implementing and technical partners in support of that work. This document contains practical guidance for policymakers, program managers, health practitioners, and other actors working to establish and implement quality-of-care programs at national, district, and facility levels. It is intended to help anyone, throughout the health system, who wants to take action to improve the quality of maternal, newborn, and child care.</p>	<p>Quality of care implementation guide</p>	
<p>Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities (WHO, 2020)</p>	<p>Launched by WHO in September 2020, these standards built on the 2016 Maternal and Newborn Health QOC standards that focused on quality of Essential Newborn Care, newborn resuscitation, and postnatal care. These standards provide guidance for policy-makers, health program managers, professional bodies, and health care providers to establish services that are evidence based and of high quality so that newborns not only survive, but also thrive.</p>	<p>Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities</p>	
<p>Model for scaling up care for small and/or sick newborns at district level (Journal of Global Health, 2023)</p>	<p>The model of small and/or sick newborn care incorporates both the content of care (what care should be provided to small and/or sick newborns) and 10 core components for scaling up care for small and/or sick newborn care at the district level. The model builds upon a strong foundation of quality maternal care and essential newborn care. While emphasizing the fundamentals of periconceptional, antenatal, and intrapartum care, special newborn care also implies coordinated delivery of maternal interventions that are primarily directed at the health of the fetus/newborn, such as antenatal corticosteroids for threatened preterm birth and timely caesarean-section delivery for maternal or fetal indications.</p>	<p>Model for scaling up care for small and/or sick newborns at district level</p>	
<p>Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR): technical guidance (WHO, 2021)</p>	<p>This tool provides a roadmap for conducting MPDSR activities in both clinical and policy settings. It includes step-by-step guidance relevant to establish a framework to assess the burden of maternal deaths, stillbirths, and neonatal deaths, including trends in numbers and causes of death and on how to link maternal and perinatal death reviews. It applies to a broad audience and diverse settings.</p>	<p>MPDSR Operational Guidance</p>	







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Knowledge brief on MPDSR and quality of care (WHO, 2021)	This knowledge brief was developed to support policymakers, managers, practitioners, and implementing partners engaged in improving quality of care and was informed by the implementation experience of the Quality of Care Network.	Brief on MPDSR as part of QoC	
Global Patient Safety Action Plan (WHO, 2021)	This action plan provides strategic direction for all stakeholders for eliminating avoidable harm in health care and improving patient safety through policy actions on safety and quality of health services, as well as for implementation of recommendations at the point of care. It offers a framework for countries to develop national action plans on patient safety and to align existing instruments for improving patient safety in all health-related programs.	Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030	

EXPERIENCE OF CARE AND RESPECTFUL CARE






	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
The universal rights of women and newborns (White Ribbon Alliance, 2022)	This charter articulates the rights of two entities, the woman and the newborn, within the vision and provision of a framework for ethical, high-quality respectful maternity care that supports and upholds the dignity of both. Both human beings, the woman and the newborn, have rights that must be respected and guaranteed independently.	Charter on universal rights of women and newborns	
Moving Respectful Maternity Care into Practice in Comprehensive MCSP Maternal and Newborn Programs: Operational Guidance (U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], 2020)	The operational guidance is a key resource to support implementation of promising approaches to strengthen respectful maternity care (RMC) at the country level. This document guides program managers and local stakeholder counterparts through a flexible process of designing, implementing, and monitoring RMC efforts based on a deep understanding of the local context.	RMC operational guidance available in English , French , and Spanish . Overview Briefs in English , French , and Spanish .	
An exploratory study of client and provider experience and perceptions of facility-based childbirth care in Quiché, Guatemala (BMC Health Services Research, 2022)	This study shares findings from a mixed-methods assessment in Guatemala to understand women’s and health workers’ experience and perceptions of maternity care. The study adds to the literature on women’s experience of institutional childbirth and factors that influence this experience by triangulating experience and perceptions of both women and health workers and highlights opportunities to address mistreatment of both women and health workers and to build on positive care attributes to strengthen RMC.	Study of client and provider experience of RMC in Guatemala	

GLOBAL GUIDANCE ON KEY CLINICAL AND CROSS-CUTTING AREAS




	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
Guidance for malaria in pregnancy (WHO, 2023)	The new consolidated guidelines for malaria, launched in February 2021, bring together current recommendations for malaria in one online resource. The overall aim is to deliver timely, high-quality recommendations through processes that are more transparent, consistent, efficient, and predictable. These consolidated guidelines replace two guideline documents on the WHO website: the Guidelines for the treatment of malaria, third edition, and the Guidelines for malaria vector control.	WHO guidance for malaria in pregnancy	
Technical Brief on Imaging Ultrasound Before 24 Weeks of Pregnancy (MOMENTUM/WHO, 2022)	This is a 2022 update to the WHO 2016 antenatal care recommendations for a positive pregnancy experience. This brief describes the re-affirmed WHO recommendation on routine antenatal ultrasound examination and outlines policy and program implications for translating this recommendation into action at the country level.	Imaging ultrasound before 24 weeks of pregnancy	
Technical Brief: 2018 WHO Recommendations: Intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience (MOMENTUM, 2022)	This technical briefer for the 2018 “ WHO recommendations: intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience ” reviews the 26 new recommendations issued and offers policy and program considerations for countries that are adopting, adapting, and implementing the recommendations. This document brings together existing and new recommendations that address the clinical requirements for a safe labor and childbirth as well as the psychological and emotional needs of women and newborns.	Technical Brief: 2018 WHO intrapartum care guidelines for a positive childbirth experience	
Policy Brief on WHO’s Labour Care Guide (MOMENTUM/WHO, 2022)	This policy brief provides maternal and newborn health stakeholders with an overview of the 2020 WHO Labour Care Guide and its guiding principles, the key advantages of making the shift from the WHO partograph to the WHO Labour Care Guide, and what is required to ensure an enabling environment that will facilitate a sustainable introduction of the WHO Labour Care Guide.	Key points for considering adoption of the WHO Labour Care Guide	
Recommendations for caesarean section (WHO, 2021)	In response to the availability of new evidence, in 2019, WHO updated the existing WHO recommendations on 1) prophylactic antibiotics, 2) vaginal preparation with antiseptic agents, and 3) choice of antiseptic agent and method of application for preoperative skin preparation for women undergoing caesarean section.	Prophylactic antibiotics	
		Vaginal preparation with antiseptic agents	
		Choice of antiseptic agent and method of application	

	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
Recommendations on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal experience (WHO, 2022)	This 2022 guidance encompasses existing and new recommendations for facility and community/home-based postnatal care for women and their newborns. The document serves as a guide for countries aiming to improve the quality of routine postnatal care for women and newborns, leading to better health and well-being. It emphasizes the importance of a “positive postnatal experience” as a critical aspect of care that influences immediate and long term emotional, mental, neurodevelopmental, and physical outcomes.	WHO recommendations on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal experience	
Guidelines on self-care interventions for health and well-being (WHO, 2021)	Launched in July 2021, the purpose of these WHO guidelines is to provide evidence-based normative guidance that will support individuals, communities, and countries with quality health services. Self-care interventions are among the most promising and exciting new approaches to improve health and well-being, both from a health systems perspective and for people who use these interventions.	WHO guideline on self-care interventions for health and well-being, 2022 revision	
Guide for integration of perinatal mental health in maternal and child health services (WHO, 2022)	The guide outlines an evidence-informed approach describing how program managers, health service administrators, and policy-makers responsible of planning and managing maternal and child health services can develop and sustain high-quality, integrated mental health services for women during the perinatal period. It brings together the best available evidence to support maternal and child health care providers in promoting good mental health, identifying symptoms of mental health problems, and responding in a way that is adapted to their local and cultural context.	WHO guide for integration of perinatal mental health in maternal and child health services	
Guidelines on core components of infection prevention and control programmes at the national and acute health care facility level (WHO, 2022)	These new infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines aim to enhance the capacity of Member States to develop and implement effective technical and behavior modifying interventions. They form a key part of WHO strategies to prevent current and future threats from infectious diseases such as Ebola, strengthen health service resilience, help combat antimicrobial resistance and improve the overall quality of health care delivery. They are also intended to support countries in the development of their own national protocols for IPC and antimicrobial resistance action plans and to support health care facilities as they develop or strengthen their own approaches to IPC.	WHO guidelines on core components of infection prevention and control programmes	
WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low-birth-weight infant (WHO, 2022)	WHO’s recommendations are intended to inform development of national and subnational health policies, clinical protocols, and programmatic guides. This guideline includes 25 recommendations and one good-practice statement for care of the preterm and low-birth-weight infant.	WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low-birth-weight infant	
Family Planning: A global handbook for providers (USAID, WHO, 2022)	This handbook offers clinic-based health care professionals the latest guidance on providing contraceptive methods and incorporates and reflects the Medical Eligibility Criteria and the Selected Practice Recommendations as well as other WHO guidance. A thorough reference guide, the handbook provides specific and practical guidance on 21 family planning methods.	Family planning handbook	


HEALTH WORKFORCE





	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
State of the World's Nursing 2020 report (WHO, 2020)	The report provides the latest, most up-to-date evidence on, and policy options for, the global nursing workforce. It also presents a compelling case for considerable—yet feasible—investments in nursing education, jobs, and leadership.	State of the World's Nursing Report - 2020	
State of the World's Midwifery 2021 report (UNFPA, 2021)	The report represents an unprecedented effort to document the whole world's sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent workforce. It builds on previous reports in the State of the World's Midwifery series, 2011 and 2014, and includes many countries not previously tracked.	The State of the World's Midwifery - 2021	
The WHO Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (2021-2025) (WHO, 2021)	This document presents evidence-based practices and an interrelated set of policy priorities that can help countries ensure that midwives and nurses optimally contribute to achieving universal health coverage and other population health goals.	Strategic directions for nursing and midwifery (2021–2025)	
Three Pivots for Improving Health Care Provider Performance (Global Health Science and Practice, 2022)	Based on global evidence and Jhpiego's project experience, three important pivots were identified to improve health care provider performance. This commentary shares these practical pivots for countries and donors to consider for greater return on investments from efforts to improve health care provider performance.	Improving health care provider performance	
Human resource strategies to improve newborn care in health facilities in low- and middle-income countries (WHO, 2020)	This document provides a framework and strategies for countries to transform their policies on human resources for health and provide their health workers with the knowledge and technical and behavioral skills necessary for high-quality care by 2030, to ensure that all newborns survive and thrive.	Human resource strategies to improve newborn care	

PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH


	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
The Silent Burden: Common Perinatal Mental Disorders in Low- and Middle-Income Countries Landscape Analysis (MOMENTUM, 2021)	Mental health lacks proper attention in the health sector in funding and action, despite its high prevalence rate. The perinatal period is a particularly crucial time to address mental health concerns as it is associated with an elevated risk of mental disorders. This landscape analysis describes the current state of perinatal mental health and the burden of common perinatal mental disorders for women in low- and middle-income countries.	Maternal mental health landscape analysis	
Comment: Silent burden no more: a global call to action to prioritize perinatal mental health (BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 2022)	This commentary addresses the urgent need to focus attention, effort, and funding on the issue of maternal mental health. It is authored by key members of the Maternal Mental Health Technical Consultation Steering Committee.	Global call to action to prioritize perinatal mental health	
The silent burden: a landscape analysis of common perinatal mental disorders in low- and middle-income countries (BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 2022)	This landscape analysis assessed the state of common perinatal mental disorders and identified what is being done to address the burden in low- and middle-income countries.	Key findings from landscape analysis of common perinatal mental disorders	





CAPACITY BUILDING RESOURCES


	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
The Essential Childbirth Care Course (WHO, 2023)	The Essential Childbirth Care Course is focused on the midwifery model of care, which puts women, newborns, and their families at the center, ensures continuity of care, and prevents unnecessary interventions, yet ensures lifesaving actions. The goal of this guide is to support facilitators to enable learners to implement WHO recommendations and tools for evidence-based midwifery care for women and their newborns during labor, childbirth, and the immediate postnatal period.	WHO Essential Childbirth Care Course	

	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
Maternal and Newborn Health and Nutrition (MNH-N) Course Best Practices in MNH and Nutrition eLearning Course (Islamic Development Bank, 2021)	This self-paced course provides a high-level update of global best practices with a focus on quality improvement and equity. The course is fully asynchronous and can be completed on your own time.	Best practices in MNH-N—eLearning course	
MPDSR Virtual Capacity Building Package (MOMENTUM, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, 2022)	For the first time, capacity building materials for <i>both</i> maternal and perinatal mortality surveillance have been combined into one package, including updated guidance and COVID-19 modules. These can be used by countries to help build capacity for implementing MPDSR at the facility level. <i>Coming late 2023: two new integrated MPDSR capacity building packages, one for in-person capacity building at the facility level and one for community-based verbal autopsy.</i>	MPDSR capacity building package, workshop materials and facilitator's guide <i>Coming soon in French and Spanish</i>	
Caring for women subjected to violence: A WHO curriculum for training health-care providers, revised edition, 2021 (WHO, 2021)	This is a revised edition of WHO's training curriculum for health-care providers that includes four new modules, three of which are for health managers to assess and strengthen health facility readiness and one module for managers and providers to support prevention of violence against women.	Caring for women subjected to violence: A WHO curriculum for training health-care providers	
Implementation Toolkit: Small and sick newborn care (Nest360, UNICEF, 2021)	This toolkit brings together knowledge, experiences, resources, and learnings for implementing small and sick newborn care services.	Implementation Toolkit: Small and Sick Newborn Care	



OTHER RESOURCE AND INFORMATION HUBS





	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network)	The Quality of Care Network is a broad partnership of committed governments, implementation partners, and funding agencies working to ensure that every pregnant woman, newborn, and the child receives high-quality care with equity and dignity. The goals of the Network are to halve maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in health facilities by 2022 and to improve patients' experience of care.	Quality of Care Network	

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AlignMNH	<p>Founded in 2020, AlignMNH is a knowledge sharing and convening platform with aims to rapidly share science, evidence, and programmatic experience across the maternal and newborn health (MNH) communities. It creates space for stakeholders to share, learn, problem solve, and align around priority issues for improving maternal and newborn survival and preventing stillbirths. Curated collections of emerging evidence, best practice recommendations, implementation guidance, advocacy materials, country experiences, and opportunities for continued learning on key topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother-baby dyad • Targets, measurement, and data • Quality of care • Stillbirth • Maternal mental health • Postpartum hemorrhage • Small and sick newborns • MNH and COVID-19 <p><i>AlignMNH also served as the organizing body of the 2023 International Maternal Newborn Health Conference (IMNHC)?</i></p>	AlignMNH	
		IMNHC 2023	
Maternal Health Task Force	<p>This task force, housed at the Harvard Chan School Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health, seeks to ensure that front-line maternal health workers, policymakers, researchers, and advocates across the world have access to the most current and reliable evidence in the field. They have a blog and resources and also send a weekly newsletter with new publications on maternal health.</p>	Maternal Health Task Force	
Healthy Newborn Network (HNN)	<p>The HNN is an online community dedicated to addressing critical knowledge gaps in newborn health. HNN brings together partner organizations and individuals working in newborn health to share key resources, data, experiences, and lessons and helps increase global commitment to the advancement of newborn health. It also provides a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions and working group activities.</p> <p>HNN Numbers is a resource for infographics and a comprehensive spreadsheet of MNH data from low- and middle-income countries.</p>	Healthy Newborn Network Numbers – Healthy Newborn Network	

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FP2030	FP2030 is designed to serve as a platform for coalition building and cross-sectoral partnership, deepening family planning’s engagement with other sectors and making the case for family planning as central to the Sustainable Development Goals. FP2030 will continue FP2020’s collaborative work on rights-based family planning, high impact practices, and emergency preparedness and response. In support of the universal health care and primary health care agendas, FP2030 will continue the drive toward integrating family planning with maternal, newborn, and child health; HIV; nutrition; and noncommunicable diseases.	FP2030	

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

	Overview	Links & Resources	QR Code
Postpartum Hemorrhage CoP	The Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH) Community of Practice (CoP) has been in existence for over 10 years with the goal of bringing together global experts, stakeholders, and educators to share the latest evidence and implementation strategies to reduce deaths from PPH. The objectives of the CoP are to 1) Support and enable countries to share implementation experiences (both positive and negative) to catalyze change; 2) disseminate knowledge, evidence, and implementation best practices so countries have what they need and can act to achieve national and global targets to reduce preventable PPH; and 3) to be directed and led by country representatives who come from all regions and are able to share learning and diverse points of view and incorporate experiences of women and providers.	<p>To join the CoP, please email PPH.CoP@jhpigo.org</p> <p>See more information on the CoP’s 2022 Annual Meeting.</p>	
Care of Small & Sick Newborn CoP	The Kangaroo Mother Care Acceleration Partnership Community of Practice (CoP) was relaunched in 2018 as the Care of Small & Sick Newborn CoP. The main objective of the CoP is to provide a common platform for implementers, managers, health care providers, and maternal and newborn health stakeholders and champions to share evidence-based updates in a timely manner, provide a forum for sharing country implementation practices, barriers and efforts to overcome them, and for interactions among peer practitioners.	<p>The CoP is housed in the IBP Network: Care of the Small & Sick Newborn</p> <p>See more information at Healthy Newborn Network</p>	

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WHO's Global MPDSR Technical Working Group	The MPDSR Technical Working Group (TWG), led by WHO since 2013, was launched to provide global guidance, develop tools, and facilitate country-level coordination of MPDSR, coordinating with other monitoring platforms and initiatives. This is a key global effort for linking MPDSR processes with quality of care.	Global MPDSR TWG	
Global CoP for Quality of Care	A community of health practitioners from around the world sharing their know-how, ideas, and challenges on quality improvement for maternal, newborn, and child health.	Quality of Care CoP	
Perinatal Mental Health Community of Practice (new!)	USAID's MOMENTUM program and global stakeholders launched a country-led CoP for maternal mental health (MMH), building on outcomes from the landscape analysis and technical consultation . The objective of the MMH CoP is to provide a country-driven space for implementors, researchers, advocates, and MMH champions to share resources, discuss implementation best practices, and facilitate collaborations.	The CoP is housed in the IBP Network: Perinatal Mental Health Community of Practice	
The Global Group Antenatal Collaborative	A group of 70+ researchers and implementers, interested in adapting and learning about group antenatal care (GANC) and group-based care models in low- and middle-income countries, formed this collaborative in 2015. In addition to resources available on the website, others can register online to join virtual meetings, held every 3–6 months. <i>Coming late 2023: a new CoP created by Group Care Global. Details on how to join will be posted on the Collaborative website.</i>	Global GANC Collaborative	

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