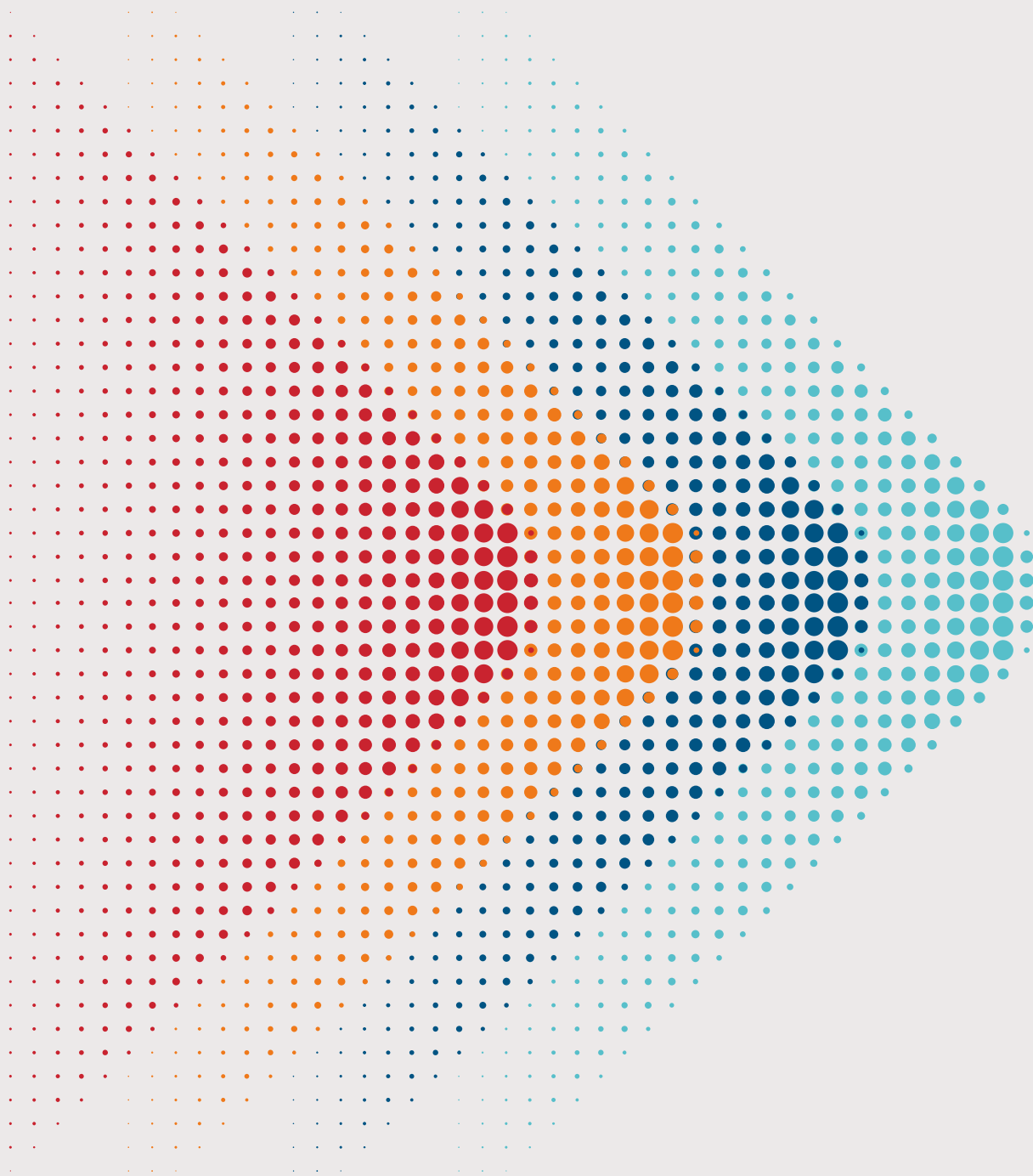


The Network for Improving Quality of Care
for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

EVOLUTION, IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS
2017–2020 REPORT



World Health
Organization



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Foreword

In 2017, ten countries and partners established the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The countries in the Network committed to halving maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths and to improving the experience of care for pregnant women, mothers, and their babies in health facilities within five years.

Despite significant increases in access and coverage of health services for mothers and children, a staggering number of women and newborns still face sickness and death during and after childbirth. There is still much work to be done to improve quality of care in health systems around the world.

Most maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths can be prevented with good quality care, which is critical for addressing health system inequities and inefficiencies, improving accountability, and providing dignified and respectful service delivery.

A well-functioning health system is also a more resilient health system, better able to prepare for and respond to external shocks, disease outbreaks, and other health emergencies.

The country-driven, collaborative model presented in this report serves as an example for governments and partners to operationalize quality of care for maternal and newborn health in their health systems.

This report contains valuable lessons learned on how to build and institutionalize health systems able to implement quality of care across programmes and countries.

First, ownership and leadership by national governments is essential to establish and manage quality of care systems and structures and deliver results.

Second, the alignment and support of technical and funding partners and other stakeholders, such as academia, civil society, and health professional associations, enables the translation of the goals into action.

Third, continuous technical support from the World Health Organization and partners in introducing and implementing evidence-based quality of care standards and guidance, along with facilitating the sharing of knowledge and lessons learned, has enhanced South-South learning and collaboration for maternal and newborn health and quality of care.

But significant work to improve quality of care is still needed.



More investment is needed to consolidate the foundations of health systems, improve the engagement of communities to define and deliver quality care for mothers and newborns, and cultivate a quality culture within and among health managers and the broader health workforce.

Looking ahead, WHO will expand its efforts to improve quality of care beyond maternal, newborn and child health, and to expand the number of Network countries.

Working together, we can build a healthier, safer, and fairer world for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Tedros' followed by a stylized surname.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, WHO

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