It takes a health system: Improving quality of care for women, newborns, children and adolescents in Sierra Leone

Matron Margaret Mannah
National Quality of Care Program Manager
Key Health Statistics

- 717/100,000 Maternal Mortality Rate
- 24/1000 Stillbirth Rate
- 106/1000 Adolescent Birth Rate
- 122/1000 Under-five Mortality Rate
- 31/1000 Neonatal Mortality Rate
- 54.3 Life Expectancy at Birth
High Quality RMNCH Care is a National Priority: Recent QoC Policy and Strategy Gains

• **2017**: Sierra Leone joined the multi-country Network to improve quality of MNCH care (as one of 10 first-phase countries)

• **2019**
  - National Quality Management Program established – led by Quality Management Unit (QMU), MoHS
  - QoC Committees established in selected districts and facilities (still a work in progress)
  - National QoC Technical Working Group established
  - ‘National Health Care Quality and Patient Safety Policy’ published

• ‘**2020-2024 Quality of Care Strategic Roadmap**’ – published by RMNCAH Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health, MoHS
Are we lost?

Are we on track?

Where are we?

We are always focused!!!!
Continued Advocacy, Governance and Strengthened Partnerships to Advance QoC

- Appointment of 36 salaried and dedicated hospital QOC and patient safety officers at district hospitals and DHMT (first ever!)

- Continued sensitization of partners, hospitals and District Health Management Teams

- Strong collaboration with USAID MOMENTUM and ALMA

- Completed 2022 National and District Planning exercise with QOC and Patient Safety priorities integrated

- Continued strong coordination, collaboration and communication with TWG members

- Ongoing engagement with Regulatory Bodies (WHO supporting this endeavor)

- Mainstreamed QOC in partner and donor programming (LAD, SIDA, GF, WB)

- GFF already exists and, QOC agenda and multi-stakeholder country engagement for RMNCAH is one of the investment
Sustaining Action

- Developed Implementation package to address MNH standard for addressing PPH, Sepsis, PIH, Stillbirth, and Malnutrition, Diarrhea, Malaria and Pneumonia for Paediatric standard

- National MPDSR committee meeting and orientation training on strengthening MPDSR and accelerating responses for better outcome

- Held first consultative meeting with UNICEF and ALMA for development of Community Engagement guideline for QOC/score card

- Plan to roll out the small and sick newborns QOC standard in SBCU’s – in consultation with UNICEF

- Provision of guidelines, clinical protocols and tools

- Institutionalization of clinical meetings, mortality reviews, near miss reviews

- Ongoing nationwide integrated SRHR/EmONC Assessment
Measuring and Demonstrating Results

- Common set of QoC indicators monitored in all learning facilities on monthly basis
- Data quality audit through periodic supportive supervision
- Annual MDSR data for 2020 verified – analysis ongoing for publication of Report
- Incorporated MNCH QoC indicators into RMNCAH scorecard
- Introduced QoC Dashboard into the DHIS-2
Trend in Institutional Maternal Mortality Ratio (Oct 2020-Sept 2021)
Sierra Leone Selected QoC results - ANC anemia screening, malnutrition screening sick child visit

Western Area Rural District –
Improve screening for wasting in child sick visits;
% sick children (<5 yrs) screened for wasting (MUAC or Weight for age) at OPD visit

Western Area Urban District - Improve anemia screening and prevention in pregnancy (IFA): % pregnant women tested for anemia at first ANC visit (hemoglobin)
Strengthening QoC Systems and Regularly Learning How to Improve Care at Scale – Selected Upcoming Activities

February 2022:

• District-level Learning Sessions for first-wave QI teams
• Refresher QI training for facility staff and District QI coaches
• On-site QI coaching visits with DHMTs/Coaches (to build their capacity)

Ongoing:

• Blended in-person and virtual support of QI teams by coaches
• Mentoring of DHMT and QI Coaches by MoHS and partners

Sept-Nov 2022 (date TBD):

• 4-Day National QoC Shared Learning Conference