



Sana'a, 21 March 2022 – Millions of newborn babies globally are denied the chance to grow and thrive due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth. In Yemen, estimates suggest that a newborn baby dies every 20 minutes.

To give newborns the best start in life, the health authorities in Yemen, with the support of WHO and the World Bank, are striving to improve the quality of care.

To this end, the health authorities have drafted a national operational nursing guide for newborns. The guide was developed by an expert group of paediatricians, nurses and health care practitioners. It is now being pilot tested in intensive training to enhance the knowledge and skills of nurses working in neonatal intensive care units.

Over the past three weeks, 24 senior nurses from 16 hospitals in seven northern governorates (Al-Hudaydah, Saa'da, Hajjah, Ibb, Dhamar, Al-Mahweet, Amran) have come together to look at how to build nursing skills for newborn care across hospitals in Yemen. The 17-day training, which took place in Al-Sabeen hospital in Sana'a, included four days of theory and a strong on-the-job practical component.



One of the participants, Tahani Al-San'ani, a nurse from Al-Jomhuri Hospital, Al-Mahweet Governorate, described how valuable she found the training and says she hopes more health workers will be able to benefit from this experience.

“This training helped me develop my skills and knowledge on blood transfusion, how to prepare

for it and what are the measures followed afterwards. I hope this kind of training will continue being provided for health care workers, and the skills we've learned will be transferred to our colleagues in other governorates," she says.

WHO and the health authorities are planning to include the nursing skills identified during the training as necessary within the national nursing guide.



WHO will also work with the authorities to conduct regular visits to supervise the performance of the trained staff. The supervision teams will also review nursing care records for neonatal health indicators to see if there has been an improvement in performance.

Drawing on the lessons learnt from this pilot training, further training sessions are planned for the southern governorates.

Note: The Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (EHNP) implemented by WHO with support from the World Bank, has contributed towards the delivery of essential services in 72 hospitals in Yemen between 2017 and 2022. Since September 2021, the Emergency Human Capital Project (EHCP) has been providing essential health and nutrition services to the Yemeni people.

Learn more:

[One woman and six newborns die every two hours from complications during pregnancy or childbirth in Yemen – UNICEF, 14 June 2019](#)

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