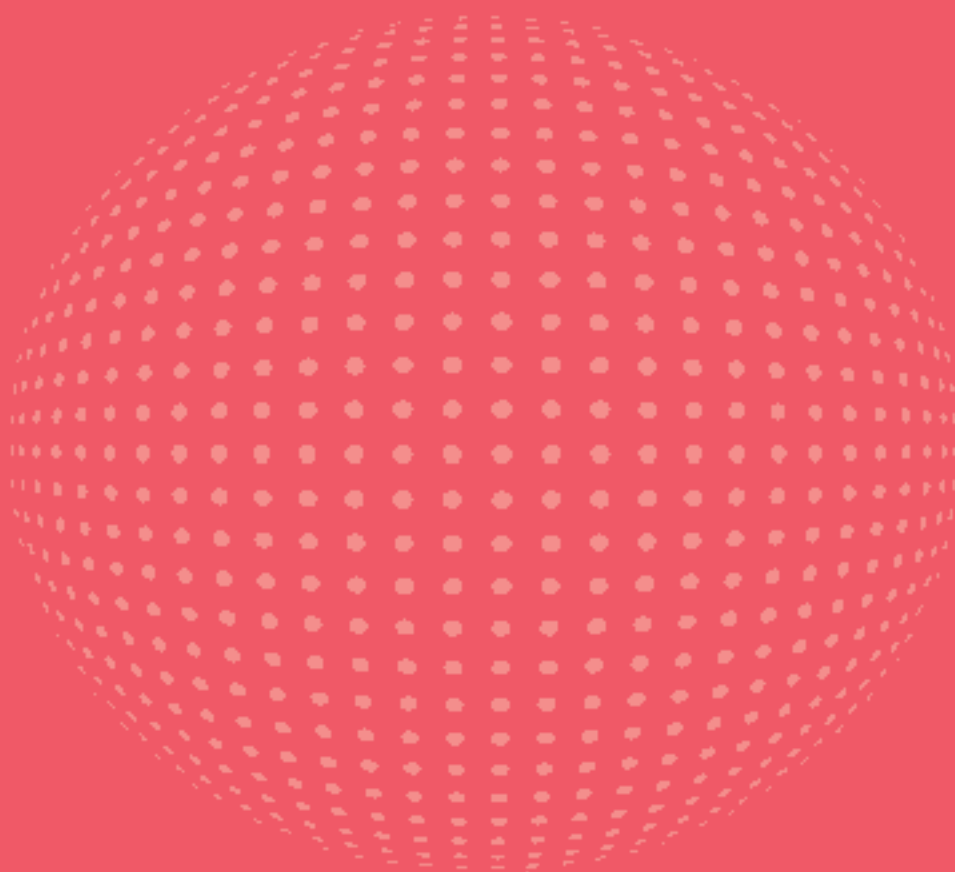


Monitoring emergency obstetric care



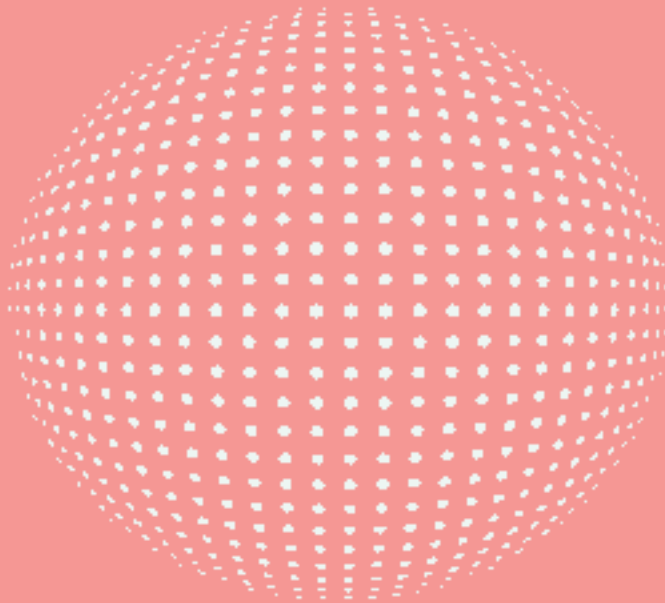
a handbook



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Abbreviations

AMDD	Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program
EmOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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Conflict of interest

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Preface

Efforts to improve the lives of women and children around the world have intensified since world leaders adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September 2000 and committed themselves to reaching Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, on child mortality and maternal health. The original targets for these Goals were a two-thirds reduction in the mortality of children under 5 and a three-quarters reduction in the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015. There is worldwide consensus that, in order to reach these targets, good-quality essential services must be integrated into strong health systems. The addition in 2007 of a new target in Goal 5—universal access to reproductive health by 2015—reinforces this consensus: all people should have access to essential maternal, newborn, child and reproductive health services provided in a continuum of care.

In order to reduce maternal mortality, Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) must be available and accessible to all women. While all aspects of reproductive

health care including family planning and delivery with the help of a skilled health professional also plays an important role in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, this handbook focuses on the critical role of EmOC in saving the lives of women with obstetric complications during pregnancy and childbirth and saving the lives of newborns intrapartum. The handbook describes indicators that can be used to assess, monitor and evaluate the availability, use and quality of EmOC.

Whilst this handbook focuses on emergency care, a broader set of indicators should be used to monitor fundamental aspects of reproductive health programmes designed to reduce maternal mortality, ensure universal access to reproductive health care and reduce child mortality.

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