

Nursing and midwifery workforce and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Global Forum for Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers
(14-15 May 2014)

and

The TRIAD (16-17 May 2014)

Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Nursing and midwifery services are key components of health systems and are essential to society. The contribution of nurses and midwives has long been acknowledged as being crucial to improving the health outcomes of individuals, families and communities. Nurses and midwives being a part of the frontline workers are engaged in efforts to promote health, prevent illness and to renew PHC based on the core values of equity, solidarity, social justice, universal access to efficient and affordable services, multisectoral action, decentralization and community participation.

As the target date for the achievement of MDGs draws closer, there is need to mobilize collective efforts and draw on lessons learnt and plan for beyond 2015. Government Chief Nursing Officers and Midwives (GCNOMs), Registrars of regulatory bodies and Presidents of nursing and midwifery Associations are important national and international leaders in health development. They play strategic roles, such as, policy formulation, leadership and management, education, standard setting and regulation. These leaders are key partners with the World Health Organization, International Council for Nurses and the International Confederation of Midwives.

Since 2004, several meetings of this kind have been organized and have greatly contributed to shaping the global, regional and country agenda on nursing and midwifery. ***Nursing and midwifery workforce and universal health coverage*** has been identified as the main Theme for the 2014 Meetings. In addition, three sub Themes have also been identified as outlined below.

The sub-Themes

1. Leadership and policy direction for universal health coverage (UHC)
Objective:
To identify effective leadership and policy direction for enhancing nursing and midwifery workforce to support UHC
2. Quantity, quality and relevance of the nursing and midwifery workforce
Objective:
To highlight the issues affecting quantity, quality and preparedness of the future nursing and midwifery workforce including competencies, scopes of practice and work environments.
3. Collaborative partnerships in the current social and economic realities and beyond
Objective:
To outline potential mechanisms for sustainable and collaborative partnerships between National Nursing and Midwifery associations, regulators, policy makers and other stakeholders to address UHC.

Expected outcomes

1. Factors for effective leadership and policy direction for enhancing nursing and midwifery contribution to UHC identified
2. Challenges and possible solutions for increasing the numbers, quality and relevance for nursing and midwifery education, practice and work environments shared
3. Workable mechanisms for networking and partnerships among nursing and midwifery regulators, associations and policy makers are identified and sustainable action are elaborated.