



**2020**  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF THE NURSE AND  
THE MIDWIFE



## Infosheet: Key messages for 2020 International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife

2020 International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife is a **once in a generation opportunity to propel nursing and midwifery into the spotlight** and onto the agenda of governments globally, with the ultimate goal of improving health for all.

Throughout the year, we want to draw attention to the greater role that nurses and midwives can play as part of multi-disciplinary health care teams, providing high quality, patient-centred health care. We will make the case that **investment in and support for nursing and midwifery leads to a system-wide transformation in the delivery of health care** and is the most cost effective way for countries to improve health, promote gender equality and support economic growth. We want to shape a future for our professions where we have **more nurses and midwives in leadership positions, and greater access to quality training and improved working conditions.**

As a result of united advocacy efforts, our goal is for governments and health leaders to prioritise nursing and midwifery through **policy change and commitments.**

### Key messages

#### Keep the promise on #healthforall

We believe that developing nursing and midwifery – and allowing nurses and midwives to work to their full potential – is one of the most important things we can do to improve health globally. They are too often undervalued and unable to work to the top of their license – an extraordinary waste of talent and resources. By developing nursing and midwifery, countries can achieve the triple impact of improving health, promoting gender equality and supporting economic growth.

#### On the path to Universal Health Coverage

The achievement of universal health coverage requires political will and domestic resource mobilisation. It's time for governments to increase their allocation to health budgets and invest in their nursing and midwifery workforce, and also ensure that all nurses and midwives can practice to the top of their licence and stay in the workforce because they feel valued and rewarded.

We recommend five cost effective areas that health ministers and policy makers can invest in for the rapid expansion of health care services:

- **More nurse-led clinics enabling nurses and midwives to work their full potential**
- **Employ more specialist nurses**
- **Develop more midwifery services**
- **Make nurses central to primary health care, providing services and supervising community health workers**
- **Support nurses and midwives in health promotion and disease prevention.**

## Strengthen nurse leadership and influence

Nurses are already leaders, advocates and innovators in their communities, clinics, hospitals and in the health care system but they are not always valued or represented in health system leadership roles where they can guide health policy and investment. Nurses can be the answer to so many of the world's health problems but only if we tackle persistent barriers that are routinely put in their way and provide them with the correct support and training. Let nurses lead and they will change the world!

## State of the World's Nursing in 2020

This will be a landmark report which will provide a global picture of the nursing workforce and articulate the role of nurses in achieving universal health coverage (UHC), ensuring safer and better prepared communities, enhancing health and well-being, and advancing gender equality.

The report will provide the high quality evidence needed to drive national priorities and investment decisions that strengthen the nursing workforce. Country profiles will feature national efforts towards triple billion goals of WHO and gender equity alongside a technical description of the national nursing workforce in all 194 Member States.

## Adapting messages to your local context

We encourage all Nursing Now groups to adapt and amend these messages and make them specific to a regional, country or community context, by adding in specific examples, data, case studies or relevant local facts and figures that bring the issues to life. Let's unite to raise the profile and status of nursing throughout the year.

We want to encourage more nurses into leadership positions, and ensure that nurses around the world have access to quality education and improved working conditions. This is our year so let's make the most of it.

## Available resources

We have worked with our partners ICN, ICM, WHO and UNFPA to create a set of shared resources which you can download from our website.



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