



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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WATERAID CAMPAIGN

WaterAid, the International Confederation of Midwives and the CNMF have joined together to launch a global campaign to make sure every health care facility in the world has access to water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030 as promised by world leaders. Clean water, proper toilets, and soap for handwashing are fundamental to delivering quality health care. However a WHO and UNICEF study of 66,000 health facilities across 54 low and middle income countries found that 38% did not have an improved water source, 19% did not have improved sanitation, and 35% did not have water and soap for handwashing. This has devastating consequences for both health care workers and clients, particularly babies. One in five babies die in their first month of life in low and middle income countries and four babies die every five minutes in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia from highly preventable causes such as sepsis, meningitis or tetanus.

The CNMF is urging all nurses, midwives and other health care professionals to organise an event on Global Handwashing Day, 15 October, to publicise the campaign.

Action materials are available from the WaterAid website, <http://www.wateraid.org/healthystart> in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. There is also a list of WaterAid country office contacts who can help with ideas and organisation of the Global Handwashing Day event. See also the flyer on page 2 of this e-News.

BECOME A CNMF MEMBER

Membership of the CNMF is open to national nursing associations; national midwifery associations; specialist nursing associations (such as mental health, critical care, paediatrics, operating theatre etc); regional and international nursing, midwifery and health associations; regulatory bodies, universities, and individuals. By becoming a member of the CNMF, you can support the work of the CNMF and become involved in that work. Members can promote their own work through the monthly e-News, the CNMF website or the extensive CNMF network. You can join online through the CNMF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/membership.htm>

MEDICAL AID FILMS

<http://www.medicalaidfilms.org>



Diabetes is considered to be the biggest global health crisis today. Around 422 million adults live with the condition, resulting in 1.5 million deaths per year, and these numbers are expected to double in the next 20 years. Gestational diabetes develops in pregnancy and affects an estimated 3.7 million births each year.

Medical Aid Films has launched *Diabetes in pregnancy: stories from Saint Lucia*, new films that tell the stories of women affected by diabetes during pregnancy. Filmed in Saint Lucia with the help of the Saint Lucia Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations and the Saint Lucia Diabetes and Hypertension Association, the films aim to raise awareness of gestational diabetes in pregnancy, how to manage the risks through healthy diet and exercise, and how to reduce the chances of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 12th CNMF Europe Region Conference will be held 10-11 March 2017 in Limassol, Cyprus. The theme of the Conference will be: *Recent advances in nursing and midwifery – toward a safer future*. Further information will be provided as it becomes available. <http://www.cyna.org>.

4TH Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference

The 23rd CNMF Biennial Meeting and the 4th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London 9 to 11 March 2018. CNMF members should start planning **NOW** to attend including alerting their membership, fund raising, and considering abstracts for the conference.



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Calling all nurses, midwives and doctors!

Let us campaign together for quality healthcare for all, through water, sanitation and hygiene

Clean water, proper toilets and soap for handwashing are fundamental to delivering quality healthcare for all. But as many of you will know, too many health clinics and hospitals lack these basics, and as a result, you are unable to keep your patients and yourselves safe from infection.

Without these essentials, millions of patients, including newborn babies and mothers, are at risk from preventable infections every year – infections that put their lives at risk and burden our health systems.

Our leaders and all UN member states have promised to ensure healthy lives for all by 2030. This will be impossible without clean water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene in all healthcare facilities.

In a [WHO and UNICEF study](#) of 66,000 health facilities across 54 low- and middle-income countries...

- 38% did not have an improved water source.
- 19% did not have improved sanitation.
- 35% did not have water and soap for handwashing.

The consequences are heartbreaking...

- One in five babies die in their first month of life in low- and middle-income countries, even though just being washed in clean water and cared for in a clean environment by people who had washed their hands could have prevented their deaths.
- Four babies die every five minutes in Sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia from highly-preventable causes such as sepsis, meningitis or tetanus – all infections strongly linked to unhygienic conditions.

The International Confederation of Midwives, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation and WaterAid are launching a global campaign to change this. We aim to ensure every health professional (midwives, nurses, doctors, surgeons, obstetricians and others) and every healthcare facility in the world has water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030.

We are producing simple, powerful action materials to enable individual nurses and midwives, and national healthcare professional associations, to take action. From organising events to writing to health ministers, and from meeting elected representatives to signing a petition, you can make a difference.

Please join the campaign!

- Action materials will be available from 31 August in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
- We encourage you to organise a symposium or event on Global Handwashing Day (15 October) or another day of your choice – WaterAid and other partner organisations can help!

World leaders have promised that everyone everywhere will have water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030, and that Universal Health Coverage will be a reality. Let's make sure they keep their promise.

For more information or support: Visit www.wateraid.org/healthystart
Email DanJones@wateraid.org or use [this list of WaterAid country office contacts](#)

