

The State of the World's Nursing Report 2020

The State of the World's Midwifery 2020 Report



The year 2020 will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Other important events are the culmination of the Nursing Now campaign and the release of two flagship reports by the WHO: the first ever State of the World's Nursing Report and the third State of the World's Midwifery Report.

The WHO say that the State of the World's Nursing Report will describe how the nursing workforce will help deliver Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlight areas for policy development for the next three to five years. It will also provide a technical description of the nursing workforce, including the number and types of nurses, education, regulation, practice, leadership, and gender issues.

The State of the World's Midwifery 2020 will report on the progress and the future challenges to deliver effective coverage of quality midwifery services. Previous midwifery reports were published in 2011 and 2014.

The two reports will inform national policy dialogue on strengthening nursing and midwifery and accelerating progress to achieve the SDGs. The WHO consider that the evidence base on the role of nurses and midwives can help drive the development of national workforces and unlock investment in nursing, midwifery, and the gender equity agendas for generations.

The two reports will primarily use the National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) as the main source of data. NHWA are country-led systems that aim at improving availability, quality, analysis and use of health workforce data for policy development. In many countries, NHWA data collection efforts can be enhanced by contributions from employers, regulatory councils, educational institutions, professional associations, unions, and population based surveys.

The WHO encourages Chief Nursing Officers from each country to coordinate the data collection process. All data must be collated and validated by the the middle of 2019. The second half of 2019 will be dedicated to data analysis and report writing to be ready for a launch during the 73rd World Health Assembly.

The WHO's State of the World's Nursing Report will be developed in close collaboration with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Nursing Now campaign. The State of the World's Midwifery Report will be a joint endeavour of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Confederation of Midwives.

To ensure the most robust evidence base for the State of the World's Nursing and the State of the World's Midwifery 2020 Reports, broad engagement of nursing and midwifery leaders and stakeholders is needed. Government officials have an important role in leading the data collection, validations, and policy dialogue processes, engaging relevant stakeholders.

The decision by WHO to produce the first ever State of the World's Nursing Report is an exciting initiative and comes at a time when global health leaders are focused on two important outcomes for their populations: universal health coverage and the achievement of the sustainable development goals. All nurses and midwives understand that, as the largest component of any health workforce worldwide, they have an important role to play in achieving those two outcomes.

The recognition by the WHO of the important role played by nurses and midwives by the production of the State of the World's Nursing Report and the third State of the World's Midwifery Report places a big responsibility on nursing and midwifery professional associations and unions and individual nurses and midwives to be actively involved in the process and ensure that the voices and views of nurses and midwives are reflected in both reports.

Urgent action for CNMF members

1. Be informed – what is happening in your country in relation to data collection. Who is responsible?
2. Be involved – Make contact. Be on the committee. Provide data. Provide comment.
3. Take action – Make sure that the data that becomes part of the State of the World's Nursing or Midwifery from your country is accurate and reflects the views of nurses and midwives.