

# 74<sup>TH</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ITEM 15: HEALTH WORKFORCE

May 21, 2021

IntraHealth International commends the World Health Organization for its focus on the health workforce, including designating 2021 as the Year of Health and Care Workers.

For 40 years, IntraHealth has improved the performance of health workers and strengthened the systems in which they work—including during the COVID-19 pandemic. We host the Frontline Health Workers Coalition secretariat, whose [policy recommendations](#) we urge the WHO and Member States to prioritize.

As the WHA considers next steps for the [Working for Health](#) five-year action plan and the [Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery](#), IntraHealth encourages Member States to:

- **Increase investments in the health workforce.** To improve health worldwide, Member States should increase domestic funding for the health workforce and invest in creating new jobs within the health sector. The G20, United Nations Economic and Social Council, Financing for Development Forum, and International Monetary Fund have all committed to investing in health systems, human capital, and decent work.
- **Promote gender equality throughout the health workforce.** Women make up 70% of the health workforce. Member States should enact policies to remove barriers women face within the health workforce, all of which have been amplified by COVID-19. Member States should join France, the WHO, and Women in Global Health in the [Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce Initiative](#).
- **Keep health workers present, ready, connected, and safe.** Health workforce solutions must address the health and well-being of health workers, including their needs for safety, motivation, retention, and supportive supervision. Member States should engage health workers in decision-making to ensure policies address local needs.
- **Strengthen human resources information systems.** Member States should build on WHA resolution 69.19 to expand the WHO National Health Workforce Accounts and promote the use of data for health workforce planning and management.

## CONTACT

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