

WHA72: UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE; COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS DELIVERING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

ITEM 11.5

IntraHealth International commends the World Health Organization's (WHO's) continued focus on achieving universal health coverage as a central driver for achieving SDG3.

- Regarding the subitem primary health care (PHC) towards universal health coverage (UHC):
 - We commend the emphasis on PHC to get to UHC, but the language must explicitly include frontline health workforce teams working in communities of least access.
 - We commend the operational framework's emphasis on inclusion and accountability. PHC must address the specific barriers to access for underserved populations, such as inadequate frontline health workforces, and ensure that underserved populations' essential needs for health and wellbeing are met at the primary level.
 - We note that UHC must refer to access to "quality services" (per SDG 3.8), in addition to coverage and financing.
 - We applaud the report's encouragement of the Executive Board to focus on the interlinkages between PHC reforms and health workforce development.
 - All countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, should be supported to implement comprehensive PHC through UHC. These health services must be age appropriate, evidence based, and cost-effective.
 - UHC should be developed to include capacity building at the national level to promote a health workforce that can deliver essential health services for all age groups.
- Regarding the subitem for community health workers (CHWs) delivering primary health care:
 - We commend this report, as maximizing the impact of CHWs will be critical to achieve UHC across all regions.
 - We especially urge member states to take up the recommendation to develop "national planning and resource allocation processes" and "corresponding governance, management and financing implications" to properly develop local frontline health workforces that are sustainable and resilient.
 - Finally, team-based service delivery and task-sharing approaches must be integrated to promote access to frontline health workers with the skill mix needed to deliver essential services.

CONTACT

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