

Frontline Health Workers Coalition Recommendations for White House Health Workforce Initiative

October 2021

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition is calling on the White House to launch an initiative focused on strengthening the health workforce worldwide that is bold, ambitious, and comprehensive. Based on nearly ten years of collective advocacy for frontline health workers in low- and middle-income countries, we offer the following five top recommendations for structuring and financing this important initiative:

1. The goal should be to **improve Community-Based Primary Health Care**, with a priority on countries already investing in their health workforces, and should focus on health systems strengthening, service delivery integration, and community linkages, and fair remuneration for the health workforce, including community health workers.
2. The White House should **propose significant, new funding for this initiative**, and not use existing global health funding, to ensure enough skilled and supported health workers to deliver COVID vaccines, tests, and treatments without disrupting other essential health services and to provide long-term sustainable health workforce and systems strengthening.
3. The White House should **coordinate and harmonize implementation of this initiative across existing US government agencies and multilateral mechanisms**. Streamlined policies and guidelines that allow for adaptation to local health systems, and harmonized reporting requirements and indicators, will ensure faster implementation, greater opportunity for fostering coordinated funding to local organizations, and increased country ownership.
4. This initiative should **include support for health sector leadership, including for typically underrepresented health workers such as nurses, midwives, and community health workers** in global and country-level decision making, and support to health professional organizations.
5. This initiative should **ensure all frontline health workers are well-trained, equipped, and protected, while addressing the specific needs of women**, who make up 70% of the health workforce, by fostering safe working environments that are free from violence and harassment, equitable remuneration, continual learning, professional advancement, and leadership opportunities.

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition is an alliance of 38 US-based organizations urging greater and more strategic investments in frontline health workers in low- and middle-income countries as a cost-effective way to save lives and foster a healthier, safer, and more prosperous world. For more information, please contact Director David Bryden at dbryden@intrahealth.org.