



Welcome to the Regional Update (RU) for June 2021 of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS).

The month of May was busy for the region with a number of our colleagues participating in the 74th World Health Assembly, and the COVID-19 effect: Global Nursing and Healthcare workers shortages and changing patterns of employment Webinar. COVID-safe celebrations took place around the region for International Midwifery Day and International Day of Nursing! WHO CC UTS continued to work with the Midwives from the ANGAU Hospital in PNG to prepare for it's opening of the new birthing suites and commenced the review of the PNG nursing and community health worker curricula.

The WHO CC UTS team successfully launched the Basic Psychosocial Skills training resources for COVID-19 first responders at the end of March, with over 500 participants enrolled in the free online short course in the first two months.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Papua New Guinea and recently Fiji remains a concern for our nursing and midwifery colleagues that are working hard to care for those that are unwell. Significant support is still required as the two countries bring the COVID outbreaks under control.

This Update links to relevant publications and documents of the WHO CC UTS, - please also visit [our website](#) for current information. You can also reach us at [whocc@uts.edu.au](mailto:whocc@uts.edu.au). For more information on the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers' Alliance (SPCNMOA) [click here](#). Like our Facebook page for more updates, or to get in contact with us.

## Basic Psychological Skills: An Online Training for COVID-19 Responders

Since the Centre launched the new Free online course on Basic Psychosocial Skills in March 2021, we have been overwhelmed by the number of people that have enrolled and completed the course. The Basic Psychosocial Skills Online Training is a FREE program designed to build resilience and mental health wellbeing for first responders and frontline health staff. For more details on the course and how to enrol, please see the flyer below and our map of all participants, [click here](#).



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING  
CENTRE FOR NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT**  
BUILDING HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION



A new Free online course on Basic Psychosocial Skills has been made available by the WHO CC UTS. The Basic Psychosocial Skills online Training is a FREE program for those affected by the pandemic designed to build resilience and mental health wellbeing for first responders and frontline health staff.

The FREE online course:

1. Focuses on personal well-being
2. Explores supportive communication in everyday interactions
3. Provides a practical framework to enable first responders to support others to problem solve and make healthy decisions
4. Examines how to recognise emotional patterns and provide support to individuals.
5. Provides a certificate on completion

**View a detailed video on how to sign up:** <https://youtu.be/-Cguw2SCHOQ>

**Enroll for this FREE online course:** <http://open.uts.edu.au/COVID-19-responders-en.aspx>

Read instructions on how to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3bEJGkx>

Read more about the basic psychosocial skills course: <https://bit.ly/3sgZpf7>

You will need an email account to register and log in for the online course.

For more information and full Power Point <https://bit.ly/3cZCGy2>  
with facilitation notes, please contact [michele.rumsey@uts.edu.au](mailto:michele.rumsey@uts.edu.au)

### **FAQs**

#### **How many resources are provided in the Basic Psychosocial Skills training program?**

The program provides 3 resources. Guidance report, short online course and presentation with facilitation notes.

#### **How many languages is the guidance offered in?**

While the online course is only in English, the guidance report is provided in 28 languages.

#### **Is the online course time-bound?**

No. The online course is self-paced and takes an average of 3 hours to complete with a short quiz and a certificate awarded.

## **The 74th World Health Assembly: Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery**



The 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) commenced on the 24 May 2021 and ran until the 1 June 2021. A series of strategic briefings were held virtually over the week and explored this year's theme 'Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world.'

In 2020, the 73rd WHA requested World Health Organization to engage with all WHO regions to update the Global Strategic Direction report for Nursing and Midwifery 2016-2020, (SDNM), and develop a draft report for 2021-2025. The draft SDNM 2021-2025 report was submitted for a series of 10 consultation with regional and global consultations with government chief nursing and midwifery officers and relevant stakeholder in December 2020, and opened for comments between, 31 January 2021 and 3 March 2021. The final draft SDNM 2021-2025 report was submitted for consideration by the 74th WHA during the agenda item 15, Health Workforce and has now been approved.

The provisional agenda for the 74th WHA can be found [here](#).  
The live streaming of the 74th WHA can be found [here](#).

For more information click [here](#).

## ANGAU Hospital Birthing Suites in Lae Papua New Guinea Open



The new ANGAU Hospital Birthing Suites in Lae Papua New Guinea officially opened on Tuesday, 2 June 2021, with an opening ceremony taking place on Monday, 1 June 2021. Several babies have already been born in the new suites and one father was able to witness the birth of his third child, a first for him and many more we hope.



## THE COVID-19 Crisis in Papua New Guinea



*Masks are currently compulsory in PNG to control the outbreak*

As of 24 May 2021, Papua New Guinea recorded a total of 272 new cases and 13 deaths in the last 24 hours. The total number of COVID-19 infections in Papua New Guinea now stands at 15,368 cases, and 159 deaths related to COVID-19, but because of low testing numbers and infected patients not seeking treatment, it is assumed many cases have been missed.

COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses in PNG's health system, with an estimated 5,000 hospital beds, 500 doctors and less than 4,000 nurses for the country's population of 8.7 million.

The national rollout of vaccines in PNG continues with a total of 22,448 vaccinated as of 21 May 2021. Out of the 22,448 of those that are vaccinated 4,439 are health workers and 18,009 are essential workers.

In the last month, WHO CC UTS in collaboration with Nursing Colleges in PNG, National Department of Health, PNG (NDOH) and JID Australia/PNG have organised several NDOH approved COVID-19 health promotion posters for distribution in health and community facilities; to assist in providing awareness and health preventative measures against COVID-19 for both health workers and the community.

For more information on PNG's response to the COVID-19 Outbreak, [click here](#).

## State of the World's Midwifery Report 2021



The State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy) Report 2021 was released on the 5 May 2021 and builds on the previous reports in the SoWMy series. The report looks at sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health (SRMNAH) and the representative global workforce. The report was co-produced by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the World Health Organization (WHO), and Novametrics with the support of 33 other organisations. The report documents the SRMNAH workforce of 194 countries, including many countries previously not represented in the 2011 and 2014 SoWMy series. It highlights a global shortage of 1.1 million Sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health workers (SRMNAH), advising that future investment is necessary to fulfil the growing need for this essential care.

Out of the 1.1 million of the SRMNAH workforce the largest shortage within the workforce was midwives at 900, 000. The report recommends four key areas that need to be addressed to facilitate the growth of midwives: education and training; health workforce planning, management and regulation, and the work environment; leadership and governance; and service delivery. Further career development and leadership roles are key to creating opportunities for midwives to advance their careers.

To read the full report, please [click here](#).

## Review of the Nursing and Community Health Worker education in Papua New Guinea



WHO CC UTS has been contracted by World Health Organization (WHO), PNG and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to review and develop the National Curricula for Diploma of General Nursing and Certificate for Community Health Worker (CHW) in Papua New Guinea. Both curricula were last revised and adopted in 2002 and do not currently meet the health needs of the country. The program aims to strengthen the health workforce education and training, while building capacity of both the educators and students to provide quality care in response to the current health needs of the country. We look forward to working with our colleges in PNG on this program.



## Scoping Review: Improving the quality of nursing and midwifery education and regulation in Pacific Island countries and areas



In January 2021, WHO CC UTS completed the scoping study to provide recommendations, including a roadmap, for improving the quality of nursing and midwifery education and regulation in Pacific Island countries and areas. WHO CC UTS in collaboration with WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS) and the Ministry/ Department of Health in the Pacific Island countries and areas, set up and convened virtual meetings and consultations to perform a desktop review of; grey literature drawn from regional and national reports, peer reviews papers and minutes from regional meetings of both nursing and other healthcare leaders to develop a strategic roadmap for improving the quality of nursing and midwifery within the region.

To find out more, [click here](#).



## International Nurses Day 2021



On Wednesday the 12th of May, the Centre celebrated the tireless and essential contribution that nurses make around the world to healthcare systems. The International Council of Nurses declared the theme of International Nurses Day for 2021 to be “Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare.” With 74% of the health workforce in the Pacific being nurses and midwives, it is important to celebrate them and look to the future of how the profession will shape the next stage of healthcare.

The International Council of Nurses held a special webinar on the day to launch the IND report and reflect and celebrate the occasion. Celebrations were held across the Pacific.



*Western Province, Solomon Island, celebrating International Nurses Day*



*Pacific, NZ Nurses celebrating International Nurses Day*

And finally, Michele Rumsey, Director of WHO CC UTS would like to say;  
*"Thank you to all nurses across the Pacific for all your hard work and continuing leadership in your health systems and communities during this disrupted time."*

## COVID-19 effect: Global Nursing and Healthcare workers shortages and changing patterns of employment Webinar



**ICN WEBINAR**

**PLEASE JOIN THIS IMPORTANT ICN DISCUSSION, WITH SPECIAL GUESTS FROM**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE DEBATE!**

**April 27 13:00-14:30 CEST**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?WN\\_Ci\\_Az\\_czR0mrsX7DwxfiNg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?WN_Ci_Az_czR0mrsX7DwxfiNg)



International Council of Nurses  
*The global voice of nursing*

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the pressure on the nursing and healthcare workforce and the healthcare system. The pandemic has highlighted gaps in the healthcare system, and workforce that has been disproportionately exposed to the virus. There have been numerous reports of COVID-19 infections in healthcare workers globally and a tragic 3000 COVID-19 related deaths among nurses in 60 countries. The nursing shortage is anticipated to exacerbate globally due to the growing COVID-19

impacts. Apart from the COVID-19 impact, the existing nursing shortages and the ageing nursing workforce poses a risk of the shortage gap of the future.

The International Council of Nurses held a webinar at the end April which was addressed the global nursing and health worker shortages and changing patterns of employment because of the Pandemic. Professor James Buchan was a speaker and discussed the policy implications of nurse mobility and migration. The webinar was aimed at nurses, nurse leaders, nurse employers and managers, global health advocates, and others interested in health workforce and health system strengthening. The key objectives were to gain an insight into the latest trends in nurse migration within the context of overall global migration; Explore the effects of the global pandemic on the workforce and how the demands of future work will shape the demand for nurses, and Consider how policy responses to nurse migration will respond to different viewpoints. He has also recently published a report and a policy brief for the International Council of Nurses highlighting the global nursing and healthcare shortage.

The report and brief can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Prioritisation in WHO Africa Region



The WHO Africa region is prioritising research on Sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to identify relevant areas of improvement and gaps in healthcare policies and delivery especially in constrained resource settings. The research provides evidence to improve decision making that benefits women, children, adolescents, and the wider society. The aim of research prioritisation is to guide the region's work on Sexual and Reproductive Health for the next five years. The research focuses on improving antenatal, perinatal and postpartum care, along with providing

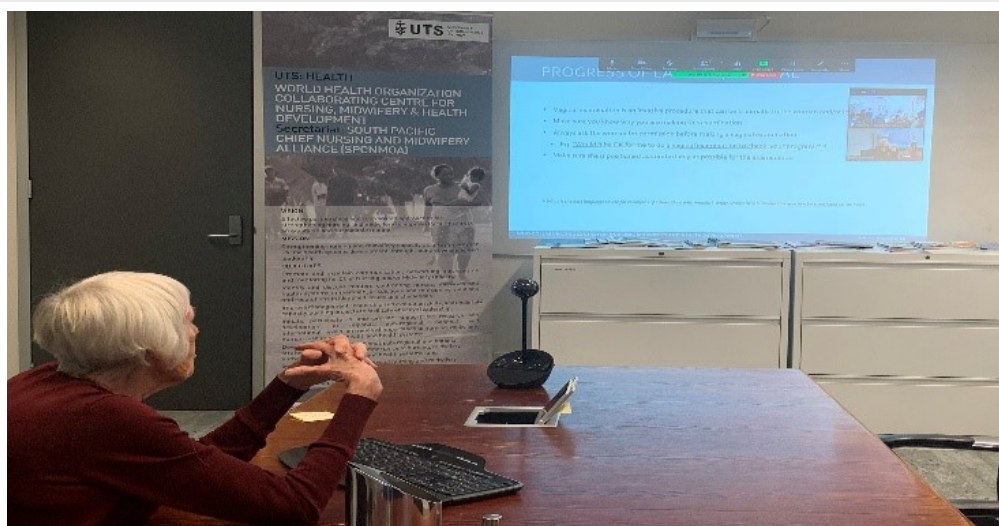


services for family planning, safe abortions and reducing gender-based violence in order to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

World Health Organization Africa Region has recently published the Setting Regional Research Priorities for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Services in Humanitarian Settings, which has identified ten research priorities in sexual and reproductive health and rights services in humanitarian that have the potential to identify the best areas for future programming of services in humanitarian settings.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

## ANGAU Hospital – Preparation for Birthing and Postnatal Care Workshops



As part of Phase II of the PNG ANGAU Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project, WHO CC UTS has held a number of online revision sessions for midwives at the new Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) Memorial general Hospital in Lae, Papua New Guinea, since the end of April. The revision workshops cover a range of essential clinical topics from Birthing to postnatal care, and theoretical topics such as room ready and midwifery leadership. Associate Professor Lin Lock, expert nursing and midwifery education advisor at the Centre has been leading the workshop with the assistance of the Midwifery Faculty at UTS and the JID team in Papua New Guinea.

As part of our continuing collaboration with JID and the ANGAU Hospital staff, the Centre will continue to provide the midwives with fortnightly online workshops in preparation for the opening of the new birthing suites at ANGAU Hospital and to facilitate a smooth transition.

For information on phase I of the program, [click here](#).



## Health for All Film Festival

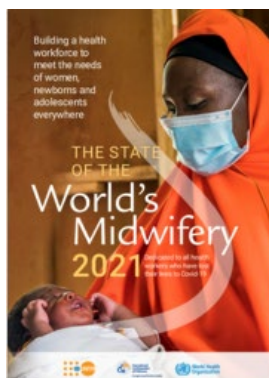


This year's Health for All Film Festival invited independent filmmakers, production companies, public institutions, NGOs, communities, students, and film schools from all over the world to promote global health issues by producing an original short film that contributes to promotion and education about health. Categories were based on WHO's global health targets and involved Universal Health Coverage, Health Emergencies, and Better Health and Well-being.

There were 1200 submissions made to this year's Film Festival from 110 countries. Of these submissions, more than 40% of the short films featured themes related to COVID-19, demonstrating the pervasiveness of the pandemic and the universal struggle experienced by all. The award ceremony was held on the 13th May 2021 and is available here for viewing.

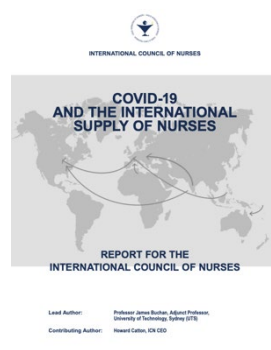
A list of the Health for All Film Festival winning films can be accessed [here](#).

## Documents



**State of the World's Midwifery Report**

[Download report](#)



**COVID-19 the International Supply of Nurses**



**WHO Vital roles of nurses and midwives in the**



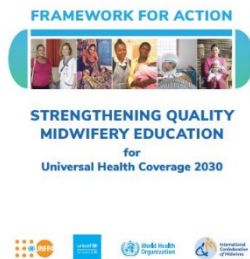
**State of the World's Nursing Report**

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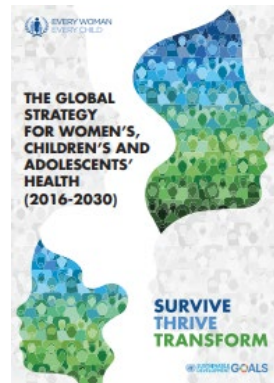
## Western Pacific Region

[Download report](#)



### Strengthening quality midwifery education for UHC

[Download report](#)



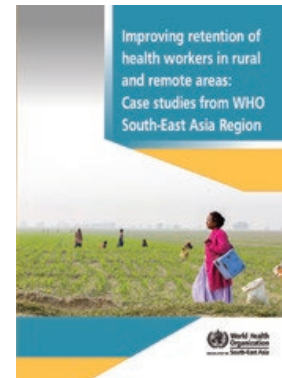
### Global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health (2016-2030)

[Download report](#)



### WHO Global report on ageism Full report

[Full report](#)



### WHO report on rural health workers

[Summary Report](#)

Association of Pacific Rim Universities  
Program Report 2020/2021



Global Health

## Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption

[Download report](#)

## COVID-19 Educational Resources

[New SPC videos on  
putting on and removing  
PPE](#)

[WHO HQ - Daily Press  
Brief on Covid -19](#)

[WHO guidance on  
practical considerations](#)

[WHO Operational Planning  
Guidelines to Support  
Country Preparedness and  
Response](#)

[Covid-19 resources for  
nurses from the Royal  
College of Nursing Institute](#)

[Simulation of the effects  
of COVID-19 testing rates  
on hospitalizations](#)

[NSW Government Health  
on latest COVID-19  
updates](#)

and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities

Covid-19 Dashboard - Johns Hopkins University

The Covid-19 E-Learning Platform (CoHELP)-Free COVID-19 Training for Health Workers in PNG – (studyingpng.com)

WHO Guidelines on Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19

WHO Guidelines on Operational considerations for case management of COVID-19 in health facility and community

Medical certification of cause of death for COVID-19

COVID-19 Medication Breakthrough

WHO Covid-19 training courses

WHO training on Infection prevention and Control

WHO training on Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases

WHO Q&A - Violence against women during COVID-19

A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma

## Publications

1. WHO Bulletin WHO | Volume 99, Number 5, May 2021, 321-404
2. WHO - COVID-19 situation report for the Western Pacific Region
3. WHO – World Health Statistics 2021 Monitoring Health for the SDGs
4. Global Health Summit 21 May 2021 – The Rome Declaration
5. WHO – G20 leaders boost support of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator but urgent and immediate action is needed to maintain momentum
6. WHO - New report sounds the alarm on global shortage of 900 000 midwives
7. Loke, A. Y., Guo, C., & Molassiotis, A. (2021). Development of Disaster Nursing Education and Training Programs in the Past 20 Years (2000-2019): A Systematic Review. 104809. Read here
8. Kim, S., Lee, T. W., Kim, G. S., Cho, E., Jang, Y., Choi, M., Baek, S., Lindsay, D., Chan, S., & Lee, R. L. (2021). Nurses in advanced roles as a strategy for equitable access to healthcare in the WHO Western Pacific region: a mixed methods study. 19(1), 1-9. Read here
9. Reuters - Philippines reports first cases of COVID-19 South African variant
10. SCMP - Thailand begins vaccine roll-out with jabs from China's Sinovac

11. Reuters –WTO head warns ‘vaccine nationalism’ could slow pandemic recovery. [Read here](#)
12. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security podcast - [ASEAN-Australian Health Security Fellows on their research and experiences working in public health, and on Vietnam's success in controlling outbreaks of COVID-19](#)
13. Langran. C. (2021, January). The Spacesuits saving mothers’ lives [Audio Podcast]. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09527qf>
14. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security Digest – [Read here](#)
15. Health Policy Watch – United Kingdom, Norway and & UNICEF Reaffirm Calls for “Global Cease Fire” in UN Security Council Open Debate on COVID-19 Vaccines Access. [Read here](#)
16. Health Policy Watch - Appeal for Pandemic Treaty, More Resources and Vaccine Equity Close World Health Assembly [Read here](#)
17. The Lancet – Challenges in ensuring global access to COVID-19 vaccines: production, affordability, allocation, and deployment. [Read here](#)
18. BMJ Journals – Assessing the health benefits of development interventions. [Read here](#)
19. IJHPM – Progressive Realisation of Universal Health Coverage in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Beyond the “Best Buys”. [Read here](#)
20. BMC – Trust, risk, and the challenge of information sharing during a health emergency. [Read here](#)
21. Tomson G, Causevic S, Ottersen O P, Swartling Peterson S , Rashid S, Wanyenze R K et al. Solidarity and universal preparedness for health after covid-19 BMJ 2021; 372 :n59 doi:10.1136/bmj.n59 [Read here](#)
22. The Guardian – Covid-19 variants to be given Greek alphabet names to avoid stigma [Read here](#)
23. The Lancet – Offline: What is the UK for? [Read here](#)
24. World Health Organisation – WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19. [Read here](#)
25. UN News – WHO seeks \$1.96 billion for 2021 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Response. [Read here](#)
26. Health Policy Watch – Global Health Is In Disarray – But Is A Pandemic Treaty The Way Out ? [Read here](#)



27. Devex – In Brief: Health groups urge Biden to name PEPFAR leader.  
[Read here](#)
28. WHO – COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund marks first anniversary and appeals for continued support. [Read here](#)
29. The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response – [COVID-19 Make it the Last Pandemic Report](#)
30. Reuters – Benefits outweigh the risks of Astra Zeneca COVID shot as review continues: WHO. [Read here](#)
31. Bloomberg – Vaccine nationalism threatens WHO's 2021 goal of 2 billion doses. [Read here](#)
32. BMJ GH – COVID-19 vaccines pricing policy options for low-income and middle-income countries. [Read here](#)
33. UN News – South Asia: Sharp rise in child, maternal deaths due to COVID-19-induced disruptions. [Read here](#)
34. WHO – New research highlights risks of separating newborns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic. [Read here](#)

## Events

1. **1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**- Maternal Mental Health Month
2. **5<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – International Midwives Day
3. **12<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - International Nurses Day
4. **May 2021** – 74th World Health Assembly
5. **30<sup>th</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021** - [ICM 32nd Triennial Congress](#), Bali, Indonesia
6. **5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – [ICN Congress](#), Abu Dhabi
7. **14<sup>th</sup> June 2021** - World Blood Donor Day
8. **15<sup>th</sup> June** – 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Midwifery and Womens Health
9. **23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June** – 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Fetal and Maternal Medicine
10. **21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June** – 55<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Nursing and Health Care
11. **22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – 40<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Nursing and Medicare Summit
12. **28<sup>th</sup> July 2021** - World Hepatitis Day
13. **19<sup>th</sup> August** – World Humanitarian Day
14. **29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021** - [11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference](#), Halifax Canada

15. **17<sup>th</sup> September 2021** - [World Patient Safety Day](#)



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