



Welcome to the Regional Update (RU) for May 2022 from the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at the University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS).

**The International Day of the Midwife** was celebrated on the 5th of May. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), a global NGO which is present in over 120 countries. The organisation works to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting autonomous midwives as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women, and to enhance the reproductive health of women, their newborns, and their families.

**International Nurses Day** 12th of May, today wishing all the best. This year's theme – Nurses: A Voice to Lead – highlighted the drastic need to amplify the critical perspectives of nurses in addressing some of our most pressing health crises, and to support their right to safe working environments and decent wages, and to promote their professional sovereignty.

Several important events are taking place in the coming weeks, including the 75th World Health Assembly from the 22nd-28th of May 2022. The Assembly, as the primary decision-making body of the WHO, will be attended by health delegates from all WHO member states and will focus on an agenda covering several issues pertinent to the Western Pacific Region. Such issues include proposed pathways to Universal Health Coverage, draft global strategies on the control and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, draft action plans for the management of human resources for health, and more. Further details on this event, and others, are provided below.

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.

22-28<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



The WHO is holding its 75th World Health Assembly from the 22-28<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The executive board has released a provisional Agenda of the topics to be covered on each day of the Assembly. The Pillars of Conversation outlined in the Agenda are adopted from the WHO's Triple Billion targets, which has measurement tools and strategies to help countries deliver on their Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, these targets aim to deliver:

1. One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
2. One billion more people better protected from health emergencies
3. One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

To learn more about the Triple Billion targets underpinning the 75th World Health Assembly agenda, please click [here](#).

### **Pillar 1: Universal Health Coverage**

This Pillar will focus on communicable disease (CD) and non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control. Discussions will address how to strengthen health systems, services, and infrastructures to support patients living with NCDs, and will explore road maps and strategies for the management of CDs. Human resources for health will also be discussed under this agenda. These discussions will focus on the Working for Health Action Plan 2022-2030, the Global Health and Care Worker Compact, the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel, and the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030.

### **Pillar 2: Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response**

Topics to be addressed under this Pillar include a Standing Committee on Pandemic and Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, an Independent Oversight and Advisory

Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, and a discussion concerning strengthening these responses and implementing International Health Regulations (2005).

### **Pillar 3: Better Health and Wellbeing**

One aspect of Pillar 3 is maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, which is accompanied by the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety. Also included in Pillar 3 is the Reproductive Health Resolution. The resolution aims to strengthen health care systems capacity to achieve universal access to reproductive and sexual health care, paying particular attention to maternal and neonatal health. To learn more about the 75th World Health Assembly, and to access all relevant supporting documents, agendas, and resolutions, please click [here](#).

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

Since the Centre launched the new Free online course on Basic Psychosocial Skills, 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.



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>

**Enrol 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 Ninth WHO-ICN-ICM Triad Meeting



This week May 9-11th 2022, the WHO, The International Council of Nurses, and The International Confederation of Midwives held their 9th Triad Meeting. The meeting was held virtually, with a two-hour session held twice daily to accommodate various time zones.

The 9th Triad Meeting built on these achievements and focused on the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2021-2025 (SDNM). The aim of the meeting was to familiarise the participants with the Directions as a tool to support progress towards Universal Health Coverage, to strengthen confidence in data reporting, to improve workforce management, planning and monitoring, and to assist participants in using the SDNM as a tool for policy dialogue, investment, and advocacy. 9th Triad meeting statement to be released shortly.

To link into the WHO Nursing and Midwifery Community of Practice and participate in future meetings, please [click here](#).

## 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Health Ministers Meeting 22-28<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



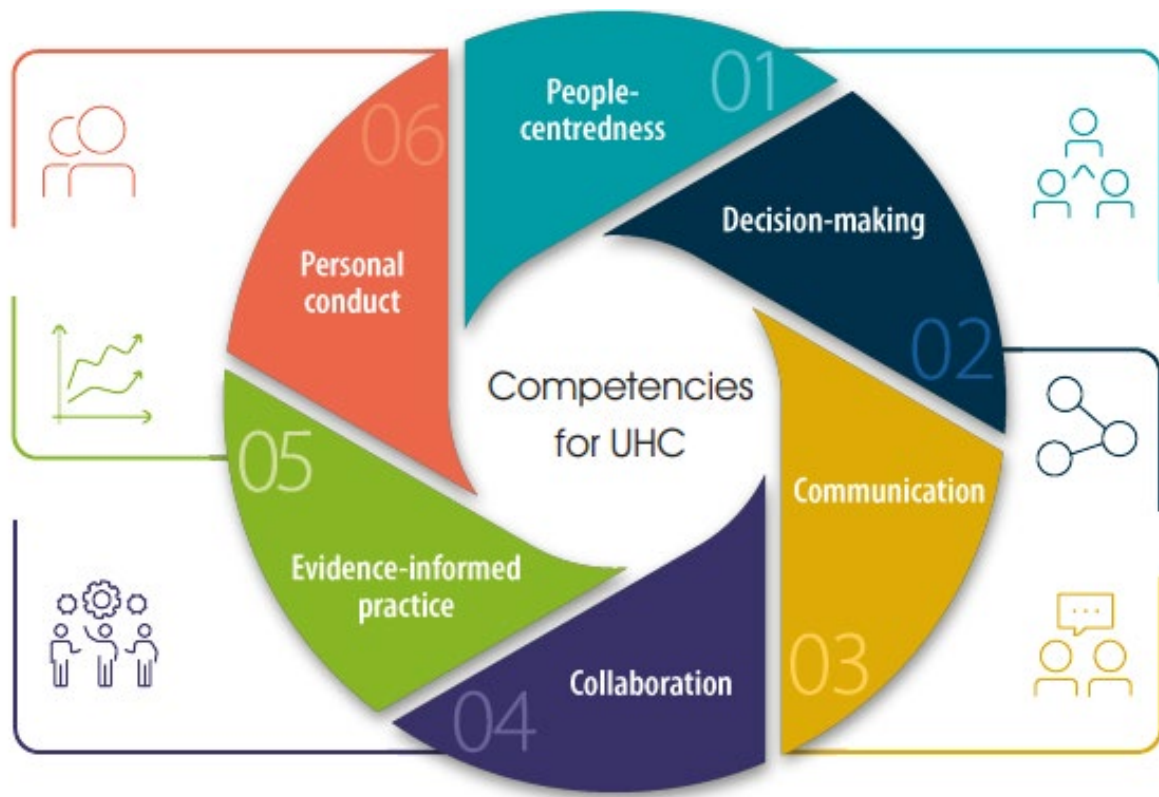
The 14th Pacific Health Ministers Meeting (PHMM) was held from 22-24 March 2022. It was hosted by the government of Tuvalu with support from the WHO and Pacific Community. These biennial meetings aim to support participant countries' commitment to the 'Healthy Islands' vision, and to provide opportunities to review progress and drive action to deliver better health care across the Pacific.

This year's agenda focussed on accelerating action on non-communicable diseases, centring health within the climate change discussion, and leveraging the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to advance UHC. Attendees highlighted the need to capitalise on the lessons learnt during COVID-19 to strengthen system capacities for future crises. As the Honourable Isaia Taape, Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs of Tuvalu noted, it is of critical importance that we "identify the key actions needed to set up our health systems to save lives now, and also long after the pandemic."

The meeting culminated in a series of written commitments and recommendations for Pacific Island Countries and regional stakeholders, including an endorsement for the Pacific Legislative Framework for Noncommunicable Diseases. They also agreed to act against health crisis in climate change which is quickly becoming a major issue in the Pacific.

To read more about the 14th PHMM and download relevant documents, please [click here](#).

## Release of Global Competency Framework for Universal Health Coverage



The Global Competency Framework for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was released by WHO in April 2022. It aims to develop standards for primary healthcare worker education and clinical practice, and in so doing support progress towards UHC.

Competencies are the knowledge, skills and attitudes that health workers integrate in their practice. The standards outlined in the Framework prepare health workers with the right competencies to provide effective, efficient, equitable, inclusive, integrated, people centred, safe and timely care. The Framework is aimed at primary care workers to enable UHC at a system-level, and considers how medicines, health care facilities, information systems, financing, devices and other technologies might best be leveraged to enable quality healthcare. It includes service-specific modules outlining how to integrate competencies into the design, delivery and assessment of competency-based education.

The six domains of competencies for UHC are;

1. People-centredness
2. Decision-making
3. Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Evidence-informed practice
6. Personal conduct

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

World TB Day  
24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022







World Health Day was recognised on the 7th of April 2022. The theme of this year's event – Our Planet, Our Health – encourages us to recognise the intersections between environmental health, climate health, and human health. Indeed, it is only by fostering societies focused on mutual well-being that we might be able to weather the social, political, economic, and environmental instabilities of these converging and interconnected crises.

In the same week, WHO released a report on air quality data which found that 99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits and affects population health. The report stresses the importance of stopping the burning of fossil fuels and the need to reduce air pollution levels. Following this report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their report "Now or Never", which stresses that if governments, businesses and individuals do not make drastic changes to create a low-carbon economy and society now, there will not be another chance.

The World Health Organisation's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, released a statement on World Health Day's chosen theme: "To prevent the current multidimensional crises from turning into a humanity death spiral, there need to be concerted and creative efforts to bend the arc of history towards a solutions-orientated, healthier and sustainable world". This led to the announcement of WHO's new initiative "Peace for Health and Health for Peace" which will aim to create conversations around access to basics including food, fuel and health services in times of conflict and prevent the targeting of health care facilities by military forces.

To read more about World Health Day and access relevant resources, [click here](#).

To read the WHO's report on air quality, [click here](#).

To read the IPCC report "Now or Never", [click here](#).

To read WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' full statement, [click here](#).

To read more about the 'Peace for Health and Health for Peace' initiative, [click here](#).

**World Health Worker Week**  
4-8th April 2022





This year, World Health Worker Week ran from the 4-8th of April with the theme 'Build the Health Workforce Back Better'. The theme acknowledges that progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) requires strong health systems and health workers who are educated and empowered to provide the health services that meet population health needs.

The World Health Organisation, the Frontline Health Workers Coalition and other partners came together to celebrate for the 10th year in a row. They developed policy recommendations, activities and events to encourage governments, donors and health leaders to do more to support the future health workforce. 6 key recommendations are provided below:

- Allocate funding for long-term health systems and health workforce strengthening
- Address violence against health workers and the places where they work
- Ensure safe and decent work for all healthcare workers
- Collect health worker data, disaggregated by gender
- Integrate community health workers into national health systems
- Involve frontline health workers – including nurses and midwives – in health policy-making

These projects will need funding, support and prioritisation from governments and donors in order to be successful. In the same week, The Lancet Global Health Commission on Financing Primary Health Care: Putting people at the centre was launched: the commission argues that countries need to “invest more and invest better” by restructuring their health financing agreements. The report analyses global expenditure on primary health care (PHC), the political and economical challenges countries face and provides actions and policies which support these countries in delivering effective, efficient and equitable PHC.

To read more about World Health Worker Week, please [click here](#).

## International Day of the Midwife

5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



The International Day of the Midwife is held annually on May 5th. This year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the International Confederation of Midwives. ICM is a global, non-governmental organisation which is present in over 120 countries. As a celebration of their centennial year, ICM is hosting a virtual party to commemorate their accomplishments, as well as tackling a 'Listening and Learning Series', which will cover issues relating to identity, gender, race and ability in midwifery.

The WHO is also hosting a conference on IDM, in which midwives from across the world regarding the WHO Strategic Direction for Nursing and Midwifery, and the State of the Worlds Midwifery Report 2021.

To learn more about IDM and the celebrations for 2022, please [click here](#).

## World Hand Hygiene Day

5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



World Hand Hygiene Day is held annually on May 5th. When people seek health care, they are hoping to get better. Too often, however, they end up getting a new, avoidable infection – which is often resistant to antimicrobials and can sometimes even be fatal. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has only further emphasised the importance of adequate hand washing both in the community and the clinic to prevent or slow the transmission of dangerous pathogens.

When a health facility's "quality and safety climate or culture" values hand hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC), this results in both patients and health workers feeling protected and cared for. That is why the World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) theme for 2022 is a "health care quality and safety climate or culture" that values hand hygiene and IPC, and the slogan is "Unite for safety: clean your hands".

A webinar is being conducted by the WHO on the day to overview the new WHO hand hygiene research agenda and evidence, to describe a range of experiences regarding the evidence for and efforts to support a health care quality culture and safety climate through clean hands and IPC programmes of work, and to launch the first WHO global report on IPC.

To read more about World Hand Hygiene Day and access associated materials, please [click here](#).

International Nurses Day  
12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



# NURSES

## A VOICE TO LEAD

## INVEST IN NURSING AND RESPECT RIGHTS TO SECURE GLOBAL HEALTH



International Nurses Day is held annually on the 12th of May. This year, the theme is Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health.

COVID-19 has exposed the drastic need for improvement within health systems globally, especially when it comes to under-investment and front-line staff shortages. Nurses particularly have come under immense pressure during the pandemic. To amplify their voices, the ICN has launched a compilation of case studies from nurses globally, highlighting the work they do in all aspects of the job. It is the ICN's hope that these stories will bring to light the power of the nursing sector, and the need to continue promoting their right to safe working environments, decent wages and professional sovereignty.

It is also noteworthy that the World Health Assembly 2022 is largely focussed on Universal Health Coverage and Human Resources for Health. We will be keeping a close eye on the outcomes from the Assembly this May.

To read the case studies, please click [here](#).

To read more about #IND2022, click [here](#).

7th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
(GP2022)

23-28<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The seventh session of the Global Platform (GP2022) will be organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) from 23 to 28 May 2022, in Bali, Indonesia, hosted by the Government of Indonesia. The event will be co-chaired by the Government of Indonesia and UNDRR.

The Global Platform takes place at a critical time: seven years from the adoption of the Sendai Framework and just over two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed how underlying vulnerabilities and inequities have catastrophic consequences for the most exposed across the world. The pandemic has demonstrated just how essential prevention and the risk reduction agenda is if we are to achieve a sustainable future for all. The 2022 Global Platform will provide a unique and timely opportunity to showcase the importance of international solidarity and cooperation, as well as to discuss ways to tackle underlying risk drivers both locally and globally.

To read more about the forum and access relevant materials, please [click here](#).

**39th CRANaplus Conference**  
4-6<sup>th</sup> October, 2022



The 39th CRANAplus conference is being held from the 4th-6th of October 2022, in Adelaide, South Australia (Kurna Country). CRANAplus is a grassroot, not-for-profit organisation which provides services to support nurses, midwives and other health professionals in their careers. In particular CRANAplus provides high quality face-to-face courses and online courses accessible to isolated, remote health professionals and targeted to remote area practice, including rural and remote nursing and midwifery. The theme for this year is Passion. Purpose. Influence. Impact.

With the aim to improve the overall health and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians, particularly First Nations Peoples, the conference will provide a platform for like-minded health care workers to network and share ideas on how to increase impact of care.

To learn more about CRANAplus, please [click here](#).

WHO Launch New Resources for Monitoring Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health





## LAUNCH OF THE INEQUALITY MONITORING IN SRMNCAH: A STEP-BY-STEP MANUAL

WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2 PM GENEVA

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar

The World Health Organization launched new resources for building capacity for inequality monitoring in sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. These include *Inequality monitoring in sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health: a step-by-step manual* and *Companion workbook: exercises to guide the process of inequality monitoring in sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health*.



Slides were presented by the WHO departments involved in development of the resources: Data and Analytics; Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing; and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research.

To access the Step-by-Step Manual, please [click here](#).

To access the Companion Workbook, please [click here](#).

Publication of New Report on The Global Nursing Workforce  
and the COVID-19 Pandemic



Adjunct Professor James Buchan from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) is lead author on a global nursing workforce report published earlier this year: “Sustain and Retain in 2022 and Beyond: The Global Nursing Workforce and the COVID-19 Pandemic”.

This brief was commissioned by the International Centre for Nurse Migration (ICNM). It provides a global snapshot assessment of how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting on the nursing workforce, with a specific focus on how changing patterns of nurse supply and mobility will challenge the sustainability of the global nursing workforce. It also sets out the urgent action agenda and global workforce plan for 2022 and beyond which is required to support nurse workforce sustainability, and therefore improve health system responsiveness and resilience in the face of COVID-19.

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

Talanoa i le afaina o le soifua maloloina o tina Samoa  
4-part Samoan podcast on women's health





Loosely translating as ‘Talking about women’s health in Samoa’, this 4-part podcast series was developed with the intention of making women’s health information more accessible to Samoan women, both locally and abroad. This comes as many health topics are considered too sensitive for open discussion in the country.

This series’ topic was based on breast cancer, as it is the most common cancer affecting Samoan women. The 4 episodes covered in detail what breast cancer is, how it affects the body, how it is detected, treated and survived. Three guest interviewees were brought into the podcast. One guest was a breast cancer survivor who shared her story, and another was a registered nurse who went through the steps to self-examine for breast cancer.

Talanoa i le afaina o le soifua maloloina o tina Samoa can be listened too on all major podcast apps, such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google and Podbean. The team is planning their next season, which will discuss sexually transmitted infections. They are also aiming to create a ‘brother’ podcast, to speak on sensitive men’s health topics.

To download and listen to the podcast series, please [click here](#).

**Work Advances on the Review and Development of National Curricula for Nurses and Community Health Workers, PNG**





As Papua New Guinea (PNG) works to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), improving the quality of health care services is a key priority. To best support PNG's health workforce in meeting the country's current and future health needs, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development at University of Technology Sydney (WHO CC UTS) is working in partnership with PNG's National Department of Health (NDoH) to carry out the Review and Development of National Curricula for the Diploma of General Nursing (DGN) and Certificate for Community Health Workers (CHWs) program.

Work on this program has accelerated in recent months. From October 2021 until late March 2022, the NDoH overcame the immense difficulties posed by COVID-19 to complete a Baseline Survey on the effectiveness of the two existing curricula. The Analysis was on the perspectives of students, graduates, supervisors, and educators towards current curricula content, critical gaps in training, and their own capacities and capabilities. Qualitative and quantitative data on these perspectives were successfully collected in 8 provinces. A 10-day workshop with the NDoH Research Team and the NDoH IT and Research Departments was held in March 2022, with WHO CC UTS providing refresher training on recommended processes for data organisation and analysis.

The improvement in vaccination rates has resulted in eased travel restrictions to key Western Pacific regions. Indeed, in February 2022 the WHO CC UTS was able to visit PNG for first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the visit, the WHO CC UTS organised important project meetings, workshops, and discussions with key partners and stakeholders involved in the curricula review program.

To read more about the NDoH's Baseline Survey and Analysis, WHO CC UTS' PNG Visit, and other program activities, please [click here](#).

## The Pacific Community (SPC) Launches Phase II of the Strengthening Pacific Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Project (PacMEL)



In March 2022, The Pacific Community (SPC) launched Phase II of the Strengthening Pacific Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Project. Drawing upon the lessons and learnings from the PacMEL Rebbilib document produced at the inaugural Pacific MEL Convening in 2019, the project promotes Pacific leadership of MEL processes and systems to strengthen systems and communities across the region. The three domains in the Rebbilib – people, partnerships and planning; collecting, verifying and analysing data; and using data for decision making – will guide the work of this second phase.

This year, the project will focus on:

- Strengthening MEL capacity in Member countries
- Fostering knowledge sharing and networking opportunities
- Promoting and honouring the wisdom of Pacific methodologies and ways of knowing
- Coordinating opportunities for a strengthened Pacific MEL environment
- Providing a platform for Pacific MEL voices to be heard.

The project team is lead by Ms Fiona Fandim, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Advisor, and Mr Kaita Sem, Relationships and Learning Advisor (Strengthening Pacific MEL).

To read more about the project, please [click here](#).

To learn more about the methodologies underpinning the project's design, implementation, and philosophy, please [click here](#).

## WHO: 8 Steps to Help with a Safe Home-Based Recovery from COVID-19



If you are infected with COVID-19 and have been asked to isolate and recover at home, or if you are caring for someone who has COVID-19 at home, how can you keep everyone safe? When should you seek help? To provide guidance on these important questions, the WHO has outlined eight key steps to help with a safe home-based recovery from COVID-19. The steps are as follows:

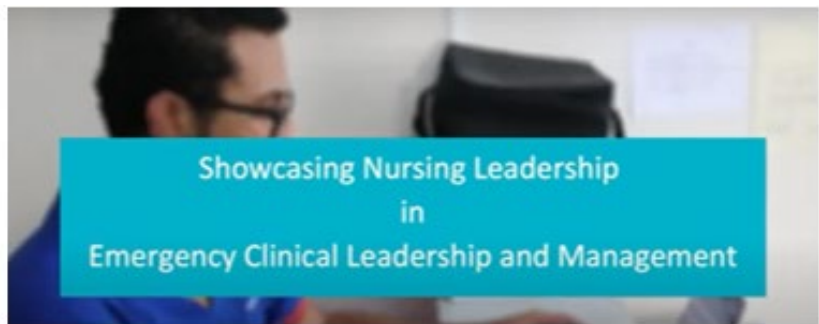
1. Isolate the person with COVID-19 and maintain distance.
2. Open windows to bring in fresh air.
3. Designate caregivers.
4. Wear masks and maintain hygiene.
5. Treat any symptoms.
6. Support mental health.
7. No visitors.
8. Know the red flags and seek help early.

The WHO advises that a home-based recovery is suitable when people test positive for COVID-19 and they do not have any symptoms or have only mild symptoms, and they are not in a high-risk category (for example, older people or people with underlying conditions, such as cardiovascular or chronic lung disease). The decision to recover at home or seek care in a facility needs to be taken under the supervision of a health-care provider according to the COVID-19 protocols in your country or area.

To read more about the 8 steps and access additional resources on COVID-19, please [click here](#).

**SPC: Showcasing Nursing Leadership in Emergency Clinical Leadership and Management**





In 2021, the Pacific Community (SPC) supported 4 clinicians and 1 nurse from the Pacific Region to complete a Clinical Leadership and Management course offered by Alfred Health and funded by DFAT.

Nurse Mamatuki Sosefo was able to be a part of the course due to his expertise as a nurse unit manager and working in the emergency department at CWMG, Fiji. He shared his experiences in an informative video, where he outlines what he learnt throughout the course and how we was able to apply this new knowledge to his workplace. He urges health care students to take opportunities to further their education in order to build strong health care facilities, strengthen health leadership, provide high quality care and deliver access to high quality services to improve health outcomes in their communities.

A link to this story is available [here](#).

### Midwives in Focus:

Exploring Professional Identity, Midwifery Leadership and Midwifery Representation Around the World



# MIDWIVES IN FOCUS

Dr. Sally Pezaro, Project Lead at Midwives in Focus and assistant professor at Coventry University, UK, is conducting a research project to measure and compare the professional identity of midwives and nurse-midwives. The survey aims to collect cases of strong midwifery leadership and investigate how this can be sustained and upscaled. Answers from the survey will allow for Midwives in Focus to better understand the professional identity, leadership, and representation of midwives.

If you are a midwife or nurse-midwife and have roughly 15 minutes to spare, please follow this link to the survey

Advisory Group Member Positions:

## Global Mental Health Action Network (GMHAN)

Global Mental Health Action Network



The Global Mental Health Action Network (GMHAN) are looking for members to join their new Advisory Groups that will represent the Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

The goal of Advisory Groups is to supervise the actions of the Network and represent the members of their respective regions. This will involve launching an independent GMHAN website, organising annual GMHAN meetings and operating their membership engagement strategy and outreach approach. In addition to member positions, the GMHAN are also looking for a Youth Representative and an International CSO Representative.

For more information on this position, please [click here](#).

## Climate Action Scholarships Announced for Pacific Island Nation Students



The University of Melbourne has launched climate-action scholarships for students from Pacific Island nations to support their local communities in addressing climate change. The Scholarships will support master's and Graduate Researchers on courses which engage with sustainability, helping them develop their existing skills and knowledge to address the effects of climate change in their countries.

As education is crucial to promote climate action, empowering Pacific islanders with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to act as agents of change is a priority. University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Duncan Maskell emphasised the importance of focusing research expertise on Pacific nations which are facing the lived experience of climate change.

"Universities have the resources as well as the world-leading experts to educate and advise students on the effects of climate change," Professor Maskell said. "It's important that universities share this knowledge and make it more accessible, so students from small island nations can learn how to tackle climate change in their own countries."

To read more about the scholarships, please [click here](#).

**UN: 'Our Common Agenda' Proposals and Recommendations  
Advance in Recent Discussions**



# United Nations



# Common Agenda

On the 22nd of March, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a discussion of the 'Our Common Agenda' report, following a series of intergovernmental consultations in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to consider the report's proposals.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued Our Common Agenda in September 2021, following a mandate in the September 2020 declaration on the commemoration of the UN's 75th anniversary. The report contains approximately 90 proposals and recommendations. ECOSOC discussed the proposals outlined in the document, and Guterres addressed the meeting to highlight key signals that emerged from intergovernmental consultations on the report. The intergovernmental process aimed to identify initiatives that governments broadly support and on which implementation can begin within 2022, and which proposals need additional consideration. Summaries are forthcoming from the chairs of each cluster, as follows:

1. Accelerating and scaling up the SDGs, leaving no-one behind
2. Accelerating the SDGs through sustainable financing and building trust
3. Frameworks for a Peaceful world – promoting peace, international law and digital cooperation
4. Protecting our planet and being prepared for the future
5. Enhancing international cooperation

At the ECOSOC meeting, Guterres affirmed that key governments had expressed their support towards the 'Our Common Agenda' recommendations: they stated that the Agenda offers an effective way to address the crises created or exacerbated by the pandemic, including extreme poverty, hunger, unemployment, and education. Guterres noted that the implementation of many Agenda recommendations is already under way.

To read more about the ECOSOC meeting and the 'Our Common Agenda' report, please [click here](#).

**WHO and UNICEF: 'Perfect Storm' of Conditions for Measles Outbreaks, Affecting Children**





An increase in measles cases in January and February 2022 is a worrying sign of a heightened risk for the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases and could trigger larger outbreaks, particularly of measles affecting millions of children in 2022, warn WHO and UNICEF.

Pandemic-related disruptions, increasing inequalities in access to vaccines, and the diversion of resources from routine immunization are leaving too many children without protection against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

The risk for large outbreaks has increased as communities relax social distancing practices and other preventive measures for COVID-19 implemented during the height of the pandemic. In addition, with millions of people being displaced due to conflicts and crises, disruptions in routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination services, lack of clean water and sanitation, and overcrowding increase the risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

To read more on this story, please [click here](#).

**Global Powers Inch Closer to Agreement to Waive COVID Vaccine Patents**



The United States, the European Union, India and South Africa are coming closer to an agreement to waive patents for COVID-19 vaccines. This waiver would allow for cheaper generic versions to be manufactured and dispersed within lower- and middle-income countries. Only around 4% of low-income countries have been double vaccinated.

If the waiver is agreed upon, it will suspend patents for vaccines for approximately 3 or 5 years, and will only apply to developing World Trade Organisation countries that exported less than 10% of the world's vaccine doses in 2021. The agreement does not include treatments and diagnostic technologies.

To read more on this recent development, please [click here](#).

WHO CC UTS Intern  
Piriyanga Thanaraj



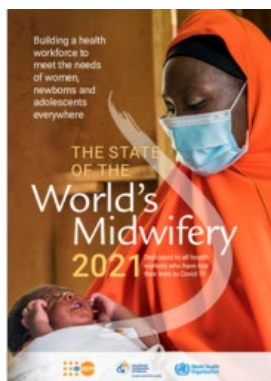
Piriyanga has undertaken an internship with WHO CC UTS during the 2nd year of her Bachelor of Health Science, Major in Global Health degree. Born in Sri Lanka, raised in India and having volunteered in Kenya, Piriyanga has witnessed the impact of poor health systems and health inequities on health outcomes. Since a young age, she has had a strong desire to work for an organisation that undertakes projects to improve health systems and health outcomes in third world countries.

During her internship, Piriyanga has assisted with writing the Regional Update stories for September and December 2021. Through this, she became more acquainted with the challenges that countries like Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Fiji were facing, learned about their health and political systems, and recognised ways in which WHO CC UTS has supported these countries in addressing these challenges. Piriyanga has also written the introduction for the new report on the ANGAU Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project. Through this, she was able to better understand PNG's need for improvement in the quality of care at the birthing suites in the ANGAU Hospital through the design of new birthing suites and providing training for Essential Obstetric Care and Emergency Obstetric Care.

You can read the full story [here](#).

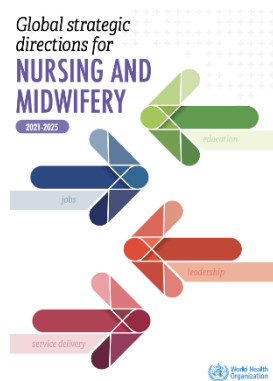
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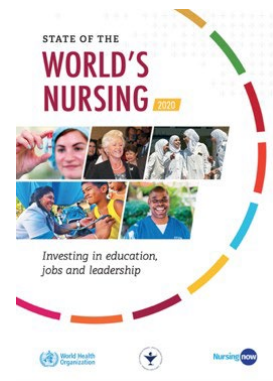
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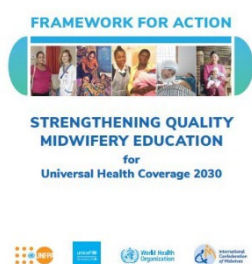
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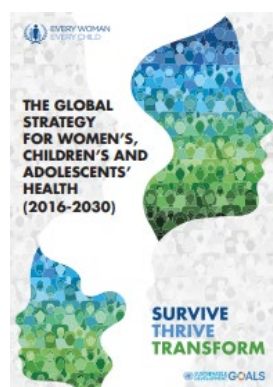
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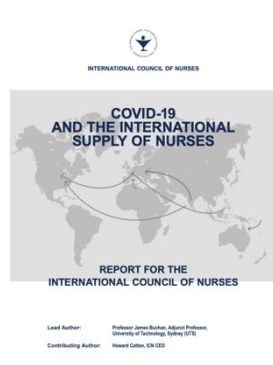
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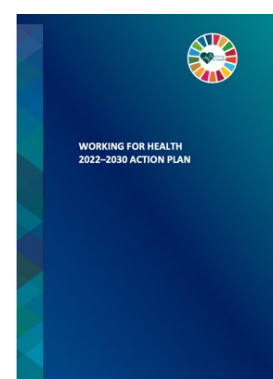


## COVID-19 the International Supply of Nurses



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## WHO Working for Health 2022-2030 Action Plans

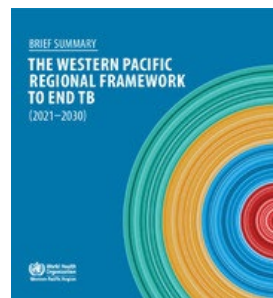
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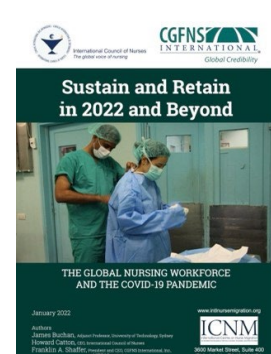
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## COVID-19 Educational Resources

[Home Isolation Guide](#)

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[WHO HQ - Daily Press Brief on  
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[WHO guidance on practical  
considerations 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 –  
\(studyinpng.com\)](#)

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

[Covid-19 resources for nurses  
from the Royal College of  
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[WHO Covid-19 training  
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[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 – Volume 100, No. 4, April 2022
2. WHO – World Health Statistics 2021: Monitoring Health for the SDGs
3. WHO – Joint Statement of the International Year of Health and Care Workers Steering Committee. Read Here.
4. WHO – WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the World Health Day press briefing, 7 April 2022. Read Here.
5. WHO – Technical Advisory Group on the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool. Read Here.
6. WHO – The ACT-Accelerator: Two Years of Impact. Read here.
7. WHO – Strengthening the Global Architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience: Concept Note. Read here.
8. WHO – WHO Recommends Highly Successful COVID-19 Therapy and Calls for Wide Geographical Distribution and Transparency from Originator. Read here.
9. WHO WPRO – COVID-19 Situation Reports (Ongoing)
10. UN Secretary-General's remarks to the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the "Our Common Agenda" Report, March 2022. Read Here.
11. The Guardian: Global Powers Inch Closer to Agreement to Waive COVID Vaccine Patents. Read Here.
12. Fronteira I, Dussault G, Buchan J (2021) Rethinking human resources for health: on the edge of the post-modern era. Almedina Publishing, Coimbra, Portugal. ISBN 978-972-40-9096-2. Purchase here.
13. Zapata T, Buchan J, Azzopardi-Muscat N. (2021) The health workforce: Central to an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the European Region. The International Journal of Health Planning and Management. 2021 Mar. DOI: 10.1002/hpm.3150. Read here.
14. FDA – COVID-19 Educational Resources. Read here.
15. Buchan J, Williams G, Zapata T (2021) Governing Health Workforce Responses During COVID-19. Eurohealth (27.1)12 September 2021. Read here.
16. Buchan J, Catton H, Shaffer F (2022) Sustain and Retain in 2022 and Beyond: The Global Nursing Workforce and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Read here.
17. Rumsey, M., Leong, M., Brown, D., Larui, M., Capelle, M. and Rodrigues, N., 2022. Achieving Universal Health Care in the Pacific: The need for nursing and midwifery leadership. *The Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific*, Vol. 19, p.100340. <https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12960-021-00555-6>
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20. 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](#)
21. 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.](#)
22. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security – Australian Experts Working With Our Neighbours to Support COVID-19 Vaccination Rollouts. [Read here.](#)
23. Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security Digest. [Read here.](#)
24. ICM – The International Year of the Health and Care Worker and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Summary of the Work from the International Council of Nurses. [Read Here.](#)
25. ICM – Midwifery Professional Framework 2021. [Read here.](#)
26. Health Policy Watch – WHO Warns of Dangers of Health Misinformation Across Social Media Following Elon Musk’s \$44 bn Twitter Acquisition. [Read Here.](#)
27. The Lancet – Challenges in ensuring global access to COVID-19 vaccines: production, affordability, allocation, and deployment. [Read here.](#)
28. The Lancet – Diagnostics for COVID-19: Moving From Pandemic Response to Control. [Read here.](#)
29. BMJ Journals – Assessing the health benefits of development interventions. [Read here.](#)
30. IJHPM – Progressive Realisation of Universal Health Coverage in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Beyond the “Best Buys”. [Read here.](#)
31. IJHPM – Gender Equality and the Global Gender Gap in Life Expectancy: An Exploratory Analysis of 152 Countries. [Read here.](#)
32. BMC – Trust, risk, and the challenge of information sharing during a health emergency. [Read here](#)
33. 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](#)
34. Rumsey, M. (2022) Co-design research in the Pacific. [sigma.nursingrepository.org](https://sigma.nursingrepository.org). [Read here.](#)

1. **5<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – International Day of the Midwife
2. **5<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – World Hand Hygiene Day 2022: Unite for safety – clean your hands!
3. **9-11<sup>th</sup> May** – WHO-ICM-ICN TRAIID Meeting
4. **12<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – International Nurses Day
5. **22-28 May 2022** – 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly
6. **23-28<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022)
7. **7<sup>th</sup> June 2022** – World Food Safety Day 2022 – Safer Food, Better Health
8. **13-17<sup>th</sup> June 2022** - Seventh advanced course on health financing for universal coverage for low- and middle-income countries
9. **21-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022** – ICM Council Meeting 2022
10. **30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022** – High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Global Road Safety
11. **21-24<sup>th</sup> August 2022** – 12<sup>th</sup> ICN NP/APN Network conference
12. **17<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022** – World Patient Safety Day 2022
13. **17-21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022** – WHO – FIC Network Annual Meeting 2022
14. **18-21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022** – 75<sup>th</sup> INN Consultation
15. **Q4 2022** – Regional Committee for the Western Pacific: 73<sup>rd</sup> Session



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