

EDUCATION OF HEALTH PERSONNEL FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES

Competent practitioners with appropriate skill mix are available to deal effectively with the current and future challenges of practice.

HEALTH SYSTEMS are labour intensive and require qualified and experienced staff to function effectively. Health care provision requires that practitioners possess the knowledge and skills to respond and adapt to current and future health care priorities and needs, available resources, and the broader factors that shape the current health systems context (Egger, Lipson & Adams, 2000). New and rapidly changing challenges in health care demand that the education of nursing and midwifery practitioners be continuously updated. Other challenges include epidemiological and demographic shifts, medical and technological advances, rising public demand, health systems reform, and a need to surmount obstacles of poverty, gender and human rights (Heller, Oros & Durney-Crowley, 2001). Capacity building and, in particular, a sufficient supply of educators and trainers are central to ensuring that practitioners are equipped with the skills necessary to practice effectively. Ensuring the appropriate combinations of skills required to practice within different health service delivery contexts requires multidisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration.

OBJECTIVES ► EXPECTED RESULTS

4.1 To strengthen the core skills of nursing and midwifery practitioners in order to meet changing population and practice needs.

- 4.1.1 Models and approaches developed and disseminated for integrating core competencies and updating curricula.
- 4.1.2 Core competencies developed and disseminated for nursing and midwifery practice at pre-registration and postregistration levels.
- 4.1.3 A framework of shared competencies established that shows the value of collaboration between nursing and midwifery with other disciplines.
- 4.1.4 Innovative approaches developed and disseminated in all aspects of education, optimizing the use of technology.
- 4.1.5 Innovative models developed and disseminated for continuing education of nurses and midwives, including programmes that focus on quality of care.
- 4.1.6 Development supported of effective approaches for building leadership capacity in nursing and midwifery, and access to them facilitated.
- 4.1.7 Tools developed and disseminated for different approaches to set and assess nursing and midwifery education standards.
- 4.1.8 Development of teaching capacity supported, with a focus on methodologies that link theory to practice and education to services.
- 4.1.9 Educational institutional capacity developed through twinning of nursing and midwifery schools; South–South and North–South collaboration; faculty development.
- 4.1.10 Interdisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration promoted at global, regional and national levels, to support networking and collaboration between disciplines and institutions.