

## **REPORT: CONFERENCE AT THE SAFARI CLUB HOTEL NAIROBI, KENYA**

### **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ORIENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING MEETING ON THE USE OF TOOLS AND GUIDELINES TO SCALE UP HEALTH NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE CONTEXT OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RENEWAL**

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#### **1. PARTICIPANTS:**

- 21 countries in the south east and central Africa
- Canada
- Australia
- Geneva
- Global Health Workforce
- AFRO region of the WHO
- East Central and Southern African Council of Nurses (ECSACON)
- International labour Organisation (IOL)
- International Council of Midwives (ICM)
- West African College of Nursing (WACN)

#### **2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

##### **2.1 General Objective**

The overall aim of the meetings was to contribute to the capacity building of nurses and midwives as frontline health decision makers in accelerating action at country level in addressing Human Resources for Health (HRH) issues and challenges within existing national health policies and HRH orientations using the available tools/guidelines

##### **2.2 Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the orientation meeting were to:

- Familiarise participants with current global and regional orientations that impact on
- scaling up health, nursing and midwifery service delivery within the context of PHC renewal: (Ouagadougou PHC Declaration and Strengthening Health Systems Performance -WHO Framework for Action and the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action on Human Resources for Health);
- Familiarise participants with the content, structure and use of the tools and guidelines that will accelerate scaling up health, nursing, midwifery and service delivery within the context of PHC renewal;
- Guide participants on essential adaptation issues (importance of understanding national health policy orientations as a basis for change; importance of effective leadership; importance of development of micro level/departmental strategies and action plans to operationalise national policies and strategic orientations: different approaches; and the importance of strong educational foundation and responsive regulations for practice);
- Facilitate the development of country-specific action plans for appropriate use/implementation(s) within national planning contexts including specific technical and financial support needs for the implementation of plans and
- Share experiences in the adaptation of tools at country level and other relevant issues

### **3. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The World Health Organization and the Global Health Workforce Alliance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Medical Services and Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation of the Republic of Kenya, hosted Nursing and Midwifery leaders from 21 nations on the African continent, and several regional and international nursing and midwifery partners, to address nursing and midwifery's contribution to the scaling up of human resources for health within the context of PHC renewal and the Ouagadougou declaration implementation framework.

As the largest providers of healthcare in Africa, nursing and midwifery have documented evidence of their contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities. Further, nursing and midwifery have the capacity to perform a significant leadership role in confronting critical issues on the African continent, including scaling up PHC, improving access for all, and strengthening the human resources for health.

The nurses and midwives recognise of the critical need of evidence based decision making and regulatory processes. Thus, the infrastructure to support the collection, analysis and reporting of data is essential. Further, it is important to develop and mentor health system leaders who have the skills to manage change, secure resources, contribute

to public policy, and respond to emerging challenges. Hence, it is paramount to continue the investment to strengthen nursing and midwifery, and its leaders, to achieve the goals of primary health care. In conclusion, the participants are confident that their respective governments and partners will commit support and resources to achieve these priority commitments.

Therefore, the nursing and midwifery leaders who attended this workshop commit to working together with the government and partners, to address, the following:

- Health systems strengthening within the context of primary health care
- Utilise nursing and midwifery knowledge and expertise to contribute and participate in the information, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy
- Human resources for health
- Develop the capacity for more effective nursing and midwifery workforce planning to support an affordable and sustainable health care system.
- Critically examine the workforce to enhance the retention of skilled healthcare providers including nurses and midwives
- Enhance workplace conditions to retain and maintain an experienced, dedicated nursing and midwifery, workforce with the skills and competencies to provide high quality, safe, and timely care.
- Leadership and governance
- Commit to the formation of a strategic network of senior nurses and midwives, linked to the WHO, the African Union and sub-regional bodies, for the sharing of best practice models relevant to the African context and to foster professional networking and collaboration.
- Examine curricula for relevance and ensure competency of graduates for the priority diseases and health programs in the region.
- Nurses and midwives are committed to engaging in dialogue to guarantee the appropriate skill mix of providers, so that the essential services are available to the people where they live.