



Frontline Health Workers Coalition Statement on Draft General Programme of Work GPW13

January 2018

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition commends the WHO for its work to address the most acute gaps in access to trained and supported health workers. The Global Health Workforce Network, which has galvanized much-needed collaboration across several sectors, and the Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in November 2017 – marked by a bold Dublin Declaration and Youth Call to Action – have underscored WHO’s pledge to ensure our world’s health workers are well prepared and supported.

However, the draft 13th General Programme of Work does not adequately address the grave need for massive efforts to strengthen the global health workforce if we have any hope to achieve the SDGs and the GPW 13 three priorities – advancing UHC, addressing health emergencies, and promoting healthier populations.

WHO member states have documented extensive evidence linking expanded access to trained and supported health workers to progress toward UHC, as well as toward key global health issues and security. The Workforce 2030 Strategy and the report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Commission on Health Workforce and Economic Growth found a striking case that investment in health employment is a potential boon for economic prosperity, especially for women and in LMICs.

Yet, the draft GPW 13 does not mention health workforce until paragraph 41 and speaks to the potential cost of the health workforce when the evidence in the HEEG Commission report reflects the opposite – that investments in health employment will provide an estimated 9-1 return.

We urge the Executive Board to direct the WHO secretariat to firmly embed the importance of access to trained and supported health workers in each of the key thematic areas in GPW 13, and to amend the statement in paragraph 41 to emphasize the triple return on investment in health employment as documented by the HEEG Commission report.

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The Frontline Health Workers Coalition is an alliance of 40 United States-based organizations working together to urge greater and more strategic investment 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.