

## **#HealthWorkersCount**

### **Ensuring that Health Workers Count: A Civil Society Pledge**

Health workers have been essential to impressive progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health. With less than 1,000 days until the target date of the MDGs, we must accelerate efforts to strengthen the health workforce capacity needed to meet them. Realizing bolder goals such as achieving universal health coverage (UHC) cannot be achieved without strengthening the health workforce. Therefore, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Recife, Brazil, **we, the undersigned representatives of civil society organizations and other non-state partners, hereby commit to:**

#### **1) Champion a movement for health workers**

- We will advocate that governments at all levels institute human resources for health (HRH) action plans to ensure that every person has access to a trained, supported, and equipped health worker.
- We will work with training institutions and regulatory bodies to foster quality in health worker education so that every health worker is competent to provide quality care.
- We will work with professional associations to raise the profile of health workers, promote adherence to high standards of care, foster collaboration, and institute solid governance structures.
- We will press global organizations and other civil society actors to support health workforce strengthening efforts in accordance with government commitment to action plans.
- We will leverage our resources and expertise to turn HRH policy and commitments into global action.
- We will advocate for donors and governments to prioritize and scale up efforts to address HRH.

#### **2) Support health workers and civil society to advocate for better recognition, support, security, and working conditions**

- We will ensure the voices of health workers, especially those on the frontlines of care, are valued and represented in national and global health policy discussions.
- We will help amplify the voices of local civil society organizations to ensure that they are being consulted and engaged in global and national health workforce policy discussions.
- We will engage with patient and client advocacy groups to effectively advocate for access to quality services and competent health workers at all levels of care.

#### **3) Support accountability**

- We will work with governments, the Global Health Workforce Alliance, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based frameworks to measure progress toward the goal of health worker access for every person.
- We will track and report periodically on progress of public HRH commitments made by governments, including legislation, policies, budgets, strategies, and official speeches.
- We will provide citizens and health workers with mechanisms to participate in accountability efforts.
- We will increase transparency of our programmatic and technical contributions to national HRH strategies, making our activities easier to track.

#### **We call on governments, donors, and multilateral entities to:**

- Provide the leadership, investments, and stewardship needed to fulfill commitments made to end the health workforce crisis and ensure that every person has access to a health worker.
- By 2015, develop, finance, and implement HRH action plans with concrete targets and integrate them into national health plans and other global health commitment plans.
- Establish integrated platforms with health workers and civil society organizations as active partners in the planning, coordination, and decision-making process involved with HRH.
- Improve the financial sustainability and equity of health systems by supporting frontline health workers to deliver services to the most-marginalized groups and hard-to-reach populations.
- Integrate community and other frontline health workers into the formal health system.
- Support strong HRH information systems so that all health workers can be counted.
- Improve diplomacy and governance on international issues such as health worker recruitment.

This pledge was developed by members of the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative (HWAI), the Frontline Health Workers Coalition (FHWC) and other civil society organizations around the world. To sign onto the pledge, please e-mail [friends@healthworkerscount.org](mailto:friends@healthworkerscount.org).