



To Presidents/Executive Directors/General Secretaries of ICN Member Associations

1 September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing the first-ever State of the World's Nursing Report for launch on World Health Day (7 April) during the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife (2020). The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Nursing Now campaign are proud Co-Chairs of the State of the World's Nursing (SoWN) Report.

We are writing to you to assure you that we are working hard to make the SoWN report a landmark resource for the profession that will provide evidence to make a strong case for investment in nursing. However, time is short and we must work together to ensure data is reported from every country.

The country data will provide us with information such as like the number and types of nurses, education content and duration, standards, working conditions, pay, gender issues, leadership, and regulation. Countries are sharing data on these topics primarily through their National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA). Find out more about NHWA here:

<https://www.who.int/hrh/statistics/nhwa/en/>

Here's how the process works:

Most countries have a NHWA focal person responsible for reporting health workforce data. To encourage countries to report data on their *nursing* workforce, the government chief nurse (or equivalent position) works with the NHWA focal person on nursing-specific data for the report.

The responsible government nurse may not have all the data needed. Some data and information may be held by other government sectors (education, labor, finance). Sometimes, stakeholders, such as the regulatory council, the nursing professional associations, education and training institutions, and WHO Collaborating Centers have information to contribute.

Jhpiego, an international non-governmental organization, is contracted by WHO to work with countries to support this process where indicated. Examples of Jhpiego's roles include these:

- In countries without a NHWA focal person, Jhpiego can work with the chief nurse to collate the information and relay it to WHO for review and entry on the platform.
- In certain countries without a NHWA focal person, the chief nurse or others may be authorized to enter the data directly on the platform; Jhpiego can assist them with this.
- In countries without a government head nurse, Jhpiego can liaise with the key stakeholders to collate contributed information and provide it to the NHWA focal person.

Countries can enter data on the platform at any time until 30 September 2019. We have only few weeks remaining. For that reason, your immediate engagement is critical.

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We urge you to advocate for the State of the World's Nursing Report within your networks and beyond. In countries with a government chief nurse, we encourage you to support their efforts to gather and cross-check data and help identify potential gaps so the most reliable data is reported for the country.

For more information, you can email WHO at SOWN2020@who.int or Jhpiego at Sarah.Fitzgerald-Briscoe@jhpigo.org. Nursing Now and ICN will be hosting webinars to share information and answer questions on the SoWN report, starting on September 10th.

The first webinar will last one hour and will be held at 8:00 and 14:00 (London GMT+1) to allow as many of you as possible from different time-zones to participate. To join one of the webinars simply register in advance:

08:00 (London GMT+1): https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jLi-oS9mS9GRFP4VK3Os4Q

14:00 (London GMT+1): https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qa8cZzByQQSLkYd7dBZ7VA

If you already have specific questions in mind, kindly submit these to nursingnow@nursingnow.org along with your name, organization and country before 10th September. This will allow us to prepare and answer as many questions as possible during the webinar.

The world will take note of this report; we must make sure that it presents an accurate and reliable picture of the nursing workforce. Together we can make the most of 2020—The International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife-- to shape the future of our profession.

Kind regards,



Elizabeth Iro
Chief Nursing Officer
World Health Organization



Baroness Mary Watkins
Alternate Co-Chair
Nursing Now



Howard Catton
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International Council of Nurses