Media Advisory

Invitation to media to attend the Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health
RDS, Dublin 14-17 November 2017

What?
The Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health (http://hrhforum2017.ie) is being held at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in Ballsbridge, Dublin, from November 14-17, 2017. The Forum is convened by the Department of Health, the World Health Organization, Trinity College Dublin, the Health Service Executive, Irish Aid, and Global Health Workforce Network. The Official Opening will be at 5pm, Tuesday November 14.

What is the Forum about?
The world is heading towards a shortfall of 18 million health workers by 2030, especially in poorer countries, threatening efforts to achieve health and wellbeing for all. Even though Human Resources for Health (HRH) have been identified as the single most critical constraint to the achievement of most health and development goals, we continue to witness a global health workforce shortfall.

Health workers protect the world from emerging health threats, help communities prevent disease and provide care throughout our lives. Investing in health workers makes the economy more productive - a quarter of economic growth in 2000-2011 in low- and middle-income countries resulted from improvements to health. The health and social sector is expected to generate 40 million new health worker jobs by 2030, each supported by at least two jobs in other occupations.

As both a destination and source country for health workers, Ireland is uniquely positioned to engage in the policy space for human resources for health. Ireland supports the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. Ireland also supports the training and retention of health workers in low-income countries by engaging directly in the health sector in partner countries.

The health sector in Ireland is experiencing challenges in the recruitment and retention of health professionals. There are targeted efforts underway to address these issues. However, the potential impact of emerging and accelerating global and regional health workforce shortages presents a strategic risk to the effective functioning of the Irish health system.

The WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 and the UN High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth report, Working for Health and Growth, make a bold economic case for investing in the health workforce and intensified intersectoral collaboration. Under the theme ‘Building the health workforce of the future’, over 1,000 delegates at the Forum will discuss and debate innovative approaches to avert the health workforce challenge, including retention, training and migration. The objective of the Forum is to advance the implementation of the Global Strategy and the Commission’s recommendations towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What is the structure of the Forum?
The Forum includes high-level plenaries centring on key health workforce themes. There will be six plenaries, four of which are followed by six parallel track sessions that explore aspects of the theme.
The first high-level plenary sets the scene for the Forum, covering the vision for the future and the contextual trends. The second is on aligning education and utilisation of skills to optimise workforce performance to meet population health needs. The third focuses on policies and planning for labour market transformation and employment for health. The fourth addresses decent work, rights and responsibilities. The fifth is about improving governance for effective implementation of the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health. The sixth is the investors’ forum examining fiscal policy and financing for jobs, health and inclusive growth. The closing session includes a final plenary on galvanising commitment, change and accountability. Full agenda: hhrforum2017.ie

**Who is attending and what will be the result?**
The Forum is intersectoral and delegates will attend from sectors such as education, health, employment and finance. Attendees will include senior government officials. They will be joined by representatives from UN organisations, development agencies, NGOs, civil society representatives, academic and research institutions and health workers.

The Forum will conclude with the Dublin Declaration, a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder declaration for improved governance, strategic investments and financing for an effective, performing and sustainable workforce (Friday, Nov 17, 11am).

Separately, the Health Service Executive will sign an agreement with the Ministry of Health in Sudan for technical collaboration between the countries on November 15. A number of successful healthcare collaborations already exist between the countries. Sudanese medical graduates working in Ireland will be key players in the collaboration.

The media programme will include:
- Minister for Health Simon Harris TD will launch of the National Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care Workforce Planning on Tuesday, Nov 14, 5pm. The Framework was developed by a cross-sectoral steering group in line with the Department of Health’s Statement of Strategy 2016-2019.
- Opportunities to interview key stakeholders and other global leaders.
- Access to daily plenary and track sessions (Agenda: https://csihevents.org/hrh_2017/_agenda).
- Daily updates.

**Media registration:**
To attend the Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, media should complete this accreditation form: http://hrhforum2017.ie/media-registration/

A live stream of the conference is available at: hhrforum2017.ie

**Pre-Forum Events:**
There are two pre-Forum events – a Health Worker Storytelling Evening and a Youth Forum. The Storytelling Evening, titled “Lives in their hands: Stories by health workers from around the world”, will highlight the personal stories of health workers who save lives and support people, communities and economies while facing significant challenges everyday. The evening is organised by the World Health Organization, Women in Global Health and Frontline Health Workers Coalition. It will be held on Monday, November 13 at 7pm, at the Minerva Suite, RDS. Register for the event: https://confpartners.eventsair.com/human-resources-for-health-forum-2017/storytellingevening
The Youth Forum will serve as a venue to build a network of young people from various health professions to generate ideas, explore best practices, encourage future collaborations and network with other youth leaders. It is being led by the International Federation of Medication Students Association. It will run from 9am-3.30pm, Tuesday November 14 at the RDS. Media are invited to attend both events.

Press Contacts:
Sonali Reddy, World Health Organization, +41 79 5090647, reddys@who.int
Elaine Scanlon, Department of Health, +353 872136313, press_office@health.gov.ie
Leonie Corcoran, media support, +353 86852 6535, corcoran.leonie@gmail.com
Please contact Leonie Corcoran to arrange interviews in advance of the Forum.

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