The 72nd World Health Assembly designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. The year will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.
**What**

**The State of the World’s Nursing report**

The WHO State of the World’s Nursing (SoWN) report will describe how the nursing workforce will help deliver Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and highlight areas for policy development for the next three to five years. It will also provide a technical description of the nursing workforce in Member States, including the number and types of nurses, education, regulation, practice, leadership, and gender issues.

**Why**

**Drive investment in nursing and midwifery workforces to help achieve UHC and the SDGs**

Provide a global picture of the nursing workforce and the contributions of nurses to WHO’s “Triple Billion” goals. Generate data to inform national policy dialogue and support decision-making on how to optimize the contributions of nurses towards PHC and UHC. Unlock investment in the health workforce, including nursing, and the gender equity agenda. Accelerate progress across the SDGs: Health (SDG 3), Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), and Decent work and inclusive growth (SDG 8).

**How**

**National Health Workforce Accounts, Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers, and Partners**

The SoWN report will use the National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) as the main platform for data collection and sharing. NHWA are country-led systems that aim at improving availability, quality, analysis and use of health workforce data for policy development. NHWA maximizes the use of routine and ad-hoc country level data collection via a national focal point mechanism who is responsible for validating and reporting health workforce data.

In many countries, NHWA data collection efforts can be enhanced by contributions from regulatory councils, education institutions, professional associations, employers, population-based surveys and others. Global Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (GCNMOs) and partners (associations, unions, councils, educators) are encouraged to coordinate with NHWA focal points to support the data validation and reporting efforts, using processes established for NHWA reporting.
**Key dates**

**World Health Day**
Launch of the State of the World’s Nursing report in Geneva and WHO Regions.

**International Nurses Day**
*Geneva*
Celebration hosted with the International Council of Nurses and the Nursing Now campaign.

**WHO Global Forum of Government Chief Nursing Officers**
*Geneva*
Biennial convening of Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers and the Triad Meeting in Geneva immediately prior to the World Health Assembly to discuss the SoWN report and share implications with national delegations to the 73rd WHA.
73rd World Health Assembly
Geneva

In celebration of The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, the Director General has invited nursing champions to address the Assembly.
The SoWN report may inform discussions on nursing and midwifery at the 73rd WHA.

2020 Regional Committees

Following the 73rd WHA, the SoWN report may inform discussions at the 2020 Regional Committees with potential Regional commitments on the health workforce, including nursing and midwifery.
Get engaged

To present the most robust evidence base for the State of the World’s Nursing, broad engagement of nursing and midwifery leaders and stakeholders is needed. Government officials have an important role in leading the data collection, validation, and policy dialogue processes, with the support of WHO and partners, and engaging relevant stakeholders.

Nursing leaders and their in-country networks will be integral to the processes of ensuring the quality and validity of data, and participating in policy dialogue.

+ GCNMOs can work closely with the identified focal point for NHWA to help improve the availability, reporting and use of data for the two reports.
+ GCNMOs can expand the NHWA stakeholder network to identify potential providers of additional data, good practices, and or case studies to describe the national nursing workforce.
+ Ministries of Health, Education, Labour and Finance are important contributors of data about nurses and midwives in public sector environments of practice and education. GCNMOs can also be given rights to enter data onto the NHWA platform. If there is not a NHWA focal point nor GCNMO, an appropriate stakeholder can also enter validated country data on the platform.
+ National Statistical offices conduct national population surveys and labour force surveys that provide unique information on the labour market activity of health workers.
Regulatory councils with active registers have valuable information on the number of nurses and midwives, their demographic information and education levels, as well as migration and mobility.

Health professional associations and unions can contribute rich data to the validation and policy dialogue process about employment settings, titles, salary, and practice issues, and leadership.

Private sector employers have important data on nurse and midwife employment, remuneration, retention and turnover, and vacancy rates.

Non-governmental organizations, including civil society organizations, and regional economic areas have a critical role in advocacy, coordination, and communication processes around the data validation, and policy dialogue processes, as well as contributing valuable information on nursing and midwifery.

The network of nursing leaders and stakeholders behind national NursingNow! campaigns can contribute to the advocacy and communications efforts for data validation and policy dialogue.

Education institutions can contribute information around the number of applicants, graduates, degree levels, faculty qualifications, and accreditation mechanisms.

WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery (WHO CC) in-country or within the region are resources for assisting with data validation exercises with GCNMOs and in-country leaders. The Secretariat of the Global Network of WHO CCs can mobilize and coordinate at the global level.

The WHO country offices can assist with the efforts of GCNMOs and other ministry of health colleagues and support the NHWA processes to validate and incorporate diverse data sources.

The WHO regional offices can assist with regional-level coordination and communication, and supporting the work of WHO CCs in-country.

The WHO HQ will assist with coordination of partners and support at the global level, including the NHWA process, GCNMOs, nursing and midwifery partners, and guidance for NHWA.