May has been an important month for #PrimaryHealthCare. We are seeing the momentum generated by #Astana continuing to build, and everyone from the OECD to the G7 to the #WorldHealthAssembly is talking about the importance of #PHC in achieving #UniversalHealthCoverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. But now the real work begins: ensuring that political will is turned into action on the ground to make PHC a reality.

@DrTedros spoke of the importance of #PHC for #UHC at the G7 Health Ministers Meeting which took place in Paris on May 16-17. His remarks can be found here. The recent OECD policy brief Realizing the Full Potential of Primary Health Care reiterates the need to strengthen PHC and outlines actions policy-makers can take. The outcome of the G7 ministers’ meeting was a Declaration on the role of the G7 in global health. One element of this is focused on the development of a Universal Knowledge Network on Primary Health Care, which will be developed jointly by the WHO, the Global Fund, the OECD and the World Bank.

Following on from the G7 meeting was the 72nd World Health Assembly, centred on the theme of HealthForAll. PHC was an integral part of many of the discussions and events during the week, and was a key element in three resolutions voted on by the Assembly. You can read more about the WHA below.

With the momentum building, #Kazakhstan is turning that political will into action. In April, Kazakhstan announced its goal of increasing its health budget to 5% of GDP by 2025. 60% of all health spending will be dedicated to PHC.
Making PHC a reality depends on political will, but it also depends on grass-roots action. And #CommunityHealthWorkers are key. Dr Jim Campbell, WHO’s expert on health workforce, will speak on issues in this area in the first-ever PHC Webinar, which will take place on Friday, June 21, 2019. To register, please send an email to primaryhealthcare@who.int. As background information, feel free to check out the PHC Technical Series on Health Workforce.

The next important milestone for PHC will be the High-Level Meeting on UHC which will take place at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. Help us keep #PHC on the global agenda!

For up-to-minute news on PHC, follow us on Twitter at @BarkleyMD, @RouleauK and @etkelley419

Please feel free to send us your requests, suggestions, and feedback at primaryhealthcare@who.int

72nd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The World Health Assembly is an intense week, with delegates from 194 Member States passionately arguing about a number of global public health issues. #PrimaryHealthCare, as the tool for achieving #HealthForAll (this year’s theme) was at the forefront of debate. In his opening address, @DrTedros said, “The world has made great progress towards universal health coverage. The Declaration of Astana endorsed by all 194 Member States last year was a vital affirmation that there will be no UHC without primary health care.”
PAHO announces a regional compact to eliminate barriers to health access and to increase funding for PHC by 30% by 2030

The OECD releases a report examining how to realize the full potential for PHC

EVENTS

Women Deliver
3-6 June 2019, Vancouver, Canada

Community Health Connections Conference
12-13 June 2019, Ottawa, Canada

PHC Webinar on Health Workforce
21 June 2019

Beyond Healthcare to Health: International Council of Nurses Conference
27 June - 1 July 2019

Western Pacific Partners Forum
1-3 July 2019, Online event
Samoa

Samoa has a long tradition of governance at the village level. See how PEN Fa’a Samoa engages women of the community in the fight against noncommunicable diseases.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Mental health in primary care: inclusion or illusion?

Cyntia Germanotta, better known as “Mama Gaga”, was recently appointed as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Mental Health. Read more about the importance of including mental health in PHC.

YOUNG LEADER’S BLOG

Rebecca Hall

The Young Leaders Network consists of 21 early-career professionals in medicine and public health who are putting #PrimaryHealthCare into practice every day across vastly different cultures, situations and environments. One #YoungLeader shares her perspective on #WHA72.
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