Dear Monta,

Although things may be slowing down in the Northern Hemisphere due to heat waves and summer holidays, rest assured that work on advancing the primary health care agenda goes on!

The draft Operational Framework for #PHC is being updated with all of the comments received during the public and civil society consultations held at the end of 2018 and beginning of this year. The next step will be a final consultation with Member States, which will take place throughout the remainder of 2019. Plans are to submit the final version to the World Health Assembly for ratification in May 2020.

In our May issue, we talked about steps countries and regions can take to move to a PHC approach. EMRO is beginning with an assessment of the current state of PHC in three countries – Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan. The assessment methodology that is being used will be presented at an
upcoming regional workshop which will take place in Cairo (see “Events” below).

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a critical element of any health care system. A new M&E framework for PHC is currently under development, and is expected to be made available by the end of 2019.

300 people registered for the first PHC webinar on health workforce, led by Dr Jim Campbell, Director of Health Workforce at WHO. A recording of the webinar and a transcript are available here. In a nod to Europe’s soaring temperatures, July’s webinar will focus on #ClimateChange in the context of PHC.

The biggest event on the horizon for fall is the upcoming UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, which will take place in New York on 23 September, in the context of the United Nations General Assembly. Preparations are ongoing for supporting PHC as the means of achieving UHC, and we will keep you informed of events in this newsletter as we draw closer to the meeting. As @DrTedros states, “There is no UHC without primary health care.”

For up-to-the-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
Takeaways from the first PHC webinar

Primary health care is about people. People who require health care, and the people who provide it. And it is just as important to look after the people who provide services as it is to look after those who need those services. This was perhaps the most important takeaway of the first PHC webinar, which took place on 21 June 2019.

Read the full article

Health: A Political Choice
(The Global Governance Project, in collaboration with WHO)

Primary health care in the context of universal health coverage
(Business World, India)

American medical students less likely to choose primary health care
(Chronicle Express, U.S.)

How developing countries can achieve universal health coverage
(Project Syndicate, Switzerland)

PHC Webinar on Climate Change in the Context of Primary Health Care
25 July 2019, 10:00am-11:00am CET

Register here
Eastern Mediterranean Regional Workshop
30 July – 1 August 2019, Cairo, Egypt

G7 Meeting
24-26 August, Biarritz

UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage
23 September 2019, New York

COUNTRY FOCUS

Brazil

The “Mais Medicos” programme was created in 2013 to address a critical shortage of doctors needed in Brazil’s primary health care system. See how the three workstreams of strengthening infrastructure, increasing enrolment, and emergency provision of doctors has impacted health outcomes in Brazil.
Quality in primary health care

It is not enough to build a primary health care model. For that model to be sustainable, services need to be of high quality. They need to be safe; effective; people-centred; equitable; efficient; timely and integrated. WHO provides technical guidance on how to face the challenges to improving the quality of health care.

YOUNG LEADER’S BLOG

Digital health solutions: technology in primary health care

Digital platforms, apps, electronic record-keeping – what does all this technology have to do with patient care? Dr Ana Nunes Barata explains how digital health technologies are integrated into her family medicine practice.