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SE4-SE5

Title

No Health Workers No UHC: The Crucial Role of Frontline Health Workers in Achieving Universal Health Coverage

Organiser

Frontline Health Workers Coalition

Objective

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing that “effective and financially sustainable implementation of universal health coverage” (UHC) will require “an adequate skilled, well-trained and motivated workforce.” Unfortunately, this requirement simply is not being met for many communities in rural and remote areas in developing countries, depriving 1 billion people with regular access to essential health services. Yet, recent examples from South America to Africa to Asia show that strategic investment in the health workforce on the frontlines in communities can pave the path to UHC. Using case studies from three countries (we are currently considering Brazil, Ethiopia and Nepal, but final selection will depend on the availability of speakers from these countries), this session will highlight the vital role that frontline health workers play in advancing universal health coverage and other global health goals.

Outcome

A clear definition of frontline health workers; Illustrations of the impact frontline health workers are having on health outcomes; Demonstration through country examples of how investments in frontline health workers are a crucial step toward UHC; Demonstrated examples of the role of frontline health workers in UHC from three different regions of the world (Africa, Asia, South America).