Dear Readers,

We are approaching the end of yet another year, one that has brought much success to our efforts. I want to sincerely thank you all, our members, partners - new and old - working in the spirit of respectful collaboration and cooperation for these achievements.

Looking forward, we at the Alliance are both inspired and committed to step up our collective efforts to address the persisting health workforce shortages, the uneven distribution of health workers between urban and rural areas, the international migration of health personnel and the wider performance and management challenges that hinder delivery of essential health services and the achievement of universal health coverage. 2013 is set to be an exciting year, as we prepare to host the 3rd Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Recife, Brazil.

As we welcome the New Year, let us reaffirm our collective dedication and cooperation to ensure health workers are empowered to do their job within robust and supportive health systems. To quote a West African proverb, “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together”.

On behalf of my team at the Secretariat, I’d like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season and a happy new year!

Dr Mubashar Sheikh

Competition for a slogan for the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health
The Global Health Workforce Alliance is pleased to announce a competition to conceptualise a slogan/strapline for its upcoming Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, which will take place in Brazil, from 10-13 November 2013. The chosen theme for the Forum is **Human Resources for Health: foundation for Universal Health Coverage and the post-2015 development agenda.** The winner will receive a return economy class ticket to Recife to attend the Third Global Forum. Deadline for submissions is **23 January 2013.** [Read more](#)

**Public consultation on Programme of the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health**

The Alliance is delighted to launch a public consultation on the programme/agenda for the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health and invite you, to share your views and comments on the proposed programme, which is available for consultation on our member’s e-platform. The consultation will run from **21 December 2012 until 11 January 2013.** [Read more](#)

**Forum Organizing Committee convenes for its first meeting in Geneva**

The Forum Organizing Committee (FOC) had its first meeting at the end of November to review the plans and processes in place for the Third Global Forum. The role of this committee is to provide strategic guidance and political support; and ensure oversight of timely and quality organization of the upcoming Third Global Forum on HRH. Chaired by the Government of Brazil, with World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Global Health Workforce Alliance (Alliance) the FOC emphasized the need to stimulate countries to make new commitments to advance the HRH agenda. [Read more](#)

**The Alliance condemns the killings of health workers in Pakistan**

Geneva, 19 December 2012 | Nine health workers —part of a campaign supported by UNICEF and WHO to vaccinate tens of millions of Pakistani children at risk from polio—have been killed in the past 48 hours. The Global Health Workforce Alliance is deeply saddened by this tragedy and strongly condemns these cowardly attacks. The Alliance salutes the courageous health personnel who so often risk their lives in serving their communities. [Read more](#)

**The Alliance welcomes the adoption of a resolution on Universal Health Coverage**

The United Nations General Assembly, recently, voted in favor of a draft resolution supporting universal health coverage (UHC), signaling the importance of universal healthcare to the international development agenda. The resolution, which was first proposed by the Foreign Policy and Global Health group in September 2012, was backed by over 70 countries, including the US and the UK. The adoption of this resolution will keep up momentum for a global commitment to ensure universal access to health care without the fear of falling into poverty. The Resolution, which includes reference to an adequately skilled, well-trained and motivated workforce in support of UHC, paves the way for the post-2015 development agenda to include universal health coverage. [Read more](#)

**New recommendations for optimizing health worker roles for maternal and newborn health interventions**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued recommendations to facilitate universal access to key, effective maternal and newborn interventions through the
The Director General of the WHO has recently announced the appointment of Dr Ties Boerma from The Netherlands as Director ad interim of the Health Systems Policies and Workforce (HPW) cluster, with effect from 1 January 2013. This announcement comes following the retirement of the current Director, Dr Wim Van Lerberghe. Dr Boerma is also currently serving as Director, for the WHO’s Health Statistics and Informatics (HIS) Department. The Alliance looks forward to advancing the health workforce agenda under the guidance and leadership of Dr Boerma.

Intel and the mHealth Alliance announced a new partnership with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and Intel to leverage mobile computing and telecommunications technologies to support Nigeria’s Saving One Million Lives Initiative—an initiative launched in October by Nigerian President, His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.

Representatives from national governments, the UN, civil society and the private sector gathered in Geneva to discuss how to accelerate accountability and harmonization of efforts in support of the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health (CoIA).

We urge all members and partners of the Alliance to submit news articles, resources, multimedia or any relevant information about their work for inclusion in the upcoming editions of our newsletters.

The Alliance recently held a webinar on the member’s e-platform to introduce and share Alliance member Remi Akinmade’s work in a DFID-sponsored programme in Lagos, Nigeria, aimed at supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue around HRH policy development. The webinar was extremely well received and the Alliance will continue to promote and share the amazing work done by our members, through the webinars.

The International Confederation of Midwives seeks a new Secretary General.
The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) is undertaking an international recruitment to fill the vacancy of Secretary General. The current ICM Secretary General, Agneta Bridges will step down from the post at the end of February 2013. The Alliance would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms. Bridges for her leadership, energy and professionalism that she has brought to the ICM. See vacancy notice here.

HIV Physicians Association Changes Name, Expands Membership

In a move designed to formally acknowledge the contributions of various cadres of professional and paraprofessional providers of HIV/AIDS care, an international association that represents more than 17,000 members, primarily HIV-treating physicians, announced it has changed its name to the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC). Read more

HRH IN THE PRESS THIS MONTH

Ambassadors for health - The Guardian, 28 November
Skilled and respected workers have revolutionised neighbourhood healthcare in Ethiopia – using a model other countries could follow.

Obamacare everywhere: U.N. votes in favor of universal health coverage - The Washington Post, 12 December
The United Nations General Assembly voted in favor of a draft resolution supporting universal health coverage, signaling the importance of universal healthcare to the international development agenda.

New nursing strategy calls for transparency on staffing levels - The Nursing Times, 4 December
Hospitals could be required to publish nurse staffing levels at least twice a year under plans set out in the chief nursing officers' strategy.

Sudan: Strengthening Life-Saving Health Services in South Sudan - AllAfrica, 30 November
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has signed the Phase II agreement of the Health System Strengthening grant with the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

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Global Health Workforce Alliance
Ave Appia
Geneva, 1211
Switzerland
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