



Nursing and Midwifery in the History of the World Health Organization 1948-2017



World Health Organization



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ISBN 978-92-4-151190-2

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Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Design and layout by L'IV Com Sàrl, Villars-sous-Yens, Switzerland.
Printed in France.



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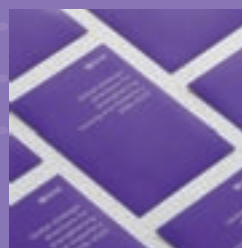


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FOREWORD



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tedros Adhanom'.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization

Every country needs a competent, motivated, well-distributed and supported health workforce.

Health workers are the cornerstone of the strong, resilient health systems needed to achieve universal health coverage. These are the people who keep the world safe, improve health, and protect the vulnerable.

These are the people who detect, prevent and manage health emergencies, and who promote the well-being of women, children and adolescents.

Nurses and midwives are the unsung heroes of the health workforce and the backbone of primary health care systems. Making up over half of the health workforce in many countries, nurses and midwives can transform the ways health actions are organized and how health care is delivered.

Over the years, nurses and midwives have contributed to major global health landmarks, like the eradication of small pox and the dramatic reductions in maternal and child mortality that have occurred in many countries. But nurses and midwives need support and they need recognition.

This report on the history of nursing and midwifery in the World Health Organization celebrates the work of these core health workers. It provides a vivid account of the contributions they have made to strengthening global health systems. It shows how WHO has endeavoured to give them a voice over several decades, and highlights the critical role they will play in improving health

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