THE POWER OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The world is facing a global health workforce crisis. Worldwide, there is an unequal distribution of and unequal access to skilled health workers. It is expected that by 2030, there will be 40 million more health sector jobs, mostly in middle- and high-income countries, while in low-income countries, the shortage of health workers is expected to increase to 18 million. This will have a damaging impact on access to health for these countries’ populations.

Concerned by this prognosis, the Health Workers For All Coalition (HW4All Coalition) was established in May 2018. We aim to increase the role of civil society organizations in global and national policy-making and spur action on human resources for health. By reigniting civil society advocacy for health workers for all, we want to contribute to fulfilling the right to health, decent working conditions, peaceful assembly, and to achieving Universal Health Coverage as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

ACCESS TO A SKILLED HEALTH WORKER FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Our goals are to:

- **Strengthen the voice of civil society on health workers**: because we want global, regional and national policy-making on Human Resources for Health to include and consider the voice(s) of civil society for equitable access to health workers for all.

- **Monitor & promote implementation of existing instruments**: to ensure accountability of governments and multilateral institutions on the implementation of global, regional and local commitments for human resources for health, and for the prevention of attacks on health workers.

- **Advocate global solidarity**: to achieve firm and sustained financial support for low- and middle-income countries to fund a well-functioning health system, and address issues of fiscal space for scaling up investments to meet health workforce needs.

- **Promote sharing and joint action**: to join forces, as civil society, when building evidence, strategizing and developing our positions and actions on critical issues.
Some of Our Achievements in 2018

- We were invited to provide our perspective during the second meeting of the International Platform on Health Worker Mobility in Geneva, which included representatives from member states, international agencies and civil society.

- Our secretariat was requested to join the discussion between the WHO workforce department and MMI regarding their Collaboration Plan for the period 2019-2021. As a coalition, we will actively involve civil society organizations in the promotion, implementation and review of the WHO Global Code, as well as in key global human resources for health governance structures and processes.

- Eight coalition members endorsed Wemos’ letter to the Global Financing Facility (GFF), calling on the GFF to increase and improve engagement with civil society at all levels, address health workforce shortage crisis, and reduce financial barriers to accessing health care.

The Way Forward

In 2019, we will consolidate our governance structures and expand our membership base. We will also develop publications, position papers and actions on critical human resources for health issues that our members can use to meaningfully engage at key national, regional and global health events and opportunities, thus strengthening our advocacy efforts.

About Us

After starting with 4 members, the coalition has rapidly expanded to 30 members (January 2019), reflecting a strong and worldwide interest in this collaboration. The coalition’s observers are the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, and Médecins Sans Frontières. Its steering committee consists of ACHEST, Health Action International (HAI), Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPPDU), MMI, People’s Health Movement (PHM), Uganda Youth and Adolescents Health Forum (UYAHF) and Wemos.

Interested in joining or supporting us financially? Please reach out to us by sending an email to welcome@healthworkersforallcoalition.org

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