

2021
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF
HEALTH AND
CARE WORKERS

Support them so they
can support you!

#SupportHealthCareWorkers

PROTECT.
INVEST.
TOGETHER.

2021

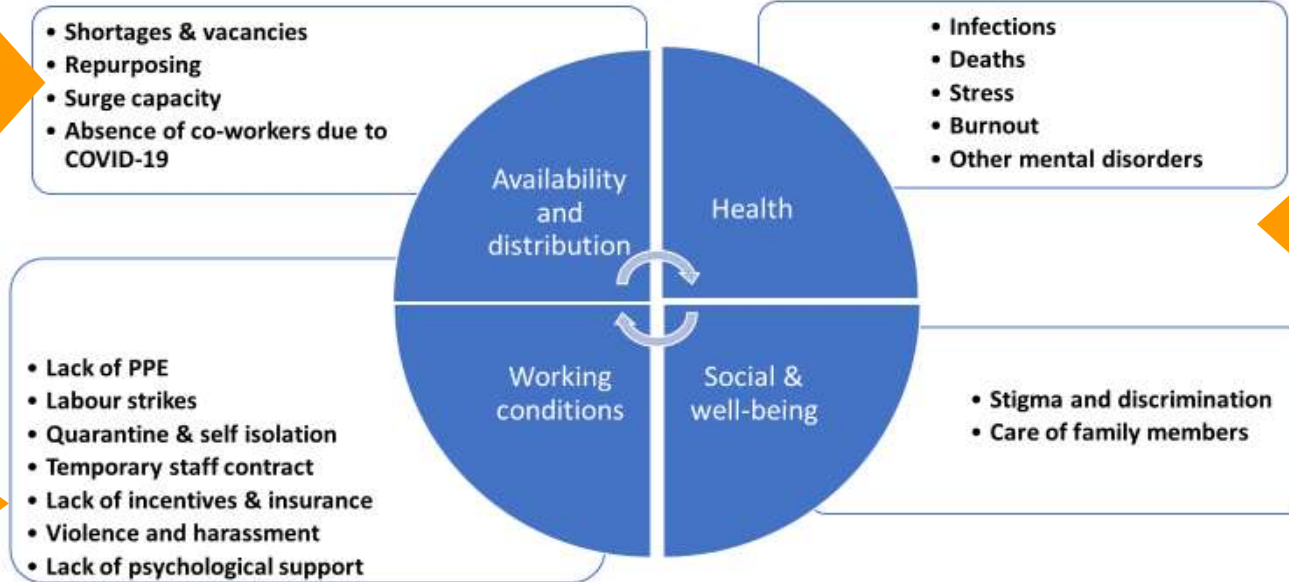
International Year of Health and Care Workers

Protect. Invest. Together.

Impact of COVID-19 on health and care workers

68% of service disruptions due to staff redeployment / inavailability
26% due to insufficient PPE (1)

84 recorded labour strikes
38% due to lack of decent working conditions (2)



4M+ health and care worker infections (3)

Among health workers
23% prevalence of depression & anxiety
39% prevalence of insomnia (4)

Increased risk of stigma & bullying (5)
Violence & attacks reported

Need: **holistic approach** to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on health and care workers

Further reading in WEU 30th March 2021: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---31-march-2021>

Selective summary of the COVID-19 impact dimension on HCWs

Dimension	Evidence
Stigma and discrimination	HCWs were at increased risk to experience stigma and bullying, adjusted odds ratio: 1.5 (95% CI 1.2 to 2.0). ³
Violence	Since the beginning of the outbreak, attacks on health care have continuously been reported and now also include incidents linked to the COVID-19 pandemic across the world. ⁴
Lack of PPE	Lack of PPE for HCWs has been observed in several countries. ^{5,6}
Strike actions	An independent analysis has identified industrial dispute and strike action in 84 Member States since February 2020; of which 38% and 29% of strikes are due to poor working conditions and lack of PPE, respectively. ⁷
Quarantine and self-isolation	In a survey of health professionals and allied employees, 24% of HCWs declared that they had to return to work while still having symptoms of COVID-19. ⁸
Other working conditions	Role of privatization in delivery of services, managerial practices in nursing homes exacerbated impact of COVID-19. ⁹

WEU 30 March 2021: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---31-march-2021>

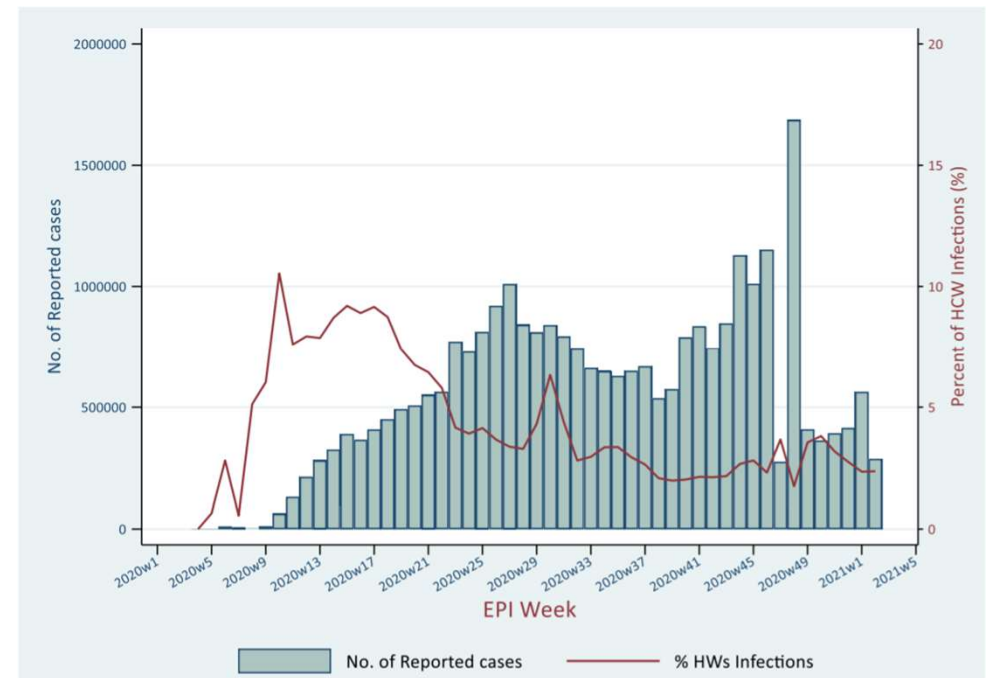
COVID-19 infections among health workers from data reported to WHO through CRF and weekly updates

Note: Heterogeneous reporting of data on health and care workers (less than 20% of reported cases have information on the occupational status [HCW or non-HCW]):

- Important under-reporting of COVID-19 infections among HCWs
- Large under-reporting of deaths from Covid-19 among HCWs

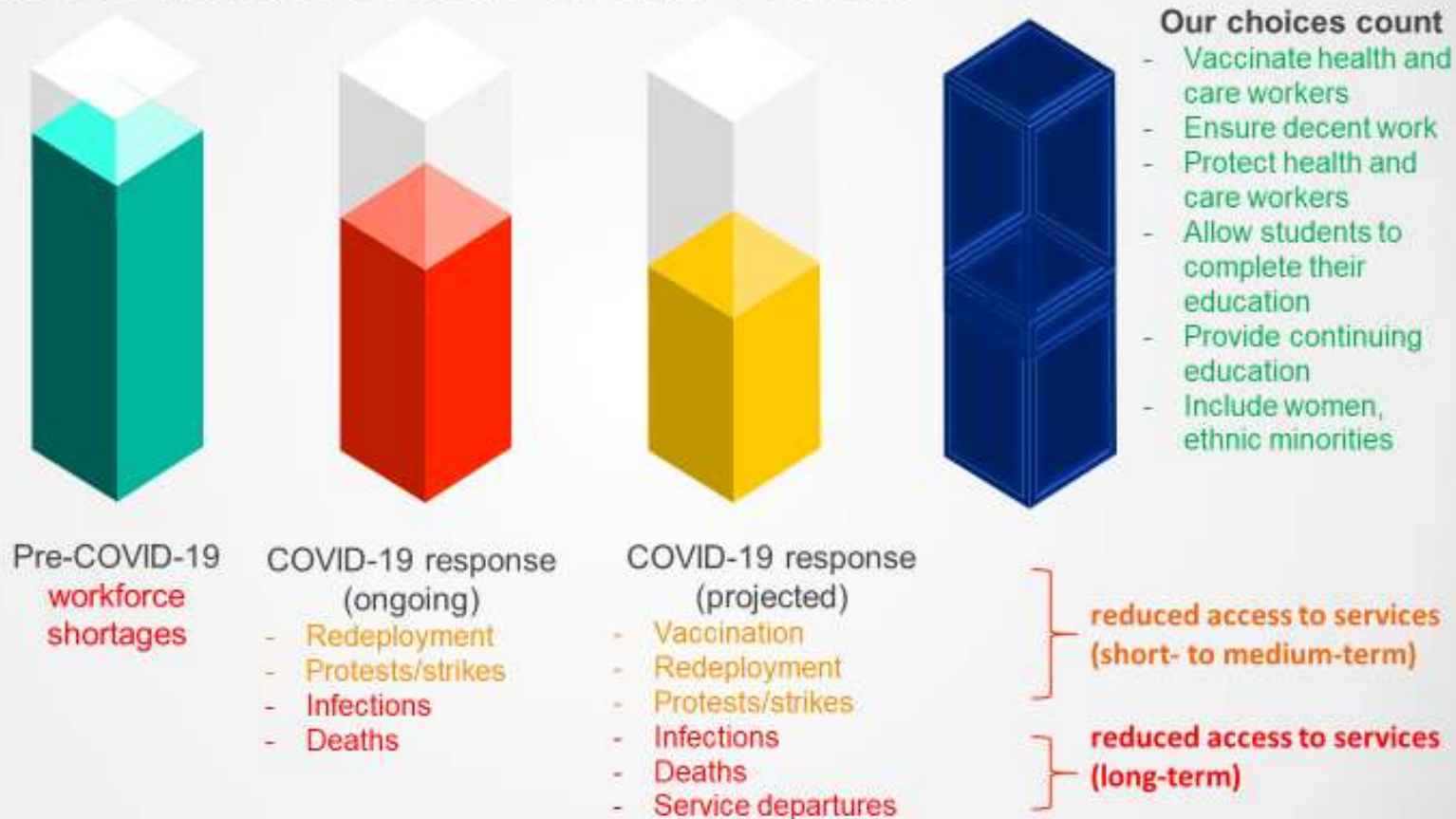
Two main observations:

- Initial high percentage of HCW among reported cases (>10%) in the first half of 2020
- A decrease observed to reach incidence close to that of general population

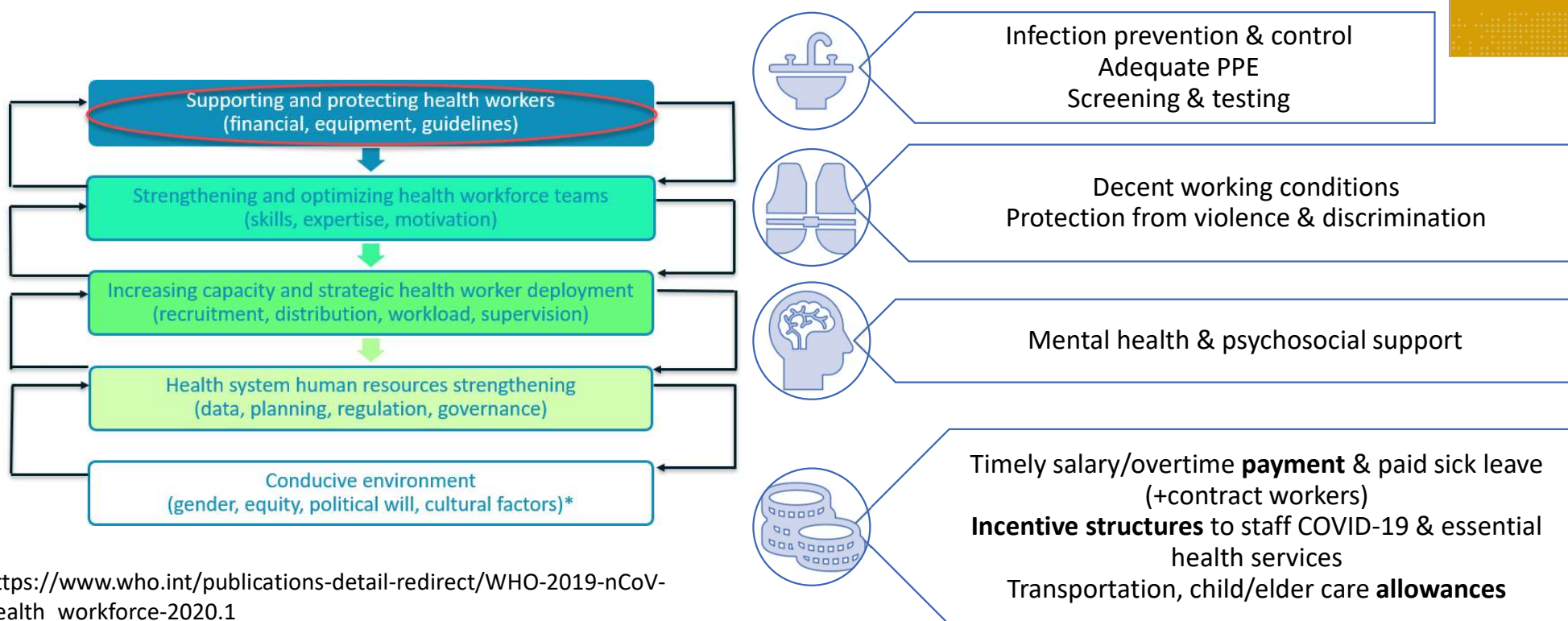
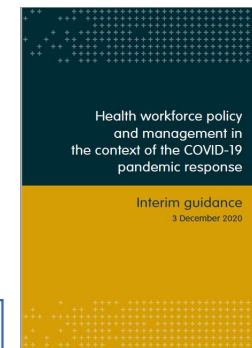


WEU 2 February 2021: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---2-february-2021>

Workforce Readiness: An overall context



WHO Human resources for health interim guidance



https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-2019-nCoV-health_workforce-2020.1

International Year of Health & Care Workers

Protect. Invest. Together.

- Ensure the world's **health and care workers** are **prioritised** for the COVID-19 vaccine in the first 100 days of 2021. (#VaccineEquity campaign)
- Recognize and **commemorate all health and care workers** who have lost their lives during the pandemic.
- Mobilize **commitments** from Member States, International Financing Institutions, bilateral and philanthropic partners **to protect and invest in health and care workers** to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs and COVID-19 recovery.
- Engage Member States and all relevant stakeholders in **dialogue on a care compact** to protect health and care workers' rights, decent work and practice environments.
- Bring together communities, influencers, political and social **support in solidarity, advocacy and care** for health and care workers.



GENDER EQUAL HEALTH AND CARE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE



Launched in February 2021:

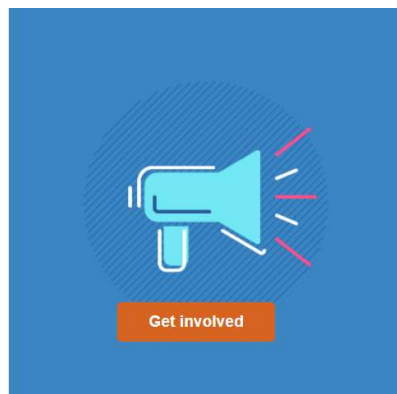
1. **Leadership:** Ensure diverse, gender equal leadership
2. **Protection:** End sexual harassment and violence
3. **Equal Pay:** recognize unpaid and underpaid work and close Gender Pay Gap
4. **Decent and Safe work:** Reduce health worker infections, provide PPE/vaccines



#GenderEqualHCW



<https://www.who.int/campaigns/annual-theme/year-of-health-and-care-workers-2021>



Thank your local health and care workers

Health and care workers are on the COVID-19 frontline. Take a moment to thank them and show them your appreciation. Share photos and videos of and from health and care workers, and patients explaining why their work is vital. Use #SupportHealthCareWorkers and #COVID19.



Engage Local leaders and celebrities

Encourage leaders, health care leaders to promote the "Year" in their speeches, on social media, websites, television and radio interviews. Identify and contact local celebrities and influencers to speak up for health and care workers.



Write to your leaders

If you are a health worker, share your concerns with the people who make policies that can make a difference.

