



## **Community Health Worker Hub** **2018 overview and next steps**

The *Guideline on health policy and system support to optimize community health worker programmes* was launched officially on 26 October at a side event of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Astana. The launch event, entitled *Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage: the state-of-the-art evidence on contributions and effectiveness of community health workers*, included participation from the heads of delegation from two Member States (Ethiopia and the United States), a community health worker from Liberia, civil society organization Last Mile Health, UNICEF and the ECSA Health Community Secretariat.

Following the successful launch, the CHW Hub has embarked on a four-phased campaign. Efforts in the coming year will focus on generating awareness and understanding, fostering commitment, promoting uptake and programme transformation, and monitoring and evaluating uptake and implementation. We already have a range of products available on the Community Health Worker page of the WHO website, as well as several customizable presentations. Translations currently are underway in French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

The WHO team and the CHW Hub have initiated a number of activities, including webinars, conference calls, workshops and opinion pieces targeted for internal WHO, regional, country and service delivery area audiences. Actively with Hub members and WHO counterparts, the Hub is looking for opportunities to reach diverse stakeholders who can be instrumental in increasing awareness and in advocating for uptake of the guideline recommendations. In addition to community health worker groups and networks, potential audiences are health workforce planners, primary health care and universal health coverage advocates, youth and women's employment activists, donors and civil society organizations active in implementation.

Three countries already have expressed interest in being supported on CHW policy dialogue (Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone), and work is ongoing in collaboration with country offices and the WHO Africa Regional Office to respond to the requests. The CHW Hub, in collaboration with the wider Global Health Workforce Network, will be instrumental in gathering baseline information and in promoting technical support to Member States with existing programmes, as well as those in which CHW programmes could support overall policy goals.

The Hub is currently establishing a process to monitor the uptake of the guideline recommendations. This effort will focus on capturing information on the CHW policy and governance environment in countries, particularly in relation to the specific policies recommended by the guidelines. We invite members of the CHW Hub, as well as the wider GHWN to provide inputs. This multi-stakeholder approach will provide an opportunity for triangulation of information and a first level of validation of data. The information thus collected will then be uploaded on the [National Health Workforce Accounts platform](#) facilitated by the WHO, Health Workforce Department, with a second level of validation by the designated Member States focal points. Tracking this information over time should allow assessing whether Member States progressively adopt the policy recommendations of the guideline.

We encourage GHWN members to let us know about potential opportunities for advocacy, dissemination and technical cooperation with countries. For more information on the CHW Hub, contact Catherine Kane at [ckane@who.int](mailto:ckane@who.int).



Launch of Guideline on health policy and system support to optimize community health worker programmes  
Astana, 26 October 2018