

73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (resumed session)

Geneva, 9-14 November 2020

11.1. Primary Health Care

Written Statement by BRAZIL

Brazil is a longstanding champion of Primary Health Care.

We welcome the efforts made by WHO to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, the operational framework of the Astana Declaration, in particular for its core strategic levers.

The Ministry of Health of Brazil is prioritizing Primary Health Care in our Unified Health System (or SUS), on the premise that early treatment is essential to prevent illnesses and save lives.

To this end, a PHC Department has been created, having the second largest budget in the Ministry of Health. This allocation serves to develop effective PHC strategies, expand services and build capacity of the “Family Health Teams” (a multidisciplinary tool that improves the availability of medical services for the population). Teams that achieve higher quality of work, according to predefined indicators, receive more resources.

Brazil has also invested in structuring digital health and in the integration of clinical data.

In Brazil, primary health care facilities can also identify suspected cases of COVID-19 early, take care of mild cases and stabilize serious cases to refer to more complex facilities. We have extended emergency service hours, hired 7,000 more doctors, invested in actions to provide medical and financial support to pregnant women and the puerperium, to patients with obesity, diabetes and hypertension and in specific care for vulnerable populations, such as those living in remote areas, and dispersed, street population, the elderly, people deprived of their liberty and individuals living in communities and slums.

To take care of mental health, we have put in place psychological and psychiatric tele-support to health professionals in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, with the objective of helping them manage stress, anxiety, depression and irritability.

Essential PHC activities have been maintained, ensuring comprehensive care for people with chronic diseases. The focus is on early identification, follow-up and monitoring of individuals with chronic illnesses with influenza syndrome; food and nutrition surveillance; in the qualification of comprehensive care actions with multi-professional assistance; and in promoting health and preventing overweight and obesity.

A strong, sustainable, people-centered primary health care is essential for achieving UHC, reducing inequities in health and safeguarding public health and national security.
