

Statement of I.R. Iran on: Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025

The Islamic Republic of Iran extends its gratitude to WHO for addressing the *Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2021–2025* at the 78th World Health Assembly. This key policy document aligns with the *Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030* and other WHO frameworks, and Iran fully supports its objectives and implementation.

Iran has made substantial progress in the fields of nursing and midwifery, particularly in education and leadership. Notable achievements include the integration of nursing and midwifery education into the service delivery system, enhanced collaboration with the private sector, development of specialized graduate programs, and facilitation of academic promotions across all faculty ranks. Based on the Law on Family Support and Population Rejuvenation the working condition of pregnant working mothers and mothers with children under two years old mothers has been improved by making night shifts optional for them.

In terms of leadership, Iran's Department of Nursing and Midwifery services has been a part of the Ministry of Health since 1968. The Department of Midwifery was formally established in 1994 as an independent unit under the Deputy for Treatment Affairs, and in 2013, the Nursing Department was promoted to an undersecretary of the Minister, reinforcing leadership and policy engagement.

For future priorities, Iran recommends strategic actions across all four domains of the Global Strategic Directions:

- **Job:** Recruitment strategies for underserved areas, improved working conditions and flexibility (Retention strategies), support for new graduates, crisis-related support mechanisms, and protection of source country rights amid migration and making official contracts between source and destination countries
- **Education:** Greater community engagement in curriculum development, and integration of innovative technologies and care models.
- **Leadership:** Raising public and policymaker awareness, promoting professional autonomy, empowering nurses and midwives through leadership roles, and advocating for enabling legislation and funding.
- **Service Delivery:** Strengthening the midwifery model of care, adopting new technologies in service provision, and enhancing in-service training.

A detailed appendix outlining Iran's proposed future priorities is attached to this statement. Iran remains committed to collaboration and knowledge sharing with other member states in support of WHO's global health workforce goals.

Thank you.

Appendix 1: Proposed midwifery and nursing future priorities by Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education

No	Area	Future Midwifery and Nursing Priorities (2026–2030)
1	Job	➤ Developing midwifery and nursing recruitment strategies including effective incentives for remote and underserved areas ➤ Improving midwifery and nursing work conditions, flexible work schedules and pay ➤ In light of the increasing migration of nurses and midwives and the acute workforce shortages in the EMRO region, it is imperative that the rights and interests of source countries be given due consideration in the formulation and implementation of migration policies ➤ Establishment a comprehensive charter to provide financial and psychological support for nurses and midwives working in crises ➤ Develop supportive plans for new midwives and nurses including: ➤ Forming support network consisting of competent midwives and obstetricians ➤ Implement proper preceptorship programs to educate new midwives on the standards and protocols
2	Education	➤ Women and public engagement to develop a people centred midwifery and nursing curricula ➤ Integration of new technology or model of services in midwifery and nursing curricula such as: ☐ Digital health, specially to equip midwives who work in remote areas ☐ Artificial intelligence application in diagnosis and treatment ☐ Disaster management to equip midwives to provide quality services in conflicts, natural disasters, ... ☐ Sustainable health system ☐ Maternal mental health and emotional support ☐ Health management ☐ Advocacy ➤ Team based training and collaborative model of maternity care
3	Leadership	➤ Increase public and policy maker's awareness on the value of midwives and nurses' roles in the society ➤ Advancing autonomy and professional recognition and managing professional conflict of interests ➤ Empowering midwives and nurses at different levels and equip them for leadership and advocacy roles ➤ Allocation of management positions to midwives and nurses at national and regional levels ➤ Advocate for supportive legislations and funding to boost midwifery and nursing recruitment
4	Service delivery	➤ Assist implementation of different models of care such as: ☐ Midwifery model of care ☐ Collaborative model of care

		☐ Nursing model of care ➤ Integration of new technologies in midwifery and nursing services such as: ☐ Tele health and consultation ☐ Digital health records ➤ In-service midwifery and nursing training on subjects such as: ☐ Digital health, specially to equip midwives who work in remote areas ☐ Artificial intelligence application in diagnosis and treatment ☐ Disaster management to equip midwives to provide quality services in conflicts, natural disasters, ... ☐ Sustainable health system ☐ Maternal mental health and emotional support ☐ Health management ☐ Advocacy
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