**A year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020**

**Call for action to strengthen nursing workforce in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

Progress in strengthening nursing workforce in the Region has been slow despite the continued global and regional efforts to address the challenges facing nursing and midwifery. In the past 10 years, the density of nurses and midwives has not changed in almost all countries, it decreased in 11 countries; and the ratio of nurses and midwives to doctors has decreased in nine countries in the same period. This trend is likely to continue if the current level of production capacities is maintained. Most countries of the region are struggling with underutilization of nurses, insufficient investment in recruiting, training and retention of nurses, the poor working conditions, and increased migration and brain drain.

[Read more](#)

[2020 International Year of the Nurse and Midwife toolkit](#)
Global strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery 2016–2020

Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030

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