The Role of Nursing in a Global Pandemic

Featuring Cory McMahon, Dr. John Welch, Marc Julmisse

May 6, 2020    3pm EDT
2020: Year of the Nurse & Midwife

Florence Nightingale (middle) in 1886 with her graduating nurses class

Florence Nightingale, c. 1860
The global nursing workforce is 27.9 million, accounting for approximately 59% of health professions.

Nurses are central to:

- universal health coverage
- mental health
- emergency preparedness and response
- patient safety
- strong health systems
- the delivery of integrated, people centered care
LESOTHO - OCTOBER 14, 2019: Mabatloung Mofolo (left), nurse in charge, and Dr. Lawrence Oyewusi, MDR-TB program manager, at Botsabelo Hospital in Maseru, Lesotho. (Karin Schermbrucker / Partners In Health)
Nursing at PIH: an overview

51% of clinical staff are nurses & midwives

75% of clinical care is delivered by nurses

90% of nursing and midwifery staff are female
Nursing: the thread that binds

Nurses are care connectors, systems leaders, patient advocates and innovators.

Naturally cultivators of grit and resilience, nurses act with passion and perseverance while providing exemplary patient care when disaster occurs.
Alma Rosa "Rosi" Valentin Martinez, an obstetrics nurse fulfilling her social service year with Companeros En Salud, as PIH is known in Mexico, tends to a newborn at the maternal home in Jaltenango.

Photo by Cecille Joan Avila / Partners In Health
Nursing: the critical link

Nurses are care connectors.

During times of crisis, their multi-faceted abilities are even more apparent.
SIERRA LEONE - JANUARY 2015: PIH Nurse John Welch reunites with former patient Barbar Konte at the Sumbuya Critical Care Center in Port Loko, Sierra Leone. (Rebecca E. Rollins / Partners In Health)
Bearing Witness

A privileged, sacred role with the utmost responsibility to the person/people involved as well as to society as a whole.
Nursing: the glue of the public health system

Zanmi Lasante staff meet at the border with government officials from the Dominican Republic to discuss COVID-19 preparedness.

Clinicians working with Socios En Salud, as PIH is known in Peru, perform COVID-19 rapid tests in a neighborhood of Lima, Peru.
“Nurses respond to the health needs of people in all settings and throughout the lifespan. Their roles are critical in achieving global mandates such as universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

– Dr Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization[2]
University Hospital in Mirebalais, Haiti, is the first Partners In Health-supported facility to provide direct care for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Photo by Cecille Joan Avila / Partners In Health
A Team Effort: emergency preparedness & response

Core Components

• COVID-19 Task Force
• Rapid Response Clinical Team
• Patient flow
• Staff safety
• Community engagement & sensitization

Clinicians in the COVID-19 ward, Haiti.
Border screening for COVID-19 in Belladere, Haiti.
Redesigning health care

“Nurses are essential in transforming health care and health systems such that no person is left behind, without access to care or impoverished because of their need for health care.”

(International Council of Nurses, 2019)
(From left) Nurses Viola Karanja, Graciela Cadet, Angeline Charles, Emmanuel Dushimimana were the first graduates of PIH’s Nightingale Fellowship program in June 2018.

Photo by Zack DeClerck / Partners In Health
Discussion / Questions