

Safe health workers, Safe patients



Do we care enough for those who care?

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Speak up
for health worker safety!



The painful facts

- 54% of health workers in low- and middle-income countries have latent tuberculosis, 25 times higher than the general population
- In the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the risk of infection among health workers was 21 to 32 times higher than in the general adult population
- Health workers have the highest risk of COVID-19 infections
- Between 44% and 83% of nurses in clinical settings in Africa have chronic low back pain
- Between 17% and 32% of health-care workers in developed countries suffer from occupational burnout
- Globally, 63% of health workers report experiencing any form of violence at the workplace
- Medical professions are also at higher risk of suicide in all parts of the world
- During COVID-19 pandemic, 23% of front-line health-care workers worldwide suffered depression and anxiety and 39% suffered insomnia



Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 10 October 2019

74/2. Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage

. . .

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 23 September 2019...

We therefore commit to scale up our efforts and further implement the following actions:

32. Scale up efforts to promote healthier and safer workplaces and improve access to occupational health services, noting that more than 2 million people die every year from preventable occupational diseases and injuries;

64. Take necessary steps at the country level to protect health workers from all forms of violence, attacks, harassment and discriminatory practices, and to promote their decent and safe working environment and conditions at all times as well as ensure health workers' physical and mental health by promoting policies conducive to healthy lifestyles;

Why national programme for occupational health and safety of workers in the health sector?

- To implement occupational safety and health laws and regulations in the workplaces of health sector, or to fill the regulatory gap when such laws don't cover health services
- To improve patient safety, productivity of health workers and quality of care
- To increase the resilience of health services in the face of outbreaks and public health emergencies
- To stimulate the retention of health workers



*WHO-ILO Global
Framework for
national
occupational health
programmes for
health workers*

1. Written policy on safety, health and working conditions at the national and facility levels
2. Responsible person/unit at national and facility level
3. Occupational health services, budget, personal protective equipment
4. Joint labour–management health and safety committees.
5. Ongoing (or periodic) education and training for responsible persons and health and safety committees
6. Risk assessment of workplaces, processes
7. Immunization against hepatitis B and other vaccine preventable diseases.
8. Exposure and incident reporting
9. Diagnosis, treatment, care and support for occupational infections.
10. Information systems, indicators
11. Compensation for work-related disability in accordance with national laws.
12. Research and evaluation
13. Environmental hygiene – healthcare waste, WASH, cleaning

Mechanisms for implementation

Responsible authorities

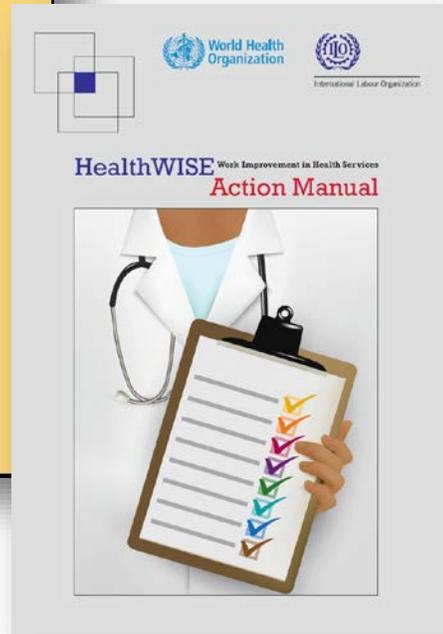
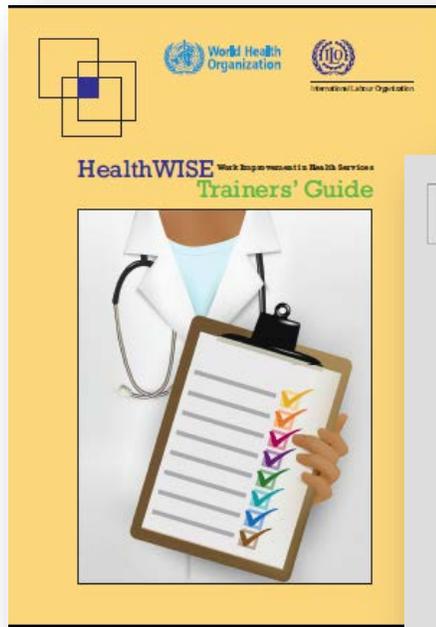
- National – responsible unit in the ministry of health, technical resource
- Sub-national – responsible person , inspection authority
- Health facility – responsible person

Collaboration and participation

- national level - committee on health and safety in the health sector, including representatives of workers and employers and government agencies
- facility level - labour-management health and safety committees

Enforcement

- inspection authority – regulatory compliance
- occupational health services – risk assessment, surveillance
- accreditation of healthcare facilities – standards for occupational health and safety
- financial mechanisms - special budget line for occupational health and safety in the health facilities
- Employment injury benefits – social protection of workers in the case of occupational injuries and diseases



ILO/WHO HealthWISE tool - Work Improvement in Health Services

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese

https://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/training-materials/WCMS_250540/lang-en/index.htm



WHO/ILO Occupational safety and health in public health emergencies

A manual for protecting health workers and responders
English, French, Spanish, Chinese

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/occupational-safety-and-health-in-public-health-emergencies-a-manual-for-protecting-health-workers-and-responders>

Occupational health and safety for health workers in the context of COVID-19

Course is available

 Learnings

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 Course Details

 Documents

 Announcements



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All health workers require knowledge and skills to protect themselves and others from the occupational risks they encounter, so that they can work safely and effectively. This course consists of five sections in response to these needs:

- Introduction
- Module 1: Infectious risks to health and safety
- Module 2: Physical risks to health and safety
- Module 3: Psychosocial risks to health and safety
- Module 4: Basic occupational health and safety in health services.

 Self-paced

 Language: English

 COVID-19

[>> Enroll me for this course](#)

<https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-occupational-health-and-safety>



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General
 World Health
Organization

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for strong national programmes to protect the health and safety of health workers, medical professionals, emergency responders, and the many other workers risking their lives on our behalf.”

WHO Director-General address at the high-level segment of the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19

<https://youtu.be/iJSTRdVKI30>