**executive summary**

**Introduction**

The Council of Arab Ministers for Health, at its 54th ordinary session held on March 15, 2021, requested the Technical Secretariat to prepare a proposal for an Arab Regional nursing and midwifery strategic framework to strengthen nursing and midwifery professions, based on Resolution No. 12(1) of the Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Technical Committee of the Arab League.

The Arab countries are facing repeated gaps, weaknesses and challenges related to pivotal elements of the availability, practices and performance of the nursing and midwifery workforce.

In addressing the challenges facing the nursing and midwifery professions, the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Framework for the Arab States (2022-2030) builds on a number of global and regional strategic commitments and frameworks. It provides a set of strategic priorities and related actions, to strengthen nursing and midwifery in the Arab region.

**The Arab Region Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Framework 2022-2030**

***Vision***

As an integral part of the multidisciplinary health care team, nurses and midwives, contribute to improving health outcomes and ensure that the population has access to quality nursing and midwifery services, which in turn supports the achievement of universal health coverage and sustainable development goals.

***Strategic Goal***

The strategic goal of the strategic framework is to ensure the availability and performance of a fit-to-practice, fit-for-purpose nursing and midwifery workforce to address the current and future needs of health systems in advancing UHC and health security in the Arab States.

***Core Values for Implementation***

Five core values guide the strategic priorities, which are:

* Relevance and context-based;
* National ownership, accountability and sustainability;
* Partnership;
* Women empowerment;
* Responsiveness;
* Innovation.

***Strategic Priorities and Actions***

**Strategic priority 1: Leadership and Governance**

Leadership and governance of nursing and midwifery is strengthened to ensure fulfilment of their critical role as part of the health workforce and members of multidisciplinary teams as well as building leadership capacities to achieve UHC and meet national health priorities.

**Strategic priority 2: Education and Continuing Professional Development**

Quality, competency-based education programmes based on best practices and the latest technological means and continuing professional development strategies are set at the country level for nurses and midwives relevant to the country’s context and needs. Moreover, ensuring adequate production of nurses and midwives and continuing professional development throughout their careers.

It is also necessary to focus on building the nursing and midwifery educators’ professional competencies and developing academic programmes to include various nursing specialities and programmes supporting the development of advanced nursing and midwifery practice.

**Strategic priority 3:** **Nursing and Midwifery Workforce in the Labour Market**

Nursing and midwifery workforce policy and plan focus on maintaining an adequate level, well distributed and appropriate skill mix of competent nurses and midwives in an enabling professional positive practice environment leading to delivery of quality nursing and midwifery services to meet national health priorities.

**Strategic priority 4: Nursing and Midwifery regulation**

Each country establishes/strengthens and enforces a robust system for regulation of nursing and midwifery education and practice with appropriate legal framework, institutions standards and processes within the framework of the country’s health workforce regulation system.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

To ensure the implementation of the strategy, it is vital to demonstrate the progress made through a monitoring and evaluation system. A set of process and outcomes indicators are suggested to Member States, who may select or add to the proposed indicators as relevant and applicable according to the strategic priority(ies) and actions considered. In the meantime, and for the same categories, a set of indicators are suggested for monitoring and evaluation across the Arab States.