



STATEMENTS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL (GHC) TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Meeting:

Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (A68/1)

Agenda Item:

18.3.2 I. Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions (resolution WHA58.31)

Statement:

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of Global Health Council and mPowering Frontline Health Workers (mPowering).

In response to the identified lack of consistent, high-quality training for community health workers (CHWs), we recommend that the World Health Organization endorse a common set of CHW tasks, competencies, and training materials.

CHWs, introduced to bolster health systems facing severe shortages of health workers, provide essential maternal, newborn, and child health surveillance and treatment to millions. CHWs offer the first and sometimes only access to health services for people in the developing world. Existing research on CHW training indicates that it is widely insufficient, incomplete, and inconsistent within and across countries.

CHW training is often inaccessible, ineffective, and offered only at the beginning of a CHW's tenure. This severe under-training of CHWs contributes to the alarming yet avoidable deaths of millions of children under five and their mothers each year.

There is no global standard for CHW training curricula or content. A United Nations review of CHW training content recommended a core training resource package to streamline existing training content and fill gaps where content does not exist. Stakeholders have called for a set of global CHW content that could be adapted, customized, and integrated into countries' training program.

In response, mPowering is developing a global repository to provide high-quality, open-source training content for training institutions, governments, and health workers. We call upon the World Health Organization to recommend a core set of CHW competencies and corresponding training materials, which can be shared globally, and adapted and implemented by Ministries of Health to correspond with national CHW roles.

Thank you.