

Global Healthcare and Nursing Fact Sheet

- Africa has 24% of the global disease burden with only 3% of the global healthcare workforce while spending less than 1% of world health expenditure.
- There are 57 countries with critical healthcare shortages (threshold defined as having less than 80% coverage), equivalent to a global deficit of 4.3 million doctors, nurses, midwives, and other healthcare professionals.
- In order to ensure minimal health services, Africa would need 800,000 more doctors, nurses and nurse midwives. Africa's health professional deficit is approximately 1.5 million.
- According to the International Organization of Migration, Africa is reported to have lost one-third of its human capital since 1990. It is estimated that on average Africa loses 20,000 skilled professionals annually.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of maternal death over a lifetime is 1 in 16 versus 1 in 2,800 in developed countries.
- Nurses from the baby boom era dominate the healthcare workforce in many countries and are expected to retire within the next 10 years, greatly exacerbating the healthcare workforce shortage.
- The US must recruit approximately 400,000 million nurses into active practice to meet its healthcare needs by 2020.
- In the US, since 1998, foreign-trained nurse entrants have increased at a faster rate than that of US educated new nurses. In the US, the nurse to population ratio is 773:100,000. In Uganda, the same ratio is an abysmal 6:100,000.
- In the United Kingdom, direct patient care declines at a rate of approximately 1% every year. Whereas nurses once spent 70% of their time providing direct patient care, the number now is approximately 48%.

(World Health Report 2006 and "Nursing on the Move.")