

EMR Youth Nurses Initiative – A Regional Concept Note

Empowering youth nurses to lead, innovate, and transform health systems across the Eastern Mediterranean

The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) Nursing Youth Initiative is an ambitious and transformative effort designed to empower youth nurses across the EMR. Recognizing the pivotal role of young nurses in shaping the future of healthcare, the initiative provides a collaborative platform to develop leadership skills, advance professional practice, and contribute to the sustainable transformation of health systems.

Context and Rationale

Youth nurses in the EMR constitute a vital yet underutilized segment of the healthcare workforce. They face persistent challenges, including disparities in education, limited leadership opportunities, and underrepresentation in policy-making forums.

The initiative is built upon a foundation of extensive, long-term regional engagement. Beginning around 2017, nursing leaders and youth advocates undertook exploratory visits to nearly every country across the region, listening to the aspirations and challenges of young nurses on the ground. Over several years, these efforts gradually coalesced into a trusted, informal coalition united by a shared vision for a stronger, more coordinated youth nursing voice. Building on successful local initiatives such as ENSAA in Egypt, LNSA in Lebanon, and SNSF in Sudan—and drawing strength from the relationships forged during those early country-by-country visits—this regional initiative seeks to unify efforts, foster cross-border collaboration, and amplify the voice of youth nurses across the region.

Vision and Mission

The initiative envisions a resilient cadre of youth nurses leading healthcare innovation and driving sustainable improvements in regional health systems. Its mission is to cultivate a collaborative environment where youth nurses can engage in leadership development, professional growth, and the advancement of education, research, and practice in nursing.

Core Principles

The initiative is grounded in five core principles:

1. Collaboration: Promoting teamwork across countries and cultures.
2. Empowerment: Enhancing the skills and confidence of youth nurses.
3. Innovation: Encouraging creative, evidence-based solutions to healthcare challenges.
4. Inclusivity: Ensuring all voices, regardless of background, are represented.
5. Sustainability: Designing initiatives with long-term impact and continuity.

Strategic Objectives

- Leadership Development: Establishing mentorship programs and leadership training.
- Collaborative Research and Innovation: Promoting cross-border projects and hosting an annual innovation forum.
- Strengthening Education: Facilitating exchanges and creating e-learning platforms.
- Public Health Engagement: Leading community health campaigns and promoting preventive care.
- Global Advocacy: Influencing health policy and amplifying youth voices.



Governance & Structure

- Senior Advisory Board: High-level nursing leaders providing strategic oversight.
- Regional Steering Committee: Representatives from EMR countries ensuring mission alignment.
- Working Groups: Action-oriented teams focused on advocacy, education, research, and leadership.

Join us in investing in youth nurse leadership to accelerate Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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