



PARALLEL SESSION 1.2

INVESTING IN THE HEALTH WORKFORCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

| BACKGROUND

The Astana Declaration recognized the importance of health workforce education, employment, motivation and retention and pledged to strengthen the primary health care workforce to effectively respond to community and population needs. Estimates show a projected shortfall of 18 million health workers by 2030 to achieve and sustain universal health coverage (UHC), primarily in low- and lower middle-income countries. The Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health and the report of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth have each elaborated a health workforce transformation and investment agenda for UHC and the SDGs. In 2017, the ILO-OECD-WHO Working for Health Programme was established to advance the operationalization of the Commission's recommendations, particularly at country level. This session will present and discuss country experiences, highlighting priority actions taken to close the anticipated 18 million health worker gap and expand and transform the health and social workforce for universal health coverage and the SDGs.

| OBJECTIVES

To highlight key actions and results from a range of countries that have taken concrete steps to drive investment in their health and social care workforce in line with the recommendations of the high-level commission, including those supported through the ILO-OECD-WHO Working for Health Programme. The session will explore how multisectoral engagement in economic development, job creation and community-based services can successfully leverage investments, resources and policy support to build a fit for purpose and sustainable health and social workforce for UHC and the SDGs.



Speaker

Donela Besada

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South African Medical Research Council Senior Scientist Donela Besada is a graduate of the Masters in Public Health (MPH), specializing in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2013 and has completed a postgraduate diploma in Health Economics at UCT and is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Kings College London. She has ten years of research experience in academic, NGO and hospital settings focused on health economics and health systems research. At MSF she worked on advocating for expanded access to improved, and up-to-date HIV and TB services and technologies, including advocating for the development of a National policy framework for to support these services. Following that, at the SAMRC, she has undertaken several multi-country, health-systems and economic evaluations in the African region. These opportunities have included examining the impact of community case management on the major contributors to childhood mortality across 6 countries in the region and an evaluation to assess the impact and sustainability of the impact of earlier ART initiation of pregnant women. More recently, much of her work has been centered around the theory and application of economic evaluations toward improved health system strengthening efforts of low- and middle-income countries. This work has included the development of a Community Health Worker Investment Case for the South African Department of Health, costing current Mental Health Expenditure in South Africa as well developing an Investment Case for Mental Health Services in South Africa commissioned by the National Department of Health.