Webinar- Innovations for equity-oriented health service delivery in rural and remote areas

24 March 2022, 14h00-15h30 (CET)

* This Webinar is a part of a WHO series on “tackling rural health inequities”, convened under the umbrella of World Health Day 2021 on “Health Equity”. It is organized by the WHO/HQ Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team, with external partners including WONCA’s Working Party on Rural Practice, OECD, and other agencies in the UN Inequalities Task Team (ITT) subgroup on rural poverty. The series runs from July 2021 to March 2022.
Opening by Chair:
Theadora Swift Koller, Senior Technical Adviser, Health Equity, GER/Director General’s Office, WHO/HQ
Rural health equity webinar series
July 2021 to March 2022

15 July
Lessons in rural proofing of health policies, strategies, plans and programmes/rural health equity impact assessments

15 Oct.
Policies to develop, attract, recruit and retain health workers in rural and remote areas, and promote gender equality for rural women through health workforce policies

15 Dec.
Improving rural health information systems for health equity

19 Jan.
Unpacking the causes and manifestations of rural health inequities: the use of mixed methods research

24 Feb.
Rural women and addressing inequities in health service coverage

9 Aug.
Social participation, inclusion and community engagement approaches for the health of Indigenous populations in rural and remote areas

25 Nov.
Intersectoral action with the agricultural sector for strengthening primary health care

24 Mar.
Innovations in equity-oriented health service delivery in rural and remote areas in LMIC

See recordings and all ppts:
hits://www.who.int/news/item/13-07-2021-webinar-series-on-rural-health-equity
“The WHO Innovation in health approach is our commitment to work in new ways with our Member States, workforce and partners and leverage our respective strengths to find the most impactful innovative solutions and bring them to the people that need them the most. Join us, and let's get to work.”
- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

Webinar- Innovations for equity-oriented health service delivery in rural and remote areas

Greetings by Chair: Theadora Swift Koller, Senior Technical Advisor, Health Equity, DGO/WHO/HQ

Panel:

- Increasing organizational and social innovations through the “Health Equity Champions” project in Mongolia to decrease health inequities and barriers to services in rural areas – Enkhsaikhan Lkhagvasuren, Director, Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Mongolia, together with Ganbat Byambaa, WHO Country Office for Mongolia

- Using Digital Health to reduce inequities in access and improve the quality-of-service capacity in rural areas – Derrick Muneene, Unit Head, Capacity Building and Collaboration, Digital Health and Innovation Department, WHO/HQ

- Innovations for equity-oriented eye care in rural and remote areas – Stuart Keel, Technical Officer, Sensory Functions, Disability and Rehabilitation, WHO/HQ

Closing remarks: Bruce Chater, Chair, World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) Working Party on Rural Practice
Closing Remarks

Bruce Chater, Chair, WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice
Wrapping up the series

What is next...
A two-tiered approach to tackling rural health inequities

Health inequities in rural areas are the result of adverse social and environmental determinants, as well as weaker health systems.

Strengthening rural health systems

Cross-sectoral work on determinants

Infrastructures, WATSAN, electricity, ICT, etc

Natural capital

Gender equality

Non-discrimination (e.g., ethnicity, migrant status)

Employment, education, social protection, land, civil registration, etc

Strong multisectoral rural development plans

Rural proofing of sectoral policies & budgeting

Health inequities in rural areas are the result of adverse social and environmental determinants, as well as weaker health systems.
Select forthcoming activities

- Cross-analysis of all 40+ presentations from across this series for reporting back to the WONCA World Rural Health Conference 2022 (Abstract submitted);

- Special edition of Rural and Remote Health on “rural proofing” and health – involving OECD, Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health (Stellenbosch University), PAHO/WHO-AMRO and WONCA;

- OECD and WHO jointly organized roundtable discussion: “Rural Proofing for Rural Health” at the OECD Rural Conference in Ireland, 28 Sept. 2022;

- Scenario-based learning session on “Tackling health inequities in rural areas” as part of a forthcoming WHO course on PHC;

- WHO support to national authorities for conducting assessments of barriers to health services experienced by populations in rural and remote areas (and production of normative guidance for this).
Sincere thanks to WONCA, OECD, UN agencies that are part of the ITT Rural inequalities subgroup, and WHO colleagues who collaborated for specific sessions;

Gratitude to WHO GER colleagues Pramila Shrestha, Susana Gomez, Claudia Quiros, Anne-Marie Cavillon, Erin Kenney and ADG Simelela for their contributions and support.

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Thank you