Webinar- Rural women and addressing inequities in health service coverage

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

* This Webinar is a pre-event linked to International Women’s Day 2022 and a part of a WHO series on “tackling rural health inequities”, convened under the umbrella of World Health Day 2021 on “Health Equity"
Greetings and opening by Chairs:

Theadora Swift Koller, Senior Technical Advisor, Health Equity, and
Evelyn Boy-Mena, Technical Officer for Gender, World Health Organization/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

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

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

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

See recordings and all ppts:
https://www.who.int/news/item/13-07-2021-webinar-series-on-rural-health-equity
Webinar- Rural women and addressing inequities in health service coverage

Greeting by Chairs and opening: Theadora Swift Koller and Evelyn Boy-Mena, WHO/HQ

Panel:

- Improving sexual and reproductive health services and GBV services for disadvantaged rural women – Majaliwa Marwa, Assistant Representative, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tanzania Country Office

- Improving access to nutrition-related services amongst rural women – Ahmed Raza, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, Nutrition Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Tackling inequities in access to cancer prevention, early detection and treatment experienced by rural women globally – Chemtai Mungo, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of North Carolina (USA)

- Provision of intercultural approaches to cancer services for rural Indigenous women in the United States – Marc Emerson, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina (USA)

- Capacity building of rural family doctors on gender responsive service delivery – Ozden Gokdemir, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Izmir University of Economics / Turkey

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

A two-tiered approach to tackling rural health inequities

1. Infrastructure, WATSAN, electricity, ICT, etc
2. Natural capital
3. Gender equality
4. Non-discrimination (e.g., ethnicity, migrant status)
5. Employment, education, social protection, land, civil registration, etc

Health financing
Information systems
Health governance
Intersectoral action and social participation
Human resources
Service delivery
Health products

Strong multisectoral rural development plans
Rural proofing of sectoral policies & budgeting

Tackling rural health inequities

Cross-sectoral work on determinants

Strengthening rural health systems
Gender inequality and compounding factors influencing health service coverage

• Education
• Food security and nutrition
• Health
• Land and other resources
• Agency
• Labour, including care economy
• Resilience in the context of climate change and fragility
• GBV
International Women’s Day 2022 (8 March)

“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”

Climate change impacts premature death and health inequalities including:
- increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and droughts;
- altering transmission of water-borne and vector-borne disease;
- and undermining the environmental determinants of health: availability and quality of water, of the food we eat and of the air we breathe.

- indoor air pollution linked to cooking and heating with solid fuels and other air pollutants disproportionately affect women and girls

- Women and girls are agents of change, and are leading important initiatives to address sustainability issues that influence health, services and access.
Closing Remarks

Bruce Chater, Chair, WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice
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