



YOUNG LEADERS FOR HEALTH Conference 2019



YLH CONFERENCE 2019 REPORT

YLH is driven by a passion for empowering students and young professionals to explore interdisciplinary approaches to Global Health challenges, policies and diplomacy. Thus, this year's YLH conference was a successful endeavor for us. Students and young professionals from various academic backgrounds and 35 nationalities came to Berlin to explore, envision and debate future solutions for our conference topic: health workforce.

With respect to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health, YLH decided to put this topic on its agenda. Our goal was to raise awareness and introduce the future leaders of global health to the challenges pertaining to our health workforce.



During the conference, our various educational formats enabled our participants to learn the most relevant knowledge on the conference topic as well as devising solutions. This approach equipped them with the necessary skills, that will aid them in being future leaders in public and global health.

Over 10 months of work culminated in this conference. 20 organizing committee members, 5 keynote speakers, 17 workshop instructors, 3 design and systems thinking lab instructors and the Charité enabled our participants to create innovative & concrete outcomes. The outcome documents of this conference were shared with the public and various stakeholders. By sharing this, we aim to provide a thought-provoking impulse.

This year's topic: Health Workforce

A decent health service coverage and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health heavily depends on the availability, accessibility and quality of the health workforce. According to the WHO, the global demand for health workers is expected to reach 80 million by 2030. This will leave a shortfall of 18 million health workers. Without enough trained health workers, health systems are at risk.

Additionally, multiple challenges regarding our health workforce exist, such as: shortages, skill-mix imbalances, inefficient use of resources and distribution, poor working conditions, an uneven gender distribution or limited availability of health workforce data.

During the conference, we were focused on availability, financing, distribution, digitization as well as monitoring and assessment.



Date
15th – 18th of August 2019



Location
Charité Medical University, Berlin



Participants
90 students & young professionals
from various backgrounds



CONFERENCE COMPONENTS

The guiding principles of the educational concept at our conference are Learn – Debate – Create. This approach equipped our participants with the basic skills that they need to become future leaders in global health. Please find below a short summary for each of our educational formats.



LEARN

Keynotes and Workshops

Four keynote speeches were held by experienced health professionals, focusing on the main challenges for our health workforce: youth and women leadership, staffing, maldistribution and mobility. Additionally a more general keynote about current and upcoming grand challenges in global health was given. [Read more..](#)

Participants could also enhance their knowledge and gain skills in the workshop program. They were able to choose four out of 14 workshops, covering a wide range of health workforce topics, such as AMR, gender, outbreaks, medical peace work or security. [Read more..](#)



DEBATE

World Health Assembly Simulation

During the simulation of the World Health Assembly, our participants took on the role of a representative of the 194 WHO members states, media or NGOs. They were divided into the respective WHO regional blocs and a group of non-state actors. In these committees, the participants discussed various aspects pertaining to health workforce that were important to their specific region.

At the last day plenary, all participants debated the solutions proposed by the regional blocs about topics such as digitization, brain-drain and education. In the end, a final resolution was passed. [Read more..](#)



CREATE

Design and Systems Thinking Labs

The Design Thinking Lab introduced participants to the rapid innovation method. This year's focus was on burn-out in health workers. They developed solutions and quickly moved through the design phases: prototype their ideas, 'test' them, re-innovate and (if necessary) reiterate. [Read more..](#)

The Systems Thinking Lab gave participants the chance to apply systems thinking to complex health systems. Focusing on drivers of availability of health workers, they received insights about the concepts of systems thinking and first-hand experiences in using its methods & tools. [Read more..](#)



CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

Our participants (below) are seen working with peers to create solutions to tackle the issues pertaining to the health workforce.



The plenary session of our WHA Simulation



Engaging discussions about global health



90 participants, all from different backgrounds



Lectures about the topic health workforce



Awards at the closing ceremony



Interactive workshop formats

To find out more about the conference, please have a look at our Social Media Channels:

 Young Leaders for Health
  @YLHBerlin
  Young Leaders for Health
  @youngLeadersForHealth