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Item 7 Mental health

The International Council of Nurses (ICN), representing over 30 million nurses worldwide, expresses deep concern that many countries remain significantly off track in meeting global mental health targets, highlighting a persistent global mental health workforce crisis. Nurses are central to the mental health response, and all nurses, regardless of specialization, play a vital role in prevention, care, and recovery across the life course.

Yet mental health nurses account for only one percent of the global nursing workforce, creating critical capacity gaps. Urgent investment is needed in mental health and addiction nursing, alongside strengthened nurse leadership, including the development of skills and capacities for mental health and psychosocial services. Countries must empower nurses to take on expanded roles within interprofessional teams delivering integrated, community-based mental health services.