OVERVIEW

Developing Government Capacities in Migration Health Management

IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governments to respond to migration health challenges. It provides information, advice and support to further the efforts of governments to develop effective national, regional and global migration health policies and strategies.

Since 2001, the IOM Development Fund (IDF) has served as a unique global resource for eligible Member States (MS) with developing economies and has helped offer rapid and flexible responses to important migration challenges. Joint government—IDF initiatives have successfully addressed the needs of MS in various areas of migration management by providing ‘seed funding’ for innovative projects.

As of 2015, total funds disbursed for migration health amounted to USD 4.6 million, funding 31 projects. Key issues addressed by IDF funded migration health projects include: capacity strengthening, multi-sectoral coordination, human resources for health, access to migrant friendly health services, trafficking in persons, irregular migration, detention of irregular migrants, and disease surveillance and response.
This IOM-funded project supported the Government of Sri Lanka’s efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health (MOH) to promote and better manage the health of migrants through policy and national program development within inter-ministerial processes.

The 5 key programming elements that contributed to the success of the project were:

1. It adopted an inclusive and participatory approach that involved internal, inbound and outbound migrants.

2. It adopted the ‘Whole of Government’ approach by involving more than 9 government departments and engaged them for policy formulation and program planning.

3. It adopted a strong evidence-based approach by conducting a National Migration Health Study.

4. A national migration health management framework that is responsive to emergent needs and gaps was formed.

5. The project moved the migration health agenda at regional and global level, including the hosting of the 2nd Global Consultation on Migrant Health in Sri Lanka in 2017.

6. Establishment of a permanent Migration Health Unit within the MOH Directorate of Policy and Planning—that serves as a hub for inter-ministerial coordination.

Key Achievements

- Establishment of permanent Migration Health Unit in MOH
- Development of coordination hub Migration Health Task Force
- High level National Steering Committee serves as main policy making body for migration health
- National research project for Migration Health Policy
- Health return for 87,000 Sri Lankan refugees from India
- Health promotion for migrant workers
- Stimulating organizational and academic research
- Border health regulation
Improving Health Conditions of Migrants and Thai Host Communities

IOM and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Thailand has been collaborating since 1999. A number of migrant health programs have been carried out including: USAID funded a project from 2003-2006 in Tak and Chiang Rai Provinces. In 2004-2007, EU Commission funded a project in Mae Fah Luang district. UNTFHS of the Government of Japan funded a project from 2005-2008 in Ranong and Samutskorn Provinces. WHO, the Government of Ireland and OCHA funded a project in Ranong, Phang Nga and Phuket from 2005-2006.

Key results included cooperation of stakeholders at the field level including migrant communities. 111 CHWs and 1321 CHVs were trained in these provinces. Migrant friendly health services in the form of IECs were introduced with more than 10 languages/dialects, 39 migrant health corners have been established in migrant workplaces. Over 55,000 migrants were reached annually via health promotion services, primary health care services reached 30,211 migrants via mobile clinics. There were also increased efforts in contraception, vaccination, communicable disease control, environmental health and sanitation.

Strengthening Migrant Health Structures & Services in Selected Border Provinces of Cambodia, 2010-2011

This project strengthened the capacity of the MOH and Provincial Health Departments (PHD) through the establishment of the migrant health focal point and technical working meetings to successfully conduct a joint situational assessment on the health of returned irregular migrants in Svay Rieng and Banteay Meanchey Provinces. Key activities were project planning and coordination with MOH and 2 PHDs, project stakeholder consultations and implementation of the joint situational assessment of the health of returned migrants and local capacity building and piloted interventions.

Strengthening Government’s Capacity of Three South Asian Countries, 2012-2015

This project targeted the Ministries of Health of Bangladesh and Nepal, Ministry of Human Resource Development of Pakistan, as well as inbound and outbound migrants to strengthen the capacity of these governments using a multi-sectoral approach. Activities conducted included: 1) In-depth assessment among the 3 countries to assess health vulnerabilities, 2) Supported regional consultation on best practices to develop a migration health agenda for the target countries, 3) Supported the ministries to develop strategic action plans to address the health of migrants.
### MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND TRAVEL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

IOM conducts migrant health assessments including resettling refugees, labour migrants and displaced persons either pre-departure or on arrival. This reduces and manages the potential public health impact of human mobility on migrants, receiving countries and communities. Pre-departure services include treatment for conditions such as malaria, and diagnostic treatment for tuberculosis (TB) sexually transmitted infections. IOM also immunizes migrants against preventable diseases and offers specialized counseling.

### HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

IOM promotes the health of migrants through advocating for migrant-inclusive policies, delivering technical assistance and enhancing partners and government capacity to provide migrant-friendly services. IOM’s programmes include HIV, cholera, TB, malaria, non-communicable diseases, environmental health and influenza, in addition to assisting governments in managing the migration of health workers. Among other key interventions, IOM’s regional, multi-sector coordination Joint UN Initiative on Migration and Health in Asia (JUNIMA) advocates for the right to health and access to health in Asia.

### MIGRATION HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Health is an integrated component of IOM’s overall humanitarian response. IOM is a Coordination Camp Management Cluster lead, coordinating the response of UN agencies to emergencies and crises. IOM assists crisis-affected populations, governments and host communities to strengthen and re-establish primary health care systems; b) delivers health care and psychological support for displaced persons, facilitates medical referrals and arranges medical evacuations for individuals who cannot be cared for locally; c) assists in rebuilding community based services and strengthens crisis-affected health care systems.

### IOM’S GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND HEALTH

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<th>Policy and Legal Framework</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Information Dissemination</td>
<td>Advocacy for Policy Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRENGTHENS knowledge on the health of migrants via research and information dissemination to ensure evidence-based programming and policy development.</td>
<td>ADVOCATES for migrant inclusive health policies and programmes at a national, regional and global level, and assists in the development of policies to promote and protect the health of migrants.</td>
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<th>Migrant Sensitive Health System</th>
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<td>Health Service Delivery and Capacity Building</td>
<td>Strengthening Inter-Country Coordination and Partnership</td>
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<td>DELIVERS, FACILITATES and PROMOTES equitable access to migrant-friendly and comprehensive health care services.</td>
<td>COMMITTED to developing and strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination among member states, stakeholders and migrants.</td>
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### CONTACTS

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