



## Migration Health Research Updates (Edition 3: Feb 2017)

*A bimonthly update on selective research published from IOM health programmes from across the globe...*

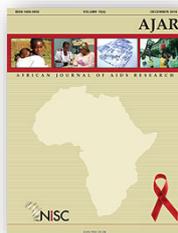
In this edition, we present four distinct research papers from IOM MHD missions globally. The first one from MHD HQ and MAC look at the policy approaches to improve health systems for populations affected by migration; the second one from IOM Mission in Zambia examines the relationship between migrant-related stressors, psychosocial outcomes and HIV sexual risk behaviour among truck drivers in Zambia; and the third one from IOM Mission in Viet Nam focuses on how to improve support for malaria prevention among migrant and mobile workers in Binh Phuoc in Viet Nam.

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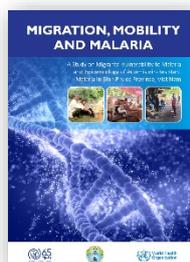
Kevin Pottie, Charles Hui, Prinon Rahman, David Ingleby, Elie A. Akl, Grant Russell, Li Ling, Kolitha Wickramage, Davide Mosca, Claire D. Brindis, (2017), "Building Responsive Health Systems to Help Communities Affected by Migration: An International Delphi Consensus". **International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health**, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 144.

2<sup>nd</sup>



Lynn Murphy Michalopoulos, Nomagugu Ncube, Simona J Simona, Brian Kansankala, Emmanuel Sinkala, Jasmin Raidoo, (2016), "A Qualitative Study of Migrant-Related Stressors, Psychosocial Outcomes and HIV Risk Behaviour Among Truck Drivers in Zambia". **African Journal of AIDS Research**, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 219-226.

3<sup>rd</sup>



International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization, Institute of Malaria, Parasitology and Entomology in Ho Chi Minh City, (2016), **Migration, Mobility and Malaria: A Study on Migrants' Vulnerability to Malaria and Epidemiology of Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria in Binh Phuoc Province, Viet Nam**, IOM, Hanoi.

1<sup>st</sup>



## International Journal of *Environmental Research and Public Health*

### **“Building Responsive Health Systems to Help Communities Affected by Migration: An International Delphi Consensus”**

Kevin Pottie, Charles Hui, Prinon Rahman, David Ingleby, Elie A. Akl, Grant Russell, Li Ling, Kolitha Wickramage, Davide Mosca, Claire D. Brindis, (2017).

**International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health**, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 144

#### **Objective**

Persons affected by migration require health systems that are responsive and adaptable to the needs of both disadvantaged migrants and non-migrant populations. The objective of this study is to support health systems for populations affected by migration.

#### **Materials and Methods**

An international Delphi consensus process was used to identify policy approaches to improve health systems for populations affected by migration. Participants were leading migrant health experts from Americas, Europe, Middle East, Asia, and Australasia. We calculated average ranking scores and qualitatively analyzed open-ended questions.

#### **Results**

Participants identified the following key areas as priorities for policy development: health inequities, system discrimination, migrant related health data, disadvantaged migrant sub-groups, and considerations for disadvantaged non-migrant populations. Highly ranked items to improve health systems were: Health Equity Impact Assessment, evidence based guidelines, and the International Organization for Migration annual reports.

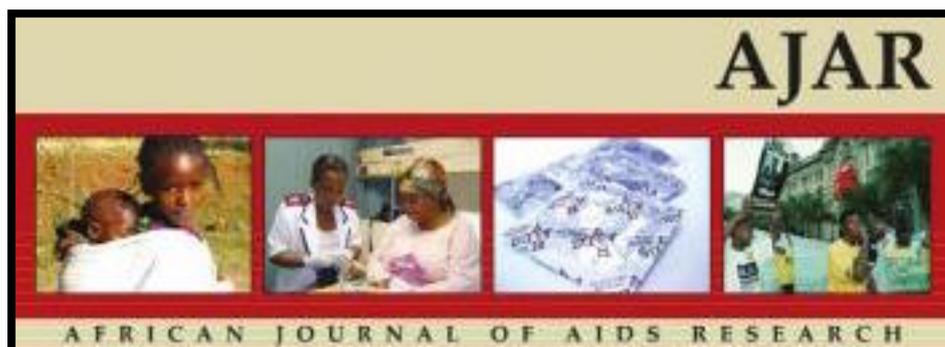
#### **Discussion**

Policy makers need tools, data and resources to address health systems challenges. Policies need to avoid preventable deaths of migrants and barriers to basic health services.

*Access full paper at:* <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/14/2/144/htm>

#### **IOM Contributors:**

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## **“A Qualitative Study of Migrant-Related Stressors, Psychosocial Outcomes and HIV Risk Behaviour Among Truck Drivers in Zambia”**

Lynn Murphy Michalopoulos, Nomagugu Ncube, Simona J Simona, Brian Kansankala, Emmanuel Sinkala, Jasmin Raidoo, (2016),

**African Journal of AIDS Research**, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 219-226.

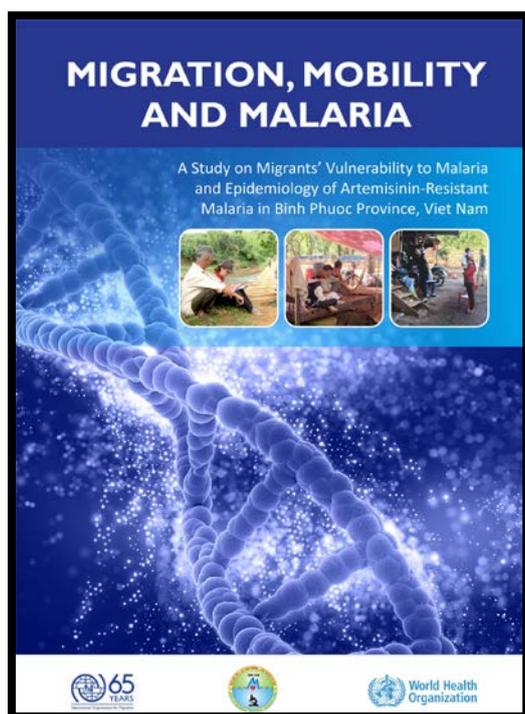
### Abstract

Truck drivers are part of mobile populations which have been noted as a key population at risk of HIV in Zambia. This study was aimed at: (1) determining potentially traumatic events (PTEs), labour migrant-related stressors, psychosocial problems and HIV risk behaviours among truck drivers in Zambia; and (2) examining the relationship between PTEs, migrant-related stressors, psychosocial outcomes and HIV sexual risk behaviour among truck drivers in Zambia. The study team conducted 15 semi-structured interviews with purposively sampled male truck drivers at trucking companies in Lusaka, Zambia. Findings indicate that truck drivers experience multiple stressors and potentially traumatic incidences, including delays and long waiting hours at borders, exposure to crime and violence, poverty, stress related to resisting temptation of sexual interactions with sex workers or migrant women, and job-related safety concerns. Multiple psychosocial problems such as intimate partner violence, loneliness, anxiety and depression-like symptoms were noted. Transactional sex, coupled with inconsistent condom use, were identified as HIV sexual risk behaviours. Findings suggest the critical need to develop HIV-prevention interventions which account for mobility, potentially traumatic events, psychosocial problems, and the extreme fear of HIV testing among this key population.

*Access paper at:* <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2989/16085906.2016.1179653>

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## “Migration, Mobility and Malaria: A Study on Migrants’ Vulnerability to Malaria and Epidemiology of Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria in Binh Phuoc Province, Viet Nam”

International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization & Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology in Ho Chi Minh City, (2016), IOM, Hanoi.

### Description

In 2015, 12.6 per cent of Viet Nam’s population lived in malaria-endemic areas. Considerable progress has been made in decreasing overall rates of malaria and malaria-related deaths. However, there are some worrying trends, with noted slower progress in reducing malaria-related admissions and deaths in 2013 and 2014. Also of concern is the increasing level of resistance to artemisinin, a key drug for combatting malaria. Despite growing awareness of

the importance of including migrants and mobile populations (MMP) in malaria strategies, this group of people continues to be referred to as a “homogenous risk group”. More-so, according to the World Health Organization, not enough is known about how “population mobility shapes malaria transmission and epidemiology” (WHO, 2015).

This report highlights the findings from an empirical study on migration, mobility and malaria conducted in Binh Phuoc, Viet Nam, with financial and technical support from IOM and WHO. Situated at the border with Cambodia, Binh Phuoc was selected as the research site on account of its high levels of both malaria and migration. The Province recorded Viet Nam’s first case of artemisinin resistance in 2009, and the highest malaria prevalence in 2015, with 1.96 cases per 1,000 population.

This report is valuable also on account of it providing important information, which documents significant gaps between the different MMP groups, as well as between MMP and the local population in terms of knowledge, exposure and access to malaria treatment services.

**Access publication at:** <http://publications.iom.int/books/migration-mobility-and-malaria-study-migrants-vulnerability-malaria-and-epidemiology>

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- David Knight (Hanoi)

## JOURNAL NEWS ARTICLE

Cousins, S (2017). Sri Lanka vigilant after bidding farewell to Malaria. **Bulletin of the World Health Organization**, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 144.

Kolitha Wickramage (IOM) highlights the importance of inbound migrant flows and challenges in preventing malaria importation to a country that has entered the 'malaria elimination phase'.

Access full paper at: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/95/3/17-020317/en/>

### This Issue's Reflection Piece

***“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought”***

*- Albert Szent-Gyorgyi*

*(Hungarian American physiologist who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1937. He is credited with discovering vitamin C and the components and reactions of the citric acid cycle)*

Immigrants who bagged Nobel Prizes in Chemistry, Medicine and Physics



Photo from <https://www.nobelprize.org>

Since 1990, the Nobel Foundation gives out Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace to exemplary individuals who have made outstanding impact on research, literary arts or peace-building. According to a research from the National Foundation for American Policy, immigrants have been awarded 31 of 78 (40%) of the Nobel Prizes won by Americans in Chemistry, Medicine and Physics since 2000.

The six Americans who won the Nobel Prize in 2016 are all from immigrant backgrounds. Sir J. Fraser Stoddart, one of the six Nobel Laureates, stated “scientific research will remain strong in America as long as we don’t enter an era where we turn our back on immigration”. In a world where migration is a polarizing public affairs issue, and migrants are the target of discrimination and xenophobia, the laureate’s words remind us all that all persons, regardless of status and ethnicity, can contribute to the advancement of scientific research and nation building.

**i am a migrant**

Source: "I Am A Migrant", <http://iamamigrant.org>, IOM's platform for migrants' personal stories, and campaign to challenge the anti-migrant stereotypes and hate speech in politics and society.