



Health education at the IOM Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Bangkok, Thailand. © IOM 2018

WHAT ARE PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES?

Pre-migration health activities (PMHA) are one of IOM's most well-established migration management services and are delivered through IOM's Global Migration Health Assessment Programme (HAP). PMHA are an array of procedures that are undertaken in the context of regular migration at the request of receiving country governments, and aim to achieve at least one of the following:

- Identification of health conditions of public health importance (communicable and non-communicable conditions) in relation to specific country legislation and International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Provision of continuity of care, linking pre-departure, travel, transit and post-arrival phases
- Establishment of fitness to travel to another country
- Improvement of the health of migrants before departure to another country through the provision of preventive or curative care
- Minimization or mitigation of public health risks related to mobility.

PMHA may entail any number of screening, diagnostic, treatment or preventive services, as well as health-related travel assistance. IOM provides migrants with PMHA for the purpose of assisting them with resettlement, international employment, obtainment of temporary or permanent visas, or enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or during post-emergency relocation and reintegration. While the vast majority of these activities occur prior to migration, it should be noted that, in some cases, these activities may extend to the

post-arrival phase, generally associated with the renewal of visa status (as with the IOM Sri Lanka In-Bound Health Assessment Programme).

Reflecting national differences in immigration policies and practices, pre-migration health requirements and protocols vary among receiving countries. Despite differences in pre-migration health requirements among countries, one thing remains constant: the need to ensure that the migration process does not endanger the health of either the migrant or the host population.

As an international organization engaged in the promotion of the health and well-being of migrants, IOM's primary stakeholders in the provision of PMHA are the migrants served, its Member States and the international health community. IOM is accountable to its stakeholders for the delivery of pre-migration health activities that are technically sound, uphold national and international health legislation, are delivered in a timely and efficient manner, and are beneficial, equitable, and accessible for migrants. The migrant is at the centre of the pre-migration health process, which is adapted to specific migrant profiles and individual risk exposures.

IOM integrates its pre-migration health activities with existing national disease control and prevention programmes by collaborating with national partners, training local providers and employing local personnel.

IOM's Migration Health Division (MHD) contributes to global health goals through the provision of health services to migrant populations and through capacity building of national partners and providers. In particular, pre-migration health activities promote progress on the WHO End-TB Strategy and SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages.

WHAT DO PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE?

Depending on the situation, the type of migrant and country-specific guidelines, PMHA may include some or all of the following components:

- Review of medical and immunization history
- Detailed physical examination
- Mental health evaluation
- Radiological or laboratory investigations
- Pre- and post-test counselling
- Referral for consultation with a specialist
- Health education
- Administration of vaccines
- Provision of, or referral for, directly observed treatment (DOT) for tuberculosis
- Provision of, or referral for, treatment for other conditions
- Disease surveillance and outbreak response
- Pre-departure medical procedures (PDMPs)
 - Pre-departure evaluation (PDE)
 - Pre-embarkation checks (PECs)
- Detailed documentation of findings and preparation of required immigration health forms and documents
- Confidential transfer of relevant information or documentation to appropriate immigration or public health authorities
- Provision of medical escorts and arrangements for travel



An IOM nurse counsels a migrant at the IOM MHAC in Nairobi, Kenya. © IOM 2020

Pre-migration health activities are a valuable tool to promote individual and public health. As such, they positively impact a migrant's capacity to integrate fully into receiving societies.



Blood sample collection at the IOM MHAC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. © IOM 2018



An IOM migration health physician reviews chest X-ray findings at the IOM MHAC in Bangkok, Thailand. © IOM 2018

WHY ARE PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES VALUABLE?

PMHA provide an opportunity to promote the health of refugees and migrants through the initiation of preventative and curative health interventions for conditions that, if left untreated, could have a negative impact on the migrants' overall health status and on the public health of receiving communities.

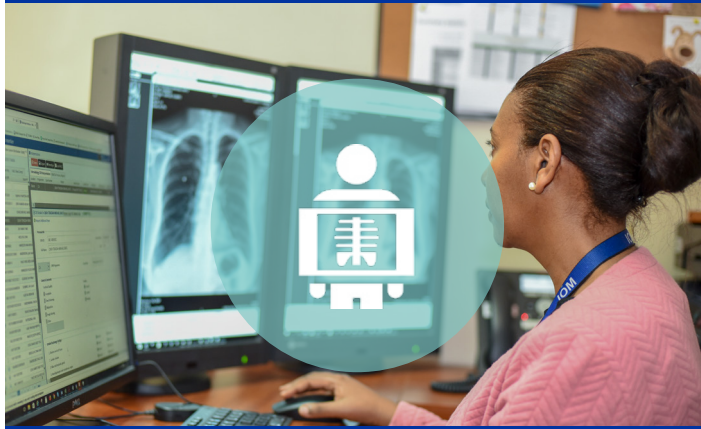
PMHA aim to prevent negative health events during travel or on arrival to host communities by assessing a migrant's fitness to travel, providing stabilization treatment and pre-departure care where needed, making special travel arrangements, such as provision of medical escorts, and facilitating continuity of care upon arrival.

PMHA promote migrant integration in the receiving health system, particularly when supported by adequate pre- and post-arrival health services and community-based interventions. For example, with the patient's permission, IOM confidentially transfers medical information to the receiving health and resettlement authorities prior to arrival. This measure promotes continuity of care for migrants, as it ensures that they can be referred to appropriate medical services and receive the necessary assistance once they arrive at their destination countries. PMHA also encourage positive health-seeking behaviours through health education and counselling that aim to empower migrants to take preventative and curative actions to improve their health.

KEY SERVICE AREAS IN PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES

HAP employs advanced technologies in the provision of pre-migration health activities, particularly with regard to radiology and laboratory diagnostics.

RADIOLOGY INTERPRETATION CENTERS



IOM's two teleradiology interpretation and quality-control centres work to standardize and optimize IOM's radiology services. © IOM 2018

IOM LABORATORIES



IOM operates 26 laboratories, in addition to partnering with external laboratories. © IOM 2018

2019 KEY FIGURES

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

1,522
MIGRANTS
ESCORTED IN
2019

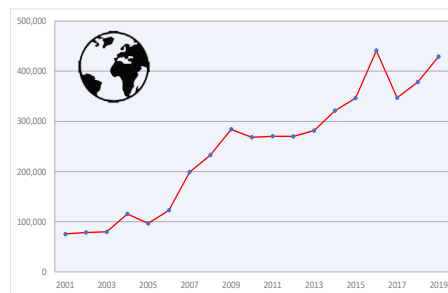


Services include, among others:

- Medical escorts
- Mobility assistance
- Supplemental oxygen
- Coordination with receiving service providers



MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED



More than 429,000 health assessments in 2019

HAP STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURE



As of 2019 approximately...

- 170 physicians
- 250 nurses
- 430 other health staff*
- 71 migration health assessment centres (MHACs) in 51 countries

*other health staff includes lab, radiology, medical IT, etc.

TB DETECTION



622 active TB cases diagnosed by IOM in 2019



465 active TB cases (74.8%) laboratory-confirmed with positive sputum culture

15 multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB cases (3.2%), 1 extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB case (0.2%).



TB cases also diagnosed by radiological investigations

TREATMENT/REFERRALS FOR TREATMENT

IOM provides or refers for

- TB DOT
- Malaria treatment
- Treatment of intestinal parasites
- Treatment for other conditions detected by migration health assessments



IOM also provides referrals for specialist consultations and stabilization care.



VACCINATION PROGRAMME

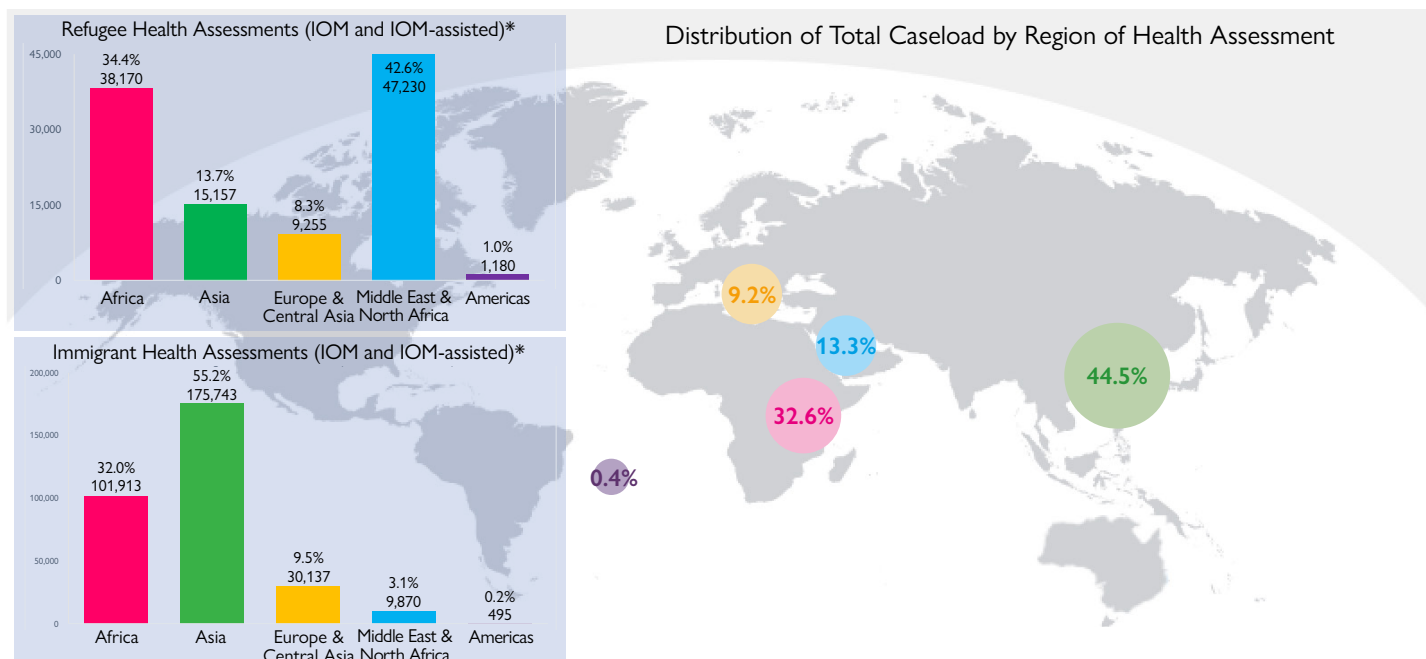
445,812 VACCINE DOSES PROVIDED IN 2019



80 operations provided pre-departure vaccinations for over 141,000 beneficiaries against more than 15 vaccine-preventable diseases

2019 MIGRANT DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2019, IOM provided or assisted the provision of approximately 429,000 migration health assessments, covering both immigrants (74.1%) and refugees (25.9%) across more than 100 countries. The geographical distribution of migration health assessments is shown below.



* Immigrants include various categories of visa applicants, labour migrants and others moving on a voluntary basis, while refugees fall under the definition of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. Data is as of 2 July 2020.

IOM MIGRATION HEALTH INFORMATICS

Migration health informatics (MHI) has transformed the way migrant health data are generated, reviewed and processed by systematically applying new technologies and computer science to global information service provision in IOM global migration health assessment programmes. This includes the development and management of migrant health software, such as:

- IOM's Web-based migrant management software, the Migrant Management Operational Systems Application (MiMOSA), used in over 102 countries to capture data on an array of pre-migration health activities, including health-related travel requirements;
- United Kingdom Tuberculosis Global Software (UK TB GS), used for capturing migration health assessment data for visa applicants to the United Kingdom;
- Systems for facilitating health service provision, such as the Immunization Management System (IMS) for vaccination activities and MedStock for the management of drugs and pharmaceuticals;
- Systems for data validation and quality control used in IOM teleradiology services;
- Interfaces for data exchange with external partners to facilitate application processing;
- Mobile applications (MigApp) to facilitate access to information and services for migrants, and
- An online medical appointment system, [MyMedical](#), to enable online and mobile appointment scheduling and management, as well as access to information about IOM's migration health assessments.

In addition, IOM has several innovative systems undergoing development, including health information management systems for tuberculosis-related migrant health records (TB IMS) and for laboratory services (LIMS), as well as an electronic personal health record (ePHR-Lite) system.

Data generated by IOM's PMHA are employed internally to decrease processing time, efficiently manage resources, conduct quality control, for programme planning and operational research, and to integrate all pre-migration health activities at the country level. By standardizing and centralizing data collection among country offices, IOM has produced a unique repository of migrant health information, governed by IOM's data protection principles.

Anonymized information can be analyzed to support the development of evidence-based policy and practices, to raise awareness of migrant health priorities and to contribute to the evidence base on refugee and migrant health.

For more information on the above activities please contact Migration Health Division (MHD) at mhddpt@iom.int

