

International Dialogue on Migration 2018

Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration

26–27 March 2018

WHO mandate on Migration Health

WHO's priority responsibility is to Member States to strengthen health sector capacities to provide evidence-informed responses to the public health challenges of refugee and migrant health.

- WHO Constitutional function is to act as the “directing and coordinating body on international health work”^[1].
- WHO has a primary organizational and technical commitment to promoting and achieving Health for All and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) within the context of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, whilst “leaving no one behind”.
- WHO also has specific normative role to ensure evidence-based standards on cost-effective health interventions and procedures, aiming for the highest attainable level of health regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, social status or ability to pay, and based on the principles of human rights, universality, equity and solidarity.
- Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017 adopted WHA 70.15 on “Promoting the health of Refugees and Migrants”^[2], in the context of resolution WHA61.17 (2008) on the health of migrants, whilst also reaffirming the health-related commitments made within the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;^[3] Two Regional Resolution and strategies approved in 2016 (EURO, PAHO).
- WHO work in the field of humanitarian assistance in emergencies; to provide appropriate technical assistance and necessary aid upon the request or acceptance of governments.
- WHO provision of assistance upon the request of the United Nations, health services and facilities to special groups.



^[1] As declared in the preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Also, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 2.2 and Article 12, recognizes the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
^[2] https://www.who.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/Migration-Health/WHA_RES_70.15-Promoting-the-health-of-refugees-and-migrants.pdf
^[3] The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants <http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf>

WHO – IOM

Interagency coordination and collaboration mechanisms towards improving the health of refugees and migrants

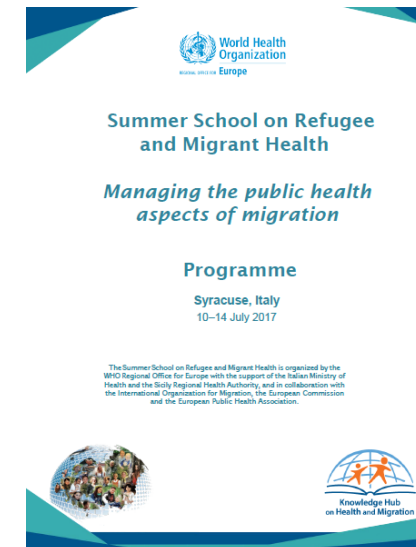
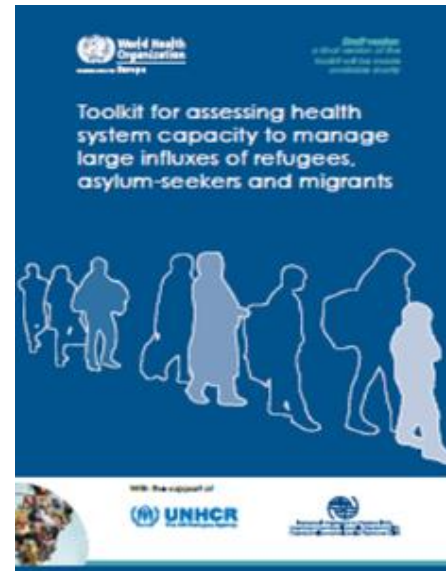
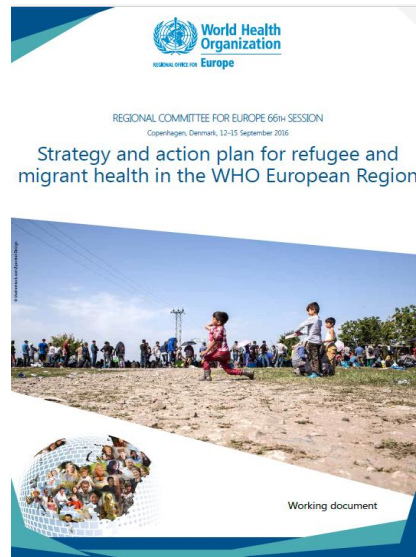


- Memorandum of Understanding between WHO and IOM is currently being revised to reinforce and strengthen collaboration also in view of the global compact.
- Successful collaboration on the development and adoption of the WHA Res 61.17 of 2008 on the Health system sensitiveness towards refugee and migrant needs.
- 2010 WHO-IOM Global Consultation on migrant health: raising political commitment and action towards reducing excess of mortality and morbidity, to ensure migrant health rights, avoid disparities in health status and access, minimize negative impact of migration process.
- 2017 2nd Global Consultation on Migrant Health: Resetting the Agenda. Jointly organized by IOM, WHO and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, informing the upcoming WHO/WHA and drafting of the WHO Global Framework on promoting the health of refugee and migrants.
- Joint effort for the drafting and adoption of the global framework and resolution WHA 70.15 on promoting the health of refugee and migrants.
- Engagement with the Global Fund (GF) to partner with IOM in migrant health activities at country level such as the forthcoming joint mission and assessment in Libya.



Example of coordination and collaboration mechanisms to achieve synergies and efficiency at country level

- Support to EURO strategy and action plan.
- Development of a EURO first ever toolkit for the country health system assessment to manage large influx of refugee and migrants.
- Interoperable health information system.
- Support to the EURO Summer School in 2017.



Towards a Global Framework on Refugee and Migrant Health



WHO is committed to provide health leadership and technical assistance and supporting UNHCR, IOM in the development of the Global Compacts for Refugees and for Safe Migration.




WHO's primary organizational and technical commitment to promoting and achieving Health for All and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) within the context of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

WHO Suggested Inclusion of Health in the GCM



- In its current form, **WHO is concerned that health is not considered as a guiding principle in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, while the health dimension is better structured and represented in the Global Compact on Refugee.
- Defining responsibilities, by clearly integrating the IOM leading role in support to the Compact implementation and identifying the **related role for other UN agencies, globally and regionally as per UN coordination mechanism, including award agreements.**
- **Acknowledging the role of WHO as the health specialized agency** for interventions that require capacities to provide health leadership and support to Member States and partners in addressing the health of migrants as per WHA resolution 70.15 on "Promoting the health of refugees and migrants" that should be referred to with the relevant conventions and frameworks.



The **WHO Global framework** can play a central role through the World Health Assembly and beyond **to support health component monitoring in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration implementation** by aligning guiding activities to promote the health and wellbeing of refugees and migrants.

EB 140 decision call for action in 3 steps



- ✓ Global Framework and Resolution 2017
- ✓ Regional Situation analyses 2018
- ✓ Global Action plan 2019

Consultation with MSs and international organizations

The Seventieth World Health Assembly's adoption in May 2017 of WHA 70.15 on "Promoting the health of Refugees and Migrants", in the context of resolution WHA 61.17 (2008) on the health of migrants, whilst also reaffirming the health-related commitments made within the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

FRAMEWORK OF PRIORITIES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To achieve the aim of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind – and the health-related commitments outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,¹ it is imperative that the health needs of refugees and migrants are adequately addressed in the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be endorsed in 2018.

This framework was requested in January 2017 by the Executive Board at its 140th session, to be considered during the Seventieth World Health Assembly. The purpose of this framework is threefold:

- to inform discussions among Member States and partners engaged in the development of the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to ensure that the health aspects of refugees and migrants are adequately addressed;
- to serve as a foundation for the development of a draft global plan of action on the health of refugees and migrants, which is planned to be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in 2019;
- to provide a resource for consideration by Member States in addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and other global and regional policy frameworks as appropriate to each country's context and priorities.

B. SCOPE

This framework describes a number of overarching guiding principles and priorities to promote the health of refugees and migrants, building on the humanitarian principles, existing instruments and resolutions² including a strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region³. It recognizes the urgent need for the health sector to address more effectively the impact of migration and displacement on health. The framework seeks to contribute to improving global public health by addressing the health of refugees and migrants in an inclusive, comprehensive manner and as part of holistic efforts to respond to the health needs of the overall population in any given setting. It is designed to promote the right to health, in accordance with international human rights obligations, including refugee law⁴ and relevant international and regional instruments⁵ as well as humanitarian principles. It also aims to support actions to minimize vulnerability to ill-health and to address the social determinants of health by promoting refugees' and migrants' ability to access promotive, preventive, curative and palliative health services. This framework acknowledges that laws, regulations and policies governing access to health services and financial protection for health by refugees and migrants vary across countries and are determined by national laws, policies and priorities.

¹ Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/1 (2016).

² See document A70/24, paragraphs 11–13.

³ Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region (http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/314725/6e6ad08e_MigrantHealthStrategyActionPlan_160424.pdf, accessed 3 May 2016).

⁴ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

⁵ Such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966).

The WHO GPW13 2019-2023

Priority to assisting Member States to:

1. Accelerate the universal provision of UHC to migrants, including equitable access to health promotion, disease prevention, care and rehabilitation, subject to national laws and practice, as a key component of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This includes financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
2. Act in close collaboration with the IOM, UNHCR, other international organizations and relevant stakeholders.
3. Inform discussions among Member States and partners engaged in the development of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration.
4. Respond to the health needs of refugees and migrants, in alignment with each country's context and priorities with the aim of delivering culturally, linguistically and gender- and age-responsive services

5. Support Member States to develop sustainable financial mechanisms to enhance social protection for refugees and migrants.
6. Provide guidance, technical support and policy development for provision of essential health services such as: a minimum initial service package for reproductive health, sexual and reproductive health information and services; maternal health care including emergency obstetric services, pre- and postnatal care; prevention, treatment, care and support for sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and specialized care for survivors of sexual violence, as well as specific policies and guidance for child health activities and provision of adequate mental health care, including at reception and through referrals to appropriate secondary services.
7. Provide continuity and quality of care when needed.
8. Develop systems to capture appropriate accurate, timely and user-friendly information on the health services available in countries of origin, transit and destination to refugees and migrants, promoting joint action between countries.

The WHO GPW13

1. Leverage awareness and education to dispel fears and misperceptions among refugee, migrant and host populations, improving communications and countering xenophobia.
9. Enhance capacity for dealing with the social determinants of health, and the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, housing: and
10. Convene and collaborate with multisectoral stakeholders for joint and integrated action between countries of origin, transit and destination.
11. Provide guidance and support for policy development on removal of arbitrary restrictions on the freedom of movement, stigmatization, deportation and other forms of discriminatory practices

What done

1. Information gathered from over 52 Member States: current situation, health challenges associated with migration and forced displacement, legal frameworks in place for addressing their health needs, lessons learned, and recommendations for the future.
2. A compendium of past and ongoing practices and interventions in promoting the health of refugees and migrants compiled from across all Regions.
3. Work continues with countries to fill potential gaps in health service delivery, provide policy recommendations for advanced preparedness and response, and use the innovative WHO toolkit to assess the capacity of health systems to manage and respond to large scale influxes of migrants.
4. On-going work in Turkey to increase capacity to respond to the public health needs of Syrian refugees
5. A Knowledge Hub on Health and Migration and the annual Summer School on Refugee and Migrants Health implemented.

What done

1. Framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants: http://www.who.int/migrants/about/framework_refugees-migrants.pdf
2. Based on Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region (http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/314725/66wd08e_MigrantHealthStrategyActionPlan_160424.pdf?ua=1)
3. National plans on migration in the South-East Asia Region; refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations in the context of universal health coverage in countries of the Region of the Americas, South-East Asia Region and Western Pacific Region; a regional position paper and action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
4. Compendium of national experiences and practices: 199 submissions received, covering 85 countries, from 52 Member States and partners. Each region conducted a situation analysis: their reports will be published at: <http://www.who.int/migrants/en/>.
5. Technical materials included in the knowledge hub website: www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/knowledge-hub-on-health-and-migration



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About

The Knowledge Hub on Health and Migration is a joint effort between WHO/Europe, the Ministry of Health of Italy, the Regional Health Council of Sicily and the European Commission. The partnership is committed to building expertise and competency on the public health aspects of migration and making knowledge and information in this area widely available.

READ MORE



WHO toolkit

The toolkit for assessing health system capacity to manage large influxes of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants was developed because refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants arriving



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