

COMMITTEE A3, WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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wfuna



World Federation of United Nations Associations

WHO Headquarters

Avenue Appia 20
1211, Geneva, Switzerland

WFUNA

Email: wimun@wfuna.org

Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 32 74

Instagram: @wimunsecretariat

GLOBAL MODEL WHO 2025

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

HEALTH AND MIGRATION

Simulation: World Health Assembly

Welcome to Global Model WHO 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the World Health Organisation in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Today, more people are on the move than at any other time in history. An estimated 281 million people living outside their country of birth in 2020. Families and individuals migrate for many reasons—searching for jobs, education, or safety. Others are forced to flee conflict, poverty, or natural disasters made worse by climate change. While migration can open new opportunities, it also creates serious health challenges. Gaps in migrant health access can exacerbate vulnerabilities during crises, as seen in COVID-19, when many migrants were excluded from testing and vaccination programs. Furthermore, when people cannot access safe healthcare, diseases can spread more easily, recovery from crises slows down, and inequality grows.

Migrants and refugees often struggle to get proper medical care. They may face language barriers, discrimination, or high costs that keep them away from doctors and hospitals. Sometimes, their legal status limits their access to public health services. On the other side, host countries can feel pressure when large numbers of newcomers arrive suddenly, especially if their health systems are already stretched thin.

Addressing migration and health thus requires cooperation between ministries of health, interior, and labor, as well as partnerships with UN agencies (WHO, IOM, UNHCR) and civil society organizations.

This discussion of this topic will focus on how countries and organizations can respond to these challenges. Central to the discussion is equity in health services: should health coverage be universal, regardless of citizenship or legal status or should they focus on strengthening existing systems so that everyone—locals and migrants alike—get fair treatment?

Another focus is international burden-sharing. Should high-income states contribute more financial and technical assistance to countries that host large migrant populations? Or should responsibility remain primarily regional?

A comprehensive solution will need to take into consideration both short-term and long-term solutions. Short-term solutions could include mobile health clinics, translation services, and partnerships with humanitarian organizations. Long-term solutions involve making sure migrants are included in national health strategies, protected by international agreements, and supported through cross-border cooperation.

This topic highlights ways in which health is connected to peace, development, and justice—and why the WHA is such an important place for these conversations. This issue is not only about medicine. It also touches on human rights.

Key Points and Main Issues

When discussing the topics regarding health and migration, delegates must be able to differentiate situations in order to develop separate strategies to create an impact on a worldwide scale. The focus must be on creating parameters that can be followed by any member-state and adopted regardless of factors such as politics or religion. Creating these parameters calls for careful consideration in order to promote the development of health worldwide.

Key Points and Main Issues – Health and Migration

1. Migration and Health Risks

- Migrants, refugees, and displaced people often face higher health risks than local populations.
- Risks include infectious diseases, poor nutrition, limited access to care, and mental health challenges.
- Health systems may struggle to provide services for migrant populations.
- The risks vary by country role:
 - **Origin countries** want international support to strengthen local health systems so fewer people feel forced to migrate for health reasons. They also raise concerns about health worker migration, which leaves critical gaps in their own systems.
 - **Transit countries** face short-term care challenges for migrants passing through, often with limited resources.
 - **Destination countries** focus on integrating migrants into local health systems and ensuring long-term sustainability.

2. Health System Integration

- Countries vary in how they include migrants in health services.
- Policies may cover preventive care, vaccination, maternal and child health, and chronic disease management.
- Integration reduces disease outbreaks and protects both migrant and local populations.
- **Action:** Member States need to develop strategies to integrate migrant health services at national and regional levels.
- **Action:** Origin countries may argue for investment in their health systems to reduce the drivers of outward migration.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

3. Legal and Policy Frameworks

- Some countries guarantee health services to all residents; others limit access based on immigration status.
- International standards, like the WHO Global Action Plan for Migrant Health, guide countries on best practices.
- Action: Member States should review and align national policies with international standards.
- Action: Origin countries may push for agreements on ethical recruitment of health workers to reduce “brain drain” from their health systems.
- Action: Destination countries may seek frameworks for fair responsibility-sharing in providing care.

4. Cross-Border and Regional Coordination

- Migrants travel between countries, creating regional health challenges.
- Cooperation is needed for vaccination, disease monitoring, and health education.
- Action: Countries should discuss regional agreements and partnerships to provide coordinated migrant health services.

5. Equity and Access

- Migrants often face language, cultural, financial, or geographic barriers to care.
- Equity in access is essential for public health.
- Action: Member States need to explore ways to reduce barriers and promote inclusion.
- Action: Destination countries may highlight the importance of protecting migrant health without straining resources for citizens.

6. Resource and Capacity Challenges

- Health services may lack staff, funding, or infrastructure to meet migrant needs.
- Action: Countries should propose realistic strategies to strengthen health system capacity for migrants.
- Action: Origin countries may request support to expand health workforce training and retention.

7. Data and Evidence

- Reliable data on migration flows and health outcomes are limited.
- Action: Member States need to improve data collection, monitoring, and sharing to inform policy and planning.
- Action: Data-sharing between origin, transit, and destination countries can improve continuity of care.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

8. Global and Regional Coordination

- International organizations like WHO, IOM, and UNHCR provide technical support and guidance.
- Countries share best practices and coordinate responses to migration-related health issues.
- Action: Countries should consider partnerships and support mechanisms appropriate to their role in the migration journey.
- Action: Origin countries may argue for stronger international cooperation to ensure migrants have care abroad while also strengthening their domestic systems.

[N.B. IOM is one of the major sites for information on migration in many countries. Some examples are included in the Annotated Bibliography. If you don't see your country listed in this section do a search for country-specific pages with this URL pattern: [https://www.iom.int/countries/\[country-name\]](https://www.iom.int/countries/[country-name]). For country office pages you can try this URL pattern: [https://www.iom.int/countries/\[country-name\].](https://www.iom.int/countries/[country-name].)]

IOM Statement on Rising Demands for Return Assistance

2025

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted growing demand for Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in countries like Mexico, Guatemala, and Haiti. The U.S. has resumed critical humanitarian support, reinforcing its leadership in migration response. IOM provides reintegration services to returnees to promote safe, voluntary, and sustainable returns. With over 1.5 million migrants assisted globally, IOM continues to prioritize humane migration solutions and deepen its partnerships.

Iraq unveils historic migration plan to boost development and stability

2025

Summary: On 27 August 2025, Iraq unveiled its first-ever national migration plan—a five-year strategy (2025–2030) to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways for returning Iraqis and the ~370,000 migrants residing in the country. The plan emphasizes data-driven governance, private-sector engagement, institutional coordination, and alignment with international commitments like the Global Compact for Migration. Iraq positions migration as a vehicle for stability and development while creating opportunities for work, education, and family reunification. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement, supported by IOM and the Netherlands, will lead the implementation of the new policy.

IOM Mission in Djibouti

2025

Summary: IOM Djibouti provides comprehensive health services to migrants, including medical screenings, emergency care, and mental health support. The Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock offers shelter, food, and healthcare, assisting approximately 5,000 migrants annually. IOM collaborates with the Ministry of Health and the Djiboutian Coast Guard to enhance medical outreach, conduct mobile health patrols, and improve water and sanitation facilities along migratory routes. Additionally, IOM supports COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants and assists in quarantine facilities to prevent disease spread. Through these initiatives, IOM aims to address the health needs of migrants and strengthen the resilience of host communities.

Djibouti Country Profile - IOM

2025

Summary: IOM Djibouti provides comprehensive health services to migrants, including medical screenings, emergency care, and mental health support. The Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock offers shelter, food, and healthcare, assisting approximately 5,000 migrants annually. IOM collaborates with the Ministry of Health and the Djiboutian Coast Guard to enhance medical outreach, conduct mobile health patrols, and improve water and sanitation facilities along migratory routes. Additionally, IOM supports COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants and assists in quarantine facilities to prevent disease spread. Through these initiatives, IOM aims to address the health needs of migrants and strengthen the resilience of host communities.

New partnership strengthens information systems for refugee and migrant health

2025

Summary: Two WHO collaborating centres in Ireland and Sweden have formed a partnership to integrate refugee and migrant health data into national health information systems. The project, called MiHealth, adapts WHO technical guidance to national contexts and assesses system capacities. It involves collaboration with community partners and national health agencies to ensure the data gap is addressed. Ultimately, it aims to enable evidence-based policy and inclusive health planning for refugees, migrants, and host populations.

[WHO collaborating centre supports first national refugee and migrant health partnership in Ireland](#)

2025

Summary: In August 2025, Ireland launched its inaugural national initiative focused on refugee and migrant health, supported by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Participatory Health Research with Refugees and Migrants at the University of Limerick. This partnership aims to integrate refugees and migrants into public health policy-making through participatory research methods, addressing gaps in their involvement across the WHO European Region. Key activities include establishing governance structures, developing a reference group for policy input, and utilizing arts-based methods, such as music and singing, to enhance engagement. The initiative also features a national information network, bimonthly newsletters, and a national database of peer-reviewed research on refugee and migrant health in Ireland.

[Timor-Leste Country Profile - IOM](#)

2025

Summary: IOM Timor-Leste works closely with the Ministry of Health to improve migration health, focusing on tuberculosis detection and management through mobile health services in remote communities. Funded by KOICA, their program provides screenings and advanced diagnostics like GeneXpert. Additionally, IOM supports disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts to reduce displacement risks and enhance community well-being. These initiatives aim to strengthen health outcomes and migration management across Timor-Leste.

[IOM Chief's Visit to Guatemala Highlights Urgent Needs for People Returning Home](#)

2025

Summary: In February 2025, IOM Director General António Vitorino visited Guatemala to assess the challenges faced by migrants returning home. He emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive reintegration support, including access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and psychosocial assistance. The visit underscored the importance of international collaboration to address the complex issues surrounding migration and return processes. IOM continues to work closely with the Guatemalan government and other partners to provide sustainable solutions for returning migrants.

[IOM Statement for Rising Demands for Return Assistance](#)

2025

Summary: The IOM statement from February 2025 highlights a surge in demand for return assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean. IOM has restarted Assisted Voluntary Return programs in several countries, helping vulnerable migrants return safely and with dignity. In Haiti, the organization provides urgent aid and reintegration support to thousands of returnees weekly. IOM remains dedicated to supporting migrants' reintegration to foster stability and reduce irregular migration.

[IOM Guatemala Country Fact Sheet](#)

2025

Summary: The IOM Guatemala Country Fact Sheet for June 2025 provides an overview of the organization's activities and impact in the country. It highlights IOM's efforts in supporting migrants and displaced populations through various programs and initiatives. The fact sheet outlines key statistics, achievements, and ongoing projects aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable groups and promoting sustainable development. It serves as a comprehensive resource for understanding IOM's role and contributions in Guatemala.

[Pathways International and IOM sign agreement to strengthen regular migration pathways in Colombia.](#)

2025

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Pathways International have signed an agreement in Colombia to strengthen regular migration pathways. The partnership aims to promote safe and legal routes for migrants, reducing reliance on irregular and unsafe migration channels. Through this collaboration, IOM and Pathways International plan to enhance institutional capacities, provide information and support services to migrants, and assist with documentation and legal migration procedures. The initiative is expected to involve coordination with government institutions, civil society, and international partners to expand access to safe and orderly migration opportunities in Colombia.

IOM Chief Unveils New Partnership with LALIGA FOUNDATION to Strengthen Migrant Integration in Peru 2025

Summary: IOM Director General Amy Pope announced a new partnership between IOM Peru and the LaLiga Foundation during her visit to Peru. The initiative aims to strengthen the integration of migrant and host community youth through soccer. It builds on IOM's earlier program El Balón No Tiene Fronteras ("Soccer Has No Borders"), which since 2019 has reached over 1,600 young people across Peru to promote social inclusion. The expanded program will include soccer clinics, leadership workshops, and community events, where coaches and community leaders will work with youth to instill values such as teamwork, respect, and solidarity. Supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the initiative will also partner with Peru's Ministry of Education to bring activities into public schools in Lima that serve large numbers of migrant students.

In addition to launching this partnership, IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on programs for migrants in Peru, Peruvians returning from abroad, and Peruvians living overseas. Pope also visited the Central Orientation and Assistance Point (PAO) in southern Lima, which has provided more than 7,000 migrants with key services—including documentation, primary health care, and psychosocial support—since opening in August 2024. This partnership highlights sport's role as a bridge for integration and as a tool to support both migrants and host communities.

Sri Lanka Country Profile - IOM

2025

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka implements migration health activities in line with the 2013 National Migration Health Policy, focusing on improving migrant well-being and health systems. It conducts health assessments, supports technical partnerships for disease control (e.g. malaria, TB), and aids policy development. IOM also conducts evidence-based research to inform national and international migration health strategies. Their work emphasizes ethical research, cross-sector collaboration, and knowledge-sharing to enhance health outcomes for migrants and host communities.

Rwanda country Profile - IOM

2025

Summary: IOM Rwanda conducts health assessments and provides travel health assistance for migrants and refugees relocating to countries like the U.S., Canada, and several European nations. Its Kigali-based center has assessed over 18,700 refugees and conducted nearly 10,000 pre-departure screenings as of March 2022. The organization also supports national preparedness for Ebola and COVID-19 through surveillance, training, and community awareness projects. These efforts are done in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of Health and funded by partners like the UK and Japan.

Environmental Migration - Country Profiles

2010 - 2025

Summary: The IOM Country Profiles page brings together a wide collection of case studies, assessments, and policy analyses on the links between migration, environment, and climate change (MECC) across diverse regions. Covering more than 30 countries and several regional contexts—from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean—these reports examine how climate change and environmental stressors drive migration, shape displacement, and influence development. The publications include:

- Country-level studies (e.g. Moldova, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Peru, Iraq, Viet Nam, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Somalia, etc.) assessing vulnerabilities, migration dynamics, and adaptation strategies.
- Regional and thematic reports (e.g. Central Asia–EU–Russia, Eastern Caribbean, South Asia, West Africa) that analyze broader trends.
- Policy analyses focusing on integrating migration and climate change into national planning and resilience frameworks (e.g. Armenia, Tajikistan, Burkina Faso).

Overall, the collection serves as a global evidence base highlighting the complex interactions between climate impacts and human mobility, while identifying policy gaps and opportunities for climate-resilient development.

Improving Migrant Health in the ASEAN Member States: ASEAN-IOM Collaboration

2024

Summary: This info sheet outlines the ASEAN-IOM collaboration to improve migrant health in Southeast Asia, addressing key barriers like limited healthcare access, lack of insurance, and weak cross-border coordination. Through frameworks, workshops, and policy development, the partnership supports migrant-sensitive health systems and aims to align with ASEAN's Post-2015 Health Agenda. The report highlights case studies, strategic priorities, and regional cooperation mechanisms to ensure health coverage for documented migrants. It also sets a forward-looking agenda for equitable and inclusive health services through stronger governance, financing, and data systems.

[Report joint mission to review health system capacity in addressing migrant health needs in Thailand](#)

2024

Summary: In October 2022, WHO conducted a joint mission in Thailand to assess the country's health system's capacity to address the health needs of migrants. The report highlights the importance of integrating migrant health into national health policies, ensuring equitable access to healthcare services, and strengthening health system preparedness to manage the health challenges posed by migration. Recommendations include enhancing data collection on migrant health, improving cross-border health collaboration, and developing migrant-sensitive health policies to promote health equity and inclusion.

[Migration Health — IOM Sudan](#)

2024

Summary: IOM Sudan's Migration Health Division provides comprehensive health services to migrants, refugees, and returnees. These services include full health assessments, tuberculosis screenings, yellow fever vaccinations, DNA testing for family reunification, and pre-departure medical screenings. The Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Kassala offers these services to migrants traveling to countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. Additionally, IOM Sudan collaborates with the National Health Insurance Fund to provide medical coverage to returning migrants, ensuring their access to essential healthcare services.

[IOM Myanmar](#)

2024

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Myanmar supports the government and communities by providing humanitarian aid, migration management, and health services. IOM focuses on assisting displaced populations, enhancing migration governance, and addressing vulnerabilities through programs that promote safe, orderly, and dignified migration. Their work includes emergency response, health support, and capacity-building initiatives to improve the well-being of migrants and affected communities.

IOM Convenes National Dialogue on Migration Data Landscape in Bangladesh

2024

Summary: IOM Bangladesh organized a national dialogue to improve the migration data landscape in the country, emphasizing the importance of accurate and comprehensive data for effective migration management. The event brought together government officials, civil society, and international partners to discuss challenges and opportunities in data collection and sharing. The dialogue aimed to foster collaboration to enhance evidence-based policymaking and support sustainable migration governance in Bangladesh.

Towards a Competent Public Health Workforce for Multi-Hazard Public Health Emergency Risk Management at Points of Entry in Sri Lanka & Maldives: A joint WHO-IOM training initiative

2024

Summary: WHO and IOM conducted a joint training (29 July – 2 August 2024) in Sri Lanka and Maldives to build core capacities of public health personnel at Points of Entry (airports, seaports, conveyances) in line with IHR (2005). The training covered legal requirements, assessment tools, ship sanitation inspections, and simulated exercises at Sri Lanka's Bandaranaike International Airport and Colombo Port. It brought together public health officials from both countries, international experts, and participants from multiple WHO levels to improve preparedness for multi-hazard emergencies. The initiative emphasizes cross-country cooperation, strengthening border health systems, and institutionalizing sustainable competencies in health security.

Joint assessment aims to fortify public health preparedness at Indonesia-Timor-Leste ground crossing

2023

Summary: In a joint assessment conducted between August 28 and September 1, 2023, Indonesia and Timor-Leste examined public health readiness at the Mota'ain and Batugade ground crossings to improve core capacities under the International Health Regulations (IHR). Field visits, risk analysis, stakeholder meetings, and simulation exercises revealed differing capacities at each crossing and emphasized collaborative surveillance, capacity building, contingency planning, and data sharing. The findings led to a draft joint work plan addressing outbreak response, training, focal points, and coordination to better manage health threats in cross-border settings.

Healthcare for Migrants in Iran

2023

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iran is committed to enhancing healthcare access for Afghan migrants and refugees. Efforts include enrolling individuals in Iran's Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI), supplying mobile health units to remote areas, and providing essential medical equipment to border provinces. Additionally, IOM collaborates with the Ministry of Health to prevent and control infectious diseases prevalent in regions with high migrant populations.

Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela and Their Host Communities and Countries Need Support to Build a Brighter Future

2023

Summary: UNHCR and IOM have called for increased international support for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as the communities hosting them across Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite initiatives for regularization, challenges remain such as access to basic services and employment. The need to fund the 2023 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), which requires \$1.72 billion to assist 3.41 million people across 17 countries, was emphasized.

[Migration Governance Indicators | Profile 2022 |](#) **2023** [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#)

Summary: The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Profile 2022 for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), offers a comprehensive assessment of the nation's migration policies. It identifies well-developed areas such as the establishment of a national migration policy and the integration of migration considerations into development planning. The report also highlights areas with potential for further development, including the need for enhanced data collection and analysis on migration trends. This profile serves as a valuable tool for policymakers to strengthen migration governance in alignment with international frameworks.

[Refugee and migrant health](#)

2023

Summary: The WHO's "Refugee and Migrant Health" fact sheet outlines the diverse health needs and vulnerabilities of displaced populations. These individuals often face barriers to accessing healthcare services, including legal restrictions, language and cultural differences, financial constraints, and discrimination. Such challenges can lead to delayed or inadequate care, particularly for women, children, and those with disabilities. Addressing these issues requires inclusive, non-discriminatory health systems that ensure equitable access to quality care for all migrants and refugees.

[Strengthening Access to Health for Migrants in Chile](#)

2022

Summary: In response to a humanitarian crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chile's Ministry of Health, with support from PAHO/WHO, established "dupla" teams - pairs of health professionals - to assist over 100,000 migrants entering the northern tri-border region between 2020 and 2022. These teams provided essential health services, including mental health support, guidance on accessing healthcare, and assistance with legal and social services. By mid-2022, the program expanded to 28 duplas operating across six regions, significantly enhancing healthcare access for vulnerable migrant populations.

IOM enhance the protection of migrants through donations to the Casas del Migrante in northern Guatemala

2022

Summary: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean oversees and coordinates migration initiatives across Panama and its region. This office supports country offices in implementing migration policies, providing technical assistance, and enhancing migration management systems. IOM's work in the region focuses on saving lives, promoting solutions to displacement, and facilitating regular migration pathways. The office operates through various units, including Resource Management, Regional Thematic Specialists, Project Support, and Policy and Institutional Relations, to address migration challenges and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Empowerment of migrants by ensuring their health and wellbeing

2022

Summary: This document was published in 2022 and prepared for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). It focuses on supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts among various stakeholders to enhance the integration and development of cities receiving migrants. The paper discusses strategies to improve urban planning, infrastructure, and services to accommodate the needs of migrants, fostering inclusive and sustainable urban development.

United Nations agencies implement joint programme to protect migrant health and well-being

2019

Summary: In 2019, several UN agencies launched a joint programme covering nine Middle East & North Africa countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan) aimed at protecting migrant health throughout the migration process. The programme focuses particularly on vulnerable groups like women and youth and seeks to improve migrant-sensitive services such as sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and psychosocial support. It supports building legal protection frameworks, strengthening national coordination, and taking a whole-of-government and regional approach to mixed migration.

Initial Care for Migrants in Chile: Status of a Primary Health Care Initiative After One Year of Implementation

2019

Summary: The "Initial Care for Migrants" program, launched in 2016 at the Ignacio Domeyko Family Health Center in Santiago, Chile, aimed to provide comprehensive primary health services to international migrants. Over its first year, 270 migrants participated, predominantly women from Peru and Venezuela. The program facilitated referrals to various health services, achieving high compliance rates for cardiovascular testing (100%), pregnancy services (97.7%), and social services (87.7%). However, mental health referrals had a lower compliance rate of 11.1%. This initiative marked a significant step in integrating migrants into Chile's health system.

Assisted Voluntary Return of Haitian Migrants

2007

Summary: In July 2007, IOM assisted 120 stranded Haitian migrants in returning voluntarily from Cuba after they were washed ashore en route to the U.S. The operation followed a 2002 agreement between IOM, Cuba, and Haiti to support humane and coordinated return of irregular migrants. Cuban authorities provided initial shelter, while IOM and Haitian officials facilitated reintegration upon return. IOM continues to appeal for funding to aid similar cases, as global demand for assistance to stranded migrants exceeds available resources.

Colombia's Statement on Global Health Strategies at WHA76 (Item 22.3)**2023**

Summary: At the 76th World Health Assembly, Colombia emphasized the importance of extending the WHO Global Action Plan on the Health of Refugees and Migrants (2019–2023) to address the growing migrant population, particularly from Venezuela. The country highlighted its efforts, including the establishment of the National Migration and Health Observatory and leadership in the Health Cluster with PAHO/WHO, to improve healthcare access for migrants and refugees. Additionally, Colombia advocated for the continuation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014–2023), emphasizing its integration into the national health system, especially through the Indigenous Health System, which combines ancestral knowledge with modern practices.

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran at WHA76 on WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants, 2019–2023, and WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy**2023**

Summary: At the 76th World Health Assembly, Iran highlighted its longstanding commitment to hosting Afghan refugees, providing them with access to health services, education, and livelihoods despite financial constraints. The country emphasized the importance of burden-sharing in addressing the health needs of refugees and asylum seekers, urging international support to enhance health services and insurance schemes in host countries. Iran also expressed appreciation for the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023 and reiterated its dedication to integrating traditional medicine into the national health system.

Explanation of National Position by Hungary on WHO Global Action Plan on Refugee & Migrant Health (Item 22.3) **2023**

Summary: At the 76th World Health Assembly, Hungary expressed opposition to extending health care coverage to migrants, arguing it could discriminate against its own citizens who fund the system. It raised concerns that such measures could act as a “pull factor” for migration. Hungary also rejected references to the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees, which it has not ratified, and insisted that health policies must respect national sovereignty.

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines on Global Action Plan on Refugees & Migrants (WHA76, Agenda 22.3) **2023**

Summary: At the 76th World Health Assembly, the Philippines affirmed its commitment to integrating migrant health into its Universal Health Care strategy and supporting the extension of the WHO’s Global Action Plan on Refugee and Migrant Health (2019–2023). The statement also highlighted the country’s efforts to incorporate traditional and complementary medicine via its Herbal Medicine Access Program. It pledged alignment of national migrant-health research agendas with global health strategies and emphasized the need for sustained technical cooperation among WHO member states.

Portugal’s Statement on the Health of Refugees and Migrants – WHA76, Agenda Item 22.3 **2023**

Summary: At the 76th World Health Assembly, Portugal emphasized its commitment to migrant and refugee health, highlighting national efforts to integrate these populations into the health system and address communication and access barriers. It underscored the importance of academic research, intersectoral coordination, and civil society in responding to migration-related health needs. Portugal supported the extension of the WHO Global Action Plan (2019–2023) on promoting refugee and migrant health and advocated for stronger global cooperation, improved data, and inclusive health systems. The statement reflects Portugal’s alignment with the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees.

Statement of Panama on the WHO Global Action Plan on Refugees and Migrants Health (WHA76 Agenda item 22.3) **2023**

Summary: Panama reaffirmed its strong commitment to migrant health, aligning with the WHO Global Action Plan 2019–2023 and supporting its extension through 2030. The country highlighted healthcare services provided at key entry points in Darién Province, including emergency care and COVID-19 vaccinations. In 2022 and early 2023, Panama assisted tens of thousands of migrants, including vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women. Panama emphasized the importance of human rights and inclusive health policies for migrants.

**Declaration on the occasion of International
Migrants Day, 18 December 2023**

2023

Summary: The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights issued a declaration on December 19, 2023, commemorating International Migrants Day. The declaration emphasized that all migrants, regardless of their status, are entitled to human rights as per the African Charter. It highlighted that over 80% of African migration occurs within the continent due to factors like conflict, climate change, and poverty. The Commission expressed concern over increasing migrant detentions and deaths, urging African states to uphold commitments to migrant rights and implement the African Guiding Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers.

**Joint statement by the European Commission
and the High Representative on International
Migrants Day**

2023

Summary: This European Commission statement emphasizes the EU's commitment to strengthening global health security and its readiness to engage in multilateral action. It reiterates the importance of resilient health systems, equitable vaccine access, and investment in pandemic preparedness. The Commission underscores collaboration with international partners to address health emergencies and to drive forward health innovation, capacity building, and policy coherence across regions.

**Migration and Health in ASEAN: Regional Case
Studies**

2023

Summary: This ASEAN report, adopted at the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, presents in-depth case studies on migration and health across Member States, analyzing the health and policy landscapes for migrant populations. It highlights major barriers such as fragmented insurance systems, lack of cross-sectoral coordination, and inadequate culturally sensitive services. The document proposes strategic frameworks and collaborative mechanisms for enhancing migrant-inclusive health systems, financing, and data sharing. It aims to guide ASEAN's path toward integrating migrants into universal health coverage and strengthening regional health cooperation.

International Migration Outlook 2023

2023

Summary: The International Migration Outlook 2023 by the OECD, provides a comprehensive analysis of migration trends and labor market outcomes in OECD countries. It highlights record levels of permanent migration, reaching 6.1 million in 2022, a 26% increase from 2021. The report also notes a significant rise in asylum applications, with over 2 million new applications lodged in OECD countries in 2022, marking a substantial increase from previous years. Additionally, the report discusses the impact of migration on labor markets, emphasizing the importance of addressing challenges faced by immigrant women in the workforce. The publication underscores the need for policies that facilitate the integration of migrants to harness the economic benefits of migration.

Comparative Study on Laws and Policies in the Management of Migrant Workers in ASEAN

2020

Summary: Brunei Darussalam's National Report, endorsed on 24 September 2020, outlines the country's progress and commitments in implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The report highlights initiatives in areas such as political-security cooperation, economic integration, and socio-cultural development. It emphasizes Brunei's dedication to fostering regional stability, promoting sustainable economic growth, and enhancing the well-being of its people through collaborative efforts within the ASEAN framework.

Strategies for improving migrant health in Iran: a realist review **2025**

Summary: A realist review published in Globalization and Health identifies 27 strategies to enhance migrant health in Iran, focusing on intersectoral governance, inclusive insurance schemes, cultural competency training, and digital health outreach. The study emphasizes the importance of adapting global best practices to the Iranian context, considering the country's hosting of approximately 4.5 million migrants, including undocumented individuals. Recommendations include piloting migrant-inclusive insurance and expanding culturally tailored services through community health workers.

IOM and Japan Support the Marshall Islands to Enhance Border Management **2025**

Summary: IOM and Japan partnered with the Marshall Islands government to strengthen border management and prevent infectious disease spread. They provided equipment upgrades like air purification, health screening kiosks, and improved data systems at key ports. This project supports safe border operations, especially post-COVID-19. Remaining activities include further capacity-building and governance enhancements, expected to finish by mid-2025.

Providing psychiatric care in the world's biggest refugee camp **2025**

Summary: In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, MSF provides psychiatric care to both Rohingya refugees and the local Bangladeshi population. Many patients present with chronic mental illnesses, including psychosis, anxiety, and depression, often stemming from trauma experienced during their displacement.

[Hepatitis: New hope for patients in the world's largest refugee camp](#)

2025

Summary: In August 2025, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) launched a comprehensive "test and treat" campaign in the Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh, aiming to combat the high prevalence of hepatitis C among the population. With nearly 20% of individuals tested showing active infection, MSF has screened over 12,000 people and initiated treatment for more than 2,100, providing hope and life-saving care in a challenging environment.

[Expanding Migrant Health & Humanitarian Aid in Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras](#)

2024

Summary: Project HOPE is expanding its health and humanitarian aid programs in Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras to support migrants and displaced communities. Their work includes primary healthcare, maternal and mental health services, hygiene kit distribution, and WASH infrastructure rehabilitation. The initiative prioritizes vulnerable groups, especially women and children, addressing health and safety risks related to displacement. This expanded effort aims to reach over 58,000 people, strengthening health systems and improving access to essential care.

[A New compact for Migrant Health: Insurance for Migrant Workers from South and Southeast Asia](#)

2024

Summary: The article argues for a collaborative health insurance compact between major sending (e.g. India, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal) and receiving countries (e.g. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain) of migrant workers from South and Southeast Asia. It highlights how migrant workers often lack access to affordable healthcare abroad due to high costs, lack of insurance, language/cultural barriers, and risk of financial hardship. The proposal describes several models (e.g. one-sending to one-receiving country up to a 5x5 approach) to pool risk, share costs, and standardize minimum coverage. The goal is to protect worker health, boost productivity, and promote equity between countries of origin and destination.

Myanmar migrants living along the Thailand-Myanmar border: Experiences related to pandemic and migration decisions

2024

Summary: This article examines the complex dynamics of migration and health in the Caribbean region. It highlights the low migrant stocks in countries like Cuba, with immigrants constituting only 0.1% of the population, while also noting that Cuba hosts the largest number of refugees in the Caribbean. The report discusses the significant emigration from Cuba, with over 1 million emigrants, primarily to the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Additionally, it addresses Cuba's role as a transit country for migrants heading to the United States and the challenges faced in managing these migration flows.

Exploring risky health behaviors and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases among transnational undocumented labor migrants from Bangladesh: a qualitative study

2024

Summary: This study systematically reviews how social capital and community engagement influence migrant health outcomes. It highlights that strong social networks and active community participation improve access to healthcare, mental well-being, and overall integration for migrants. The review emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive policies that foster social connections to reduce health disparities in migrant populations. It calls for further research to develop effective community-based health interventions tailored to diverse migrant groups.

Migrant workers' perception and awareness of health insurance coverage in Brunei Darussalam 2024

Summary: This study examines the awareness and perceptions of migrant workers regarding health insurance coverage in Brunei Darussalam. Findings indicate that while many migrant workers are aware of the existence of health insurance, a significant number lack understanding of the specifics of their coverage. Barriers such as language differences and limited access to information contribute to this gap in awareness. The study emphasizes the need for improved communication and education strategies to enhance migrant workers' understanding of their health insurance entitlements.

New migrants' access to primary healthcare services in Aotearoa New Zealand 2024

Summary: This article examines how new migrants use primary healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand during their first 10 years after arrival, based on pooled survey data (2014–2017). It finds that, after accounting for age, sex, ethnicity, and deprivation, new migrants' use of general practitioners becomes similar to that of other New Zealanders within about four years. Initially, new migrants pay more for GP visits and face slightly lower GP attendance, but these differences diminish over time. The study also highlights barriers such as cost, transport, language, and unfamiliarity with the health system.

Protecting Distressed Migrants' Right to Health in Ecuador: Are Legal Commitments Being Fulfilled? 2024

Summary: This study evaluates Ecuador's legal framework and its effectiveness in providing healthcare to approximately 500,000 Venezuelan migrants, many in irregular situations. Despite constitutional guarantees, migrants face systemic barriers such as documentation requirements, exclusion from benefits, discriminatory practices, and resource constraints. A significant case before the Constitutional Court highlighted these issues, prompting the government to address the right to health for migrants. The authors advocate for comprehensive reforms to ensure equitable healthcare access for distressed migrants in Ecuador.

Djibouti Country Profile - Integral Human Development

2024

Summary: Djibouti serves as a significant transit hub for migrants from the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, aiming to reach the Arabian Peninsula. The country also hosts a substantial number of refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from neighboring nations. Despite its strategic location and role in regional migration, Djibouti faces challenges in managing these flows, including limited resources and infrastructure. International organizations, alongside the Djiboutian government, are working to address these issues through various initiatives and collaborations.

Overcoming Obstacles After Migration to New Zealand

2024

Summary: New Zealand hosts around 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers annually, mainly from Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, and South America. Migrants face challenges such as language barriers, discrimination, unemployment, and poverty, which impact their integration and well-being. Despite these issues, organizations like the New Zealand Red Cross and the Human Rights Commission offer support in areas like housing, employment, and legal protection. Government and NGO efforts aim to ensure migrants can live independently and become part of the community.

Bangladesh Country Profile - Integral Human Development

2023

Summary: Bangladesh faces significant migration challenges, including hosting over 2 million foreign nationals, primarily refugees from Myanmar. Internal migration is substantial, with millions moving for economic and familial reasons, often resulting in overcrowded urban areas. The country is highly vulnerable to climate change, leading to frequent natural disasters and displacement. Human trafficking remains a critical issue, affecting both domestic and international migrants, with forced labor being the most reported form. The legal framework addressing migration and trafficking is evolving, supported by international cooperation.

Mental health and the healthy immigrant effect in Chile: a comparative cross-sectional study with international migrants and locals **2022**

Summary: In response to a humanitarian crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chile's Ministry of Health, with support from PAHO/WHO, established "dupla" teams—pairs of health professionals—to assist over 100,000 migrants entering the northern tri-border region between 2020 and 2022. These teams provided essential health services, including mental health support, guidance on accessing healthcare, and assistance with legal and social services. By mid-2022, the program expanded to 28 duplas operating across six regions, significantly enhancing healthcare access for vulnerable migrant populations.

Country Profile: Cuba – Migrants & Refugees **2022** Section (Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development)

Summary: Cuba has one of the lowest migrant stock percentages in the Caribbean, being more of a transit and origin country than a destination. Emigration is significant, with many Cubans moving to the US, Spain, Italy, Canada, and Puerto Rico; immigrants to Cuba are few and come mostly from places like Spain, the Russian Federation, Haiti, and Ukraine. Refugees/asylum seekers in Cuba have very limited rights — they are considered temporary residents, have no official documented status, cannot legally work, and rely on limited humanitarian support for healthcare and education. Domestic migration is mostly rural-to-urban, driven by economic reasons, with internal migrants often facing higher costs of living and discrimination.

Report: No Way Out

2020

Summary: MSF documented the severe health consequences of increasingly restrictive migration policies along the US–Mexico border. The report revealed that nearly 98% of migrants from Central America's Northern Triangle (Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) had experienced violence before fleeing, with many facing further abuse during their journey.