

ANNOTATIONS ON PROGRESS REPORT HEALTH AND MIGRATION
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GLOBAL MODEL WHO 2025

ANNOTATIONS ON

HEALTH AND MIGRATION

The text referred to as “Anchor” above each annotation in this document can be found in the document titled, “Progress Report” that is uploaded as a separate document on your simulation webpage. The highlighted text in that document and the annotations are color-coded to assist you in linking each annotation with the appropriate text in the original document.

¶17 (Anchor: “extended the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants (GAP) from 2023 to 2030”)

■ Did You Know That...

Extending the Global Action Plan to 2030 brings it in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and recognizes that the health needs of migrants and refugees are ongoing, not temporary. Many displaced people face long-term challenges caused by conflict, poverty, and climate change. The extension also gives WHO and its partners time to build stronger systems that integrate migrant health into regular national programs rather than treating it as a crisis-only issue.

■ Things to Think About

Why do quick, short-term programs often fail to improve migrant health? How might a longer plan encourage countries to invest in stronger systems instead of temporary fixes?

■ Interesting Facts

The WHO Global Action Plan (GAP) first ran from 2019–2023 and was renewed after strong support from Member States, who agreed that migration-linked health gaps remain among the most underfunded areas in global health.

■ Glossary

Global Action Plan (GAP) — WHO’s coordinated framework to improve health outcomes for refugees and migrants, based on six main priorities and implemented at the global, regional, and national levels.

¶18 (Anchor: “refugee and migrant health as a key priority for the global health agenda”)

■ Did You Know That...

For the first time, refugee and migrant health is part of WHO’s main global work plan—the Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14). This means migrant health will be included in WHO’s core goals, budgets, and reporting systems rather than handled as a side issue. It represents a major step in recognizing that mobile populations are part of every society’s health system.

■ Things to Think About

How might making migrant health a top WHO priority influence how national governments write their health policies? Could it reduce stigma toward migrants by making inclusion the global norm?

■ Interesting Facts

There are over 280 million international migrants worldwide—about 3.6% of the world’s population—making migration one of the largest social trends shaping health systems today.

■ Glossary

Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14) — WHO’s main plan for 2025–2028 that sets priorities, funding, and measurable goals for achieving “Health for All.”

¶20 (Anchor: “Dashboard of Global Experiences on Refugee and Migrant Health”)

■ Did You Know That...

This dashboard is a digital platform that collects examples from 140 countries showing how they are improving migrant and refugee health. It allows policymakers to compare their approaches, learn from others, and see what works in different contexts. Sharing results also helps countries be more accountable and encourages transparency in how health rights are protected.

■ Things to Think About

What motivates governments to share examples of success or failure? Should countries that demonstrate progress on the dashboard receive extra funding or recognition from WHO?

■ Interesting Facts

This is the first WHO database that focuses only on mobile populations and cross-border health services.

■ Glossary

Dashboard of Global Experiences — An online WHO platform for sharing national and regional examples of refugee and migrant health initiatives.

¶20 (Anchor: “Refugee and Migrant Health Toolkit”)

■ Did You Know That...

This toolkit turns WHO’s recommendations into easy-to-use templates and training materials for health workers and governments. It helps countries adapt their services to the needs of migrants—such as offering translation support, training staff in cultural awareness, and collecting data safely and ethically. Regular updates reflect lessons from new crises like those in Ukraine, Sudan, and climate-affected regions.

■ Things to Think About

How can training in [cultural competence \(see definition below\)](#) help healthcare workers build trust with refugees? Should all national health systems have a section in their policies that focuses specifically on mobile populations?

■ Interesting Facts

The toolkit is available in all six UN languages and is one of WHO’s most downloaded guidance tools worldwide.

■ Glossary

Cultural competence — The ability of health providers to understand and respect different cultural, social, and linguistic backgrounds in order to deliver fair and effective care.

¶21 (Anchor: “regional strategies to address refugee and migrant health challenges”)

■ Did You Know That...

Each WHO region faces unique migration issues. Africa focuses on internally displaced populations, Europe on asylum and integration policies, and the Pacific on climate-driven mobility. Regional strategies adapt the global plan to these realities, making cooperation across borders more effective and locally relevant.

■ Things to Think About

Should WHO try to harmonize all regional approaches, or does flexibility make responses stronger? How can neighboring countries coordinate when their migration policies are very different?

■ Interesting Facts

The WHO European Region was the first to adopt a regional plan for migrant health, in 2016, and renewed it in 2023 to reflect lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

■ Glossary

Regional action plan — A joint framework developed by WHO regional offices and Member States to coordinate health responses on issues that cross national borders.

¶21 (Anchor: “Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees”)

■ Did You Know That...

The two Global Compacts adopted in 2018 guide international cooperation on human mobility. WHO’s role is to make sure that health is included in these agreements. It co-leads the health section of the UN Migration Network, which ensures refugees and migrants can access healthcare without discrimination and that their needs are part of long-term national health strategies.

■ Things to Think About

How can WHO stay focused on health while working within politically sensitive migration debates? Should progress under the Global Compacts be included in countries’ Sustainable Development Goal reports?

■ Interesting Facts

The Global Compact for Migration includes over 20 goals that directly mention health, from vaccination access to protection from workplace hazards.

■ Glossary

Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees — UN frameworks adopted in 2018 to promote safe, orderly, and humane migration, with WHO ensuring that health and well-being are central goals.

¶22 (Anchor: “Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health”)

■ Did You Know That...

The Global School is WHO’s main training program for improving skills in migrant and refugee health. It combines classroom learning, simulations, and field exercises. Since 2020, it has trained more than 12,000 participants from 160 countries, helping build a global network of experts who can respond quickly to emergencies and policy challenges.

■ Things to Think About

How might real-life simulations prepare professionals better than online courses? Could national training centers replicate this model to strengthen their own workforce?

■ Interesting Facts

The School’s workshops include simulations on coordination in refugee camps and designing inclusive health services for displaced people.

■ Glossary

Global competency standards — WHO’s set of skills, values, and knowledge required for professionals working with migrants and refugees.

¶23 (Anchor: “Global Evidence Review on Health and Migration, focusing on mental health”)

■ Did You Know That...

This review highlights how migration and displacement affect mental health. It shows that refugees often experience trauma before leaving their countries and stress after arrival due to insecurity, isolation, or discrimination. WHO uses the findings to help governments design mental health programs that are both culturally appropriate and rights-based.

■ Things to Think About

Why should countries collect data on migrants’ mental health separately from the general population? How can communities support healing and inclusion alongside clinical care?

■ Interesting Facts

The 2023 review was the first to show how restrictive migration policies—such as detention or deportation threats—can worsen mental health outcomes.

■ Glossary

Global Evidence Review — A WHO summary of global studies that translates research into policy recommendations for Member States.

¶24 (Anchor: “GAP monitoring framework in 2024 for monitoring refugee and migrant health”)

■ Did You Know That...

The new monitoring framework helps countries track progress on migrant health using consistent indicators. With 111 national focal points, WHO can now collect comparable data across regions. Linking these indicators to WHO’s global work plan ensures migrant health is reported alongside universal health coverage and other SDG goals.

■ Things to Think About

What can WHO do to make countries more comfortable sharing sensitive migration data? Should civil society or UN partners help verify the results to improve trust?

■ Interesting Facts

This is the first global framework that requires countries to report specifically on migrant health, marking a major step toward accountability.

■ Glossary

Monitoring framework — A structured system of indicators that measures progress and supports policy evaluation.

¶25 (Anchor: “49 countries adopted the Rabat Declaration to improve refugee and migrant health”)

■ Did You Know That...

The Rabat Declaration is a political agreement among 49 countries that commits them to include migrant and refugee health in national health plans and budgets. It emphasizes shared responsibility and regional cooperation. Linking it to the 2026 International Migration Review Forum keeps governments accountable for real progress.

■ Things to Think About

How can countries ensure that declarations lead to measurable change on the ground? Should progress reports include migrant organizations’ feedback?

■ Interesting Facts

The Rabat Declaration brought together African, Arab, and European countries—marking one of the broadest coalitions yet on migrant health.

■ Glossary

Rabat Declaration (2023) — A political commitment adopted at the third global consultation on refugee and migrant health, aimed at integrating health for migrants into national systems.

¶26 (Anchor: “WHO continues to implement a comprehensive communications strategy to raise awareness”)

■ Did You Know That...

WHO’s communications strategy focuses on reshaping how the public sees migration and health. It promotes accurate information and counters stigma by highlighting migrants’ contributions to society and the shared benefits of inclusive health care. Using social media, radio, and local storytelling helps make these messages relatable and trustworthy.

■ Things to Think About

How can governments communicate about migration without increasing division or fear? Would involving migrants directly in storytelling make campaigns more effective?

■ Interesting Facts

WHO’s migrant health campaigns have been translated into over 25 languages and adapted for television, radio, and community media across multiple continents.

■ Glossary

Communications strategy — A coordinated plan that uses messages, media, and community engagement to shape public understanding and support for health initiatives.