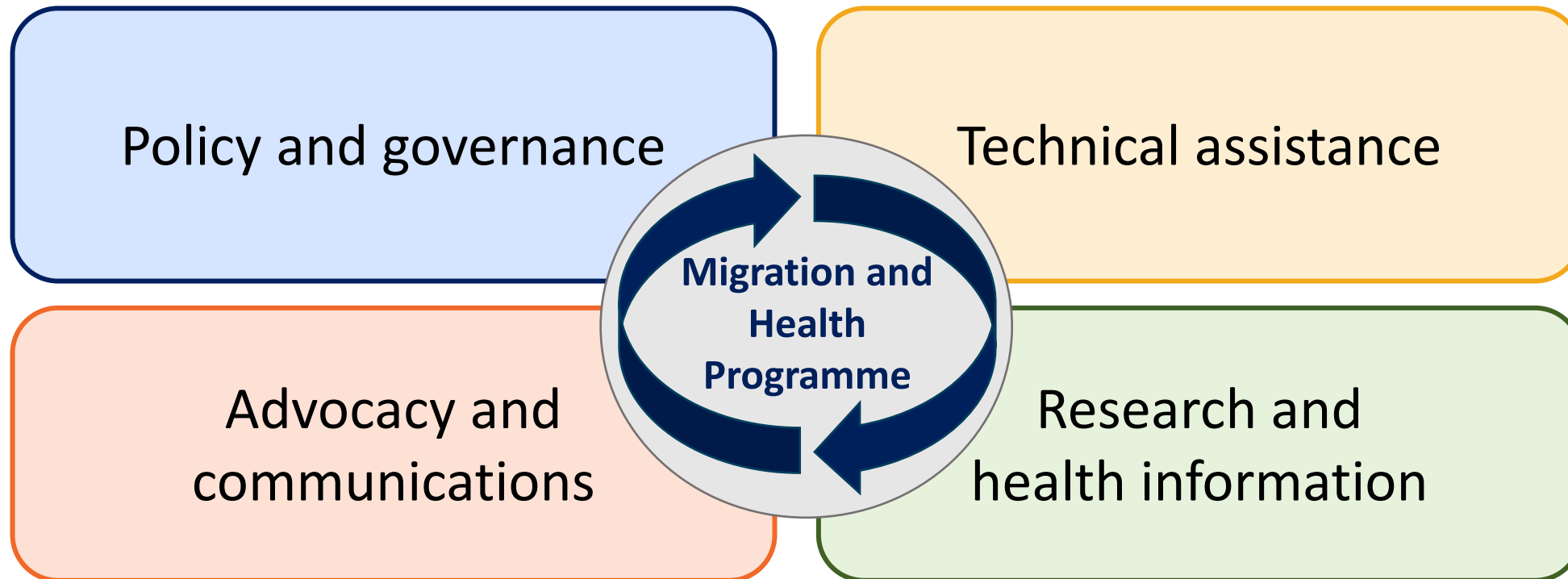


Action Plan on refugees and migrants' health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030



4 pillars of work



Purpose of new regional action plan

Define regional common vision on health and migration

Translate and operationalize GAP in regional context

Outline strategic actions in Member States and the secretariat

Provide indicators for progress monitoring

Complement efforts of the WHO African and Eastern Mediterranean Regions as part of whole-of-route approach



World Health
Organization

European Region

Action plan for
refugee and
migrant health in
the WHO European
Region 2023–2030



World Health
Organization
European Region

Objectives of pillar of 5 Action Pillars

1

Inclusive and non-discriminatory provision of health services is central to a comprehensive health response to displacement and migration. Action pillar 1 aims to ensure refugees and migrants benefit from universal health coverage (UHC), grounded in the right of every individual to the highest attainable standard of physical, mental health, and to strengthen public health systems to respond to the immediate and longer-term health needs of refugees and migrants while taking into consideration national legal frameworks and policies.

2

Refugees and migrants are often in more vulnerable situations during emergencies, as many are denied access to the resources and services needed to safeguard their health and well-being. Action pillar 2 aims to ensure that the health of refugees and migrants is fully accounted for in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery processes, including in protracted situations.

3

Promoting health requires not only providing formal access to health services but also addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health risks and outcomes. Action pillar 3 aims to facilitate integration and social cohesion and to create inclusive and healthy environments that enable refugee, migrant and host populations to thrive while taking into consideration national legal frameworks and policies.

4

Facilitating safe, responsible and dignified migration requires strong commitment to good migration governance and data. Action pillar 4 aims to promote humane and evidence-informed policies and processes to meet the opportunities and challenges presented by displacement and migration in ways that are respectful of human rights and are mutually beneficial.

5

Addressing the public health aspects of displacement and migration requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government perspective across migration routes. Action pillar 5 aims to strengthen collaboration among the constellation of actors with roles and mandates for health and migration and to ensure responses are underpinned by mutual solidarity, responsibility and partnership.



Action pillar 1.

Ensure refugees and migrants benefit from universal health coverage

Actions for Member States:

- Advocate for legislative frameworks supporting health service access for refugees and migrants.
- Promote their inclusion in primary health services and facilitate appropriate referrals.
- Support collaborative health service design with refugees, migrants, and representative organizations.
- Ensure needs-based access to health services, including mental health support, for those in detention.
- Strengthen service provider competencies for person-centered, gender-sensitive, and culturally sensitive care.
- Promote health literacy, invest in interpreters, cultural mediators, and healthcare providers.
- Monitor UHC, identify enablers, and eliminate barriers for refugees, migrants, and host populations.

Actions for WHO:

- **Support Member States in integrating refugees and migrants into national UHC policies, emphasizing governance, management, and health system performance monitoring.**
- **Enhance competency standards through educational frameworks for health and non-health providers working with refugees and migrants, including supporting migration health training.**
- **Foster international collaboration between countries involved in migration pathways to ensure continuity of care within the WHO European Region.**
- **Advocate for innovative financing mechanisms to enable predictable and sustainable health and migration programs at regional and country levels, supporting international cooperation.**



Action pillar 2.

Implement inclusive emergency and disaster risk reduction policies and actions

Actions for Member States:

- Implement inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies aligned with humanitarian principles for refugees and migrants.
- Uphold the right to seek asylum and access health services for refugees and migrants, in accordance with international law.
- Enhance the knowledge and capacities of refugees, migrants, and diaspora communities in DRR and resilience activities.
- Ensure refugee- and migrant-sensitive risk communication and health services during emergencies, exploring innovative options like digital platforms.

Actions for WHO:

- **Facilitate dialogue for safe migration and mobility, emphasizing compliance with national laws and international cooperation.**
- **Assist Member States in evaluating health system readiness for refugee influxes, ensuring disaster risk reduction policies are responsive and promoting local capacity building.**
- **Promote the humanitarian–development–peace nexus at the regional level through collaboration with WHO/Europe, integrating this approach into health sector responses to migration.**
- **Develop a joint platform for cross-country capacity building and knowledge sharing to enhance future preparedness.**
- **Advocate for sustainable financing mechanisms, especially in protracted humanitarian crises.**



Action pillar 3.

Develop inclusive environments that promote public health, social inclusion and well-being

Actions for Member States:

- Promote the inclusion of refugees and migrants in public health policies, ensuring health impact assessments are incorporated.
- Advocate for social protection policies relevant to refugees and migrants.
- Ensure universal birth registration without discrimination, safeguarding the right to recognition before the law.
- Assess health risks and opportunities for refugees and migrants, addressing determinants across the life course through improved environments and community collaboration.
- Advance gender equality and sensitivity in social interventions for the well-being of refugee and migrant populations, with mechanisms to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Advocate for the removal of barriers to workforce participation, including skill recognition and training access, applying occupational health and safety measures equally for refugees, migrants, and nationals.
- Promote education as a key pathway for inclusion and integration, ensuring access for refugees, including unaccompanied minors.
- Engage across sectors, civil society, and communities to counter discrimination, stigma, and xenophobia through evidence dissemination.

Actions for WHO:

- **Assist Member States in assessing social determinants of health and developing responsive policies, leveraging WHO/Europe's programmatic capacities.**
- **Create training and resources for health and non-health workers to promote health equity and human rights-based approaches.**
- **Raise awareness among Member States about the significance of mental health and psychosocial support across migration phases.**
- **Support Member States in enhancing mutual skill recognition and fostering dialogue on health worker mobility.**



Action pillar 4.

Strengthen migration health governance and evidence- and data-driven policy-making

Actions for Member States:

- Review and ensure compliance of legislative frameworks with international human rights standards for the health of refugees and migrants.
- Advocate for streamlined administrative procedures, including asylum processes, to avoid hindering refugees' and migrants' right to health.
- Explore alternatives to immigration detention, using it only as a last resort after individual assessments.
- Ensure evidence-based and ethically sound health assessment and screening practices with necessary follow-up care.
- Ensure ethical recruitment of health workforce in line with global instruments and codes of practice.
- Enhance capacity for migration health data within national health information systems, protecting data against unauthorized use.
- Promote translation and dissemination of migration health data for refugee- and migrant-sensitive policies, complying with data protection regulations.

Actions for WHO:

- **Assist Member States in integrating international laws and standards into national frameworks.**
- **Offer capacity-building support for evidence-based and ethical health assessment and data collection.**
- **Provide guidance to enhance the integration of migration health data into national health systems.**
- **Promote health diplomacy tools to facilitate global and regional health and migration initiatives.**



Action pillar 5.

Explore innovative ways of working and develop enabling partnerships

Actions for Member States:

- Enhance health sector capacity for intergovernmental and intersectoral engagement on migration.
- Foster partnerships with non-State actors, including NGOs, civil society, and private sector entities.
- Collaborate with educational and research institutions to generate and share knowledge on health and migration.

Actions for WHO:

- **Support coordination mechanisms for multisectoral, international, and interregional engagement on health and migration.**
- **Coordinate thematic working groups based on emerging country needs and agreed priorities.**
- **Foster academic and research partnerships, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, using a whole-of-route approach and engaging with WHO collaborating centres (WHO CC).**

Migration and Health Programme and activities



Policy and Governance

- Policy dialogues in countries and intercountry collaboration
 - Tri-regional initiatives with WHO AFRO, EMRO and PAHO
 - Promotion of whole-of route, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches
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High-Level Meeting on Health and Migration in Istanbul, Türkiye. March 2022

Addressing the health challenges in immigration detention, and alternatives to detention: A country implementation guide. May 2022

Support to the 2nd High-Level Meeting on Health and Migration in Egypt, 2023

Action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030. September 2023

Knowledge
forum
ON REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH



Build on the 5 pillars of the AP



Inter-regional



Interactive



ArtCafe



Create a platform of communication



Flagship activity

Technical assistance

- Organizing and delivering migration and health workshop and training modules;
 - Assessing countries' health-system capacity to address the public health aspects of migration – WHO Toolkit.
 - Providing technical assistance and policy advice on contingency planning
 - Organizations of study tours to establish a framework for collaborative action to promote and coordinate consistent migrant health interventions in origin, transit and destination countries.
-

Training course on health in immigration detention and the use of alternatives to detention in Uppsala, Sweden.
May 2022

Addressing the mental health needs of refugees arriving from Ukraine in Poland and other receiving countries in Warsaw, Poland.
October 2022

Addressing the public health challenges of migration and displacement in countries linked by the Western Balkans migration route in Belgrade, Serbia.
November 2022

HIS assessment - improving collection of migration health and health emergencies data, Slovakia 2023

Working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Union (EU) to support countries in improving the access to health-care services for refugees and displaced people from Ukraine. 2023 to 2025 in 10 European countries.

Advocacy and communications

- Awareness raising through social media content and campaigns
- Media engagement including op-eds, press releases, web articles
- Multimedia and video production on technical outputs

Media coverage
of publications,
workshops, and
any other event
organized by the
Programme

World Refugee Day.
June 2023

International
Migrants Day.
December 2023

Research and health information

- Work with WHO Collaborating Centers on research on health and migration
 - Research for technical reports, implementation guides, and other publications, focusing, among the others, on climate change and IDPs
 - Alignment with the Global Research Agenda
-

Health Evidence Network (HEN) report on evidence on existing national policies and guidelines for TB, HIV and viral hepatitis services for refugees and migrants in EURO. February 2022

Publication of Participatory health research with migrants, December 2022

The 5th meeting of the WHO CC for Migration and Health in Rome, Italy. November 2022

Event organized with Uppsala university with 3 Regions and academic community to agree on next steps on how excellence in research can contribute to actions in countries across continents in reaching UHC. 13-14 May 2024

Support of global research agenda process, ongoing

Specific resources

- [HEN synthesis report 74: What is the evidence on existing national policies and guidelines for delivering effective tuberculosis, HIV and viral hepatitis services for refugees and migrants among Member States of the WHO European Region? \(2022\)](#)
- [Delivery of immunization services for refugees and migrants: technical guidance](#)
- [Action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030](#)

Thank you