

PROPOSED HEALTH COMPONENT

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

INTRODUCTION

To achieve the vision of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals – to leave no one behind – it is imperative that the health rights and needs of migrants be adequately addressed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Despite health being a prerequisite for sustainable development, health is missing from the six thematic sessions of the modalities for development of the GCM, as well as from

equality and non-discrimination through comprehensive laws, and health policies and practices;
equitable access to people-centred, migrant- and gender-sensitive and age-responsive health services;
non-restrictive health practices based on health conditions;
whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;
participation and social inclusion of migrants in the development of health policies, strategies, plans and interventions;
Partnership and cooperation¹⁴ with greater international cooperation among countries, regions, the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

GOALS

To address the health rights and needs of all migrants by promoting their right to health, in accordance with international human rights obligations, and relevant international and regional instruments¹⁵. It also aims to support actions to minimize vulnerability to ill-health and to address the social determinants of health by promoting and enhancing curative and palliative health services.

PROPOSED ACTIONABLE COMMITMENTS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. Enhance global, interregional and country commitments, and multi- and intersectoral cooperation to promote and protect the health of migrants: Advocate for, and promote migrant rights to health in global, regional and national processes across relevant sectors, including in the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM); and implement the World Health Assembly resolution 70.15 (2017) and the Framework of Priorities and Guiding Principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants, in alignment with a whole-of-government approach¹⁶, the SDGs and other global and regional policy frameworks.

Means

3. Address the social determinants of migrant health¹⁸ to ensure effective health responses and health protection in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. This includes improving basic services such as water, sanitation, housing and education through the implementation of a Health in All Policy; and removing migration-related obstacles and discriminatory practices within the scope of evidence-based conducive policies and strategies at (the) multi-sector level, and through the implementation of relevant SDG targets.

Means of implementation and follow-up: develop and implement coherent public policy responses involving multisector collaboration across the health, labour, foreign affairs, welfare and finance, but also education, interior and development sectors; elaboration of sub-targets and relevant indicators within relevant SDGs, such as 1.3; 1.5; 3.8, 5.2; 5.6; 8.7; 8.8, 11.1; 11.5; 16.2; 17.18.

4. Enhance global, regional, national and local health information and health monitoring systems on migrant health, including systematic data collection, and analysis of migrant health, develop local capacity and key indicators to monitor migrant health and track progress, in accordance with data protection and confidentiality principles¹⁹; support measures to improve communication and counter xenophobia by making efforts to dispel fears and misperceptions among refugee, migrant and host popul

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border health aspects to ensure continuum of care. Act on SDG target indicators, including but not only, targets 1.3, 3.8 and 3.c.

6. Reduce mortality and morbidity among migrants through short- and long-term public health interventions, aimed at saving lives and promoting the physical and mental health of migrants. Rapid and effective emergency and humanitarian responses are essential for saving lives and relieving suffering. Longer-term planning for more systematic development-oriented approaches to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the response should begin early. Recognizing that migrants may experience severe emotional distress and trauma, and may have particular mental health needs is vital.

Means of implementation and follow-up: Provide emergency and humanitarian responses based on humanitarian principles; enhance capacity to ensure effective health responses and health protection with particular attention to communicable and noncommunicable diseases, mental health disorders, sexual and reproductive health issues, gender-based violence, child health, and prevention efforts such as health promotion and vaccination; Provide care for victims of torture, violence, those with mental disorders, physical trauma, injury and disabilities. Establish mechanisms for referrals and ensure that health screenings are harmonized. Support health actors including the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and civil society organizations to provide services, ensure confidentiality of data of those accessing services and that there is no criminalization of those who provide health services. Act on SDG target indicators, including but not only target 1.5, 3.c, 3.d, 11.5, and 16.1.

7. Protect and improve the health and well-being of migrant women, children and adolescents, the elderly, people with disabilities, victims of torture, and populations in vulnerable situations through the provision of essential health services such as a minimum initial reproductive health service package, sexual and reproductive health information; maternal health and child health care, including emergency obstetric services, pre- and postnatal care, prevention, care and support for sexually transmitted infections such as HIV, and specialized care for the survivors of sexual violence. Provision of mental health care services and other relevant care as needed.

Means of implementation and follow-up: Monitor and implement the global plan of action on strengthening health systems response in addressing violence, particularly against women, girls and children, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2016 which provides a clear framework to guide countries to strengthen services for survivors of gender-based violence including in humanitarian contexts. Provide minimum initial reproductive health service packages and support for people with disabilities. Act on SDG target indicators,

Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

The Seventieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, and following decision EB140(9) (2017);

Recalling resolution WHA61.17 (2008) on the health of migrants and reaffirming the health-related commitments made within the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;²⁵

Recalling the need for international cooperation to support countries hosting refugees, and recognizing the efforts of the countries hosting and receiving large populations of refugees and migrants,

1. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants;²⁶

2. URGES Member States,²⁷ in accordance with their national context, priorities, and legal frameworks:

(1) to consider promoting the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants, as appropriate, at global, regional and country levels including using it 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;

(2) to identify and collect evidence-based information, best practices and lessons learned in addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants in order to contribute to the development of a draft global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants;

(3) to strengthen international cooperation on the health of refugees and migrants in line with paragraphs 11 and 68 and other relevant paragraphs of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;

(4) to consider providing necessary health-related assistance through bilateral and international cooperation to those countries hosting and receiving large populations of refugees and migrants;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to use the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants to increase advocacy at all levels to promote the health of refugees and migrants, as appropriate;

(2) to develop, reinforce and maintain the necessary capacities to provide health leadership and to provide support to Member States and partners in promoting the health of refugees and migrants in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, other international organizations and relevant stakeholders, and avoiding duplication;

(3) to identify best practices, experiences and lessons learned on the health of refugees and migrants in each region, in order to contribute to the development of a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants to be considered for adoption by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly, and to report thereon to the Health Assembly;

(4) to submit to the Seventy-first and Seventy-second World Health Assemblies a report on progress made in implementing this resolution.

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²⁵ See United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1 (2016).

²⁶ See http://www.who.int/migrants/about/framework_refugees-migrants.pdf

²⁷ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.