



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
64TH SESSION

Copenhagen, Denmark, 15–18 September 2014



© WHO



© WHO

Migration and health Technical briefing

Monday, 15 September 2014, 13:00



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Regional Committee for Europe
64th session

EUR/RC64/TD/1

Copenhagen, Denmark, 15–18 September 2014

28 August 2014
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Technical briefing, Monday, 15 September 2014
13:00

Migration and health

Scope and purpose

Migration is a high priority on the political and policy agenda of most Member States of the WHO European Region. The complexity of the issue poses challenges within and beyond the health sector, especially with regard to the health needs of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers.

The WHO European health policy framework, Health 2020, has brought focus onto the issues of migration and health, with other issues related to population vulnerability, gender and human rights. Key elements for effective work on health and migration are reducing health inequities, strengthening people-centred health systems and governance for health and creating resilient communities, in both the countries of origin and the receiving countries.

Migrants often bear an unjust accumulation of disadvantages throughout life and migration may be a determinant of avoidable, inequities, unhealthy lifestyles, exposure to infections, limited access to care, social stigmatization, and mental and physical health challenges. To effectively address these inequities and complex factors, we must work across government and across sectors in a coordinated approach to the social determinants of the health of migrants.

Since adoption of resolution WHA61.17 on the “Health of migrants” in 2008, the global economic crisis has had a major impact on migration. Unauthorized migration flows continue to have health consequences and many migrants are in irregular situations, lacking access to health services. Natural disasters, armed conflict and food insecurity have generated millions of displaced people, whose health is threatened as a result. Past and current global epidemics (such as H1N1 influenza, poliomyelitis, severe acute respiratory syndrome, Ebola virus disease) and regional epidemics (such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis) have re-emphasized the importance of the links between population mobility and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases (including maternal, child and adolescent health) and the need to ensure that the most disadvantaged populations have access to preventive measures and care.

The main objectives of the technical briefing are:

- to emphasize the relevance of public health aspects of migration to Member States and to plan systematic activities at the regional level and in the framework of implementation of Health 2020;

- to describe WHO's work on health and migration and promote collaboration on the public health aspects of migration within the diverse countries of the European Region; and
- to identify the essential components of an action plan to address the public health aspects of migration in the WHO European Region.

= = =