



# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, INCLUDING UPDATE ON GOVERNING BODY DECISIONS AND MAJOR EVENTS SINCE JULY 2015



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**Europe**



**Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

**Europe**



**Weltgesundheitsorganisation**

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

**Europa**



**Всемирная организация  
здравоохранения**

**Европейское** региональное бюро

**Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab**  
WHO Regional Director for Europe

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Advisory  
Committee on Health Research  
Copenhagen 6 April 2016

# Where are we?

## The is good news and less good news....

- The good news:
  - The European Region is on track to achieve the Health 2020 targets.
  - Europeans live longer and healthier lives than ever before.
  - Differences in life expectancy and mortality between countries in Europe are diminishing.
  - Many European countries are aligning their national health strategies with Health 2020.

# Where are we?

- The less good news:
  - There are still unacceptable differences in health status between European countries.
  - If rates of smoking, alcohol consumption and obesity do not decline substantially, the gains in life expectancy could be lost in the future.
  - Data collection must be strengthened and new health monitoring approaches explored to obtain adequate evidence for the 21st century.

# Issues to be addressed in 2016:

- Health in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the role of WHO
- Universal health coverage
- Reform of WHO's emergency programme
- Public health impact of migration in Europe
- Decision-making, performance, transparency, legitimacy and accountability in the Region and globally
- Policy coordination and partnerships in Europe

# Health in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

# Health is a political choice





# The SDGs and Health 2020





RENEWED POLICY ENVIRONMENT

**FRAMED BY**

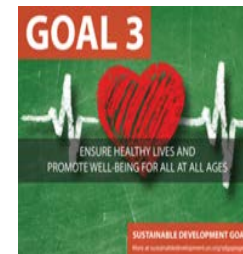
**HEALTH 2020**





# “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”

- the “unfinished business” of MDGs
- noncommunicable diseases, **mental health and injuries**
- sexual and reproductive health and rights
- determinants of health
- universal health coverage
- health security



# The SDGs, Health 2020 and public health



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# Universal health coverage

# Moving towards universal health coverage is vital



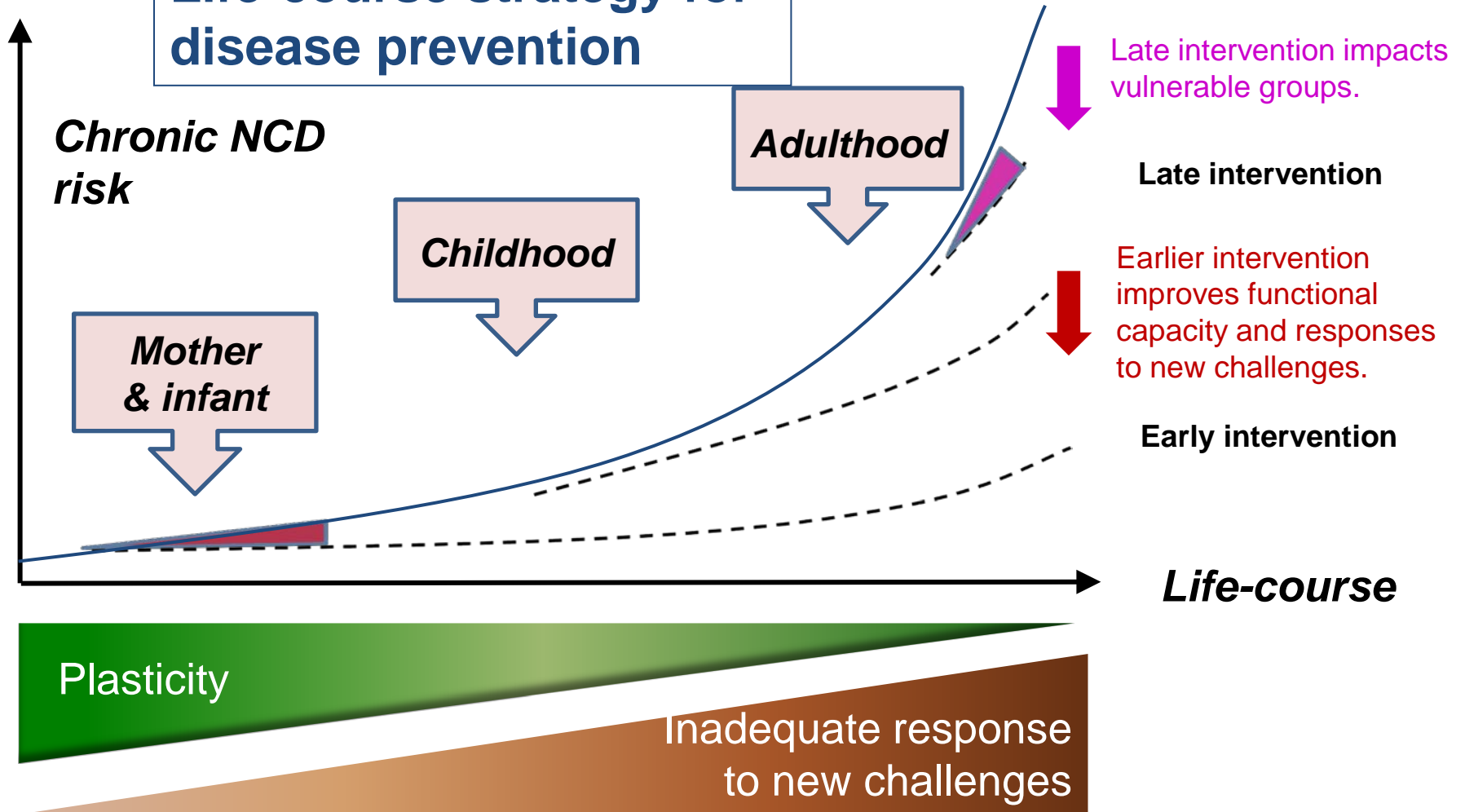
*Universal health coverage: The single most powerful concept that public health has to offer.”*

*Dr Margaret Chan  
WHO Director-General*



# Developmental origins of health and disease and the life-course approach The Minsk Declaration

# Life-course strategy for disease prevention



Gluckman, Hanson, Cooper et al. *New Engl J Med* 2008; 359: 61-73

Harvey NC et al. *J Bone Miner Res* 2014; 29: 1917-25





# Building a new WHO programme for outbreaks and emergencies

WHO Director-General, Deputy Director-General and regional directors have been leading the **transformation of WHO's work in outbreaks and emergencies** since January 2015

We are fully committed to:

- urgently reform the emergency work of WHO,
- establish one single programme and
- have an independent mechanism of assessment and monitoring.

# WHO's "new" programme on outbreaks and health emergencies addresses the full cycle of health emergencies.

- Comprehensive
- All-hazards approach
- Flexible
- Rapid and responsive
- "No regrets" principle



# What does the world expect of WHO in emergencies?

- 1** **Single approach** for *all* emergencies (outbreaks, humanitarian, other)
- 2** **Standardized** at all three levels and in all seven major offices
- 3** **Leverage and facilitate** the United Nations, partners and disaster management systems
- 4** **Optimize WHO's political access and technical expertise**
- 5** Operate across the **emergency management cycle**

# Zika virus disease

# Zika virus disease



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# Migration and health in the European Region

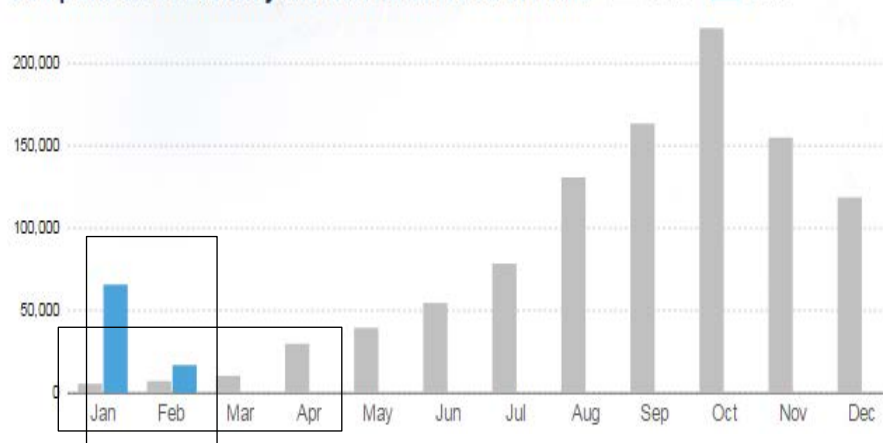
# Setting the scene: migration in the European Region

**77 million** migrants are living in the WHO European Region, representing **8%** of its population (European Health Report 2012)



1 out of 12 residents is a migrant

Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



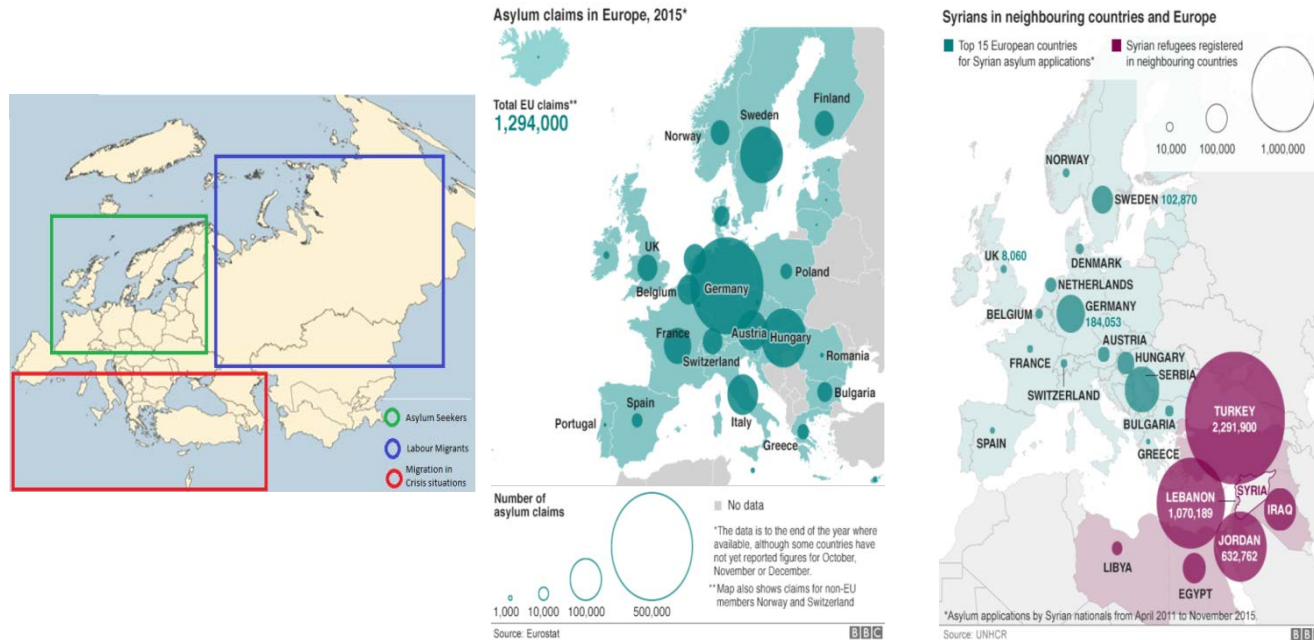
Over 1 million people arrived in Europe in 2015.

During the first 6 weeks of 2016, over 80 000 people arrived in Europe. This number is higher than the number of arrivals in the first 4 months of 2015.

Source:  
UNHCR

# Setting the scene: migration in the European Region

The migrant population in the European Region is heterogeneous, composed of diverse and overlapping groups, including refugees, asylum-seekers, labour migrants and undocumented migrants.



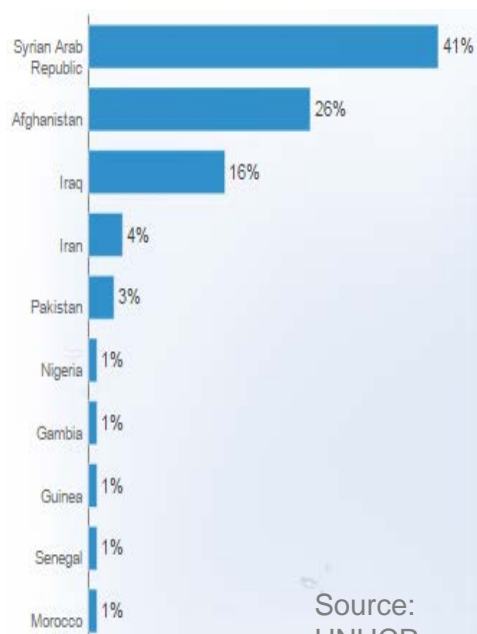
# European refugee and the migrant crisis in numbers

The Eastern Mediterranean Region hosts the largest number of displaced people: 20 million internally displaced people and 9 million refugees.

Source: ReliefWeb

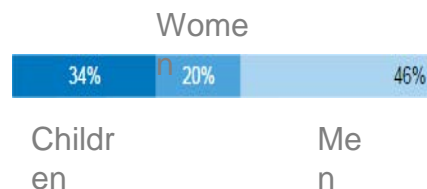
## Arrivals in the European Region

### Nationalities



Source: UNHCR

### Demographics



Inter-regional and inter-country coordination must be strengthened to improve the availability and exchange of health information, evidence and expertise in public health and migration.

# Health issues associated with migration

- There is no systematic association between migration and the importation of communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are primarily associated with poverty.
- Migrants and refugees do not pose an additional health security threat to their host communities. Screening – not limited to infectious diseases – can be an effective public health instrument but should be non-discriminatory, non-stigmatizing and carried out to the benefit of the individual and the public; it should also be linked to access to treatment, care and support. (Outcome document *Stepping up action on refugee and migrant health* – High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health, Rome, November 2015).
- High-quality care for refugee and migrant groups cannot be provided by health systems alone. All sectors (education, employment, social security, housing) affect the health of refugees and migrants.



# Project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe'



Lampedusa, Italy, 2011



Serbian-Hungarian border, 2015

Technical assistance

Health information and evidence

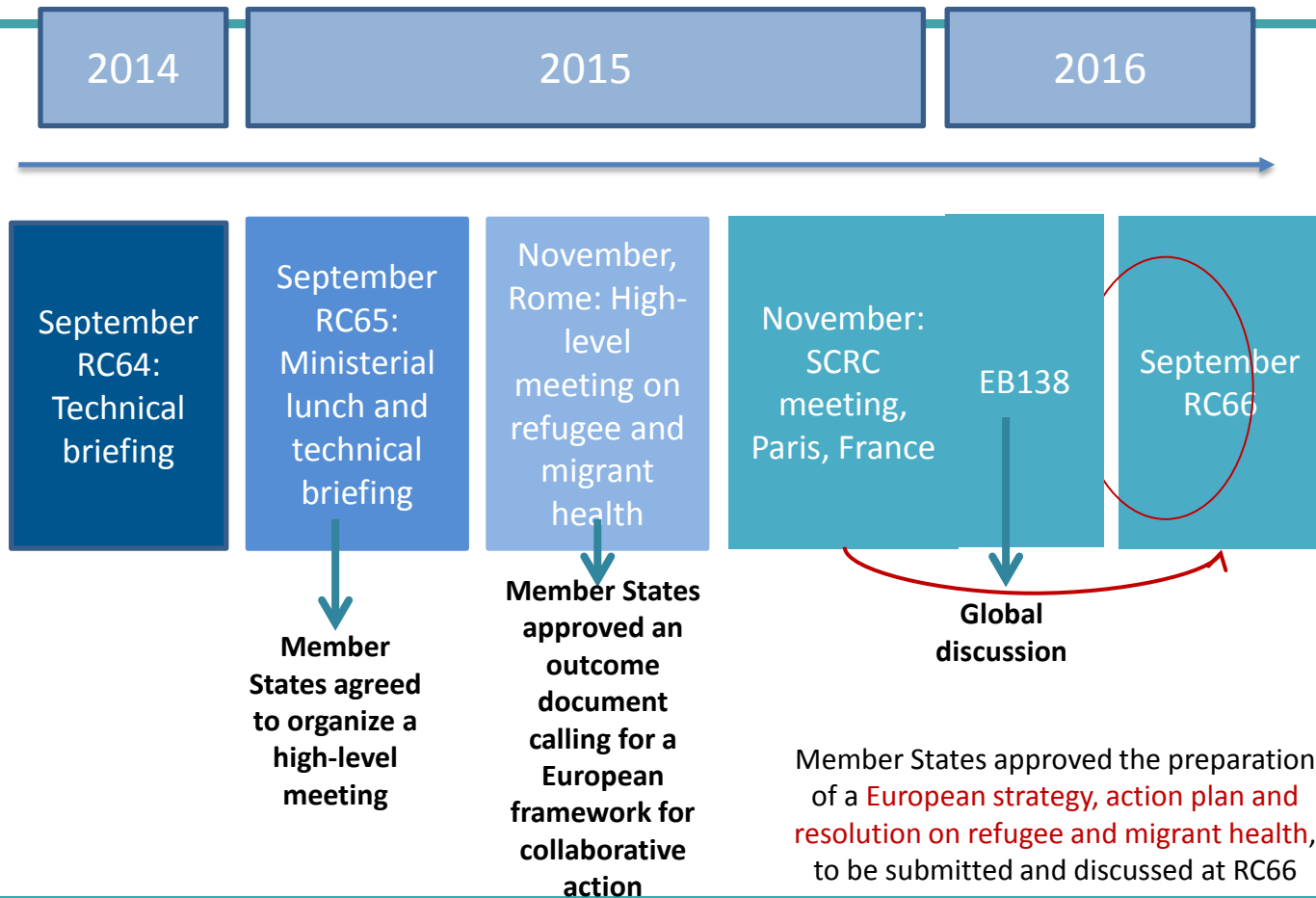
Advocacy and communication

Policy development



# Project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe'

## Policy development



# Project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe'

## Technical assistance

- Assessing countries' health-system capacity to address the public health aspects of migration.
  - Assessment missions conducted in Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Providing technical assistance to upgrade the capacity of health systems to cope adequately with large-scale migration:
  - Policy advice on contingency planning, risk analysis, risk assessment and risk communication
  - Training in migrant health
  - Provision of medical supplies
  - Production of technical guidance notes and public information materials



# Project 'Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe'

## Health information and evidence



Improving the availability of good-quality data on public health and migration is essential for evidence-informed policies and interventions.



- Health Evidence Network (HEN) reports on public health and migration:
  - Published reviews of the available evidence on health status and access to health care for refugees and asylum seekers, undocumented and labour migrants
  - Ongoing reviews on mental health, maternal health and the public health implications of the legal definitions of migrants

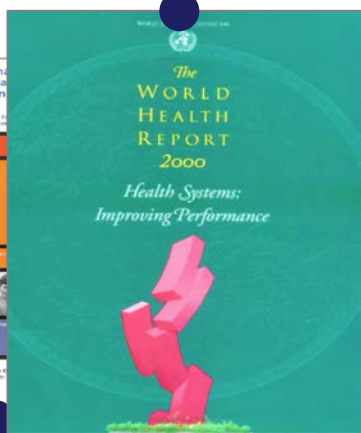
# Health system strengthening

# Health system strengthening

## From the Tallinn Charter to Health 2020

2000

Introduced core health system functions: governance; services delivery; financing; resource generation



1978-'96

Alma-Ata Declaration; Ljubljana Conference on Reforming Health Care

2007

Building blocks: service delivery; health workforce; information; medical products; financing; leadership

2008

Tallinn Charter: health systems for health and wealth



2009

People at the centre of systems

2013

Strengthening people-centred health systems: operational approach to HSS



2020



Priority area: strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity

# Targets and beyond – reaching new frontiers in evidence



# Health 2020 targets

1. Reduce premature mortality.
2. Increase life expectancy.
3. Reduce inequities.
4. Enhance well-being.
5. Achieve universal health coverage.
6. Member States establish national targets.



# European Health Report 2015

## Main aims:

- To report on progress towards the Health 2020 targets (since the 2010 baseline)
- To reach new frontiers in health information and 'evidence for the 21st century', including further work on well-being.



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# Thank you