



IMRF Dialogue Series

Promoting inclusive societies and ensuring the inclusion of migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery

27 April 2022

9:30–11:00 AM (New York) – 3:30 –5:00 PM (Geneva)

Concept Note and Agenda

Dialogue

To support Member States and other relevant stakeholders in preparing for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), the United Nations Network on Migration (Network) is hosting the Migration Dialogues series (January – April 2022). These events offer an open and inclusive space where Member States and all other relevant stakeholders can discuss approaches towards achieving effective, principled migration governance for the benefit of all. These deliberations are designed to assist Member States and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for the IMRF.

The UN Secretary General's report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹, published this year, and taking stock on the progress made since the adoption of the GCM, as well as from the COVID-19 pandemic experience, clearly recommends States to promote inclusive societies and including migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery. More specifically, States and stakeholders are urged to ensure that all migrants are granted and enabled to gain access to essential health services and continuity of care, including COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and treatment, regardless of migration status, and in line with the principles of universal health coverage²³.

Amid a global pandemic, access to health and social services is not the standard. Similarly, whether the process of migration itself improves or diminishes an individual's health status depends on great part on their access to transit and destination countries' health systems. Building back better involves going beyond aspirational written plans; rather, such plans are paired with strong leadership to build effective, accountable, and inclusive societies sensitive capable to cater to everyone's needs. Recent evidence highlights the challenges, opportunities but mostly benefits of adapting health systems to be sensitive to the needs and rights of migrant communities⁴. Moreover, research has shown that despite the complex nexus between public health and migration policies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, countries which policies are in line with GCM, focused on the inclusion of migrants within their national COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery plans have a positive direct or indirect impact in national, regional and global public health; which in turn are a great step towards achieving our global commitments⁵. Notwithstanding, an important component to successful mainstream of health and migration within

¹ Secretary-General's second Report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2022)

<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/es/resources/secretary-general-report>

² WHO Health and Migration Programme (PHM). Strengthening COVID-19 vaccine demand and uptake in refugees and migrants (PHM/WHO, 2022) https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-immunization-demand_planning-refugees_and_migrants-2022.1

³ United Nations Policy Brief on Universal Health Coverage (2020) https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/SG-Policy-Brief-on-Universal-Health-Coverage_English.pdf

⁴ WHO Health and Migration Programme (PHM). Mapping health systems' responsiveness to refugee and migrant health needs (PHM/WHO, 2021) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030640>

⁵ WHO Health and Migration Programme (PHM). Refugees and migrants in times of COVID-19: mapping trends of public health and migration policies and practices <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240028906>

health systems and across public health and migration policies must be paired with migrant-sensitive capacity-building^{6 7 89}.

Discussions will look to set the scene ahead of the IMRF, including elements to be considered under Roundtable 3, and to share good practices and lessons learnt from a number of actors operating at the local, regional, and global levels which might be replicated and taken forward.

This Dialogue offers an opportunity for discussing opportunities, challenges, promising practices, and innovative solutions in **promoting inclusive societies and ensuring the inclusion of migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery**. The Dialogue will also offer the opportunity to look beyond COVID-19 responses, and to consider how to ensure migrant-inclusive measures do not remain temporary¹⁰. It will be centred around how societies can jointly advance the implementation of Objectives 15 and 16 of the GCM as they relate to providing access to essential services – healthcare included; and empowering migrants and communities to realize their full inclusion within their society. This is also **an opportunity to consider health related pledges, focusing on strong commitments to embedding health and migration in future pandemic preparedness plans – including financing, equitable and universal access** – those various entities could support.

The role societies and communities play in ensuring the inclusion, integration and protection of migrants' rights in health could be scaled through sharing country and regional experiences in adopting the Global Compact as a roadmap for addressing the many chronic and emerging challenges with context-specific, adapted and migrant-sensitive strategies.

This webinar is convened by WHO and IOM, in the pathway to the IMRF, covering the health aspects of migration and how to ensure migrants are effectively integrated into response and recovery strategies. This has been recommended by the UN Secretary General in his report on the Global Compact for Migration 2022.

Interpretation will be provided in [Arabic, English, French, and Spanish]

Register [here](#).

Discussion space

To ensure meaningful and lasting interactions between participants, speakers, and Network members, as well as shape discussions, the following guiding questions are proposed:

1. Within the next 3-7 years, what would migrant - inclusive societies look like to achieve Universal Health Coverage? What health-related actions should be taken now in terms of financing, policy-dialogues, research, community-based interventions need to be taken to ensure progress towards GCM objectives 15 and 16?

⁶ Refugee and migrant health: Global Competency Standards for health workers (PHM/WHO, 2021)
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030626>

⁷ Mainstreaming the Health of Migrants in the Implementation of the GCM (IOM, 2018)
https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/our_work/DMM/Migration-Health/mhd_infosheet_gcm_dec2018_for_website.pdf

⁸ UN Network on Migration Enhancing Access to Services for Migrants in the Context of COVID-19 Preparedness, Prevention, and Response and Beyond
https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/resource_available_wg6_including_covid19280420_1414284334.pdf

⁹ UN Network on Migration Inventory of tools, guidance, policies, statement and best practices including for COVID-19 response at 28.04.20
https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/resource_available_wg6_including_covid19280420_1414284334.pdf

¹⁰ UN Network on Migration, Promising Practices in the Provision of Essential Services to Migrants (2022).
https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/provision_of_essential_services_-_good_practices.pdf

2. Many States expanded access to COVID-19 related services for migrants within their preparedness and response plans; however, access to many non-COVID-19 essential health services remained or became quite challenging.
 - What are some of the ways in which governments and other stakeholders could use existing migrant-sensitive frameworks and guidelines, experiences and scale up best-practices?

3. Existing information around access to healthcare has shown that explicitly including migrants into health systems must be paired with funding, workforce sensitivity training and engagement of migrants themselves to better identify and address unmet needs and promote stronger and resilient health systems.
 - How can we build strong migrant-sensitive health governance within all levels of the health system and how have these improved migrant empowerment and inclusive societies?

Access the discussion space [here](#).

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10 minutes	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva</p> <p>Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director-General for Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva</p>
5 minutes per speaker	<p>Setting the Scene</p> <p>Santino Severoni, Director, Health and Migration Programme (PHM), WHO, Geneva.</p> <p>Wen Li, Director, Department of External Relations, IOM, Geneva.</p> <p>Welcoming address and housekeeping</p> <p>Brief introduction of where we are today, the importance of such dialogues, role of societies in bringing inclusive response and recovery plans, what would success look like – health related pledge(s) at the IMRF; commitment to inclusion of mobility and health in future pandemic preparedness with an emphasis on equitable migrant inclusion in UHC access and financial coverage; and why does this series matter.</p>
45 minutes	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member State Representative from Portugal • Lala Arabian, Executive Director, INSAN Association • Felipe Muñoz Gómez, Migration Unit Chief, Inter-American Development Bank • Sanushka Mudaliar, Director of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Global Migration Lab



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virginia W. Greiner, Director and Founder Maisha e. V <p>Moderator: Baltica Cabieses –Universidad del Desarrollo, Social Science Studies department; Senior Visiting Scholar – University of York, Co-lead Lancet Migration Latin American Hub.</p> <p>Interactive session: live responses using Slido as a live poll – panelist could discuss participants response – 2 polls – discuss 5 minutes each.</p>
20 minutes	Discussion / Q&A
5 minutes	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN Network on Migration