

## Looking beyond 2022: what can we do better for the health of migrants and advance GCM commitments?

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum  
19th May, 8:30-10:00 EDT, Virtual

### *Background*

There are over 280 million international migrants, in which 35.5 million are children; many in irregular and precarious situations, often without full enjoyment of the right to health or access to healthcare. These inequities have been accentuated further during the pandemic.

Addressing the health needs of migrants responds to their right to health, ensures security for global public health, facilitates integration, and contributes to social and economic development. It represents an important investment because it promises benefits to both migrant and host populations. This has been encompassed in numerous international instruments, treaties and conventions, including Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals; the 2019 political declaration on Universal Health Coverage; the 2019 WHO Global Action Plan: Promoting the health of refugees and migrants 2019-2023; and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Although promising changes have occurred on the ground in migration health policies and actions since the GCM's adoption, many commitments were temporary and during the pandemic. Therefore, work is needed to make them permanent and to further advance the GCM – not only objective 15, but also objectives 1, 6, 7, 10, 16 and 22 - and other political commitments.

This event at the margins of the first International Migration Review Forum, that will occur from 17-20 May 2022 in New York, has as a baseline the concept that migration and health are inextricably linked, and key to sustainable development. It will bring together Member States and key stakeholders to discuss what we can do better to progress the global health and migration agendas beyond the IMRF.

The IMRF must be a window of opportunity and a moment to catalyse action. Therefore, this side-event will work as a brick of knowledge and discussion on health and migration, as the COVID-19 pandemic so candidly unveiled its urgency of action.

### *Description of the Side-event*

**Co-sponsors:** World Health Organization, Portugal, Thailand, Morocco, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Maldivian Red Crescent, International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

### **Objectives of the event are to:**

- Share promising practices and commitments at global and country levels in fostering cross-sector, complementary decision making that integrates health considerations across policies and services that determine the health of migrants
- Propose recommendations beyond the IMRF, especially the work of policymakers and practitioners
- Galvanize action to advance the GCM health-related commitments and other relevant policy developments

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Propose recommendations beyond IMRF to the work of policymakers and practitioners, to be shared after the session with participants and relevant stakeholders
- Inform next steps and review process of international policy frameworks and agreements, including the 2019 WHO GAP on promoting the health of refugees and migrants; and the review process of the 2019 political declaration of UHC.

### **Format**

This will be a 90-minute high-level session, in which participants will hear from Member States on the preeminent aspects to act in the health and migration arena beyond the IMRF.

No interpretation is provided.

Register here: [https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BA1LKAJsQWyW22f1BDNG\\_g](https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BA1LKAJsQWyW22f1BDNG_g)

### *Suggested agenda*

<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b></p> <p><b>Time: 8:30 (New York) 14:30 (Geneva)</b></p> <p><b>Venue: virtual</b></p>	
25 minutes	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Moderator: Kate Dodson, UN Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO (video message)</li> <li>• High-level Representative of Morocco</li> <li>• High-level Representative of Portugal</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand</li> </ul>
35 minutes	<p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <p>Panel discussion with representatives from WHO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, IFRC, IFMSA and PICUM will be discussing good practices; challenges; lessons learnt; and emerging priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Santino Severoni, Director, Health and Migration Programme, WHO</li> <li>• Ms Jacqueline Weekers, Director, Migration Health, IOM</li> <li>• Ms Monica Ferro, Director, Geneva Office, UNFPA</li> <li>• Dr Aboubacar Kampo, Global Director for Health, UNICEF</li> <li>• Ms Fathimath Himya, Secretary General of Maldivian Red Crescent</li> <li>• Mr Mahmood F. Al-Hamody, Liaison Officer for Human Rights and Peace Issues, International Federation Medical Students Association</li> <li>• Ms Michele LeVoy, Director, PICUM</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Kate Dodson, UN Foundation</p>



25 minutes

Discussion / Q&A

5 minutes

Closing Remarks

- Kate Dodson, UN Foundation