Migrants, Refugees and Health

Webinar organized by the Working Group on Health in Emergencies and Disaster World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPAH)

25 March 2019 at 15.00-17.00 CET
The Working Group

- Established in 2018
- Consists of 16 members representing all regions and many disciplines
- The aim of the Working Group is to
  - Advocate for, and support, cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration for all hazards and the impact of climate change on health and well being
  - Rise awareness about public health issues in emergencies and disasters
  - Advocate for the health and protection of population and health care workers during emergencies
  - Promote quality health care for migrants and host communities.
This Webinar

This webinar aims to

• Introduce the Global Compact for Migration, highlight the links between Migration and Development, and focus on the issue of the health of migrants and refugees

• Assess the major challenges to implement the Global Compact and the key role international and professional organizations, such as Public Health Associations, can play to inform solutions for access to health for migrants and refugees

• Facilitate a dialogue to advance understanding and capabilities to tackle health challenges faced by migrants and refugees by leveraging the power of community and professional organizations
Webinar Outline

Moderator
Chadia Wannous, Chair of the WFPHA Working Group on Health in Emergencies and Disasters

Speakers
• Summary of the Global Compact and Next Steps for Implementation and Implications for Health of Migrants-
  • Jacqueline Weekers, Director, Migration Health Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• Healthcare access of immigrants: An integrated approach
  • Alejandro Gil Salmerón, Polibienestar Research Institute, University of Valencia
• The Challenge of Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants in Europe
  • Glenn Laverack, Visiting Professor (Health Promotion), Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK.
• Climate Risks, Ecosystem Degradation and Forced Migration
  • Catherine Machalaba, Policy Advisor and Research Scientist, EcoHealth Alliance
• Summary of the UCL–Lancet Commission on Migration and Health: The Health of a World on the Move and Key Recommendations-
  • Member of the Lancet Commission
• Questions and Answers
Chadia Wannous

Chadia Wannous is the Coordinator of Toward a Safer World Network (TASW), a professional multisectoral network advancing pandemic preparedness and risk reduction of health emergencies. Dr. Wannous is a public health professional with over twenty-eight years of experience. Dr. Wannous coordinated the implementation of the health components of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Science and Technology Partnership and Advisory Group at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2017). She was the Senior Policy Advisor to the UN Special Envoy on Ebola response in West Africa (2014-2015) and to the UN System Influenza Coordination (2011-2015) leading strategic planning and technical support to countries’ preparedness and response interventions. Dr. Wannous is the Chair of the WFPHA Working Group on Health in Emergencies and Disasters and a member of the Development Team of Future Earth Knowledge Action Network on Health and the Scientific Committee of EcoHealth Alliance One Health project.
Migration has become a political tense, controversial and complex issue, with one billion people on the move or having moved in 2018.

Majority of which occurs within low and middle-income countries (LMICs).
Refugees and forced displacement trend

The numbers of refugees and of people forcibly displaced by war and conflict, natural disasters, and climate change are at the highest levels ever recorded: 25 million and 40 million, respectively.

Developing countries host 86% of the forced displaced population.
Health in the Migration Global Compact

• 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 the 24 elements contained in Annex II of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

• To address this, in its 140th session in January 2017, the WHO Executive Board requested its Secretariat to develop a framework of priorities and guiding principles, in close cooperation with IOM and UNHCR, to promote the health of refugees and migrants.

• In May 2017, the World Health Assembly endorsed resolution 70.15 on ‘Promoting the health of refugees and migrants. The resolution urges WHO’s 194 Member States to strengthen international cooperation on the health of refugees and migrants.

• The document proposes 8 actionable commitments and the means of implementation.
Health in the Migration Global Compact

• On 10 December 2018, over 160 countries adopted the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**. It is the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions.

• Now implementation of the Compact will take centre stage.

• **How Health Challenges and Opportunities Associated With Migration is addressed in the Compact?**
Jacqueline Weekers is the Director of the Migration Health Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Weekers has been working in the domain of migrant health for some twenty-five years in the Asia Pacific region and at Headquarters level in IOM and WHO. Ms Weekers advises Member States, partners and colleagues on the management of migration health issues, relevant strategy and policy developments in line with sustainable development goals, and building needed multi-sectoral partnerships, including UN agencies. She was i.a. responsible for the organization of the 2010 and 2017 multi stakeholder Global Consultations on the Health of Migrants, and related Governing Bodies processes, and she has widely promoted the mainstreaming of migration health into the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Ms. Weekers has published, trained and presented on a range of migrant health and public health related topics in the context of international migration and development.
Addressing health inequalities and integration of vulnerable immigrant population

• The 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Agenda recognizes the positive contributions of refugees and migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

• The recent large-scale population movement has posed epidemiological and health system challenges, to which public health and health systems must adjust.

• Lack of Universal Health Coverage can lead to excessive costs for refugees and migrants, many of whom pay out of pocket for health services.
Alejandro has a Degree in Social Work (2015) and is Post-Graduated on Social Welfare Policies (2016), by the University of Valencia. He is a doctoral researcher at Polibienestar Research Institute (University of Valencia) since 2016 where he has participated in more than 10 European projects focused mainly on integrated care, health promotion and public health policy. He has experience analysing accessibility factors of health and social services promoting their improvement for vulnerable groups, as well collecting, analysing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative data. The results of his research have been published in scientific journals and presented in international conferences. Furthermore, he has been a visiting researcher in the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research at the University of Guelph in Canada (2018).
Health Promotion

- Increased numbers of migrants are hosted in Europe recently.
- Most migrants are healthy when they arrive in the EU, but they can be affected by conditions and factors before or during travel.
- They may be suffering from physical exhaustion, extreme distress, dehydration or cold, combined with other issues such as inadequate living conditions that can impact their physical and mental health.

- The challenge of promoting the health of refugees and migrants in Europe.
Glenn Laverack is a leader in health promotion and empowerment and has a career spanning more than 30 years having worked in 50 countries including in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions. He formerly worked as a senior research fellow at Flinders University, Australia and as a Coordinator and Technical Officer with the WHO, Geneva. He is a full Adjunct Professor at the University of the UAE and has a wide range of publications regarding health promotion including 22 books in several languages. He is presently an independent advisor on health promotion working in a number of countries and professional settings and this helps to facilitate a broad insight at both a theoretical and practice level.
Climate refugees

• Climate change is recognized as a driver of movement
• Reaffirm the relevance of refugee principles in providing protection to people displaced across borders in so-called ‘nexus’ situations.
• Ensure that access to asylum procedures and refugee protection is provided where needed,
• There is a need for further analysis and guidance on the applicability of refugee law in the context of climate change and disasters.
Catherine Machalaba

Catherine Machalaba serves as policy advisor and research scientist at EcoHealth Alliance, a scientific non-profit organization working at the nexus of conservation, global health, and capacity strengthening. She works closely with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and World Health Organization and chairs the American Public Health Association’s Veterinary Public Health group. She was a lead author of the World Bank “Operational Framework for Strengthening Human, Animal and Environmental Public Health Systems at their Interface” published in 2018 to assist countries and donor institutions in implementing One Health approaches. Catherine holds degrees in biology and public health.
The UCL–Lancet Commission on Migration and Health

The UCL–Lancet Commission on Migration and Health steps in to provide evidence for cooperation and action. The report published online on December 5, 2018 documents the devastating impacts of forced migration and the overall benefits to the health of individuals and populations that migration generates. It also lays out a research agenda to better ensure the health of migrants.

See the full report of the Commission at https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/migration-health
Ibrahim Abubakar is Director of the UCL Institute for Global Health. He led the UCL Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology, UCL-TB and was a senior investigator at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit. He was head of TB at Public Health England. He is the chair of the UCL Lancet Commission on Migration and Health. Prior to his appointment at UCL, he was Professor in Health Protection at the Norwich Medical School. He qualified in medicine in 1992 and initially trained in general medicine before specialising in public health medicine. His academic public health training was undertaken at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia. He is currently chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis. He serves on/chairs several expert/advisory groups for the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.
Question

• What is the concrete role of public health associations in the implementation of the GCM?
Background reports and articles

• The Global Compact for Migration
  Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration. (draft outcome document available in all official languages).


Background reports and articles

• The Lancet Commission report on Migration and Health
  https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/migration-health

• The Challenge of Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants in Europe: A Review of the Literature and Urgent Policy Options, Glenn Laverack, Challenges 2018, 9(2), 32; https://doi.org/10.3390/challe9020032

• Is health promotion culturally competent to work with migrants? Glenn Laverack, https://doi.org/10.1177/1757975918777688
Background reports and articles

• Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health: a state of knowledge review.
  [https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/67397](https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/67397)

• Methodological guidance : climate change and health diagnostic : A country-based approach for assessing risks and investing in climate-smart health systems

• Operational framework for strengthening human, animal and environmental public health systems at their interface
We need to continue working together to make our world safer and more secure

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