

World report on the health of refugees and migrants

Summary



Health for all,
including
refugees and
migrants:
**time to
act now**

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ISBN 978-92-4-005448-6 (electronic version)

ISBN 978-92-4-005449-3 (print version)

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Suggested citation. World report on the health of refugees and migrants: summary. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Foreword



Today there are some one billion migrants globally, about one in eight people. The experience of migration is a key determinant of health and well-being, and refugees and migrants remain among the most vulnerable and neglected members of many societies.

This report is the first to offer a global review of health and migration and calls for urgent and concerted action to support refugees and migrants across the world to access health

care services that are sensitive to their needs. It illustrates the pressing need to study and mitigate the root causes of migration and to radically reorient health systems to respond to a world increasingly in motion.

Whether by choice or by force, to be on the move is to be human and is part of human life. Whatever a person's motivation, circumstance, origin or migratory status, we must unequivocally reiterate that health is a human right for all, and that universal health coverage must be inclusive of refugees and migrants.

We live in challenging times. Disease, famine, climate change and war all converge to threaten our global security, putting unprecedented pressures on our societies and economies. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a disproportionate effect on the health and livelihoods of refugees and migrants, with unique challenges for labour migrants.

At the start of 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners were responding to complex humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, each of which has fuelled mass population movements and severely tested health systems in host countries. Then came war in Ukraine, which pushed the total number of displaced people above 100 million for the first time in history.

But the full extent of the impact of these upheavals is not yet understood because, as this report demonstrates, refugees and migrants are not fully visible in the available data – a serious gap that must be fixed. We must invest in strengthening and implementing policies that promote refugee and migrant health, guided by innovative data gathering and analysis.

We urge governments, agencies, donors and other partners to think creatively and act compassionately to improve the health of people on the move, and to do so across all sectors of society.

I invite you to read this report and join WHO and our partners in our commitment to build a healthier and more resilient world for all.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General

World Health Organization

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