

“Public Health aspects of Migration”

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Objectives

- Migration trends and linkages to health
- Challenges for migrants' health and health systems
- Cooperation and partnership



Health system access

- Health systems have to be responsive to their respective populations
- World's population becoming increasingly diverse, health systems need to find ways of responding adequately to this diversity.
- This is particularly relevant with regard to migrants, who comprise in example a growing share of European populations

Health system access

In 2010, nine of 27 EU countries denied free emergency care to undocumented migrants, while in 2004, ten of 25 EU countries provided only emergency care to asylum-seekers

Strategic approach for control of migration

While there has been an increasing harmonization of immigration policies in most of WHO member states, the dominant emphasis has been on **restriction, control and expulsion**

Migration & Health link

- Migrants connect individual and environmental health factors between communities
- Migrants bring their health profiles, beliefs, prevalences, socio-economic and cultural background
- Migrants acquire the health profiles and behaviours of the host community over time.

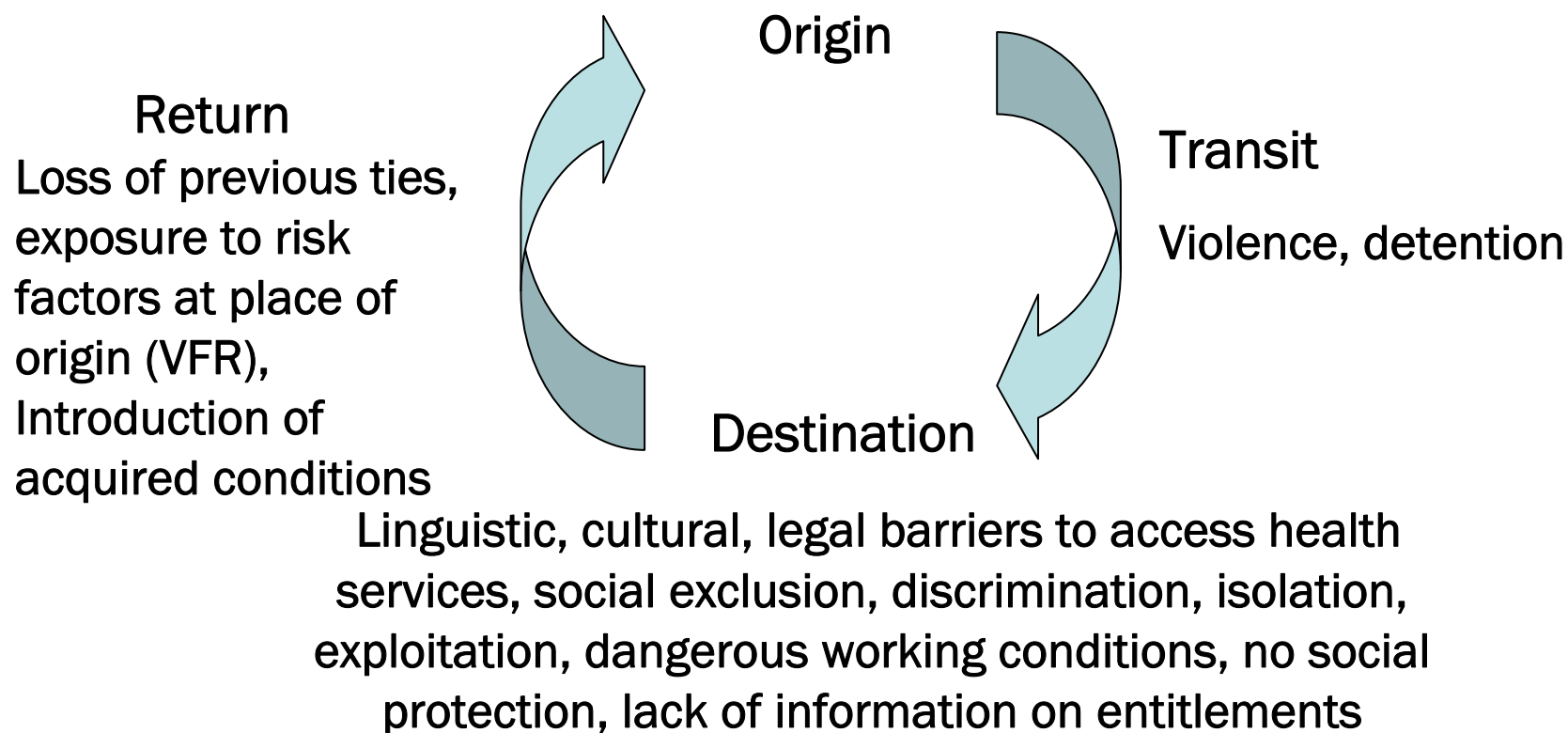


Some myths and facts

- Migrants are disease carriers
- Most migrants are young and healthy ('healthy migrant effect')
- Migrant are a burden to health systems
- Migrants under utilize health services
- Migrants contribute to economies and development

Challenges for migrants' health

Pre migration experiences , e.g. conflict, disasters, epidemiological profile



Challenges for health systems: paradigm shift

**Traditional approach
of exclusion:**

Security

**Disease control,
quarantine,**

National focus



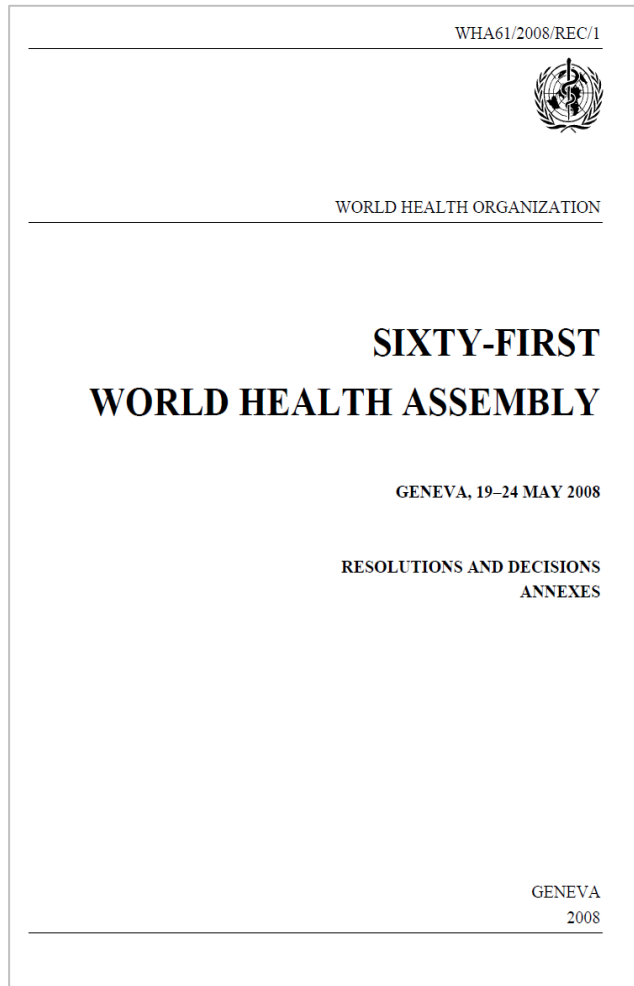
**Multi-dimensional approach
of inclusion:**

Reduction of inequities

**Social protection
in health, health
determinants, NCDs**

**Multi country &
inter-sectoral, IHR**

Resolution WHA 61.17





Calls for:

- ☐ Migrant-sensitive health policies
- ☐ Equitable access to services
- ☐ Information systems to assess migrant health
- ☐ Sharing information on best practices
- ☐ Raising cultural and gender sensitivity and specific training of health service providers and professionals
- ☐ Bi/multilateral cooperation among countries
- ☐ Reducing the global deficit of health professionals



Global Consultation on Migrant Health

Madrid, Spain 3-5 March 2010

- Take stock of action by MB & Stakeholders
 - Reach consensus in priority areas and strategies
 - Initiate an operational framework to assist MS & Stakeholders
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Operational Framework: Priorities

Monitoring Migrant Health

- To identify key indicators useable across countries
- To ensure the standardization and comparability of data on migrant health
- To support the appropriate aggregation and assembling of migrant health information
- To map good practices in monitoring migrant health, policy models, health system models[...]

Migrant sensitive health systems

- To ensure continuity and quality of care in all settings**
- To enhance the capacity of the health and relevant non-health workforce to address the health issues associated with migration
- To ensure health services are culturally, linguistically and epidemiologically appropriate[..]

Policy- legal frameworks

- To implement international standards that protect migrants' right to health**
- To develop and implement policies that promote equal access to health services for all migrants**
- To promote coherence among policies of different sectors
- To extend social protection in health and improve social security for all migrants and family members[...]

Partnerships, multi country framework

- To establish and support migration/ health dialogues and cooperation across sectors and countries of origin, transit and destination
- To address migrant health in global and regional processes (e.g. GMG, GFMD)
- To develop an information clearing house of good

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Migrants fleeing North Africa turmoil land on Lampedusa



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7 March 2011 Last updated at 17:08 GMT

About 1,000 North African migrants, on a dozen boats, have reached the Italian island of Lampedusa



WHO/Europe, Rome Action Plan (1)

- Support preparedness efforts of **local health systems** (emergency preparedness plans, contingency plans of health facilities, assessment of health needs of migrants with different diseases patterns than the host population)
- Support **coordination** of preparedness and health response actions between Ministries and health partners
- Technical support on **environmental health aspects** (water and sanitation, food safety, waste management)

WHO/Europe, Rome Action Plan (2)

- Expert advise on public health operations – disease surveillance, **early warning and response** system, **chronic disease** and **psychosocial support**.
- Health information, **community mobilization**, targeting public health messages to migrants

conclusions 1

Most migrants are healthy but conditions surrounding the migration process and the new life in the host community can pose health risks

- Vulnerable to determinants of ill-health
- Inequalities in accessing health services
- Sub-standard quality of care
- Negative impact for migrants and communities



Conclusion 2

Coordinated multi-sector strategy (Ministry of Health, Interior, Labor.....) for effective health system and services provision

- WHA 2008
- Ideally, the needs of migrants should be incorporated in all elements of health systems, including regulation, organization, financing, and planning, ensuring non-discrimination and equal entitlement to health services

Conclusion 3

transfer of know-how and health policies sensitive to migration

However, more needs to be done to evaluate and replicate the effectiveness of “best practices” that are rarely, if ever, subject to rigorous assessment.

Furthermore, good practices “do not fix the system” and for long-term sustainability, structural changes are required that embed good practices in health policy and practice