



FOSTERING THE HEALTH AND PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

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Migrants and mobile populations face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services due to a number of factors including irregular immigration status, language barriers, a lack of migrant-inclusive health policies and inaccessibility of services. Such disparities impact the well-being of migrants and host communities and undermine the realization of global health goals, such as preventing, treating and eliminating HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and human influenza. High morbidity and mortality among migrants, especially in irregular, forced, or exploitative migration situations is also an underestimated critical health concern that deserves international attention.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

Through the Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants IOM Missions carry out various activities to assist governments in addressing migration and mobility related health challenges by **strengthening the national health systems** and ensuring that **migrants have equitable access to health services**.

To ensure effective programmes, IOM builds a strong **collaboration** with health ministries to create solid, sector-wide migrant-friendly health systems ultimately benefiting migrants and their host communities. Equally important is **active and close engagement with migrant communities and Civil Society actors** developing rights-based as well as language and culture appropriate policies and programmes.

Conditions surrounding the migration process can increase the vulnerability of individuals and communities. Migrants originating from Sub-Sahara Africa travelling through the Eastern, Middle and Western Mediterranean routes particularly, those in irregular situations, or those forced to move as well as migrant workers involved in precarious employment conditions may be more susceptible to ill health than other migrant groups^{1,2}.

The perilous journeys and often associated risks factors such as **psychosocial stress, Sexual and or Gender Based-Violence (SGBV, GBV), exposure to infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies, coupled with the lack of access to the most basic needs**, particularly health services increase migrants' vulnerability.

IOM PROJECT



The UN agency for Migration in Morocco is coordinating the human « right-based » project titled **Fostering the health and protection of vulnerable migrants transiting through Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen** aiming at improving the protection and wellbeing of vulnerable migrants.

This project contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



1 Laacher S., « Le peuple des clandestins » dans Hily M. (dir.), Critique internationale, Paris, 2007, 181-185p.

2 <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-health-research-advance-evidence-based-policy-and-practice-sri-lanka>

ACHIEVEMENTS 2018 - 2019



SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN THE IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

The project continues to support the Ministry of Health in the implementing countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen). Consequently IOM has assisted with :

- A **revision of the National Migration and Health Plan 2017 – 2021** (in French « Plan Stratégique National Santé Immigration » PSNSI) at the request of the Department of Epidemiology of the MoH in Morocco.
- A **Public Health Risks Assessment was carried out conducted in 16 detention centers in Libya**. The results were published within Libya in September 2018 and in June 2019 at the cross regional knowledge exchange workshop in Bangkok.
- In March 2019, the Tunisia Ministry of Health recently presented a **bulletin emphasizing the right of migrants to have access to public health care services**. The project has further contributed to knowledge enhancement for Tunisian government officials, health workers, and civil society organizations on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) as well as improvements in the capabilities of the National Board for Family and Population (in French « Office National pour la Famille et la Population » ONFP) health information system to capture SRHR services data provided to populations, including migrants.

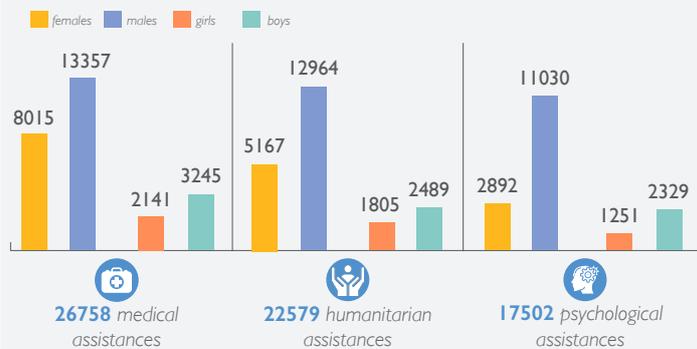


ACCESS TO HEALTH AND PROTECTION SERVICES

Improved **access and continuity to essential health and protection services for the most vulnerable migrants** including to victims of trafficking (VoTs), SGBV and Unaccompanied And Separated Children (UASC) :

66685

assistances in forms of medical, humanitarian and psychosocial support provided to vulnerable migrants from February 1, 2018 until October 31, 2019 within the project coverage area



CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthened capacity of government and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to effectively **promote the health and protection needs of vulnerable migrants including VoTs, victims of SGBV** and in communities affected by migration :

2613 Service providers from institutions/organisations attended capacity building trainings



11556 vulnerable migrants were sensitized on their rights to health and protection



COLLABORATION AT A REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Improved **multispectral collaboration** at regional and national level to leverage national and international public health interventions :

As an example of South-South Cooperation (SSC), IOM in partnership with the Thai MoH held a **cross-regional knowledge exchange workshop** in June 2019 between various representatives from ministries of health, migration, labor, the WHO and CSO from the MENA and Asia Pacific region to discuss best practices on migration-sensitive policies to promote health rights. One common challenge for both regions is the difficulty in capturing data for all migrants, including undocumented migrants. Further to this dialogue, IOM began as of September 2019 a mapping of migration health profiles in this project coverage area.

PERSPECTIVES

In collaboration with the National Public Health Institute (in French « l'École Nationale de Santé Publique» ENSP) in Rabat:

- **Winter School** which will be held from 3 to 7 February 2020 with the aim to accentuate and refine participants knowledge on migrants' health and protection.
- Developing an **exchange platform** of laureates in the field of public health and management of health services (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, administrators ...) in partnership with ENSP from June to July 2020. Thus, contributing to **the reinforcement of the SSC** through the mobility of sub-Saharan Africa laureates trained in ENSP and Morocco as well as the sharing of expertise between Morocco and the country of the region.
- **Academic Forum** to promote research in the field of health and migration where the results of the regional migration health profile mapping will be presented in 2020.
- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Health a symposium on **SSC** in the field of Migration and Health is foreseen in April 2020.

IOM through this project will continue to focus on strengthening cooperation to improve the health and protection needs of vulnerable migrants across the region. Universal Health Coverage cannot be achieved without the inclusion of vulnerable populations, migrants included !



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