



FOSTERING HEALTH AND PROTECTION TO VULNERABLE MIGRANTS TRANSITING THROUGH MOROCCO, TUNISIA, EGYPT, LIBYA, YEMEN AND SUDAN

PHASE III

Context

Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya are among the largest migration corridors between Northern African countries and Europe, with migration patterns resulting from the proximity to post-colonial ties, although driven by economic, political, safety concerns, and climate changes. Moreover, significant labour migration corridors also exist to the Gulf States, including migrations from Sub-Saharan and Horn of Africa through Egypt and Sudan to the United Arab Emirates and through Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

Migrants and mobile populations face structural challenges to access critical information on their rights, as well as health-care services, well-being and protection, due to a number of factors including irregular immigration status, language barriers, lack of migrant-inclusive health policies and inaccessibility of services.

Such disparities undermine the realization of global health goals, such as preventing, treating and eliminating HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and human influenza among others, and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. High morbidity and mortality among or exploitative migration situations is also an underestimated critical health concern that deserves international attention.

Fostering health and protection

IOM has been managing a migration health project with the aim to foster the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants transiting in Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen, supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since 2015. This project contributed to improved health and protection for 55,828 migrants across the region during its 1st Phase (2015-2018) and an additional 89,326 migrants during the 2nd Phase (2018-2020) as shown in the five countries.

The UN agency for Migration in Morocco is coordinating the human rights based project titled **Fostering Health and Protection to vulnerable migrants transiting through Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Sudan** aiming to improve vulnerable migrants' health and wellbeing, and to advance towards universal health coverage (UHC).

This project contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Leveraging on the project achievements thus far and by expanding to Sudan as of 1st August 2020, the 3rd phase aims to improve vulnerable migrants' health and wellbeing, and to advance towards universal health coverage (UHC) in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Sudan. The project will emphasize on strengthening the capacity of the respective countries' Ministries of Health (MoH) and local responders, in jointly managing migration flow with a focus on improving public health promotion and protection for all in safe, post-conflict and conflict settings.

89,326 migrants*

were provided assistances through IOM interventions in Phase II from 1 Feb 2018 to 30 June 2020



25,441 women



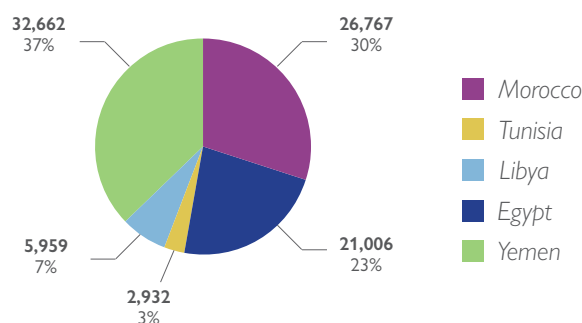
41,766 men



10,162 girls

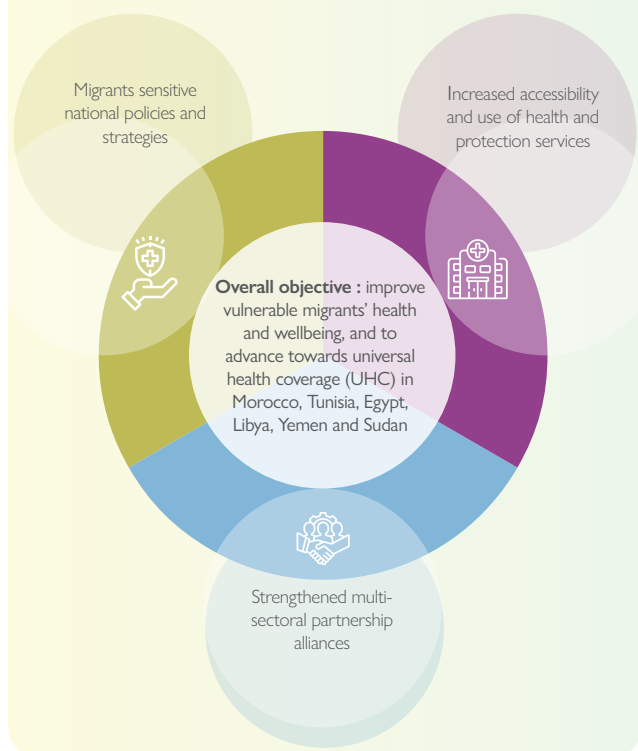


11,957 boys



*Including victims of trafficking, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, unaccompanied and separated children, people living with disabilities

The IOM Mission in these countries will implement a set of tailored activities to **support governments, assist vulnerable migrants** and ensure they have equitable access to health services.



Outcome 1 : National policies and strategies make provisions for the health needs and rights of migrants and their communities in line with international, regional and national commitments

IOM aims to **strengthen the commitment of migration health champions** and enhance their skillset to develop and implement public health and social protection policies that enable universal access to essential health services, including for vulnerable migrants, through multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and exchange workshops at regional and national levels, and

While governments have taken serious initiatives in improving health services for migrants in phases I and II of the project, **further dialogues and collaboration on legal and policy frameworks on migrant health and migrant-sensitive health management system amongst stakeholders** from countries of origin, transit and destination should be carried out to **reinforce strong commitment in taking proactive action on migrant-sensitive health implementation.**

Outcome 2 : Increased accessibility and use of health and protection services by vulnerable migrants

IOM will collaborate with its implementing partners to provide **medical assistance** (treatment, medication, translation, mobile clinics), **direct humanitarian assistance** (food and non-food items), and **psychosocial support to vulnerable and hard to reach migrants and host communities.** Such assistances will follow country specific targets based on migration trends.

IOM intends to further sensitize and **enhance the knowledge of health professionals** of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, so they can **champion migrant-friendly health and protection services** in their respective countries.

Outcome 3 : Strengthened multi-sectoral partnership alliances towards a harmonized and sustainable response to the health needs of vulnerable migrants and their host communities

With the upcoming Regional Symposium on Migration and Health as well as the Regional Academic Forum on Migration Health (including the presentation of the **Migration Health Country Profile** tool developed during the project Phase II), the project will create a space for **mutual learning and exchange of practices and information**, and promote **South-South collaboration**, thereby encouraging **sustained advocacy policy dialogue and mechanisms** towards the overall cross-regional and cross border health surveillance, and access to health and protection services to the most vulnerable migrants.

Through the **strengthening and mobilization of partnership alliances**, the project will advocate for the development and implementation of migration inclusive national policies, strategies and programmes in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Sudan in close consultation with government partners and other actors in the implementing countries, towards a harmonized and sustainable response to the health challenges in the region.