High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health
Moving towards a common understanding of the public health aspects of large-scale migration in the WHO European Region

Rome, Italy, 23–24 November 2015
Venue: Auditorium of the Ministry of Health of Italy
Viale Giorgio Ribotta 5, 00144 Rome, Italy

A message from the WHO Regional Director for Europe and the Minister of Health of Italy

Responding quickly and efficiently to the arrival of large groups of people requires effective coordination and collaboration among sectors, as well as among countries of origin, transit and destination. Sound preparedness is needed to ensure an adequate response as well as medium- and long-term health-system capacity. A successful response to the challenges faced by refugee and migrant groups requires robust epidemiological data and migration intelligence, careful planning, training and, above all, adherence to the principles of human rights. Defining contingency scenarios to adequately address current or potential large influxes of refugees and migrants into a country will improve coordination among the many stakeholders involved, strengthen resilience and prevent the distress of the health system. Moreover, the diverse health needs of refugees and migrants need to be integrated into national health policies, strategies and plans. Adequate standards of care for refugees and migrants are not only important for population health but also fundamental for protecting and promoting their human rights, as well as those of the host communities.

Health issues related to the movement of people have been on the agenda of the WHO European Region for many years. The WHO European health policy framework Health 2020 has drawn particular attention to migration and health, together with population vulnerability and human rights. Following the political, economic and humanitarian crises in north Africa and the Middle East, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Health, established the Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe project in April 2012. The project seeks to strengthen health-system capacity in order to meet the health needs of mixed inflows of refugees and migrants and of host populations; promote immediate health interventions; ensure migrant-sensitive health policies; improve the quality of the health services delivered; and optimize use of health structures and resources in countries receiving refugee and migrant populations.

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe

The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin
Minister of Health of Italy
Monday, 23 November 2015

08:30–09:30  Registration

09:30–10:00  Welcome and opening

- The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe

Chair: Dr Ranieri Guerra, Director General of Preventive Health, Ministry of Health, Italy

10:00–11:00  Public health aspects of migration in the WHO European Region: setting the scene

This session will provide an overview of the main public health and health-system challenges and needs posed by migration in the different parts of the WHO European Region. Emphasis will be placed on the need for intersectoral collaboration and the development of human rights- and evidence-based migrant-sensitive health policies and for international cooperation in order to share knowledge and experiences.

Chair: Dr Mario Mikloši, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health, Slovakia

Keynote speeches

- Dr Santino Severoni, Coordinator, Migration and Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Dr Bekir Keskinkılıç, Vice President, Public Health Institution of Turkey, Ministry of Health
- Dr Ranieri Guerra, Director General of Preventive Health, Ministry of Health, Italy
- Dr Daniela Rodorigo, Director General of Communication and European and International Relations, Ministry of Health, Italy

Statements

- Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Director of Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
- Dr Abdulmumini Usman, WHO Representative to South Sudan, WHO Regional Office for Africa

Introduction of meeting outcome document

- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe

11:00–11:30  Coffee break

Press conference
Monday, 23 November 2015 (continued)

11:30–13:00  Public health aspects of migration in the WHO European Region: setting the scene

*Facilitated panel discussion*

*Facilitator:* Dr Robert Goerens, Chief Physician, Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Luxembourg

*Panel:*

- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe
- The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
- Dr Taye Tolera Balcha, Adviser and Head, Office of the State Minister, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Mr Andreas Xanthos, Minister of Health of Greece
- Dr Reidael-Oakley, Minister of Health of Libya
- Dr Svetlana Axelrod, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and Public Affairs, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation
- Dr Zoran Mihailovic, Assistant Minister, Sector of International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Health, Serbia

*Facilitated open discussion with interventions from the floor*

13:00–14:00  Lunch

14:00–15:30  Public health aspects of migration: health systems strengthening for communicable diseases, preparedness and surveillance

*This session will address the main challenges and priorities in relation to communicable diseases, and the need to ensure minimum capacity for adequate preparedness and response. Countries will share experiences and best practices. The focus will be on short- and medium-term interventions to respond to the immediate health needs of refugees and migrants while protecting the health of the host population.*

*The aim of this session is to identify key policy issues with regard to overcoming the challenges of an influx of migrants, discuss country experiences and establish priorities for international collaboration and WHO support.*

*Chair:* Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Director of Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

*Introduction to session*

Dr Nedret Emiroglu, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment, WHO Regional Office for Europe

*Facilitated panel discussion*

*Facilitator:* Dr Roberto Bertollini, Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the European Union

*Panel:*

- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe
- The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
- Dr Flora Haderer, Project Coordination for the Director General of Public Health, Department for Child and Youth Health, Gender Health and Nutrition, Federal Ministry of Health, Austria
- Dr Safaa Moustafa Mourad Abdelgelil, Undersecretary, Foreign Health Relations Department, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt
- Dr Suzana Manevska, Head, Sector for Preventive Healthcare, Ministry of Health, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Ms Olesya Tsykaliuk, Deputy Head, Division of International Relations and International Technical Programmes Support, Ministry of Health, Ukraine
- Mr David McLoughlin, Deputy Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, United Nations Children’s Fund

*Facilitated open discussion with interventions from the floor*
Monday, 23 November 2015 (continued)

15:30–16:00  Coffee break

16:00–17:30  Public health aspects of migration: health systems strengthening for noncommunicable diseases prevention and control and health promotion

*This session will address the main challenges and priorities related to noncommunicable diseases, with particular emphasis on mental health, sexual and reproductive health, mother and child health, nutrition, injury and violence. Countries will share experiences and best practices, focusing on both short- and medium-term interventions aimed at saving lives and reducing suffering.*

*The aim of this session is to identify key policy issues with regard to overcoming the challenges of an influx of migrants, discuss country experiences and establish priorities for international collaboration and WHO support.*

**Chair:** Dr Abdulmumini Usman, WHO Representative to South Sudan, WHO Regional Office for Africa

**Introduction to session**
Dr Gauden Galea, Director, Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Facilitated panel discussion**

**Facilitator:** Dr Mihály Kökény, Senior Policy Adviser to the WHO Regional Director for Europe

**Panel:**
- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe
- The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
- Dr Marianne Donker, Deputy Director General for Public Health, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, Netherlands
- Dr Petter Øgar, Director General, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway
- Dr Svetlana Axelrod, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and Public Affairs, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation
- Mrs Doina Bologa, Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Country Director for Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Director for Kosovo, United Nations Population Fund

**Facilitated open discussion with interventions from the floor**

19:30  Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Health of Italy
High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

09:00–09:10 Reflections from day 1 and introduction to day 2

09:10–09:30 Keynote speech
Mr Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General for Health, Directorate for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

09:30–11:00 Public health aspects of migration: ensuring responsive people-centred health systems

This session will address the main challenges and priorities related to ensuring that European health systems are able to respond to large influxes of refugees and migrants in the short- and longer term. Country examples will be provided to illustrate successful and less successful practices or initiatives in order to draw potential policy lessons. The aim of this session is to identify key policy issues in dealing with the challenges of an influx of refugees and/or migrants, discuss country experiences and establish priorities for international collaboration and WHO support.

Chair: Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe

Introduction to session
Dr Hans Kluge, Director, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Facilitated panel discussion

Facilitator: Dr Josep Figueras, Director of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and Head of the WHO European Centre on Health Policy, Brussels, Belgium

Panel:
- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe
- The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
- Dr Ioannis Baskozos, Secretary General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Greece
- Dr Francisco George, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Portugal
- Ms Taina Bäckström, Deputy Director General, National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden
- Ms Tania Dussey-Cavassini, Vice-Director, Ambassador for Global Health, and Head, International Affairs Department, Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland
- Mr Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General for Health, Directorate for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

Facilitated open discussion with interventions from the floor

11:00–11:30 Coffee break
Tuesday, 24 November 2015 (continued)

11:30–13:00  Meeting conclusions and outcome document

   This session will be devoted to summarizing and debating the policy and strategic implications of the public health priorities, challenges and needs identified through the meeting discussions for European national health policies and systems.

   The outcome document, intended to be used as a reference for the development of a European regional strategy and action plan and for the development of more tailored action and support to Member States in the WHO European Region, will be discussed and considered for endorsement.

   **Chair:** Dr Svetlana Axelrod, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and Public Affairs, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation

   **Presentation of outcome document**
   Dr Santino Severoni, Coordinator, Migration and Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

   **Open floor discussion**

   **Closing remarks**

   - The Honourable Beatrice Lorenzin, Minister of Health of Italy
   - Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe

13:00–14:00  Lunch