

Overview: WHO Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe (PHAME) project

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The WHO PHAME project is based on a memorandum of understanding between the Italian Ministry of Health and WHO, and aims to strengthen countries' capacity to manage large influxes of migrants.

The project aims to provide technical assistance to Member States in order to fill potential gaps in health service delivery, including in prevention, diagnostics, monitoring and management of disease, and to provide policy recommendations for enhanced preparedness and response, with special attention to emergency-related influxes of migrants to different European countries.

The first phase of the PHAME project implementation focuses on the Mediterranean countries of the WHO European Region most affected by the large influx of migrants during the northern African crisis, as defined by the Rome Action Plan. The Action Plan is based on the conclusions of an international meeting held in Rome in April 2011 upon the invitation of the Italian Government and pledged by the WHO Regional Director for Europe.

During the second phase, the project focuses on migrant health information management and migrant health capacity building, and will be extended to other countries in the WHO European Region that could be interested in how to manage the health of large influxes of migrants.

The project addresses the call for WHO action present in the 2008 resolution WHA61.17 and the recommendations of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)/WHO Global consultation on Migrant Health held in Madrid in 2010. It has been aligned with the work of the WHO Regional Office for

Europe (WHO/Europe)'s Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being as well as that of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice, and the project is implemented as part of 'Health 2020', paying particular attention to reducing health inequalities and ensuring people-centred health systems. Health 2020 is the new European policy framework for health and well-being promoted by WHO/Europe and adopted by its 53 Member States during the WHO Regional Committee in 2012.