

WHO Statement on Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
(GCM)

The WHO constitution **states** that the enjoyment of *the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.*

It is in this spirit that WHO addresses and will address the health of migrants. In this regard WHO welcomes the GC for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the inclusion of health in this compact. WHO has been taking active measures to address the public health aspects of refugees and migrants through the WHA resolutions 70.15, the upcoming WHO Global Action Plan for refugee and migrant health, The General Programme of Work 13 and several other initiatives.

As the principal public health agency, WHO is well placed to support the implementation of the health aspects of Global Compact for Safe, Regular and

Orderly Migration to safeguard and promote the health of migrants.

Through the GCM, WHO would like to:

- Avoid, as far as possible parallel services for migrants and encourage national health system strengthening for both host communities and migrants
- Work with Member States to strengthen the preparedness element functions in order to address migrant health needs and support Member States' capacities
- Strengthen local and national health systems to be prepared, resilient and migrant sensitive, taking into account cultural diversities and specific health needs of migrants in particular women and children. This implies overcoming formal and informal barriers to health care. Short- term and longer-term public health interventions must be available depending on the population needs

- Advocate for national health policies, strategies and plans to be inclusive, taking into account all aspects of migrant health needs. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are essential
- Ensure the Universal Health Coverage principles, to enables everyone, including migrants, to access to the services that address the most important causes of disease, and ensures that, the quality is good enough to improve the health of the people, regardless of their status.
- To establish and support cross border multi-country operations, to safeguard health of migrant in places of origin, transit and destination
- Address social determinants of health to ensure good health, social inclusion and integration.

WHO would like to welcome a coordinated approach considering health as a common guiding principle in acknowledging migrants on the basis of

the “one-population” concept, and stands ready to provide technical support needed in the implementation of the GCM, to ensure that the health aspects of migrants are addressed in collaboration with relevant UN agencies and other national and international stakeholder.