

Regional Committee for Europe
66th session

EUR/RC66/R6

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12–15 September 2016

13 September 2016
160765
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resolution

Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region;¹

Recalling Health 2020, the European health policy framework, adopted in 2012² and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015;³

Recalling resolution WHA61.17 on the health of migrants and other international instruments guiding a response;

Considering that migration and the causes of migration are long-term phenomena mainly outside of the control of the health sector, requiring responses that are comprehensive, proportionate, systematic and intersectoral;

¹ Document EUR/RC66/8.

² Resolution EUR/RC62/R4.

³ United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1.

Noting Stepping up action on refugee and migrant health, the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health held in Rome, Italy, in November 2015, calling for short- and long-term public health interventions aimed at protecting and promoting the physical and mental health of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, as well as that of host communities;

Affirming the need to strengthen collaboration among the key stakeholders within the health sector, as well as intersectoral action with other sectors that are involved in the management of migration and whose interventions and policies have public health implications, using whole-of-government, whole-of-society and health-in-all-policies approaches;

1. ADOPTS the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region;
2. CALLS UPON Member States:⁴
 - (a) to promote inclusion of health issues of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the development of countrywide health policies, strategies and plans, in accordance with national legislation; and with a special focus on persons in vulnerable situations, such as unaccompanied children, young girls, pregnant women, disabled persons and the elderly;
 - (b) to promote, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Health 2020, intersectoral health policy development sensitive to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants across key stakeholders and sectors, within a human rights framework, including responding to the social determinants of health, and to further public health and health systems strengthening in that regard;
 - (c) to strengthen when necessary health information, identify major challenges to health associated with migration, analyse and assess needs, explore evidence-informed policy options and approaches and gender-sensitive and

⁴ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

tailored efforts, including measures directed at persons in vulnerable situations, such as unaccompanied children, pregnant women, disabled persons and the elderly;

- (d) to work collaboratively within the region and in accordance with intersectoral national approaches to reduce mortality and morbidity among refugees and migrants;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to support Member States, through policy advice and technical assistance, to implement the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region;
- (b) to assist Member States to carry out effective surveillance of public health circumstances and risks affecting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, as well as host populations, and to promote a broader understanding through data sharing, communication and advocacy;
- (c) to develop tools and guidelines, with gender-sensitive and tailored approaches to persons in vulnerable situations, such as unaccompanied children, young girls, pregnant women, disabled persons and the elderly, for health services delivery, organizational management and governance of health services for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants;
- (d) to promote cooperation between countries on the health of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with a special focus on strengthening collaboration where possible among countries of origin, transit and destination, including the exchange of health information;
- (e) to promote collaboration and coordination on the health of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants across WHO Regions and in partnerships between WHO and other agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration and nongovernmental organizations in the field of migration and public health;

- (f) to monitor implementation of national policies and regulations and the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region, and to report to the 68th, 70th and 72nd sessions of the Regional Committee for Europe in 2018, 2020 and 2022, respectively.

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