IOM’s migration health response underscores its unique and holistic approach to migration management. Guided by international frameworks including the Global Compact on Migration and the Sustainable Development Goal 2030 that promotes the principle of leaving no one behind, IOM works with partners to ensure migrants’ health needs are addressed across the whole migration cycle – at pre-departure, during transit and travel, at the destination and upon return home.

**MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

IOM carries out health assessments for resettling refugees, labour migrants and displaced persons, before departure or upon arrival. Pre-departure travel health services include presumptive treatment for endemic conditions, like malaria, and diagnostics and treatment for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, as well as provision of routine immunization against preventable diseases. This reduces the potential public health impact of human mobility on migrants, receiving countries and communities.

In the SEECA region, IOM provides health assessment and travel health assistance services to migrants and refugees. The latter are mainly bound for the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Western European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy. Over the last years, Turkey and Ukraine have been assisting the largest refugee caseloads, which originated primarily from Syria and Ukraine.

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS**

Inadequate access to health services and unfavourable living and working conditions can subject migrants to a variety of health risks. Most vulnerable groups are irregular migrant workers, victims of trafficking and exploitation, displaced persons, refugees and ethnic minorities. Moreover, health systems are facing shortages and imbalances in the distribution of the health workforce brought about by the emigration of health professionals to Western Europe and within the region.

IOM’s Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants programmes are designed to facilitate migrants’ access to high-quality health services regardless of their status and promote evidence-based programming and development of migration health policies through operational research. IOM works with partners in delivering interventions in mental health, psychosocial response, intercultural communication, communicable and non-communicable diseases, emerging and re-emerging diseases, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and maternal and child health. With rising HIV infections and a high prevalence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, combating these infectious diseases with cross-border projects is of high importance in the SEECA region.

**WHAT IOM CAN DO FOR YOU**

- Enhance government capacity to effectively manage the health of migrant and mobile populations
- Provide information, counselling and pre-departure orientation services to protect migrants from health vulnerabilities throughout the migration process
- Harness and promote evidence-based public health practice and support knowledge management
- Develop and implement programmes to facilitate health assessments, treatment and continuity of care of migrants and refugees
- Advocate and build government capacity to ensure migrants’ right to health
- Strengthen inter-country coordination and partnerships
- Advise and enhance capacity of national and local governments to develop migrant-friendly health services
ENHANCING PREVENTION, DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV AND TB AMONG MIGRANTS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, particularly high rates of multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia represent a great public health concern. Increased labour migration is an additional factor, as migrants are more vulnerable to HIV and TB due their socio-economic, living and working conditions. Rates of interrupted treatment courses are substantial, representing the main drawback in effective TB and HIV/AIDS control in the region, including the main countries of destination for outbound labour migrants such as Turkey and the Russian Federation.

IOM therefore runs a project on enhancing cross-border mechanisms for prevention, increased detection, referral and treatment of HIV and TB among migrant and mobile populations.

MIGRATION HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR CRISIS AFFECTED POPULATIONS

IOM’s response to humanitarian and public health emergencies aims to save lives, reduce morbidity and alleviate suffering, while upholding humanitarian principles. Apart from medical assistance, IOM assists in rebuilding community-based services and strengthens crisis-affected health care systems.

In the SEECA region, humanitarian health assistance concentrates on people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and in the countries affected by the unprecedented rise in the number of migrants coming to Europe since 2015. This mass movement placed Turkey and the Western Balkan region along the path, with severe implications for both public health systems and refugees experiencing health hazards. IOM assists in supporting institutions delivering health care and providing psychosocial support for displaced persons.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

As migration connects communities, countries and regions, managing the health of migrants requires the close cooperation and collaboration of various sectors and programmes of Member States. Thus, IOM works closely with various institutions involved in the migration process, such as the economic and development sector in finding solutions to address the impact of migration of health professionals, the security sector in intercultural communication and occupational health, and the social sector to managing the health needs of trafficked persons and other vulnerable groups.

In health, IOM Migration Health Division also engages with development partners in mental health, psychosocial response and intercultural communication; HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, emerging and re-emerging diseases and mobility; migration and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs); migrant family, women and children health; and migration, Social Determinants of Health (SDH) and development.

EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE

As a partner of WHO and member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Global Health Cluster and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, IOM responds to humanitarian and public health emergencies. Health support is an essential part of IOM’s humanitarian mandate, and it is recognized as one of the 15 sectors of the IOM Migration Crisis Operation Framework.