



e-Learning **Summer School**

THE HEALTH OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS:
ensuring accessibility, promoting health and saving lives

19 - 23 October 2020

Annotated **Program**



Foreword

Health and Migration have become one of WHO's global priorities as more people than ever are migrating or displaced. WHO has committed to address the health and well-being of refugees and migrants in an inclusive and comprehensive manner as part of holistic approach to address the health needs of all populations.

The Thirteen General Programme of Work (GPW13) and the Global Action Plan Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants (Global Action Plan) provide a strategic direction to our Health and Migration programme. We commit to:

- provide global leadership, high-level advocacy, coordination and policy on health and migration;
- set norms and standards on health and migration and promote a research agenda aimed at generating evidence-based information to support decision-making and providing global guidance for new tools and strategies on health and migration;
- monitor trends, strengthen health information systems, develop accountability frameworks and indicators for progress monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Global Action Plan;
- provide specialized technical assistance, response and capacity-building support to Member States, WHO technical departments, regional and country offices and partners in addressing public health challenges that are associated with human mobility; and
- promote multilateral action, intercountry, interregion and global collaboration for continuity of care and coherent and integrated actions.

Increasing migration and displacement worldwide have created yet more demand for better understanding of the subject and for skilled policy-makers and officials to work in the field of health and migration. The School is an extraordinary opportunity for professionals working in all aspects of the management of migrant and refugee health to gather together to learn from the best in the field, share experiences and ideas, and network. The interest and support shown by the participants as well as the faculty will translate into a commitment and a joint and well-coordinated effort to provide a platform to promote health of refugees and migrants.

I am pleased to announce the first global e-Learning Summer School of its kind, which is launched by the WHO Health and Migration programme with the close collaboration of the WHO regional offices. Guided by the three strategic priorities of the GPW13 and the six priorities of the Global Action Plan, the objective of this e-learning course is to inform and discuss on how to achieve universal health coverage, address health emergencies and promote healthier populations for refugees and migrants.

I believe the School can be used as a virtual platform to strengthen the coordination of international efforts and facilitate the link between the long-term promotion of health and well-being of refugees and migrants with short-term humanitarian assistance.

The members of the Health and Migration programme are pleased to continue to share WHO experience and knowledge at global level and provide professional training in the area of refugee and migrant health. I am delighted to welcome you all to the WHO's first global summer school and a learning journey on the health of refugees and migrants.

Dr Santino Severoni

Director, Health and Migration, WHO, Geneva

Introduction

Migration represents one of the major ongoing social trends globally. It is a phenomenon that is shaping the course of societies now and will continue to do so in coming years. Population movements bring opportunities as well as growing challenges in public health that generate a greater demand for complex, structured efforts from all stakeholders involved.

Several WHO regional offices have gained extensive experience in addressing the challenges of refugee and migrant health. Health and migration programmes as well as technical assessment tools are being developed and Regional Committee resolutions adopted. Two global consultations on migration and health have been organized jointly with the International Organization for Migration, one in Spain in 2010 and one in Sri Lanka in 2017.

Member States at the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019 agreed on a global action plan for promoting the health of refugees and migrants over the period 2019–2023. In accordance with the World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.15, the aim of the Global Action Plan Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants (referred to hereafter as the Global Action Plan) is to improve global health by addressing the health and well-being of refugees and migrants in an inclusive and comprehensive manner and as part of holistic efforts to respond to the health needs of the overall population in any given setting. This includes the coordination of international efforts to link health care for refugees and migrants with humanitarian programmes.

The Global Action Plan focuses on achieving universal health coverage and the highest attainable standard of health, as mandated in WHO's Constitution, for refugees, migrants and host populations within the context of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 (GPW13). Three interconnected strategic priorities are stressed in GPW13: achieve universal health coverage, address health emergencies and promote healthier populations.

The priorities for action identified by the Global Action Plan include “supporting the training of all personnel working with refugees and migrants on the social determinants of health and necessary policy responses and professional training for health workers, and ensuring that health planners and health-care workers are offered support and knowledge-sharing in order to implement appropriate refugee- and migrant-sensitive health interventions that also provide affordable and equitable access to all people”.

This 2020 five-day e-Learning Summer School on health and migration is offered to policy-makers and officials from Member States and key stakeholders as a continuation of capacity-building activities promoted by WHO in several regions, including three previous editions of a Summer School on Health and Migration organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in past years.

Overall aim

Provide and share knowledge and build on existing capacity of personnel involved in health and migration for promoting health and well-being of refugees and migrants.

Objectives

- Raise understanding and awareness about mobility and migration in global and regional contexts.

- Promote evidence-informed and best practice interventions among professionals working in health and migration and provide an opportunity for sharing knowledge, experience and good practice.
- Promote intercountry, interregional and multisectoral coordinated action in health and migration.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the School, participants will be able to:

- understand the main determinants of health for refugee and migrant populations;
- identify key problems and possible solutions to promote refugee and migrant access to health-care services;
- define key epidemiological aspects of health and migration;
- evaluate and address key risks for the health of refugees and migrants during emergencies; and
- understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee and migrant communities.

Guiding principles

The School programme is based on the interconnected strategic priorities of GPW13: achieve universal health coverage, address health emergencies and promote healthier populations. The School will inform and discuss how the GPW13 strategic priorities are linked to policies and practices relevant to health and migration at country and regional levels.

Format

The School is an online synchronous learning event delivered on a daily basis for five consecutive days. Synchronous learning requires that participants are present at the same time online. The School has a mixed learning approach including recorded and live components. The daily programme has a duration of 90 minutes, including presentations, panel discussions, interviews from the field and question and answer (Q&A) sessions.

The thematic areas presented in the programme each day are:

Day 1: universal health coverage for refugees and migrants

Day 2: healthier refugee and migrant populations

Day 3: health needs and rights of refugees and migrants during emergencies

Day 4: connecting to field operations

Day 5: COVID-19 and the health of refugees and migrants.

In addition, an introductory module including essential concepts and practice of health and migration is available offline.

DAY 1

19 October 2020

Understanding universal health coverage for refugees and migrants

Achieving universal health coverage is one of the three strategic priorities of WHO's GPW13, which covers the period 2019–2023, and is the focus of the Global Action Plan, which was endorsed by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019.

Universal health coverage is defined as ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.¹ The principle of universal health coverage relates to all populations, including refugees and migrants regardless of their migratory status. The access of refugees and migrants to quality health services is of paramount importance to rights-based health systems, global health security and to public efforts aimed at reducing health inequities.

Access to health-care services by refugees and migrants varies greatly across the world and within the national boundaries of states. Barriers faced by refugees and migrants in accessing health-care services may include language and cultural differences, high costs, discrimination, administrative hurdles, inability to affiliate with local health-financing schemes, adverse living conditions, occupation or blockade of territories and lack of information about health entitlements. Finally, refugees and migrants are disproportionately vulnerable to exclusion, stigma and discrimination, particularly when undocumented.²

Day 1 will introduce WHO's GPW13 and its implications for refugee and migrant health and inform about global challenges and achievements in promoting universal health coverage for refugees and migrants. It will include a panel discussion about access to health services for refugees and migrants in various geographical contexts.

Keywords

Health services, availability, accessibility, discrimination, equity

Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will be familiar with the key concepts of the GPW13 three billion targets and how refugee and migrant health is an essential elements for fully achieving these.
- Participants will understand the existing main obstacles for full access to basic health-care services for refugees and migrants and be exposed to best practices to overcome them.
- Participants will understand the variety of challenges existing in different contexts and the various ways for addressing those challenges.

1 Universal health coverage (https://www.who.int/healthsystems/universal_health_coverage/en/).

2 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants: global action plan 2019–2023 (https://apps.who.int/gb/eb-wha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_25Rev1-en.pdf).

DAY 1

19 October 2020

Time (CET)	Type	Topic	Speaker
13:30 - 13:31	live	Chair	Mr Tarik Jasarevic , Spokesperson / Media Relations, WHO, Geneva
13:31 - 13:40	live	Introduction	Dr Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO Geneva
13:40 - 13:45	rec	Opening remarks	Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus , Director General, WHO, Geneva
13:45 - 14:00	rec	Key note Promote health, keep the world safe, serve the vulnerable	Zsuzsanna Jakab , Deputy Director-General WHO
The key note sets out the rationale and the structure of the entire Summer School. It focuses on WHO's GPW13 and its three strategic priorities: achieving universal health coverage, addressing health emergencies and promoting healthier populations. The key note provides an overview on these strategic priorities and their implications for refugee and migrant health.			
14:00 - 14:15	rec	Presentation Leave no migrant behind	Mr Antonio Vitorino , Director General, International Organization for Migration Ms Jacqueline Weekers , Director, Migration Health, International Organization for Migration
The presentation focuses on describing challenges and achievements in accessing essential health-care services for refugees and migrants at a global level			
14:15 - 14:45	live	Panel discussion Access to health services for refugees and migrant: regional contexts	Moderator: Tarik Jašarević , Spokesperson/Media Relations, WHO, Geneva Panellists: James Fitzgerald , Director of Health Systems and Services, Pan American Health Organization/WHO, Washington Lin Aung , Coordinator, Refugee and Migrant Health, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Dehli Kira Fortune , Coordinator, Social Determinant of Health, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila
The Panel comprises experts presenting and discussing similarities and differences between various regions of the world with regards to availability and accessibility to health services for refugees and migrants.			
14:45 - 15:00	live		Q&A

DAY 2

20 October 2020

Healthier refugee and migrant populations

Epidemiological studies increase knowledge on the disease burden and the risk factors associated with the migration and displacement processes and are essential for guiding effective prevention and response strategies and health promotion programmes. However, health, migration and displacement is a highly complex area and epidemiological findings often cannot be compared or generalized to wider refugee and migrant populations in a country, in a region or globally because of existing cultural and social differences and critical difficulties in collecting reliable and comparable migrant health data. Furthermore, gathering and comparing data are made more complex by variations in case definitions and the applications of terms in relation to refugees and migrant populations in different countries and according to different legal frameworks.³ However, the generation and availability of adequate, standardized and comparable data remain essential to support policy-makers in developing evidence-informed policies, plans and interventions.

Day 2 will focus on current migrant health epidemiological patterns and the existing challenges and achievements for collecting comparable health and migration data in different regions of the world.

Keywords

Health monitoring, data collection, comparability, informed policies.

Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will understand key epidemiological elements of refugee and migrant health including current trends and challenges for evidence-informed policies at global level.
- Participants will understand current epidemiological trends among refugee and migrant populations in two different WHO European Regions including challenges and existing coordination mechanisms.

³ Report on the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region 2018 (<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311347/9789289053846-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

DAY 2

20 October 2020

Time (CET)	Type	Topic	Speaker
13:30 - 13:31	live	Chair	Mr Tarik Jaserevic , Spokesperson / Media Relations, WHO, Geneva
13:31 - 13:35	live	Introduction	Dr Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO Geneva
13:35 - 13:50	rec	Key note Health and migration global epidemiological trends	Ibrahim Abubakar , Director, Institute for Global Health, University College London
		The keynote provides an overview of the latest epidemiological evidence and trends of health and migration at global level. It examines multisector determinants of health and reviews key challenges to effective refugee and migrant health information systems.	
13:50 - 14:00	rec	Presentation Implementing the healthier population billion target of GPW13	Pavel Ursu , Director, Delivery for Impact, Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact, WHO, Geneva
		Strengthening data collection and monitoring across all levels is key to achieving both the triple billion targets and the SDGs, and will have long-term implications for improving the health of the world. The presentation informs about the mechanism set up by WHO for promoting the three billion targets and monitoring their implementation and impact at country level backed by the highest standards of health data.	
14:00 - 14:15	rec	Presentation Epidemiology of health and migration in the WHO African Region	Ernest Dabire , Senior Advisor, Emergency Response, WHO Regional Office for Africa Jo Vearey Associate Professor, African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
		It is estimated that the 47 countries of the WHO African Region host some 27 million international migrants, with most moving within the Region; this population also includes 7.3 million refugees (27.5% of the worldwide refugee population in 2019). The majority of African refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in neighbouring countries (World Migration Report, 2020). The presentation focuses on the current most-available data on the health status of refugees and migrants in the WHO African Region. Health challenges and outcomes associated with migration and displacement in the Region are briefly presented.	
14:15 - 14:30	rec	Presentation: Epidemiology of health and migration in the WHO European Region	Jozef Bartovic , Technical Officer, Migration and Health programme, WHO Regional Office for Europe
		Currently, approximately 10% of the population of the WHO European Region is estimated to be either refugees or migrants. Migration is a growing phenomenon in the Region, influencing the health and development of both migrant and host communities (Report on the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region, 2018). The presentation focuses on the current most-available data on the health status of refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region. Examples of current public health interventions to improve the health status of refugees and migrants are also presented.	
14:30 - 15:00	live		Q&A

DAY 3

21 October 2020

Health needs and rights of refugees and migrants during emergencies

Globalization, conflict, climate change and disasters are among the reasons that compel people to leave their homes in search of security and a better future for themselves and their families. Responding quickly and efficiently to large movements of refugees and migrants requires effective coordination and collaboration between and within countries as well as between sectors.⁴ Preparation of public health responses for refugees and migrants during health emergencies while continuing to meet the health needs of all populations represents still a major challenge for many national health systems.⁵

Building and sustaining resilient national, regional and global health capacities will be required to keep all populations including refugees and migrants safe from epidemics and other health emergencies. Ensuring that populations, including refugees and migrants, affected by acute and protracted emergencies have rapid access to essential life-saving health services, health promotion and disease prevention is fundamental to keep refugees and migrants safe and promote population health.

Day 3 will inform about challenges and good practices in addressing refugee and migrant health needs and rights as a result of humanitarian crises and complex emergencies, including in transit and destination countries, and how countries could better prepare and build the capacity and resilience of their national health systems—humanitarian and development nexus.

Keywords

Preparedness, search and rescue, response, reception.

Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will understand the health risks related to massive population movements, the key response actions to be implemented and, the need to link emergencies to more development-oriented plans.
- Participants will understand the major displacement and migration dynamics in two WHO regions, the key response actions and the existing partnership and coordination mechanisms.

4 Migration and health: key issues (<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/migration-and-health/migration-and-health-in-the-european-region/migration-and-health-key-issues#292937>).

5 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants, global action plan, 2019–2023 (https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_25Rev1-en.pdf).

DAY 3

21 October 2020

Time (CET)	Type	Topic	Speaker
13:30 - 13:31	live	Chair	Mr Tarik Jasarevic , Spokesperson / Media Relations, WHO, Geneva
13:31 - 13:35	live	Introduction	Dr Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO Geneva
13:35 - 13:50	rec	Key note Refugee and migrant health during emergencies	Raouf Mazou Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva Ann Burton , Chief Public Health Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva
		The key note provides an overview on the risks affecting the health status of refugees and migrants during massive population displacements and the key response actions that are necessary to plan and implement to properly address refugee and migrant health needs and rights.	
13:50 - 14:00	rec	Presentation Addressing migration crises in the Eastern Mediterranean countries	Ali Ardalan , Regional Adviser and Unit Lead, Health Systems in Emergencies, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
		The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region is facing an unprecedented scale of emergencies, mainly resulting from political conflict in a number of countries. Almost 30 million displaced people originate from the Region. Countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region are also hosting millions of refugees from neighbouring countries. The presentation focuses on analysis and practices for the refugee and migrant health situation in a complex region.	
14:00 - 14:10	rec	Presentation Addressing migration crises in the Americas	Ciro Ugarte , Director, Department of Health Emergencies, Pan American Health Organization/WHO
		The number of people migrating across international borders in the Americas has surged the past 15 years, reaching 70.3 million in 2019; of these migrants, 808 000 were defined as refugees. Forced migrants within country borders account for an estimated 7.1 million people (Health of refugees and migrants: regional situation analysis, practices, experiences, lessons learned and ways forward). The presentation informs about updated situation analysis and practices including examples of public health interventions and practices.	
14:10 - 14:45	live	Panel discussion Refugee crisis management in transit and hosting countries	Moderator: Tarik Jašarević , Spokesperson/Media Relations, WHO, Geneva Panellists: Turkey: İnanç Söğüt , Project Director, Ministry of Health, Turkey Colombia: Mauricio Cerpa , Advisor on Health Emergencies, Pan American Health Organization/WHO Colombia Australia: Gulnara Abbasova , Executive Officer of the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership, Australia
14:45 - 15:00	live		Q&A

DAY 4

22 October 2020

Connecting to field operations

Addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants improves migrant health, save lives, protects global public health, facilitates integration and contributes to social and economic development. Effective tools to promote the health of refugees and migrants, national, regional and global health security and healthier populations in today's diverse societies include ensuring access to quality health services, building health system capacity and resilience, and promoting intersectoral, intercountry and interregional collaboration among countries of origin, transit, destination and return.

Day 4 gives participants an opportunity to be connected live to health and migration actors carrying out health interventions on the ground. In addition, the need for intercountry and interregional cooperation and coordination for a coherent and rational approach to refugee and migrant health in origin, transit and destination countries is discussed in a panel.

Keywords

Humanitarian crises, security, refugee camps, coordination

Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will understand the key operational constraints in implementing migrant health activities in difficult contexts and ways to overcome them.
- Participants will understand the efforts needed to enhance some of the existing interregional coordination frameworks relevant to refugee and migrant health.

DAY 4

22 October 2020

Time (CET)	Type	Topic	Speaker
13:30 - 13:31	live	Chair	Mr Tarik Jasarevic , Spokesperson / Media Relations, WHO, Geneva
13:31 - 13:35	live	Introduction	Dr Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO Geneva
13:35 - 14:05	live	Field interviews	Aggrey Bategereza , Team Lead, Emergency Preparedness and Response, WHO Ethiopia Iman Shankiti , WHO Representative in Lebanon
The interviews give the opportunity to receive first-hand feedback about health and migration interventions in two difficult contexts.			
14:05 - 14:45	live	Panel discussion Promoting intercountry and interregional coordination	Moderator: Tarik Jašarević , Spokesperson/Media Relations, WHO, Geneva Panelists: Misato Yuasa , Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, Issue Based Coalition on Migration, Middle East and North Africa Kanokporn Kaojaren , Technical Officer, Country Support and Partner Coordination, Health and Migration, WHO, Geneva Vittoria Zanuso , Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council
14:45 - 15:00	live		Q&A

DAY 5

23 October 2020

COVID-19 and the health of refugees and migrants

Refugees and migrants face similar health threats from COVID-19 as their host populations. However, refugees and migrants may have specific vulnerabilities because of the conditions of their migratory journeys, limited employment opportunities, overcrowded and poor living and working conditions with inadequate access to food, water, sanitation and other basic services. Many refugees and migrants are often excluded from national programmes for health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and care, as well as from financial protection schemes for health and social services. This exclusion makes early detection, testing, diagnosis, contact tracing and seeking care for COVID-19 difficult for refugees and migrants, thus increasing the risk of outbreaks in these populations, and that such outbreaks may go unchecked or even actively concealed. Therefore, protecting the health of refugees and migrants through informed policies and interventions is critically important to public health protection for all citizens.

Day 5 will inform about COVID-19 health risks and impact on the health status of refugees and migrants and recommended actions to reduce those risks.

Keywords

Vulnerability, exclusion, protection

Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will be informed about initial analyses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee and migrant populations.
- Participants will understand the basic principles for including refugees and migrants in any COVID-10 response plan.

DAY 5

23 October 2020

Time (CET)	Type	Topic	Speaker
13:30 - 13:31	live	Chair	Mr Tarik Jaserevic , Spokesperson / Media Relations, WHO, Geneva
13:31 - 13:35	live	Introduction	Dr Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO Geneva
13:35 - 13:45	rec	Presentation Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants	Rifat Hossain , Technical Officer, Information Policy and Governance, WHO, Geneva
		<p>ApartTogether is a global survey to assess the public health social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and migrants. It is a collaboration between WHO, across its regional offices, the United Nations system and a collaboration of research centres led by Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). The survey aims to better understand how refugees and migrants experience the impact of COVID-19 and how they deal with any challenges that have arisen. In collaboration with key United Nations partners, the insights from this survey will be used to inform policy- and decision-makers on how they can better support refugees and migrants during and after this pandemic. The presentation will summarize the study and any initial findings.</p>	
13:45 - 14:30	live	Panel discussion Including refugees and migrants in the global COVID-19 response	<p>Panellists</p> <p>Paul Spiegel, Director, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore</p> <p>Gianfranco Costanzo, Executive Director, National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty, Rome</p> <p>Mike Rayan, Executive Director, Health Emergencies Programme, WHO, Geneva</p> <p>Frank Laczko, Director, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, International Organization for Migration, Geneva</p>
		<p>The panel discussion focuses on promoting inclusion of refugees and migrants as part of holistic efforts to respond to COVID-19 epidemics in the general population. These efforts should be in accordance with the objectives of the global response to the pandemic and in line with international human rights law, refugee law, international labour standards and other relevant international and regional instruments and standards.</p>	
14:30 - 14:45	live		Q&A
14:45 - 15:00	live	Evaluation and conclusion	Santino Severoni , Director, Health and Migration, WHO, Geneva

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Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. He is the first WHO Director-General to have been elected from multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly and is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve as WHO's chief technical and administrative officer.

Immediately after taking office on 1 July 2017, Dr Tedros outlined five key priorities for WHO: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women's, children and adolescent health; health impacts of climate and environmental change; and a transformed WHO.

Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2016. In this role, he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. He also served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012, when he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system. All roads lead to universal health coverage for Dr Tedros, and he has demonstrated that it is still possible to expand access to health care even when resources are limited. The transformation he led in Ethiopia improved access to health care for millions of people. Under his leadership, Ethiopia invested in critical health infrastructure, expanded its health workforce and developed innovative health financing mechanisms.

Beyond Ethiopia, Dr Tedros' global leadership on malaria, HIV/AIDS and maternal and child health has been immensely impactful. He was elected as Chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in 2009, and previously served as Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board, and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board.

Born in the city of Asmara, Eritrea, Dr Tedros holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and a Master of Science in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London. Dr Tedros is globally recognized as a health scholar, researcher and diplomat with first-hand experience in research, operations and leadership in emergency responses to epidemics.

Throughout his career Dr Tedros has published numerous articles in prominent scientific journals and received awards and recognition from across the globe. He received the Decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag in 2016 and was awarded the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award in recognition of his contributions to the field of public health in 2011.

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Zsuzsanna Jakab was appointed Deputy Director-General of WHO in March 2019, after having served as Regional Director for the WHO European Region for nine years. The Deputy Director-General's portfolio includes WHO's technical programmes for universal health coverage, the life-course approach, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, healthier populations and antimicrobial resistance, alongside other programmes.

Dr Jakab has held a number of high-profile national and international public health policy positions. From 1991 to 2002, she worked at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in a range of senior management roles before becoming State Secretary at the Hungarian Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs (2002–2005). In 2005, she was appointed the founding Director of the European Union's European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and between then and 2010, she built this into an internationally respected centre of excellence in the fight against infectious diseases.



Santino Severoni is Director of the Migration Health programme, Office of the Deputy Director-General, at WHO headquarters in Geneva. Since 2000 he has held senior positions at in the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Dr Severoni is a medical doctor, health economist and epidemiologist with over 24 years of experience as an international senior technical advisor and executive, working for governments, multilateral organizations, nongovernmental organizations and foundations in eastern Africa, central Asia, the Balkans and Europe. His work on global health has focused on health sector reforms, health system strengthening, health diplomacy, aid coordination/effectiveness and management of complex emergencies. He has acted as the WHO Representative in Albania and Tajikistan. In 2011 Dr Severoni established and led the public health aspect of migration work for the WHO Regional Office for Europe. In 2019 he was appointed the Region's Special Representative on health and migration and Director a.i. for Health Systems and Public Health.

In June 2020, he was appointed Director of the Migration and Health programme at WHO headquarters in Geneva to lead WHO's global work on health and migration.

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Keynote speakers



Ibrahim Abubakar is currently the Director of the University College London Institute for Global Health, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and UK National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigator. He is Scientific Adviser to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee for the Science of COVID-19 Review and Scientific and Technical Adviser to the Nigerian Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19. He qualified in medicine in 1992 and undertook postgraduate public health training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the University of Cambridge.

His extensive career has spanned leadership roles in clinical, academic and public service work, chairing expert and policy advisory groups for the United Kingdom's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, WHO, Wellcome Trust, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and other international bodies and providing technical support to countries around the world. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh, the UK Faculty of Public Health and the Academy of Medical Sciences. He has published over 300 research papers, policy reports, book chapters and textbooks in infectious disease epidemiology and migrant health.



Raouf Mazou took up his appointment as Assistant High Commissioner for Operations for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva on 1 February 2020. He has served in senior positions in UNHCR including Director of the Africa Bureau, UNHCR Representative in Kenya, Deputy Director in the Africa Bureau covering the East and Horn of Africa Region and Deputy Director of the Division of Operations Support and Head of the Emergency and Security Service, a position in which he oversaw UNHCR's global emergency management and staff security interests. Mr Mazou has worked in the field for UNHCR in many capacities, including for the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugee crises, and has expertise in UNHCR's activities, particularly in emergency response, repatriation and the development of strategies aimed at bridging the gap between relief and development. Mr. Mazou holds a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He is fluent in English and French.

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Faculty Members



Gulnara Abbasova is Executive Officer of the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership, which is Australia's national initiative to improve access to health care for migrants and refugees, and manages strategic policy and programmes at Migration Council Australia, the national nongovernment organization that undertakes research, develops strategy and policy advice, and implements programmes on migration, settlement and social cohesion. She is an executive with a significant track record in civil society leadership and strategy across health and social policy, gender equality and human rights. Gulnara was CEO of a national peak body for Australia's community sector providing services and supports to migrants and refugees. She has led programmes on indigenous peoples' rights and issues at two United Nations agencies.



Ali Ardalan is the Regional Advisor and Lead of the Health Systems in Emergency Lab at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Dr Ardalan is a visiting scientist at Harvard School of Public Health and is a pioneer in emergency risk management in the Region who was the driving force behind the creation of training programs in disaster health studies. He has also served WHO Libya as an Emergency Team Lead and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative as a Senior Fellow. Dr Ardalan is author and co-author of over 110 articles in English and Persian in peer-reviewed journals.



Lin Aung is a medical doctor with a postgraduate degree in public health. Dr Aung was Deputy Chief of International Relations in the Ministry of Health of Myanmar before joining WHO in 1994, where he served in the WHO Myanmar Country Office until 2000. He has worked as Technical Officer for Emergency Humanitarian Action and Programme Management Officer in the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, as Health Planner at the WHO Country Office in Nepal and as WHO Representative to Nepal. He was involved in planning and programme coordination support in the South-East Asia Region including the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Since 2015 he has been involved in the health of refugees and migrants as Coordinator in the Department of Communicable Diseases and is now Coordinator (Refugees and Migrant Health) with the Department of WHO Health Emergencies in the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office.

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Faculty Members



Jozef Bartovic is Technical Officer at the WHO Regional Office for Europe working on migration health. Previously, he worked for the Regional Commission for Western Asia of the United Nations Secretariat in Beirut, Lebanon where he was covering migration and displacement issues in the Arab region. After completing his studies in politics, he worked on screening programmes, sexual and reproductive health and primary care access for the Ministry of Health, Public Health England (Health Protection Agency) and the National Health Service.



Aggrey Kaijuka Bategereza is currently working for the WHO Ethiopia Country Office as the Emergency Preparedness and Response Team Lead. He is a medical doctor with postgraduate training in public health, international health and medicine in the tropics and refugee and humanitarian affairs. He has worked extensively in technical, advisory and leadership roles at national and international level in humanitarian assistance and developmental programming. Previously he has worked in Tanzania, Liberia, Darfur, Sudan, South Sudan and Sierra Leone.



Ann Burton has been working in international health programming with governments, nongovernmental organizations and UNHCR for over 20 years, mainly with conflict-affected and displaced populations in Asia, east Africa and the Middle East. Her particular areas of interest include interventions to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes, HIV programming in humanitarian situations, health information systems and universal health coverage in humanitarian situations. She has a medical degree from the University of New South Wales and a Master in Public Health from the University of Sydney. She has been with UNHCR for over 15 years including four years in Jordan where she led UNHCR's health response to the Syrian influx until 2016. She is now the Chief of the Public Health Section in UNHCR Geneva.

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Mauricio Cerpa is a Peruvian medical epidemiologist, graduated from the medical school in Lima, Peru, and specialized in Preventive Medicine and Public Health in Madrid, Spain, with a master's degree in research methodology and statistics in health.

Dr Cerpa joined the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO in 2009 as a specialist in the surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses (including for the influenza A(H1N1)pdm2009 pandemic). He has been involved in implementing or strengthening influenza surveillance systems in 20 countries of the PAHO/WHO Region and has participated in the response to various epidemics, such as the Ebola response in Sierra Leone in 2015. While working in the PAHO Office in Haiti from 2016 to 2020 he was involved in responses to many emergencies, including hurricanes, the cholera epidemic and the diphtheria epidemic. In 2020 he was appointed as PAHO Incident Commander for the COVID-19 response in Haiti and has recently, been appointed as advisor in PAHO Office in Colombia as Advisor in Health Emergencies.



Gianfranco Costanzo is Health Director at the Italian National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty and Co-Director of the WHO Collaborative Centre on Health and Migration Evidence and Capacity Building. Dr Costanzo has extensive experience and expertise in public health, migrant health and international relations achieved during his work at the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Health, the Italian National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. He has developed particular competencies in the field of planning, management and evaluation of national and international projects and policy-making in migrant health, focusing on multi-stakeholder collaboration, evidence-informed public health and multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches.

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Ernest Dabire is a public health specialist from Burkina Faso and is currently Senior Specialist/Emergency Response in the WHO Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville as part of the Emergency Preparation and Response Cluster. He has worked for many international organizations in various African countries. Since 2018, he has led the development of the health migration component within the WHO African Region in collaboration with other clusters and units. His areas of expertise include providing support to Member States on humanitarian situations, emergencies and health system disruption; health partnership/coordination; health system strengthening in fragile settings; health and migration; and the One Health approach.



James Fitzgerald is currently the Director of the Department of Health Systems and Services of PAHO/WHO and is responsible for overseeing the PAHO work programme on health policy and governance, health systems and services organization, human resources for health, financing in health and access to medicines and health technologies, oriented towards Universal Health. Dr Fitzgerald has a bachelor's degree in science pharmacy and a doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Dublin. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry before joining PAHO/WHO in 1997, where he worked as an advisor in policy issues related to access and regulation of medicines and health technologies in Haiti, Brazil and PAHO headquarters, Washington. From 2008 to 2013 he coordinated the PAHO regional work programme in the Americas in medicines and health technologies and was appointed Director of Health Systems and Services in 2014.

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Kira Fortune is the Coordinator of the Unit on Social Determinants of Health and Violence and Injury Prevention at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, in Manila. She leads the work on gender mainstreaming, health equity, community engagement, migration, alcohol and violence, with a key focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Fortune has bachelor and masters' degrees in anthropology, gender and development and international health and a doctorate in sociology. She has worked extensively in international areas, including nongovernmental organizations, academia, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and PAHO/WHO, specializing in public health, gender, health promotion and social determinants of health. Dr Fortune coordinated the International Health Research Network in Denmark and spent four years working in the Department of Global Advocacy at the International Planned Parenthood Federation in London. She also worked for three years with UNICEF in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she was responsible for the programme on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.



Rifat Hossain is the Technical Lead for Evidence, Norms and Research in the Global Programme on Health and Migration. He has also been the WHO focal point for SDG monitoring and coordinated the WHO inputs and negotiations for the 2020 Comprehensive Review of SDG indicator framework, as well as universal health coverage monitoring. Trained as a physicist, he has had 20 years of experience in official and development statistics, provided direct technical assistance to over 70 countries globally. He was instrumental in many measurement and monitoring framework discussions for the Millennium Development Goals and in the transition to the 2030 Agenda.

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Tarik Jašarević is currently WHO Spokesperson and frequently travels to epidemic and conflict areas. Tarik served in the Bosnian army participating in the defence of Sarajevo during the 1992–1995 siege. Most of his career has been spent in humanitarian emergencies and he has worked with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo, East Timor and Haiti, with Doctors without Borders in Sudan and the Congo as project coordinator, and with WHO since 2008. He has studied in Tunis, Paris and Damascus and holds a master's degree in political science from Sorbonne University.



Kanokporn (Jum) Kaojaroen works for the WHO Health and Migration programme and has been responsible for regional and country support and partner coordination since April 2016. Jum has worked in refugee and migrant health programmes since 1984, including for the International Rescue Committee, UNHCR and WHO among refugee populations in Bangladesh, Jordan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and Thailand. She has worked with WHO in Myanmar on HIV/AIDS and as a United Nations Coordinator for Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response, coordinating the United Nations Country Team. She established the Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Unit at WHO and then moved to join the Global Influenza Programme at WHO headquarters during implementation of the Global Response Plan for the 2009 influenza pandemic. From 2013 to 2014, Jum worked at UNHCR in Pakistan to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Afghan refugees. Jum has a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

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Frank Laczko has over 20 years' experience working in international migration. His previous posts with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were in Budapest, Vienna and Geneva. He has also acted as a consultant for UNHCR, the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. He is currently the Co-chair of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics and Co-editor of Migration Policy Practice. Dr Laczko has published reports on a wide range of migration issues including migration and development, labour migration, irregular migration, migration and the environment and migration governance.



Mike Ryan has been at the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years, serving as Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme from 2017 to 2019. Dr Ryan joined WHO in 1996, with the newly established unit to respond to emerging and epidemic disease threats. He has worked in conflict-affected countries and led many responses to high-impact epidemics. Dr Ryan served as Coordinator of Epidemic Response (2000–2003), Operational Coordinator of WHO's response to the SARS outbreak (2003), and as WHO's Director of Global Alert and Response (2005–2011). Dr Ryan is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, which has aided response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world. He was a Senior Advisor on Polio Eradication for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2013 to 2017, deploying to countries in the Middle East. Dr Ryan has a medical degree plus specialist training in public health and communicable disease control.

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Iman Shankiti has worked with WHO in the Iraq Country Office, focusing on strengthening the country's primary health care system and fostering partnerships in health, as Emergency Coordinator for Sudan and as Emergency Coordinator for Kabul. In both Sudan and Afghanistan, Dr Shankiti focused on building national preparedness capacity and organizational readiness for emergencies, in addition to ensuring an effective response to natural disasters and conflict-related emergencies. In April 2017, Dr Shankiti was appointed as Emergency Operations Manager in the new WHO Health Emergencies programme based in the Regional Office in Cairo, where she supported the regional response to 10 graded emergencies, including four Grade 3 emergencies. In 2018 she was appointed WHO Representative for the WHO Lebanon Country Office. She holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Jordan University and a master's degree in health system management from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.



İnanç Söğüt has served as the Project Director of the SIHHAT Project since 2017, which aims to improve the health status of the Syrian population under temporary protection in Turkey by ensuring the availability of and access to health-care services in provinces with the highest proportion and/or number of Syrians. He has worked as an European Union (EU) Expert in the Ministry of Health of Turkey and in several EU-funded projects with the Ministry of Health (2002–2017). He graduated from Middle East Technical University International Relations Department in 2001.

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Paul Spiegel is the Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health and Professor of Practice in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr Spiegel was Deputy Director and Chief of Public Health at UNHCR and has worked as a medical epidemiologist in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and as a Medical Coordinator with Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde in refugee emergencies. He has also acted as a consultant for numerous international organizations, was the first Chair of the Funding Committee for Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises and has served as a Commissioner on the Lancet Commissions for Migration and Health and on Syria. He is currently co-chair of Lancet Migration. Dr Spiegel is a medical doctor internationally recognized for his research on preventing and responding to humanitarian emergencies, with a focus on refugee crises. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles on humanitarian health and migration.



Ciro Ugarte is Director of the Department of Health Emergencies at PAHO. As WHO Regional Emergency Director for the Americas, he has a leading role in PAHO's response to COVID-19. He coordinated the United Nations Inter-Agency Disaster Team in Honduras (1999) before joining PAHO, where he has worked as Sub-regional Advisor for South America, Regional Advisor on Emergency Preparedness and Director of the Department of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief. From 1988 to 1999, Dr Ugarte worked in numerous roles in Peru, including as Deputy Director General at the National Institute of Occupational Health in Peru, Director General of the National Defense Office of the Peruvian Ministry of Health, President of the Peruvian Society of Emergency Medicine, Official Representative of Peru to the International Committee of the Red Cross and Member of the National Committee of the Peruvian Red Cross. He has acted as a consultant for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Office for the United States Foreign Disaster Assistance and with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team. Dr Ugarte is a medical doctor with postgraduate studies in public health and emergency medicine and has extensive experience in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response. He has coordinated the implementation of public health measures and health-care interventions internationally for large-scale conflicts, disasters, epidemics and other health emergencies since 1998.

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Pavel Ursu is Director of the WHO Department of Delivery for Impact, part of WHO transformation in the Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact. From 2003 he served as the Head of the WHO Country Office in the Republic of Moldova, WHO Representative in Tajikistan and then WHO Representative in Turkey. Before joining WHO, Dr Ursu worked as Head of the International Relations Office at the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Moldova. He holds a postgraduate diploma and master of science degree in public health, and a master's degree in health services management.



Jo Vearey currently holds a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award and coordinates the Migration and Health Project Southern Africa at the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Her research involves mixed methodologies, including policy analysis; cross-sectional household surveys; interviews; focus group discussions; participatory photography projects; and, participant observation in policy processes. With an explicit focus on generating research to inform improved responses to migration and health, particularly for marginalized population groups, Jo has a strong interest in research ethics and the ways in which research responds to the needs of society, and how research is translated and taken-up into practice. She is committed to developing ways to ensure that the voice of those affected is heard by policy-makers and programme implementers.

Suggested reading

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