



152nd Executive Board Session of the World Health Organization

Agenda Item 5

Universal Health Coverage

Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage

Geneva, January 2023

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the report being discussed under this agenda item, which recognizes that coverage to essential primary health care services and financial protection should be prioritized for populations in vulnerable situations, including migrants, to ensure the implementation of resilient universal health coverage (UHC). IOM is committed to continuing its work with Member States and other partners to ensure that migrants are included within UHC national plans and that health systems and policy frameworks promote equity for populations on the move. The report also recognizes the urgent need to improve research and disaggregated data, including for migrant and refugee populations.

To address barriers to health equity, there is a need to collectively promote the monitoring and evaluation of data using core data and migrant-relevant indicators and analyses, including national SDG indicators, the UHC service coverage index, and a standardized set of routinely disaggregated data by gender and other social determinants, including migration status. As we reinforce efforts to achieve UHC, IOM and its newly established Global Data Institute, remain committed to the generation of timely migration and health data that supports primary health care as a foundation for ensuring access to timely and quality health services for migrants and communities, also in humanitarian settings. Multisectoral action will be integral to strengthening primary health care and resilient national health systems for UHC.

In the run-up to the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on UHC in September, IOM stands committed to working closely with the UHC2030 Partnership, Member States and key partners to reduce barriers to health care and promote financial protection for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, as well as hard-to-reach communities, including migrants, refugees and displaced populations. Discussions around the three UNGA high-level meetings on health must be leveraged to highlight that national health policy frameworks across sectors will improve equitable access to health services and contribute to financial protection for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including migrants, with a view to leaving no one behind.