

Portugal
World Health Organization
76th Session of the World Health Assembly
(21 - 30 May 2023)

22.3 Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year
WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019–2023

Mr. Chair,
Director General,
Excellences,

Portugal is grateful to have worked alongside Mexico, another champion country on migration, in leading the approval of a decision in the EB152 to extend the WHO Global Action Plan. This is a topic of great importance and global reach, attested by the great support among Member-States across the 6 WHO Regions. We thank all Member-States for their support, especially those who co-sponsored this effort.

Firstly, we would like to stress our attention to this topic. Portugal is dedicated to implementing the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, including the aspects linked to health. In practice, Portugal integrates the health needs of migrants into national and local policies, ensuring equitable access and addressing communication barriers. Recent policies and legislation highlight the health of migrants and refugees, aiming for their seamless integration into the National Health Service. Portugal has made substantial efforts to respond to and manage the healthcare needs of migratory flows swiftly and effectively. Various institutions, including public entities, NGOs, and civil society, regularly convene to address migrants' specific issues and promptly devise solutions. Additionally, Portuguese academia actively contributes to

knowledge generation through surveillance, research, and support initiatives. This knowledge is then translated into practical capacity-building measures, specifically targeting the health needs of refugees and migrants, while considering their vulnerable circumstances.

Secondly, we would like to recognize the progress made since the adoption of the WHO GAP 2019-2023. For this, the work of the WHO Global Program has been instrumental, as well as the collaboration with other international organizations with a focus on the UN Network on Migration. This cooperation has been paramount to guarantee leadership and coordinated approaches to the health of refugees and migrants; to strengthen health systems by ensuring that they are refugee- and migrant-sensitive and inclusive, and to achieve universal health coverage and attain the principle of the right to health for all.

This takes me to my third and final point. We recognize there is plenty of work to be done, namely, in integrating the health needs of these populations across all sectors, promoting and advocating solutions beyond the health sector, and improving evidence of the health of refugees and migrants, as this data remains highly fragmented.

Knowing this, we advocated for the extension of the WHO Global Action Plan and recommend a pragmatic effort to implement a vision of the right to health for all. We thank you for having supported our proposal.

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