



152nd Executive Board Session of the World Health Organization

Agenda Item 23.2

**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*

Geneva, January 2023

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Honourable Chair, Director General, Distinguished delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the report on the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants. We applaud the progress that has been made, and remain committed to supporting the continued implementation of the global action plan (GAP). As such, IOM stands ready to support member states in any forthcoming global consultations or strategic discussions on this topic, along with key partners, through its regional and global engagements on health system strengthening, pre-migration health services, health promotion, and more.

In line with the global WHO-IOM MOU, including during the COVID-19 response, IOM has continued to work closely with WHO on promoting the health of migrants and refugees on several issues including cross border health, digitalization of vaccine certificates to ensure continuity of care, and climate change and health. IOM has also closely engaged with WHO on several of the items reported in this document, including the training guidance on global competency standards to ensure quality health services for refugees and migrants, recent editions of the WHO Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health, UN Network on Migration working group on access to services, and the 2022 World Report on the health of refugees and migrants. IOM also looks forward to contributing to the forthcoming WHO global research agenda on health and migration.

As we look towards developing strategies for increasing the capacity and sensitivity of national health systems, integrating the key objectives outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), coupled with the objectives of the GAP, will be critical as an instrument to guide Member States in strengthening the integration of migration policy and relevant issues within national health policies and plans. IOM, through its role as Coordinator and Secretariat to the UN Network on Migration, and its newly established Global Data Institute, stands ready to support WHO and Member States in increasing the capacity and sensitivity of national health systems in order to meet the specific health needs of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, IOM



remains committed to the generation of timely relevant data in our programmes towards contributing to evidence-informed policies and to any future monitoring results in respect to refugee and migrant health.

Strong linkages should be made with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including SDG3 on universal health coverage, which offers a common blueprint on which to build adaptation and resilience strategies to respond to the challenges of migration and health. We must move towards advancing universal health coverage that is inclusive of migrants, regardless of their migratory status, in view of a longer-term operational vision for the promotion of refugee and migrant health.