

**Statement delivered by Mrs. Ala Nemerenco
Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova**

**WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019–2023
*6 February 2023***

Thank you Chair,
Dear Colleagues,

At the outset I would like to express our condolences to the people of Turkey and Syria following the horrendous quake that shuttered the region. Our most heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of the deceased and best wishes of swift recovery to those wounded.

I wouldn't like to repeat myself as I have spoken enough during these days about the contribution of the Republic of Moldova in providing the necessary help to a very large number of refugees from Ukraine, who were covered free of charge with absolutely all medical services.

Moreover, the Moldovan Government approved a Decision at the beginning of 2023 on the temporary protection of refugees from Ukraine in absolutely all segments – social, medical, educational and others. The health system will continue to provide free of charge medical services to refugees.

As this year marks the end of implementing the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants it is crucial to have precise guidelines for emerging challenges in the next years.

As far as we can see in our region, the war in Ukraine continues with no end in sight, the waves of refugees haven't stopped, so we have to build more and more policies and response systems to such challenges.

How do we provide medical assistance not only in cases of emergency? How do we ensure extensive immunization? How do we develop disease prevention measures? How do we better enroll children in schools and kindergartens while ensuring a healthy environment for them? How do we split the costs? Because some countries find themselves in the permanent situation of taking on a much too big burden for themselves.

What happens to the medical workers who are part of the migration wave? In Moldova for instance we adopted a simplified form of validation of skills, granting medical workers with the right to work. What about other countries?

It is necessary for WHO to develop new roadmaps, regulatory and procedural guidelines, and most importantly - regional ones, because migration has different regional connotations and the nature of migration differs from one to another. These aspects must be reflected in regional strategies and action plans while taking into consideration the experience of most affected countries.