

WHO Health and Migration

The implementation of the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019-2030



Agenda

1. Opening Remarks

Dr Ailan Li, Assistant Director-General,
Universal Health Coverage, Healthier
Populations, WHO

2. Update on the implementation of the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019 – 2030

Dr Santino Severoni, Director, Health and
Migration, WHO

3. Q&A

Global displacement and migration patterns

281 M International Migrants
(2020)
-International Migrant Stock, 2020

123 M Forcibly Displaced
(mid 2024)
-UNHCR, 2024

763 M Internal migrants
(2005)
-UNESCO, 2019

At no time have more
people been on the move.

“The health and migration journey”



2008

WHA

Resolution 61.17
on the Health of
Migrants



2016

UNGA Summit for
Refugees and
Migrants
(NY Declaration)



2017

WHA

WHO Global
Framework and
Resolution 70.15



2018

WHO alignment
with Global
Compact for
Migration and
Global Compact
on Refugees



2019

WHA

WHO Global Action
Plan «Promoting the
health of refugees
and migrants»



2023

WHA

Extension of
Global Action
Plan from 2023
to 2030



2025

WHA

GAP Progress
Report

From a side-effect
of migration



To a fully-
fledged global
health topic

Health and Migration Outlook

General Programme of Work (GPW-14)

- **First** to prioritize Health & Migration
- **Joint outcome 2.1.** *Health inequities reduced by acting on social, economic, environmental and other determinants of health*
- Health & Migration represented in **Investment case 2025 – 2028**

Draft Program Budget 2026-2027

- **Output 2.1.2** *WHO supports countries in developing evidence-informed policies across sectors at all levels of government and adapts public health measures to meet the health needs of populations such as migrants and displaced people*
- **47 Member States** identified output 2.1.2 as a priority

WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants 2019-2030

Global Action Plan (GAP) 6 priority actions



WHO responds through:

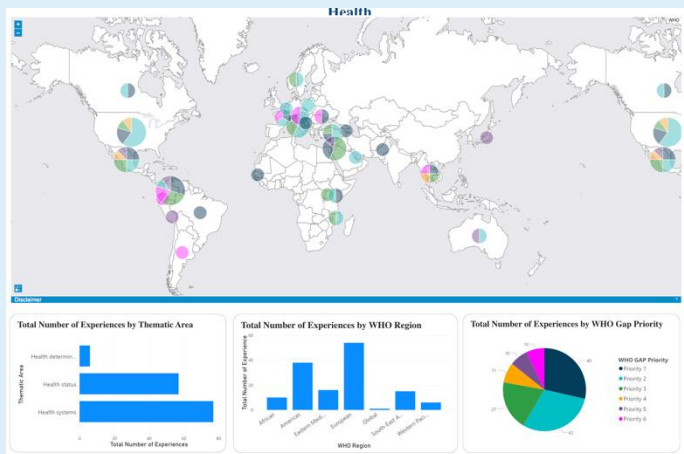
- ✓ Global leadership in health and migration policy, advocacy and diplomacy
- ✓ Monitoring trends, documenting progress and developing tools
- ✓ Setting norms and standards and promoting research
- ✓ Technical assistance to countries and partners
- ✓ Multi-lateral, inter-regional collaboration and strategic partnerships

GAP PRIORITY 1.

Promote the health of refugees and migrants through a mix of short-term and long-term public health interventions

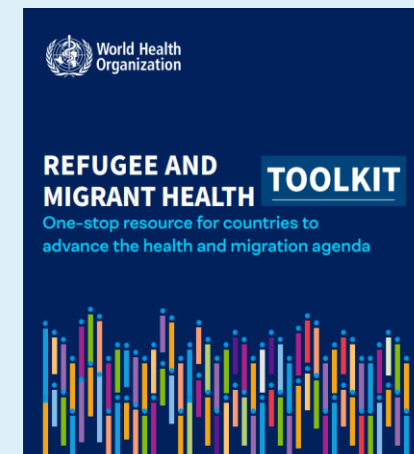
Compendium of Country Experiences

- WHO invites annual contributions from MS to share **Experiences in Promoting Refugee and Migrant Health**
- **63 MS** have shared progress in addressing the health needs and well-being of refugees and migrants
- Interactive dashboard to be launched in **November 2024**



Refugee and Migrant Health Toolkit

- Address and integrate the health needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants into **health policy & planning**
- Develop **evidence-informed interventions**, including joint ones with IOM, UNHCR and other key partners
- Raise awareness at local and regional **forums**, high-level meetings, MoH, UN Country Team meetings, and **networks**
- Mainstream refugee and migrant health in **country initiatives** targeting multiple areas and population groups
- Develop proposals for **resource mobilization** discussions and appeals

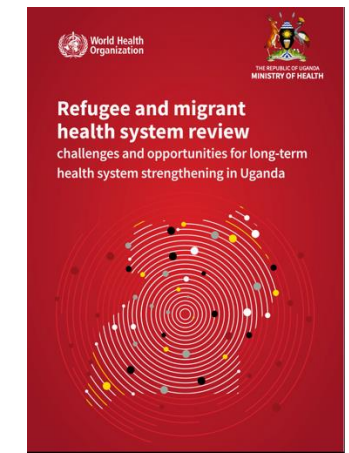
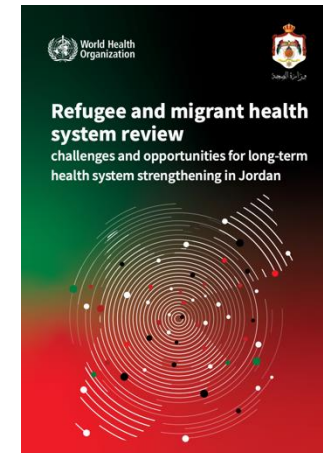
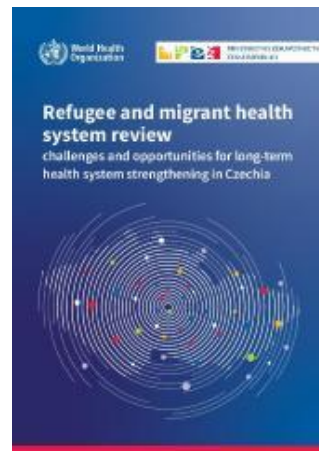


GAP PRIORITY 2.

Promote continuity and quality of essential health care, while developing, reinforcing and implementing occupational health and safety measures

Refugee and Migrant Health System Review

- Assesses the **capacities of health systems** and its components to enhance sensitivity and responsiveness to refugees' and migrant ' health needs. Also, establishes an **evidence-based baseline for tailored country support** on health system strengthening.
- Took place in [Bulgaria](#), [Czechia](#), [Thailand](#), [Jordan](#), [Uganda](#), [Estonia](#)



GAP PRIORITY 3.

Advocate the mainstreaming of refugee and migrant health into global, regional and country agendas and the promotion of: refugee-sensitive and migrant-sensitive health policies and legal and social protection; the health and well-being of refugee and migrant women, children and adolescents; gender equality and empowerment of refugee and migrant women and girls; and partnerships and intersectoral, intercountry and interagency coordination and collaboration mechanisms

Regional Strategies

- **PAHO/AMRO** has approved resolution on the health of migrants in 2016
- **EURO** adopted a new regional action plan for refugee and migrant health from 2023 to 2030
- **EMRO** adopted a regional strategy in 2022 to promote the health and well-being of refugees, migrants and other displaced populations in the EMRO Region
- **WPRO** organized a high-level meeting on health and migration on 12-13 December 2023 and agreed on a set of strategic recommendations to guide the work of Secretariat and MS

UN Network on Migration

- Member of the Executive Committee
- **Co-lead WS 3** – Preparing for future health emergencies by mainstreaming public health considerations into migration policies and services, at national and local levels
- **MPTF** - funding instrument for collaboration with national partners for implementation of GCM



United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together



Partnerships and Collaboration

- Collaboration across 3 WHO levels, aligned with the Triple Billion Targets
- Memorandum of Understanding with IOM and UNHCR
- Group of Friends of Health for Refugee and Host Communities (Global Refugee Forum) with UNHCR



GAP PRIORITY 4.

Enhance capacity to tackle the social determinants of health and to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage

Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health

- Organized in different regions every year (2020 HQ, 2021 EMRO, 2022 SEARO, 2023 AFRO)
- This year, it will be organized with AMRO/PAHO on [2-6 December 2024 in Colombia](#)
- Trained more than **12K participants from 160+ Member States** both virtually and through courses on the OpenWHO platform
- Convenes experts, stakeholders and policymakers to explore **innovative approaches**, share **best practices**, and forge **partnerships** in the regions and countries to address the complex health challenges faced by migrant populations worldwide



Global Competency Standards

- Developed [competency standards](#) for health workers to provide centered-care and culturally sensitive care to refugees and migrants
- [Developed knowledge and curriculum guides to support operationalization](#), translated into 3 languages
- Oriented policy-makers and trained health workers in Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Senegal
- **Global Competency Standards course** on [OpenWHO](#) in September 2024 (1249 enrolments as of today)
- Delivering quality health services for refugees and migrants from Ukraine **course** on [OpenWHO](#) in October 2022 (2641 enrolments as of today)
- Global Competency Standards **policymaker orientation** will be organized in Rome, Italy in November with participation from 7 MS (Egypt, Estonia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Uganda)
- Trained **cultural mediators** in 7 European countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Poland) hosting Ukrainian refugees, with support from the European Commission

GAP PRIORITY 4.

Enhance capacity to tackle the social determinants of health and to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage

Global Evidence Review Series (GEHMs) on Health and Migration

- **Evidence-based normative products** to provide MS with summaries of the current evidence on priority topics related to health, migration and displacement
- Supports **evidence-informed policy making** and empowers MoH for their leadership on multisectoral policy response
- **Published GEHMs:** [COVID-19](#), [NCD](#), [Immunization](#), [Access to antibiotics](#), [mental health](#)
- **Upcoming GEHMs:** 1) Health Financing; 2) Health and Migration in the context of Climate Change; 3) Dementia; 4) Primary Healthcare



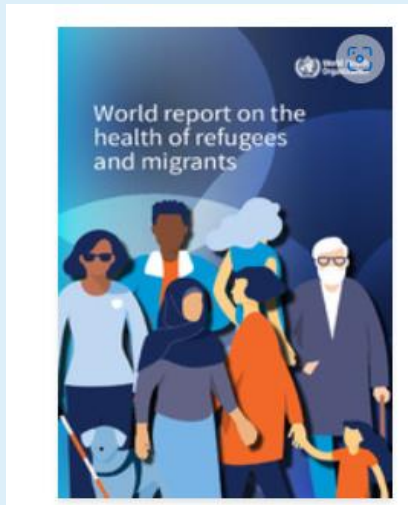
Global Research Agenda on health, migration and displacement

- Launched in October 2023, the [Global Research Agenda](#) highlights critical global research priorities on the health needs of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations
- Outlines pathways for **translation of evidence into policy and implementation** at regional and country levels
- **Technical assistance provided at country level** to identify and address research and policy priorities on health, migration and displacement through national research agendas and research action plans
- **Global Research Network** on health, migration and displacement will be launched in 2025 to support research capacity building
- Provides an **Implementation Guide and Toolkit** for further research agenda setting on health, migration and displacement

GAP PRIORITY 5. Strengthen health monitoring and health information systems

World Report on the health of refugees and migrants

- First [global report](#) on the topic with recommendations on the way forward
- Highlights key disease burden, data and evidence gaps, barriers to health services and determinants of health for refugees and migrants



WHO GAP Monitoring Framework

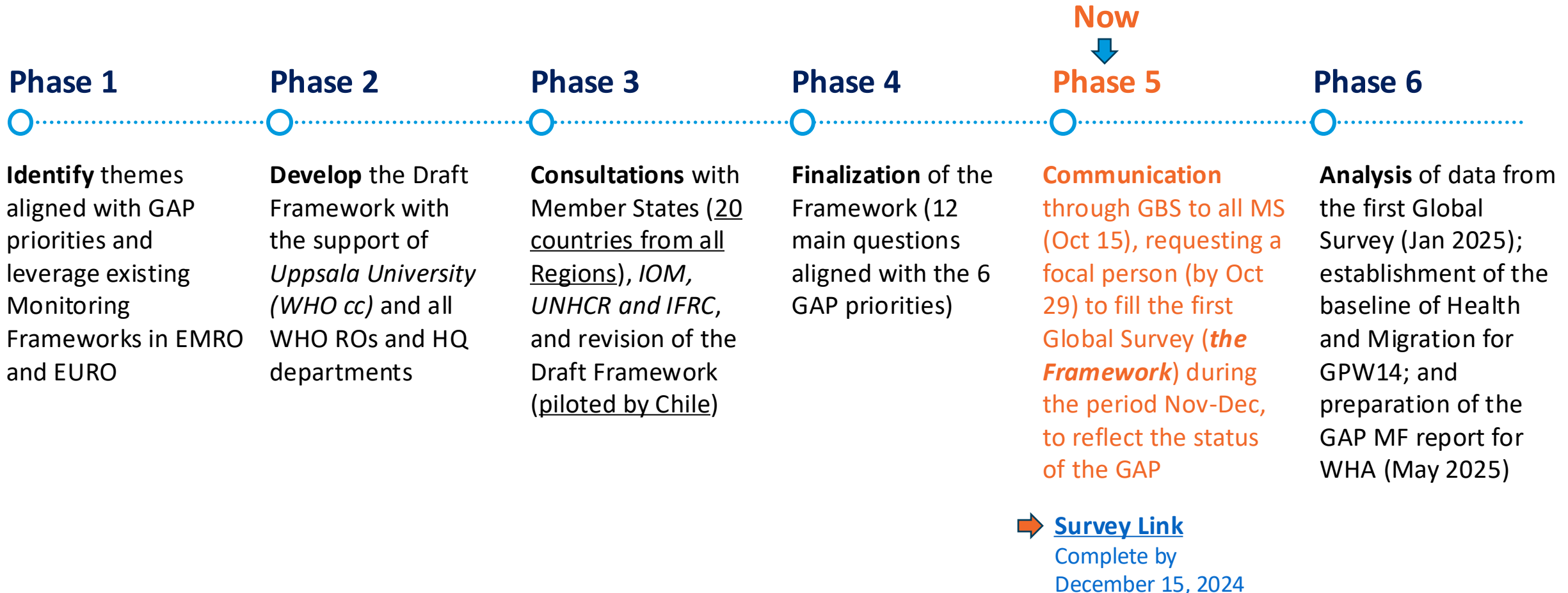
- Addresses **gaps** on incomplete data, data unavailability, disaggregation on migratory status
- Aims to **strengthen health information systems** and develop baselines, monitor, measure and accelerate the progress in achievement of SDG

Data-driven global reports

Indicators and monitoring framework for the GAP on the health of refugees and migrants

GAP PRIORITY 5. Strengthen health monitoring and health information systems

Co-building the GAP Monitoring Framework

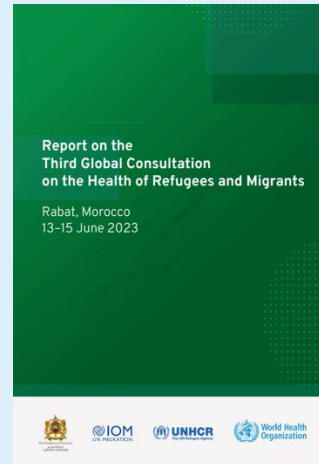


GAP PRIORITY 6.

Support measures to improve evidence-based health communication and to counter misperceptions about migrant and refugee health

Third Global Consultation on the health of refugees and migrants

- Organized with IOM, UNHCR and Morocco with 50 MS
- Rabat Declaration was adopted on 13 June 2023 where joint commitment of UN and its Member States is put forward to improve health of refugees and migrants
- Continuation of the consultation process on a more predictable and sustainable basis, fully aligned with WHO GAP, GCM and GCR



[Report](#)

High Level Advocacy and Communication Strategy

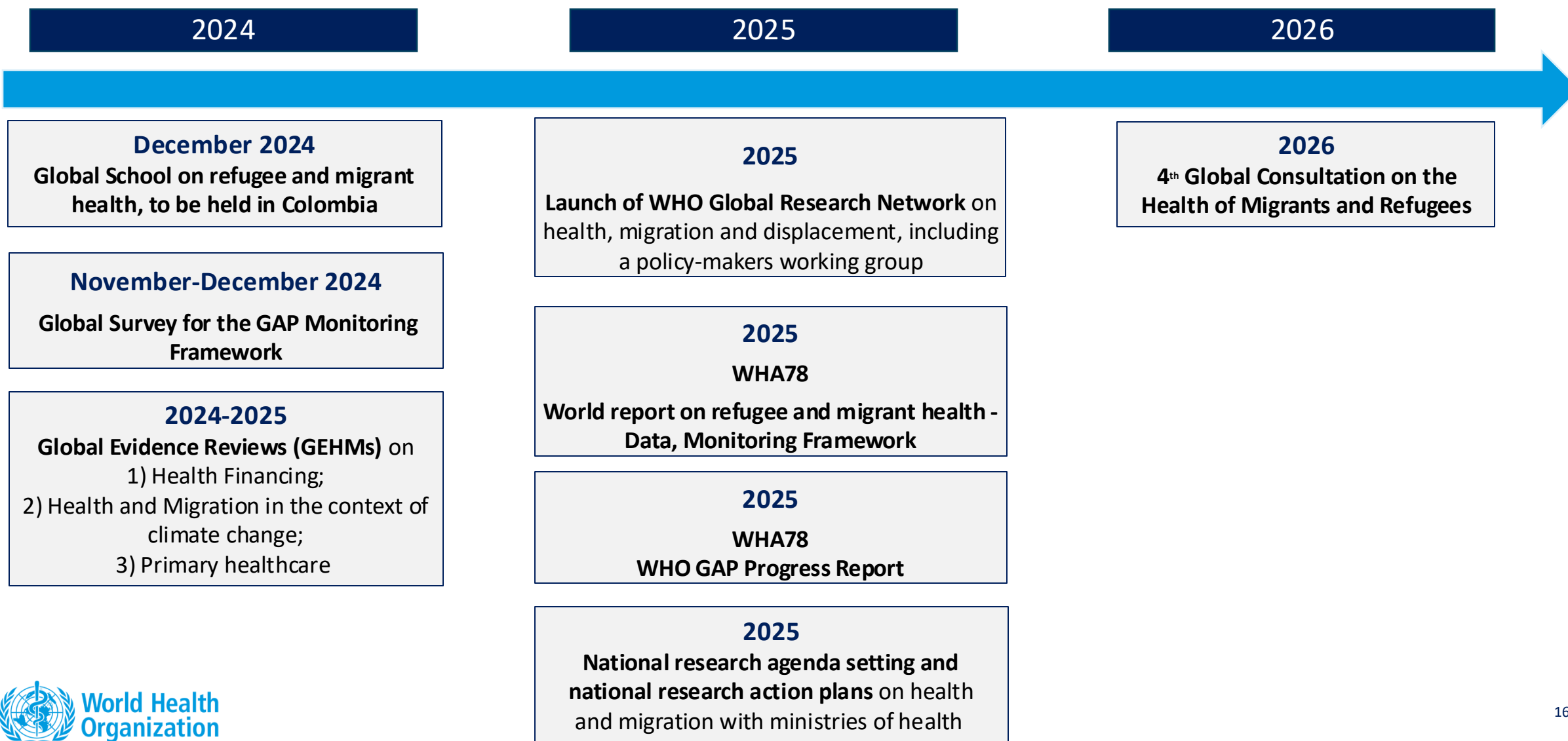
- Engage during relevant **high-level events and summits**, such as the World Health Assembly, UN General Assembly, World Health Summit, and Global Forum on Migration and Development
- UNGA side event (26 Sep 2024) [Addressing AMR Challenges in Migrant and Refugee Populations](#) - 130+ in-person participants and 3,358 views online; hosted by Egypt and Saudi Arabia and co-sponsored by 14 MS
- **Social media presence and advocacy** - Collaboration across 3-levels of WHO, and with partners to amplify efforts on refugee and migrant health communication



Delivering the WHO GAP under emerging priorities – in the context of climate change

1. **Cross-sectoral WHO approach and collaboration**
2. **Alignment with GAP priorities 2 and 4** – research and tools to support refugee and migrant health under the climate change context:
 - Refugee and Migrant Health System Review
 - Global Competency Standards
 - Global Evidence review on Health and Migration (GEHM) health system strengthening in the context of climate change
 - Global Research Agenda on this topic, with focus at regional level

Next Steps and Areas for Collaboration



Thank you

For more information, please contact:

Santino Severoni

Director, Health and Migration, WHO HQ

severonis@who.int; healthmigration@who.int

Visit our page here:

<https://www.who.int/teams/health-and-migration-programme/about>