



78th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 12: The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation

Committee A

Geneva, May 2025

Statement by
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

While many migrants are healthy and resilient, several may face increased risks of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions due to factors such as displacement, interrupted care, marginalisation, barriers to access diagnostics, and poor living or working conditions. Failing to reflect their needs can create blind spots in national and global NCDs strategies and outcomes

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works closely with Member States, WHO and other stakeholders in building mobility-responsive, people-centred health systems. IOM supports integration of NCDs and mental health services in primary and community health care, often in challenging settings, including humanitarian settings, remote areas and border zones. Through its strategic approach to migration health, IOM helps tailor service delivery models and build capacity to ensure continuity of NCD care for migrants and displaced populations—reinforcing system resilience and equitable progress toward universal health coverage.

The current zero draft of the Political Declaration for the Fourth High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being, rightly emphasizes the need to reach vulnerable and marginalised communities, including those in humanitarian settings,

and reaffirms the importance of a human rights-based approach to NCDs and mental health. These principles offer a strong foundation.

In this context, IOM strongly recommends that the Political Declaration and the deliberations at the High-Level Meeting emphasize the need to ensure equitable approaches in addressing the NCDs burden for all including migrants, refugees and displaced persons. This would further strengthen alignment with existing global commitments, including the WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants (WHA72.17; WHA76.14) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and reinforce the collective goals of leaving no one behind.

IOM stands ready to support governments in advancing inclusive, mobility-responsive NCD and mental health responses grounded in supporting continuity of care, and health for all.

Thank you.