

A close-up photograph of an elderly woman with dark skin and wrinkles, wearing a dark blue headwrap decorated with white beads. She is carrying a young child on her back. The child has dark curly hair and is looking towards the camera. The woman is wearing a grey shawl over a red and black patterned cloth, and a green and yellow patterned cloth wrapped around her waist.

MIGRATION HEALTH

2024 IMPACT OVERVIEW

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Cover photo: Ndibirindi Rwakaburabuza, a mother and survivor of mpox, stands proudly with one of her grandchildren in the Bushagara displacement camp in Nyiragongo district, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. © IOM 2024/ Antoine LEMONNIER

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MIGRATION HEALTH

2024 IMPACT OVERVIEW



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ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
CBSDS	Community-Based Syndromic Disease Surveillance System	RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
CHWs	Community Health Workers	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
e-PHR	Electronic Personal Health Record	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
HBMM	Health Border and Mobility Management	TB	Tuberculosis
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	US CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
IEC	Information Education and Communication	USD	United States dollar
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control	VACC	Vaccine Access Contact Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WHO	World Health Organization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa		
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support		
MMRC	Mobile Migrant Resource Centre		
NGO	Non-governmental organization		
PMM	Population mobility mapping		
PoE	Point of entry		

FOREWORD

The movement of people in 2024 was shaped by the complex interplay of shifting labour markets, demographic trends, conflict, climate-related disasters, environmental degradation and an increasingly volatile economic and geopolitical landscape. These factors created multifaceted migration and public health challenges for migrants, communities and health systems.

Yet amidst these challenges, IOM has witnessed not only the urgent needs of migrants, refugees and other mobile populations, but also their enduring resilience and the adaptive capacities of health systems and frontline actors – enabling positive outcomes of migration. In diverse contexts, migrants contributed to the social, cultural and economic fabric of societies, demonstrating that inclusive, migrant-responsive health systems can turn migration into a powerful force for development and public health. Recognizing that health and migration are deeply connected and must be addressed together, IOM remained at the forefront of delivering life-saving health services and advancing, migrant-sensitive health responses across its operations. In 2024, anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – particularly [SDG 3 on health and well-being](#) and guided by the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), IOM worked to create an enabling environment to advance evidence-informed and inclusive health and migration policies and support governments in their decision-making processes. Through these efforts, IOM aimed to contribute to enhancing migrants' empowerment, inclusion and resilience in society, as well as better public health and health security for all.

With 2,707 staff on health programmes working in 126 countries, including 23 affected by crises, IOM delivered emergency health care and improved access to essential services for migrants and displaced populations while also supporting long-term recovery of health systems. In crisis settings, IOM teams conducted 6.2 million health consultations through 3,602 IOM-supported or managed health facilities and 1,107 mobile teams, serving people in remote and hard-to-reach areas. IOM is committed to tailored, long-term solutions for displaced persons and their host communities. In 2024, IOM worked to strengthen disease surveillance systems in 34 countries, to anticipate and mitigate health-related risks surrounding displacement.

Beyond crisis response, IOM's health programming is integral in establishing, expanding and enhancing regular migration pathways. To support these pathways, IOM provides health assessment services; strengthens inclusive health systems; supports global health security by helping countries to prevent, prepare for and respond to public health emergencies; promotes community health; and enhances health governance through advocacy, research and technical support. In 2024, IOM reached over 857,000 people with health assessments leveraging IOM's two global teleradiology centres and 37 medical laboratories. Additionally, close to three million people were vaccinated and over 277,592 health promotion sessions delivered in communities and health facilities.

As we face unprecedented challenges ahead, IOM remains committed to realizing its vision of delivering on the promise of migration by facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration for all, focusing on saving lives, protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement and facilitating pathways for regular migration. Ensuring that migrants and communities are healthy, included and empowered remains central to achieving this vision.



Ugochi Daniels

Ugochi Daniels

Deputy Director General for Operations

International Organization for Migration

MIGRATION HEALTH 2024 IN NUMBERS



Over
857,000
people received migration
health assessments

Immigrants
68%
Refugees
32%

 **6,901,261**
Primary health-care
consultations (crisis; non-crisis)



2,902,658
People vaccinated

 **3,602**
Supported /
managed health
facilities

 **34**
Countries supported
to strengthen disease
surveillance systems

 **22,623**
Health workers
trained

 **167**
Points of entry and
health screening
points supported for
emergency preparedness
and response

 **277,592**
Health awareness
information sessions

 **81**
Population mobility mapping
(PMM) exercises completed

 **932,298**
Children under 5 screened
for acute, moderate or
severe malnutrition



2,707

Staff on health programmes across



126

Countries with health programmes

44

Countries supported for public health emergencies and/or humanitarian crises



1,107

Mobile medical teams



53

Emergency health-related deployments

79

IOM Migration Health Assessment Centres (MHACs)

2

Teleradiology centres networked to



139

Locations



78

Countries with initiatives addressing the nexus of migration health and climate change



62

Countries supported with initiatives to include migration health policies, strategies or programmes



234

Laboratories supported and managed with



11

Tuberculosis containment laboratories



103

Advocacy and research publications

MIGRATION HEALTH GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Global and regional overview of IOM's migration health footprint

Health intersects with nearly all aspects of migration, underscoring its integral role within IOM's Strategic Plan. In 2024, IOM invested USD 305,962,735 million in 126 countries with health programmes, working through its network of offices and experts at Headquarters, regional and country levels to support Member States, migrants, displaced persons and communities and promote public health.



Source: Free Vector Maps.

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.



SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE:

ENHANCING ACCESS TO QUALITY
HEALTH SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS, MOBILE
POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

IOM nurse examines a mother and her child in a community health centre in an indigenous community in Waramasen, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. © IOM 2024

As part of its mission to ensure migration is safe and well managed for all, IOM provides emergency health services to people affected by crises globally. At the same time, IOM works to strengthen health systems for long-term recovery and resilience. Specifically, IOM improves health services by strengthening local capacity, providing essential medicines and supplies and delivering direct health assistance for crisis-affected populations. IOM also supports people on the move, including refugees in resettlement, by connecting their health, protection and other needs throughout the mobility continuum. By investing in emergency health responses, IOM remains committed to protecting lives, strengthening communities and ensuring that no one is left behind in times of crisis.

In 2024, IOM reached 5,277,829 people with emergency health programming. Seventy-six point three per cent of people who accessed IOM health-care services in humanitarian settings reported being satisfied. In crisis settings, IOM delivered 6,253,670 health-care consultations, trained 22,623 health workers and facilitated 130,796 referrals for patients needing higher or specialized levels of care. To strengthen health responses in emergencies, IOM also distributed USD 49.3 million worth of essential health supplies including medicines, vaccines, medical and laboratory equipment and other critical resources to ensure that life-saving care reached those who needed it most.

HEALTH RESPONSE IN CRISIS SETTINGS

IOM's emergency health programming aims to ensure essential life-saving health care is available and accessible. By partnering with local authorities and organizations, IOM ensures that individuals and communities in need receive vital care during emergencies and public health crises. By utilizing key mobility data and targeted interventions that seek to uphold humanitarian principles, IOM provides direct health service provision via mobile teams deployed to hard-to-reach communities; establishes referral networks for specialized care; and engages in health promotion, vaccination campaigns and outbreak prevention, preparedness and response.

Providing essential health support in Lebanon

In 2024, Lebanon faced a deepening humanitarian crisis, with economic collapse, political instability and cross-border conflict leading to displacement and an overstretched health system. When conflict escalated in September, IOM swiftly adapted its operations to meet the urgent health needs of newly displaced and mobile populations while strengthening Lebanon's fragile health care system. With support from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, IOM provided transportation assistance to 31,978 individuals in need of health care, helping people overcome financial, security and geographic barriers to reach essential health services. Under a France-funded initiative, IOM facilitated health care access for 1,919 migrants in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Additionally, IOM conducted health awareness sessions for 4,960 internally displaced persons (IDPs), covering hygiene, routine immunization

and disease prevention. Through the Global Fund's Middle East Response project, IOM expanded tuberculosis (TB) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) services; 536 TB patients received diagnostic support, while 2,285 individuals were screened using portable X-ray units. IOM also transported 598 patients to National TB Programme Centres for follow-up care. IOM also procured and distributed 78,843 boxes of medication, 14,756 intravenous fluids solution bags and 2,500 boxes of protective equipment and provided 61,450 litres of fuel to sustain medical storage facilities, ensuring life-saving supplies remained accessible. Through these interventions, IOM directly supported 42,276 people, ensuring critical care reached those most in need.



An IOM staff assists an individual in need of transportation to reach essential health services in Lebanon. © IOM 2024

Delivering vital health services and tackling Hepatitis C in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in 2024, IOM continued to deliver vital health services to refugees and host communities, addressing a wide range of health concerns, such as dengue, diphtheria and acute watery diarrhoea. IOM provided 24/7 emergency care and referrals, maternal and child health care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and community-based care through trained community health workers, among other services. With IOM's support, 36 primary and secondary health-care facilities are operational, providing essential health services to all in need.

Hepatitis C has become a growing concern among Rohingya refugees, with estimated prevalence rates to be 20 per cent among adults, which is several times higher than in other high-burden settings. If left untreated, the disease can lead to chronic liver conditions, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. However, diagnosis and treatment in this setting remain extremely challenging. In 2024, IOM took a proactive approach by launching a mixed-method study to better understand risk factors for hepatitis C transmission. In partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), IOM also piloted a hepatitis C treatment centre at the Camp 2W Primary Health Care Centre and established 12 screening sites

within existing health facilities. Through this initiative, 9,012 rapid diagnostic tests were conducted, out of which 676 individuals tested positive. In total, 471 patients successfully completed their hepatitis C treatment.



A patient at the WHO/IOM hepatitis C treatment centre in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © IOM 2024

Emergency health response for indigenous communities in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Border States

As the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's prolonged crisis continues to strain the health system, IOM is providing critical health support to people on the move and vulnerable communities in remote border regions and along migration routes including indigenous populations. IOM's mobile health teams, composed of local health workers, deliver primary health care in close coordination with national health authorities and partners. These teams ensure that essential medical services reach those who would otherwise lack access to care. In 2024, these mobile teams conducted 28,592 primary health-care consultations and provided health promotion and disease prevention information to 5,500 individuals. Beyond direct service delivery, IOM has strengthened the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's broader health system by developing a community-based syndromic disease surveillance system (CBSDS) to detect and respond to outbreaks; training and mentoring 346 local health workers and 127 community health promoters in 2024; rehabilitating 15 primary health-care facilities; implementing infection prevention and control measures and supplying primary health centres with essential medicines and equipment. During the development of the CBSDS programme, over 2,600 alerts were issued, successfully communicated and investigated by the local epidemiologist. The system's efficacy in identifying suspected cases of malaria, dengue, COVID-19 and TB was



Community health network leaders at a Skills Workshop organized by IOM in Cartagena, Colombia. © IOM 2024/Bleidys FLORIAN

registered, facilitating timely alerts and coordinated responses with health authorities. For instance, in the State of Amazonas, 13 suspected cases of TB were reported, 12 of which were confirmed and subsequently enrolled in treatment through the National Tuberculosis Programme.

Recognizing the unique needs of indigenous communities, IOM takes a culturally sensitive approach by integrating indigenous health promoters into its teams. Their knowledge and presence help bridge language and cultural gaps, ensuring that health messages are culturally appropriate and reflect community knowledge and practices. This approach fosters trust, increases health literacy and empowers communities to make informed decisions about their well-being. By combining medical expertise with cultural understanding, IOM is not only improving access to health care but also building more resilient, informed and self-sustaining communities amid crises.

CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

People on the move - migrants, refugees and other vulnerable populations - often lose access to reliable health care. IOM works to bridge this gap by providing essential health services to people on the move and host communities. IOM operates in humanitarian settings worldwide, ensuring that affected populations can access continuity of care, quality health assessments and referrals to life-saving services. Committed to a rights-based, inclusive and non-discriminatory approach, IOM advocates for migrants' right to health and prioritizes their protection at every stage of their journey.

Promoting health across the resettlement continuum

Refugee populations often face significant barriers to accessing health care. The IOM Health Assessment Programme (HAP) focuses on the well-being of refugees during resettlement, offering health assessments, health-related travel assistance and other preventive and curative interventions. These services are provided to refugees and other migrants at IOM Migration Health Assessment Centres (MHACs), through mobile teams or in collaboration with partner facilities. They contribute to maintaining continuity of care for refugees with health needs, addressing the pre-departure, travel and post-arrival phases. In 2024, over 276,000 refugees underwent health assessment and pre-departure medical procedures; 11.6 per cent had significant medical conditions, warranting resettlement needs assessment and post-arrival care coordination. Additionally, 2,162 medical escorts were deployed globally to assist with safe travel.

Supporting Afghan refugees with life-saving health services in Central Asia

Decades of conflict, economic instability, the COVID-19 pandemic and recurring climate-related disasters have left Afghanistan approaching systemic collapse. While widespread conflict ended in 2021, ongoing economic decline and disasters

continue to drive displacement. To address urgent health needs, IOM improved access to health care for Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries.

In Tajikistan, IOM facilitated five roundtable discussions with 145 health-care professionals to address key challenges associated with the reception of Afghan refugees, such as expanding mental health services, upgrading medical equipment, enhancing infrastructure and providing professional training in English language and IT. Health awareness campaigns complemented these efforts to improve refugee integration into the local health system. In Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, IOM established Mobile Migrant Resource Centres (MMRCs) to provide Afghan migrants and vulnerable local communities with essential health and social services. In Turkmenistan, the MMRC delivered gastroenterological, paediatric, gynaecological, therapeutic and legal counselling services to 4,372 people across Akhal and Lebap provinces. Additionally, IOM renovated and re-equipped a medical facility to enhance long-term health care for local communities. In Uzbekistan, IOM's MMRC in Termez, operated in partnership with local non-governmental organization (NGO) Barqaror Hayot, provided comprehensive health services, including 637 general health consultations, 289 psychological consultations, 749 ultrasound exams and 735 cardiology screenings. Additionally, 65 individuals were referred to medical clinics and pharmacies for further treatment. To improve service efficiency, standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed and implemented, ensuring equal access to care for Afghan nationals and vulnerable citizens. Ongoing training, monitoring and professional guidance from IOM teams helped sustain high-quality, people-centred care and strengthened local health systems.

Improving continuity of care for migrants through digital innovation: e-PHR

Migrants can face challenges in accessing health care in their transit or destination countries, due to language and cultural differences and lack of medical records. The IOM's electronic Personal Health Record (e-PHR) is a digital platform that addresses these issues by compiling migrants' medical history in one place, facilitating improved continuity of care and strengthening national and cross-border disease surveillance and response. It also allows health workers to record subsequent medical treatments, including vaccinations, on arrival and can be linked to counselling and health education services. Launched in 2016 with support from the European Union's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, the e-PHR was piloted in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Slovenia and expanded to Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, Uganda and Yemen, making it available across four continents with funding from Takeda Pharmaceuticals. Through e-PHR, IOM has helped nearly 76,000 migrants and trained 461 health professionals in the provision of migrant-relative health services across its target countries. By improving access to health information and continuity of care, the platform not only enhances individual well-being but also contributes to healthier, more productive communities. IOM is empowering migrants to take charge of their health while supporting stronger, more inclusive and resilient health systems globally through digital solutions.

Promoting access to health care for Ukrainian refugees

In response to displacement caused by the war in Ukraine, IOM is strengthening health systems and improving access to care for refugees and displaced people from Ukraine under the European Union's Temporary Protection Directive. Launched in October 2023, the project is being implemented in 10 countries: Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia.

To bridge linguistic and cultural barriers, 27 cultural and health mediators were trained and deployed in 2024, providing health system navigation, medical support, document assistance and counselling, benefiting over 6,000 people. Fifty-one health workers from Ukraine are engaged in the national health system in Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova. Parallel efforts in Czechia, Poland and Slovakia are underway to empower health workers from Ukraine to advance in their professional development. In Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania, vocational education and training

have been implemented to help health professionals acquire medical terminology and understand administrative procedures. Collaboration and knowledge sharing are also key focus areas of IOM's operations with Bulgaria, forming a Regional Technical Health Working Group and the Republic of Moldova, training over 650 health providers on refugee health entitlements.

In Romania, mobile teams are supporting refugees and people displaced from Ukraine in navigating Romania's medical and social services through organized information and medical counselling sessions in several cities and online. In April 2024, the first WHO Knowledge Forum on Refugee and Migrant Health gathered Member States and partners to exchange best practices while a health system review in Estonia and assessments in Romania are informing policies and practices to enhance access to health care and system resilience.

Through these initiatives, IOM, WHO, the European Union and its partners are ensuring that displaced Ukrainians receive the care they need while strengthening health systems for the future.

SPOTLIGHT

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

On 1 March 2024, IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Direct Relief, a United States-based organization that provides in-kind medical donations and aid worldwide. This partnership strengthens IOM's ability to deliver critical medicines and medical supplies to migrants and host communities affected by crises, as well as enhances emergency preparedness, including initiatives to stockpile and pre-position essential medical supplies.

The partnership has yielded tangible results. In Jordan, IOM received a fully equipped field hospital, including 50 beds, 38

tents and essential medical and surgical equipment, to support the Jordanian Royal Medical Services in providing urgent care in Gaza. IOM Egypt, which plays a key role in responding to the humanitarian crises in Gaza and the Sudan, received over 100 emergency medical backpacks and personal protective equipment (PPE). In South Sudan, IOM received cholera kits, medicines and emergency medical backpacks to help address shortages and the logistical challenges of transporting medical aid amid ongoing conflict in the Sudan.

IOM and Direct Relief are exploring further collaboration on global supply chains, data sharing, migration health initiatives and pandemic preparedness and response.

This partnership highlights how collaboration with non-profit charitable organizations can advance the health of displaced persons, migrants and host communities, and public health more broadly, improving access to health care and ensuring essential medical aid reaches those who need it most.



The signing ceremony of the global agreement between Direct Relief and IOM, held in Geneva, marked a milestone in enhancing emergency health preparedness and response to crisis-affected populations. © IOM 2024

DRIVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS:

ANTICIPATING AND MITIGATING
HEALTH-RELATED RISKS IN DISPLACEMENT



A demonstration of the use of IOM's electronic Personal Health Record (e-PHR) digital platform. © IOM 2024

IOM delivers practical and durable solutions to migration-related challenges driven by climate-related disasters, environmental degradation, conflict and other instabilities. This work addresses health risks faced by migrants, displaced populations and communities as a result of these crises - supporting public health and well-being for all. IOM achieves this by advocating for policies that promote universal health coverage and inclusive contingency planning, and strengthening health systems to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats, including through enhancing 93 disease surveillance systems in 2024. This work also includes building and rehabilitating health facilities, often integrating climate adaptation measures to strengthen the resilience of health infrastructure. In 2024, IOM provided 285 government health facilities with rehabilitation and/or infrastructure support.

CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND HEALTH

Climate change represents one of the pressing challenges for humankind, driving environmental degradation, resource conflicts, drought and desertification, among other crises, factors that disrupt communities and drive displacement. IOM recognizes climate change as a defining challenge that exacerbates health hazards and threatens to undermine hard-won progress in global health and the Organization is committed to mitigating and minimizing these health-related risks.

Harnessing synergies between climate change adaptation and risk reduction in migrant-inclusive health system responses

Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon are among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, facing extreme heat, water scarcity and urbanization challenges and are characterized by the presence of large refugee, IDP and migrant populations. These environmental pressures are driving serious health risks, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases from rising temperatures, the resurgence of vector-borne illnesses and declining air and water quality.

In response, a two-year joint programme, Harnessing Synergies between Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Reduction in Migrant-Inclusive Health System Responses, was launched through the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF) - a pooled funding mechanism developed to support implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Implemented by IOM, WHO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in collaboration with governments and civil society, this initiative aims to strengthen synergies between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. By mainstreaming a gender-sensitive human mobility lens into national public health adaptation and DRR strategies and enhancing understanding of health impacts of climate change among host and migrant communities in the target countries, this effort protects vulnerable populations and enhances long-term resilience against climate-related health crises. In 2024, IOM jointly with UNDRR and WHO, launched the MMPTF programme,

in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, toward integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into migrant-inclusive health systems through regional and national initiatives like vulnerability scoring, workshops and stakeholder engagement. The programme achieved milestones such as data-driven risk assessments, ensured gender-sensitive research tools and multi-agency collaboration to enhance climate-health resilience in the MENA region.

Strengthening disease surveillance and data management at points of entry in Guinea



IOM staff conduct temperature readings of a traveller at the Baala Point of Entry in Yomou, Guinea. © IOM 2024

In Guinea, climate change significantly impacts public health increasing the risks of malaria, waterborne diseases and zoonotic diseases like Ebola virus disease and Lassa fever, exacerbated by flooding, environmental degradation and food insecurity, which drive migration. In this context, timely and accurate disease surveillance is critical in preventing public health threats in the face of a changing climate.

A key challenge has been the ability to transmit real-time data from points of entry (PoEs) to integrate it into the national District Health Information System-2. To address this, IOM, with funding from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), launched an initiative to improve Guinea's ability to detect and respond to public health risks at borders. Implemented from October 2023 to September 2024, the project established a structured framework for data management at PoEs. By harmonizing data-collection tools and synchronizing border surveillance indicators with the national health information system, the project ensured a coordinated and effective approach to disease monitoring. Collaborative knowledge-sharing sessions with the Ministry of Health, technical experts and other stakeholders to define relevant surveillance indicators, ensuring alignment with regional health recommendations from the West African Health Organization. This effort helped to build a more resilient health system in Guinea, improving real-time responses to cross-border health threats and protecting migrants and local communities from emerging health risks, including at borders.

HEALTH IN DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR DISPLACEMENT

Displacement - whether within or across borders - disrupts every aspect of life, including health and well-being. Limited access to preventive and curative care leaves internally displaced persons and refugees more vulnerable to ill health and disease. Addressing their health needs requires tailored solutions that reflect the unique challenges of displacement. IOM provides comprehensive health interventions, delivering immediate, life-saving care while also strengthening health systems to ensure long-term resilience for both displaced persons and host communities.

Strengthening health systems for displaced and vulnerable communities in Tigray

In efforts to build sustainable, resilient health services capable of addressing ongoing challenges in Tigray, Ethiopia - where thousands of IDPs and returnees reside - IOM has been working with partners to restore essential health infrastructure and service delivery.

IOM deployed six mobile health teams, delivering essential curative and preventive health services to 204,696 individuals while easing the burden on local health facilities. To foster long-term health resilience, 172 government health workers were trained and logistical support, along with medications and supplies were provided to 16 health facilities - assisting over 150,000 people. Additionally, three heavily damaged health centres in north-western Tigray were rehabilitated, restoring reliable access to maternal and child health services. In response to cholera and malaria outbreaks, IOM established treatment centres, supplied essential medications, implemented infection prevention and control (IPC) measures and trained local staff on outbreak management.

Financial support was also provided, including incentives for health workers responding to outbreaks, mosquito nets and health promotion materials were distributed. These efforts helped contain the outbreaks and strengthened the region's ability to respond to future health emergencies. Through these targeted interventions, IOM is building a more resilient health system in Tigray, ensuring critical health care access for displaced populations when they need it most.

Expanding emergency neonatal care for displaced communities in Borno State, north-east Nigeria

In humanitarian settings, access to emergency neonatal care is often limited due to competing priorities, inadequate infrastructure and gaps in emergency transportation and referral linkages for critically ill newborns. To address this, IOM partnered with the Government of Borno State to develop cost-effective, locally adapted newborn care solutions that

can be sustained using locally accessible resources. These initiatives involved IDPs and host communities in designing and implementing newborn health services, promoting ownership and accountability. To strengthen health system capacity, 23 health-care providers were trained, equipping them with specialized skills in newborn care. SOPs and treatment guidelines tailored for humanitarian contexts were introduced to improve service quality. Additionally, a local health facility was equipped with solar-powered neonatal equipment, essential medications and medical supplies, ensuring round-the-clock newborn care. Community-driven health promotion campaigns further increased demand for maternal and newborn health services, encouraging care-seeking behaviour. A key innovation was the introduction of three locally adapted neonatal ambulances designed for the emergency transport of newborns from IDP camps and host communities. The ambulances are an adaptation of the commonly used tricycle, known as "keke". They are dual powered, (solar and fossil fuel) and are designed with an incubator to provide in-transit care for the newborn. These ambulances have significantly improved referral pathways and access to critical care. As a result, 146 newborns received lifesaving services, improving survival outcomes for some of the most vulnerable infants and ensuring that those most at risk were not left behind.

Health system strengthening and recovery in Ukraine

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has severely disrupted the country's health system, damaging over 1,000 health facilities. As access to care remains a critical challenge, IOM has been leading efforts to strengthen the health system, restore essential health services, protect public health, respond to urgent medical requirements and establish a secure and dignified environment for health professionals and the community. IOM's focus is on ensuring that the most vulnerable, including people with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, infants and the elderly, receive necessary care despite the ongoing crisis.

Aligned with Ukraine's health system recovery strategy, IOM's multidisciplinary team (including health, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene specialists) assessed 21 health facilities across 10 oblasts with a high concentration of IDPs. In 2024, IOM successfully repaired and rehabilitated nine health facilities in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Kyiv City and Kyivska. These infrastructural improvements included the delivery of critical medical equipment such as ultrasound machines, hospital beds, infusion pumps and rehabilitation devices - to 107 health facilities. Additionally, more than 2,000 health workers were trained in trauma care, disaster response, mass causality management, non-communicable diseases management, basic and advanced life support, IPC and wound management, among others.

Through these interventions, IOM is strengthening Ukraine's ability to respond to immediate health needs and laying the groundwork for long-term recovery.

ENHANCING REGULAR MIGRATION PATHWAYS:

PROMOTING MIGRATION HEALTH AND
STRENGTHENING MIGRATION HEALTH
GOVERNANCE



A Mozambican miner: IOM, in partnership with Mozambique's Ministry of Health, is working to strengthen occupational health services along key migration corridors. Health centres in Maputo and Gaza provinces – the main regions for mineworkers migrating to South Africa - offer TB screenings, lung disease evaluations and essential care. © IOM 2024/Amanda NERO

IOM's health programming plays a vital role in establishing, expanding and enhancing regular migration pathways, in line with the Organization's broader efforts to promote safe, orderly and regular migration. Health considerations and interventions are essential to the effectiveness of regular pathways, contributing to improved health outcomes for migrants and strengthening public health more broadly. In support of achieving universal health coverage and the removal of barriers to care, IOM is dedicated to building migrant-inclusive health systems that enable and sustain regular migration. To promote access to these pathways, IOM leverages its coordination expertise, strengthens legal and social protections, fosters cross-border and multi-stakeholder dialogue and integrates health into border migration management efforts – including labour migration and resettlement and movement operations. IOM also works to reinforce health systems and embed migration health into national policy frameworks and governance structures.

MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAMMING

IOM supports Member States in designing data-driven, evidence-based and migrant-friendly clinical protocols for regular migration pathways - integrating both health screening and health improvement services. IOM has established a network of Migration Health Assessment Centres in over 50 countries and has also strengthened the capacity of non-IOM health clinics in over 100 countries. By bringing high-quality, migrant-responsive health care closer to where migrants and refugees are, IOM helps reduce inequalities and expand access through safe and regular migration pathways. In 2024, IOM conducted or facilitated migration health assessments for over 857,000 individuals (32% refugees, 68% immigrants) in 132 countries, enabling their migration within regular pathways, such as for labour migration, family reunification and refugee resettlement. Such services support integration into the destination country's health system and community, while protecting migrant and public health.

Strengthening TB detection for migrants in Nepal and Pakistan



The new IOM high-capacity TB containment laboratory to strengthen TB detection in Nepal. © IOM 2024

IOM has expanded its capacity to detect and manage TB among migrants by constructing two new, high-capacity TB containment laboratories in Nepal and Pakistan. These facilities enhance diagnostic capabilities for multiple destination countries, improving early detection and treatment. Both laboratories are equipped with advanced biosafety measures, including negative pressure rooms for sputum processing and drug sensitivity testing, ensuring a safe environment for both laboratory staff and the community. Additional areas for microscopy, reagent preparation and administration support efficient operations.

In Nepal, IOM had operated a TB containment laboratory in Damak since 2008, initially established to serve Bhutanese refugees residing in the nearby camps and later expanded to support broader migrant health needs. However, due to a growing caseload in Kathmandu, a new facility was constructed and became operational in February 2024. By April 2024, all activities were relocated to Kathmandu where a skilled team processed 13,218 respiratory samples and detected 173 TB cases, including 24 drug-resistant cases. In addition, IOM assisted the National TB Control Programme by processing their sputum samples when their TB laboratory was damaged by flooding in 2024. This modern laboratory will further support the Japan Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening programme, set to launch in 2025. In Pakistan, IOM relocated its TB containment laboratory in Islamabad, replacing a facility that had been in operation since 2009 and served multiple programmes from four IOM Pakistan clinics. The new advanced laboratory, certified in December 2024, aligned with international biosafety standards will start operations in January 2025 with 3 laboratory technologies and 2 assistants. In 2024, 8,633 respiratory specimens, identifying 72 TB cases, including 5 with drug resistance, were processed. These laboratories are vital in ensuring safe migration pathways by facilitating timely TB diagnosis and treatment, thus protecting both migrants and public health in destination countries.

Addressing health access barriers for Ukrainian migrants in Poland

To address persistent health-care access barriers for migrants, including vaccination, IOM developed a scalable, multi-component model that integrates digital tools, community engagement, and provider training to be practically applied in migration settings. Initially piloted to improve vaccine uptake among Ukrainian refugees in Poland, this model has shown success and is now being adapted to address broader health access challenges in other countries. Through the US CDC supported Vaccine Demand and Confidence project, IOM reduced vaccine hesitancy among Ukrainian migrants and refugees in Poland by 35 per cent in 2024. This was achieved through rapid community assessment, several in-depth interviews, motivational interviews during health assessments, and educational sessions led by trusted community vaccine coordinators. Nearly 500 students benefited from school-based health education co-designed with caregivers. Behavioural videos and social listening reports further shaped the targeted outreach via social media and other population-specific means identified during the community assessment.

Complementing these efforts, the Vaccine Access Contact Centre (VACC) has become a digital gateway for migrants navigating access to vaccination systems across 12 countries. Offering multilingual support through webchat, hotline, Telegram bot, and a dedicated website, the VACC translated nearly two hundred vaccination certificates for migrants in 2024 and was recognized by Ukraine's Ministry of Health as a top trusted source. The VACC also guided health-care providers in interpreting foreign medical records and using catch-up immunization schedules. To ensure sustainability and scale, the framework model will now be expanded to address broader health-care barriers including TB, maternal and child health among others. Improvements in migrant electronic medical records is also being considered through the IOM Vaccine App, which can be linked to the IOM-translated health records to enable better continuity of care. This adaptable model is being extended to Afghan and Latin American communities.

IOM enhances vaccine cold chain monitoring with Nexleaf Technology in sub-Saharan Africa

The collaboration between IOM and Nexleaf Analytics, a non-profit technology company, introduced a remote temperature monitoring solution that continuously tracks the vaccine cold chain and alerts health facility staff and managers to address any fluctuations beyond the recommended range. This innovative approach, supported by the US CDC, ensures that vaccines remain effective and safe for administration, particularly in areas with high migrant and mobile populations.

In 2024, IOM provided vaccine temperature monitoring devices and capacity strengthening of health personnel from the Ministries of Health (MoH) staff in Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe on their use. The Nexleaf devices were distributed to 170 health facilities located in migration corridors to enhance vaccine safety and improve coverage rates. Health workers received hands-on training in installing and monitoring the devices to respond quickly to temperature excursions. Additionally, in liaison with Nexleaf support team IOM will provide support in addressing technical issues related to the devices, sharing regular performance reports and organizing regular meetings with ministries of health officials. This initiative aims to strengthen vaccine management systems in refugee settlements and health facilities along migration corridors by providing safe and effective vaccines to the vulnerable populations as well as local communities.

MIGRATION HEALTH PROGRAMMING ALONG REGULAR PATHWAYS

IOM promotes equitable access to health services along regular migration pathways to ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner, and to mitigate health-related risks.

Improving occupational and public health for migrant workers and communities in southern Mozambique and South Africa

Overcoming the occupational and public health challenges faced by migrant workers and communities of origin, transit and destination every year, many Mozambicans migrate to South Africa for employment in the farming and mining sectors. While labour migration provides economic benefits, it also presents health challenges, particularly due to inadequate access to and continuity of care.

Communities in southern Mozambique have faced a triple epidemic of silicosis, TB and HIV. In response, IOM supported the Ministry of Health in establishing sustainable model for occupational health screening and continuity of care for migrant workers. In 2024, IOM established comprehensive health screenings in three occupational health centres in Maputo and Gaza provinces, targeting miners, ex-miners and farmworkers to detect TB, HIV and occupational diseases such as silicosis and hearing loss. A total, 7,426 individuals were screened, 87 new HIV cases identified and referred for treatment, 166 presumptive TB cases sent for further testing and 2,500 workers diagnosed with hearing loss. Additionally, eight doctors were trained in chest X-ray interpretation, improving the detection of occupational lung conditions.

A total, 6,464 chest X-rays were reviewed and 310 abnormal cases were identified. IOM also facilitated access to compensation for ex-miners with work-related illnesses. In 2024, 197 benefit medical exams were submitted, with 120 found eligible for compensation. To further improve health outcomes, IOM conducted targeted community outreach, strengthening TB and HIV treatment adherence through active case finding, community screenings and patient follow-up. As a result, 92 per cent of 298 TB patients successfully completed treatment, 1,240 household contacts were screened, leading to 15 new TB cases, and 455 new TB cases and 103 new HIV cases linked to treatment services.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Governments worldwide are focusing on creating safer environments to address public health concerns, including infectious diseases. Achieving global health security requires strong health systems and international cooperation. In collaboration with governments and partners, IOM leads efforts to strengthen health systems, tailored to migrants and mobile populations, addressing public health challenges along migration routes. IOM's approach to public health emergencies is guided by the [Health, Border and Mobility Management \(HBMM\) Framework](#), which is aligned to the 2005 International Health Regulations and while promoting health security and equity. In the context of regular pathways, through HBMM, IOM coordinates emergency responses, prevents cross-border disease transmission through vaccination, disease

surveillance, health screening and testing at borders. This also includes, risk communication and community engagement, capacity-strengthening, support for logistical arrangements and deployment of trained medical personnel to address health needs during crises. In addition, through population mobility mapping (PMM) and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), IOM develops tailored strategies to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health crises and emergencies, within and across national borders.

In 2024, IOM responded to public health emergencies in 23 countries and addressed 358 infectious disease outbreaks, including cholera, dengue, hepatitis C and mpox, among others. Strengthening health screenings within regular pathways is important in detecting and managing existing conditions among vulnerable populations. In addition, IOM facilitated timely interventions to ensure countries are able to implement appropriate measures to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. IOM in 2024 supported 167 PoEs and health screening points and conducted 81 PMM exercises to enhance emergency preparedness and response.

Strengthening regional preparedness and response to the mpox outbreak in Africa



Health workers screen travellers as part of the mpox response protocols at Petite Barrière at the Goma, Rwanda border. © IOM 2024/Antoine LEMONNIER

The rapid spread of a new mpox variant in 2024 led to the declaration of a Public health emergency of continental security by the Africa centres of disease control and prevention and a public health emergency of international concern by WHO. IOM played a critical role in supporting national and regional efforts to prevent, detect and manage the outbreak, focusing on PoEs, border communities and key congregation points along mobility corridors, reducing the risk of cross-border transmission. As the designated lead for the PoE and Cross-Border Coordination sub-pillar under the Mpxo Continental Preparedness and Response Plan for Africa, IOM strengthened disease surveillance, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and public health measures across mobility corridors. In total, IOM fortified more than 55 PoEs and 7 cross-border areas across 10 countries, conducting over 1 million health screenings, training 3,900 officials and health workers and reaching nearly 80,000 people with awareness campaigns.

At country level

Burundi: IOM engaged national stakeholders to develop SOPs for cross-border surveillance, trained 94 frontline personnel and 40 community health workers (CHWs) and community leaders on disease surveillance, IPC and RCCE to strengthen local response capacity and improved screening and isolation protocols at three PoEs. IOM supported CHWs and community leaders in establishing community event-based surveillance, ensuring border populations were actively engaged in disease prevention and outbreak response efforts. Additionally, IOM equipped three PoEs with PPE and hygiene kits, while conducting a mass awareness campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Health that reached over 4,000 individuals.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: IOM supported three priority PoEs in South Kivu, conducting over 1,030,000 health screenings, generating 17 alerts for secondary screening. PMM exercises in June (Kamanyola) and December (Kinshasa) identified high-risk areas for intervention. IOM reached 1,700 individuals with awareness messaging; trained more than 1,200 border health officials and CHWs on surveillance, IPC, RCCE and case management; and procured essential screening, IPC and PPE supplies and information, education and communication (IEC) materials to strengthen border health capacity.

Kenya: IOM was the first agency to assist the Government of Kenya with mpox preparedness and response, conducting training at 11 high-risk PoEs across 6 counties for 938 people (198 frontline health workers and 740 non-health workers including security officers). Additionally, IOM provided 10,000 IEC materials for PoEs and contributed technical expertise to Kenya's 2024 Mpxo Response Plan through the national Incident Management System.

Uganda: IOM supported disease surveillance and RCCE at eight priority PoEs, facilitating over 26,000 health screenings, identifying 30 cases for further assessment. More than 800 border officials, health workers and CHWs were trained, while 43,000 travellers received awareness messages through digital displays and kiosks. IOM procured essential equipment for disease surveillance and IPC for five PoEs. PMM exercises conducted in Nakasongola in November revealed that asymptomatic cases often sought traditional healers instead of medical facilities, highlighting gaps in health care access. IOM disseminated these findings to strengthen national response strategies. At the regional level, IOM conducted a Training of Trainers session in Southern Africa, enhancing outbreak preparedness among participants from IOM Angola, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. IOM also collaborated with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to train 34 representatives (23 men and 11 women) from Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia on HBMM, including outbreak response and PMM. IOM also held strategy and SOP review and finalization workshops in July, attended by frontline workers and health officials, including technical experts and representatives from IOM and the East African Community. Through its comprehensive response, IOM bolstered national and regional preparedness and reinforced global health security by reducing the risk of cross-border disease transmission and enhancing public confidence in health interventions.

Strengthening pandemic preparedness and response capacities in the Pacific



IOM conducts multisectoral PoE assessment in Tonga. © IOM 2024

IOM is enhancing border infrastructure, technology and capacity in seven Pacific Island countries - Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. This initiative developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and funded by the Government of Japan, seeks to improve preparedness at designated PoEs, in line with the 2005 International Health Regulations.

In 2024, IOM bolstered multisectoral border management operations and capacity and advanced border health security across the seven countries. By upgrading infrastructure at PoEs, including the construction of handwashing stations and quarantine areas, this enhanced the knowledge and skills of border agencies to prevent and respond to public health crises. Additionally, comprehensive PoE core capacity assessments were conducted in Vanuatu, Tonga and Tuvalu using the WHO PoE Core Capacities Assessment Tool (2009), with findings and recommendations now under government review. IOM will continue collaborating with governments, WHO and key stakeholders to increase adherence to international health standards and strengthen resilient public health systems in the Pacific.

Strengthening malaria prevention and control in Ecuador

In 2024, IOM Ecuador made significant progress in malaria prevention and control, among vulnerable and mobile populations in alignment with the national strategy for malaria control and prevention. IOM deployed three teams of health promoters in Lago Agrio, Putumayo and Shushufindi. The teams conducted active and passive case finding, health promotion talks, vector control and rapid diagnostic testing. By October, they had identified 3,947 malaria cases (2,567 in Lago Agrio, 688 in Putumayo and 692 in Shushufindi) for treatment.

To address health disparities, IOM conducted an in-depth epidemiological study on malaria among mobile populations, revealing disparities in access to timely diagnosis and treatment, particularly among non-nationals. IOM further supported Ecuador's national malaria elimination strategy by equipping border health points with IT equipment, fumigation motor backpacks for vector control, molecular identification equipment, and supplies for National Reference Centres, in

collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health. Additionally, IOM developed a community health promotion strategy in Sucumbíos, a northern province bordering Colombia, emphasizing hard-to-reach locations; and supported data management and surveillance capacities via the integration of a malaria module within the national DHIS2 public health information system. By enhancing malaria detection, treatment and surveillance, IOM has contributed to national efforts to eliminate the disease.

Strengthening preparedness, response and resilience to public health emergencies in Togo

Togo faces heightened risks of infectious disease outbreaks, such as cholera, malaria, meningitis, Lassa fever, avian influenza, Marburg and Ebola virus diseases and mpox, due to factors including its long land borders and the increasing impacts of climate change. With support from the Pandemic Fund, IOM is contributing to the country's public health preparedness and response capacities, and overall health system resilience.

In November 2024, in collaboration with Togo's Ministry of Health Surveillance Division, IOM recruited, trained and deployed 45 health volunteers to reinforce epidemiological surveillance and IPC at 15 PoEs. These efforts aim to support an early warning and surveillance system integrated into PoEs, improving early detection and response to outbreaks and ensuring a stronger public health security framework. To further enhance preparedness and community awareness, IOM designed, produced and distributed 30,000 leaflets, 25,000 flyers, 500 posters and 50 tarpaulins across the 15 PoEs. This initiative, launched in August 2024, supports risk communication and community engagement, ensuring that both travellers and border communities are informed about disease prevention measures.



IOM conducts training for deployed health volunteers to reinforce cross-border surveillance and IPC capacities at Kara PoE in Togo. © IOM 2024



HEALTH PROMOTION, INCLUSION AND ASSISTANCE

Integrating public and community health initiatives into regular migration pathways facilitates the provision of essential health services and fosters a comprehensive approach to migrants' health. IOM tailors its health promotion, inclusion and assistance strategies to the evolving public health needs of migrant populations and Member States. These initiatives provide health education, preventative care, vaccinations and treatment and promote overall community health. By using regular migration pathways as an opportunity to improve health outcomes, IOM helps reduce health disparities and supports healthier migrant communities. IOM also strengthens health systems, making them more resilient and capable of addressing the evolving needs of migrant and displaced populations. IOM works closely with governments and communities to assist undocumented migrants, trafficked persons, seasonal workers, displaced populations and migrant-receiving communities. In 2024, for example, IOM conducted 277,592 health information sessions, with 146,374 in communities and 131,218 in health facilities.

IOM provided training on various migration and health-related topics to 22,623 health professionals and 26,568 non-health workers, CHWs and volunteers. Through technical support, capacity-strengthening and localized solutions, IOM helps to ensure that health services are inclusive, accessible and responsive to the needs of migrants and communities worldwide.

Strengthening access to health care through community health networks in Colombia

Colombia remains one of the largest destination countries for migrants in South America, welcoming over 2.5 million Venezuelans. To address the evolving health needs of these communities, IOM Colombia implemented a comprehensive strategy in 2024, partnering with 459 migrant and host community leaders across 17 community health networks. These trained leaders serve as vital links between communities and health institutions, helping to reduce gaps in access to care.

This initiative has prioritized community outreach and health education, reaching over 32,000 people through IEC activities. These efforts improved access to health services, promoted mental, sexual and reproductive health and advanced disease prevention. By integrating migrants into local health systems and host communities, the programme strengthened social cohesion and resilience. In collaboration with national health authorities, IOM also trained 295 community leaders in community-based surveillance and RCCE, empowering them to identify and report early warning signs of public health concerns. This approach, aligned with the National Institute of Health's strategy, reinforces grass-roots participation and supports more responsive, resilient health systems in vulnerable communities. IOM Colombia's work continues to enhance social cohesion and improve the health, well-being and quality of life for migrant and host populations alike.

Expanding health access for indigenous communities in Pacaraima, Brazil



A training session to prepare community members for emergency situations in São Marcos territory, Brazil. © IOM 2024

In Pacaraima, a Brazilian municipality on the border with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indigenous communities face unique challenges in accessing health care. Home to over 10,000 people across 49 communities, the São Marcos territory - particularly the communities of Sakao Mota, Tarau Paru, Sorocaima and Bananal - has been particularly affected by migratory flows.

Since 2021, IOM's Mobile Health Team has been working in partnership with Eastern Indigenous Health District (DSEI-Leste) to expand access to essential health services, support health prevention and promotion activities and provide training for health professionals and local leaders. In 2024, 424 primary care consultations have been carried out, totalling 4,000. Beyond medical care, IOM has prioritized health promotion and prevention efforts, reaching over 650 people since 2023 with information on food security, mental health, chronic diseases and waterborne illness prevention. Training sessions have empowered 160 community members, including women with young children, through workshops on nutrition, breastfeeding and psychological first aid. First aid training was also conducted to prepare community members for emergency situations. This initiative strengthens ownership and expands sustainable health-care access, serving as a model for culturally sensitive health interventions in border regions.

Enhancing health and well-being for migrants and asylum-seekers in Greece

IOM, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the General Secretariat for the Reception of Asylum Applicants, has been providing critical primary health care and psychosocial support to enhance the well-being of migrants seeking asylum and beneficiaries of temporary protection residing in 30 registration and accommodation facilities across Greece through the Ippokratis I (Hippocrates I) project.

In 2024, IOM conducted 51,000 medical visits, delivering over 184,700 health and mental health services to more than 45,000 asylum-seekers from over 50 countries, including the Syrian Arab

Republic, Afghanistan, Egypt, Türkiye, Iraq and Somalia. Services included primary health care, MHPSS, emergency transportation and more than 12,000 referrals of people in need of secondary and tertiary services to public hospitals. In addition, health promotion and vaccination campaigns were coordinated with the public health authorities, with more than 900 children vaccinated. The collaboration with public health authorities also focused on epidemiological surveillance to ensure broader public health protection.

Community-based tuberculosis awareness, detection, diagnosis and treatment in mobility-impacted communities in Myanmar



An IOM physician provides consultation to a patient at a mobile TB clinic in Mon State along Myanmar's border with Thailand. © IOM 2024

In Myanmar, IOM is working to tackle the high burden of TB in migrant and mobility-impacted communities through a comprehensive project supported by the Global Fund, in partnership with the National TB Program. This initiative focuses on providing essential TB and HIV services in Mon and Kayin States, located along Myanmar's border with Thailand,

to address the limited access to services in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas. The project employs a community-based approach, along with active case finding through mobile TB clinics. IOM established a community health workforce with active participation of village leaders and elders, migrant workers, young people and local organizations that provide a critical link between the community and the health-care system. By strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations, civil society and ethnic health organizations, IOM is fostering sustainable health interventions and empowering communities to identify needs and manage and implement TB and HIV prevention, care and support services. In 2024, IOM's efforts led to the screening of 20,703 individuals for TB, with 2,211 cases diagnosed and successfully treated. In collaboration with WHO, IOM also integrated screenings for non-communicable diseases (NCD) into mobile TB clinics, ensuring a holistic approach to health care and providing linkage to NCD diagnosis and treatment. Similarly, IOM works with the World Food Programme to provide nutritional support to individuals with TB to improve treatment outcomes.

Improving health care access and immunization in South Sudan



IOM staff transporting medical supplies in conflict areas of South Sudan.
© IOM 2024

South Sudan continues to face a complex humanitarian situation, driven by sporadic armed clashes, intercommunal violence, food insecurity, public health challenges and climatic shocks. With more than 1.8 million IDPs, of whom 28 per cent live in displacement sites around the country, the demand for essential health care services remains critical. However, the health system remains fragile, leaving more than half of the population without access to basic primary health care.

In response, IOM provided primary health-care services to 1.7 million people, including 350,122 IDPs at the Malakal Protection of Civilians site and Bentiu IDP camp. With support from GAVI, IOM worked with the South Sudan Ministry of Health to expand immunization coverage, particularly among IDPs in hard-to-reach areas. Despite ongoing population displacements and flooding in target areas, routine immunization services were delivered through 14 IOM-managed static health facilities, 17 mobile clinics and 182 immunization outreach sessions. Over time, these initiatives have

yielded results: Malakal recorded a 45 per cent increase in measles vaccination coverage, from 48 per cent in 2018 to 99 per cent in 2023, while Rubkona achieved a measles vaccination coverage of over 95 per cent, both surpassing the national average of 80 per cent. This initiative resulted in increased vaccination coverage and a reduction in the number of zero-dose children among IDPs and host communities, strengthening health outcomes and public health resilience among vulnerable populations.

Expanding HIV prevention and treatment for Uzbek migrants



An Afghan refugee receives health care service at an IOM Mobile Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) in Uzbekistan. © IOM 2024

In Central Asia and the Russian Federation, significant labour migration has created a busy migration corridor for Uzbek migrants who often work in the Russian Federation's high-risk and labour-intensive sectors, such as construction and transportation. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities, limited health-seeking behaviour and health care access have contributed to rising rates of HIV among these migrants. To address this, the IOM Development Fund support, implemented a project to bridge critical health care gaps. IOM collaborated with UNAIDS and government partners to assess HIV-related policies and advocate for migrant-inclusive health care solutions and supported the development of SOPs that enabled remote registration for HIV-positive migrants, allowing uninterrupted antiretroviral therapy and consultations abroad without fear of deportation.

In partnership with five NGOs, IOM also conducted awareness-raising campaigns and collected data on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to HIV among migrants in remote and underserved areas. IOM further facilitated HIV testing, counselling and referral services and trained NGOs, migrants and health workers to ensure sustainable service delivery. To reach migrants at all stages of their journey, IOM distributed 2,500 educational booklets and produced two audiovisual materials on HIV prevention, testing and treatment, aired at all PoEs across Uzbekistan. By fostering a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and multisectoral partnerships, integrating evidence-based strategies and leveraging digital innovations, the project is improving health care access and outcomes for migrants and their families while promoting equity and inclusivity in HIV prevention and care.

STRENGTHENING MIGRATION HEALTH GOVERNANCE

Migration governance is at the heart of IOM's mission and health plays a vital role in ensuring safe, inclusive and regular migration. IOM advocates for the integration of migration into global health governance and for health to be a key component of migration governance. Addressing migration health-related issues requires a collaborative, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

IOM works within global governance frameworks to promote the health and well-being of migrants, mobile populations and communities. Through policy advocacy, research and technical support, IOM seeks to foster an environment where the health needs of migrants are addressed comprehensively, contributing to healthier and more inclusive societies worldwide. This also contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that migration and health remain central to global development.

Inclusion of migrants in the national health system in the Republic of Moldova

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has taken significant steps to ensure that migrants, particularly refugees from Ukraine, have access to essential health care. The Republic of Moldova established a sub-working group in June 2024 to address the health needs of migrants and refugees in

collaboration with IOM and WHO. This initiative brings together key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, National Health Insurance Company (NHIC), Ministry of Internal Affairs and United Nations agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA. IOM has played a central role in facilitating access to health care for refugees by forging agreements with health institutions like the NHIC and the Oncology Institute. The efforts are critical, but challenges remain. An IOM report released in 2024 on the legal and financial barriers for migrants in the Republic of Moldova highlights gaps in access and calls for policy and financing reforms to ensure sustainable inclusion.

A major component of the Republic of Moldova's integration efforts is the development of a tailored model for enhancing migrant health services. This model is designed to address the unique needs of migrant populations in accessing health in the Republic of Moldova while also establishing sustainable financial mechanisms for uninsured non-nationals. To inform this model, IOM organized a study visit to Lithuania to learn from successful models. Working closely with the Ministry of Health and WHO, IOM has helped develop an action plan that outlines key activities and milestones for inclusion. This plan not only addresses immediate health needs but also lays the foundation for a long-term, sustainable approach to migrant health care. IOM's ongoing support and coordination efforts are pivotal in shaping the future of the Republic of Moldova's health system, focusing on the integration of migrants and the development of adaptable, equitable financial models. These efforts reflect the Republic of Moldova's commitment to inclusive health care for all, regardless of migration status.



| A convening of key stakeholders sub-working group to address the health needs of migrants and refugees in the Republic of Moldova. © IOM 2024

Improving migrant health in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations through policy and research

In January 2024, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Health Ministers endorsed the Framework on the Health Coverage of Documented Migrants including Migrant Workers and Special Populations. This Framework aims to achieve universal health coverage in ASEAN, by providing guidance on enhancing health care access and regional cooperation for documented migrants. Key priorities include strengthening health governance, improving health service delivery and affordability, enhancing health financing and optimizing health information systems to improving data sharing and access to occupational health resources. This Framework lays the foundation for more inclusive, coordinated and sustainable migrant health policies and practices across ASEAN, ensuring that documented migrants receive the health care they need. Additionally, the ASEAN Health Ministers also endorsed *Migration and Health in ASEAN: Regional Case Studies*, in collaboration with IOM. The report provides insights into migration trends, health policies and key challenges affecting migrants' access to health care across the region. The report identifies barriers such as legal gaps, limited insurance coverage, financial constraints and the need for stronger cross-sector coordination. The case studies serve as a key resource for policymakers and stakeholders, reinforcing the need for inclusive, evidence-based health strategies.

Advancing migration health research for evidence-based policy and practice

IOM's migration health research efforts aim to inform policies and programming with the latest evidence to support the health and well-being of migrants and communities worldwide. By generating robust, data-driven evidence, IOM enhances impactful and responsive health initiatives for migrants. IOM prioritizes collaborative research - with governments, universities, international organizations, civil society and migrant communities, to study migration health at national, regional and global levels. In 2024, IOM published a Systematic Review on COVID-19 among Migrants, in partnership with Heidelberg University Hospital and the universities of Uppsala and Umeå, in the Lancet Clinical Medicine Journal. Analyzing data from over 53 million individuals across 22 countries, revealed systemic health inequities, demonstrating the urgent need for inclusive health policies and improved data collection on migrants.

Furthermore, IOM also advances research and advocacy networks, particularly in the Global South, through initiatives like the Migration Health and Development Research Initiative, IOM launched the Global Migration Health Bibliometric Analysis Project - which maps the research landscape on migration health using AI tools. In 2024, a unique scientific protocol was developed and validated to ensure a rigorous approach to uncovering knowledge gaps in the field of global migration health, shaping future research priorities and setting the stage for stronger evidence-based decision-making.



Two women walk through the Bushagara displacement camp, carrying with them the weight of uncertainty but also the strength of community. Surrounded by rows of temporary shelters, they continue their journey, supporting their families and their neighbours as they navigate the challenges of displacement. Despite the hardship, their presence and resilience reflect the heart of the camp, where families are trying to rebuild their lives amidst instability. © IOM 2024/Antoine LEMONNIER



