Migration Health Roundtable

IOM perspectives on knowledge gaps and strategic actions for ISTM

Paul Douglas, July 7th 2019

DEFINITIONS AND ROLES

- **International traveller**
  - Displacement of persons between two countries
- **ISTM role**
  - Healthy, safe and responsible travel of all people crossing international borders (education, service, surveillance, research for travel medicine specialists)
- **International migrant**
  - Any person that changes his or her country of usual residence
- **IOM role**
  - Dignified, orderly, and safe migration for the benefit of all; healthy migrants in health communities (health assessment and travel assistance; health promotion, advocacy and assistance; health services for crisis affected populations; psychosocial support)

IOM VISION ON MAINSTREAMING MIGRANT HEALTH

Global migration agenda ↔ Development agenda ↔ Global Health Agenda

IOM approach...mainstreaming health in migration and migration in health

WHY DOES IOM FOCUS ON MIGRATION HEALTH?

1. Migrants are human beings, and have a right to health
2. Including migrants in health systems improves public health outcomes
3. Healthy migrants contribute to positive development outcomes
4. Migrants connect communities and their epidemiological profiles

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE GAP IN MIGRATION AND HEALTH?

- 5451 (25.4%) were about refugees and asylum seekers,
- 1328 (6.2%) documents were about migrant workers,
- 440 (2.1%) were about international students,
- 679 (3.2%) were about human trafficking and smuggling,
- 26 (0.1%) were about patients’ mobility across international borders.
GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE/PRACTICE THAT SHOULD BE PRIORITIES FOR ISTM TO SERVE AS A SCIENTIFIC BODY

- South to south interactions of travel medicine and impacts of circulatory migration
- Other gaps:
  - Migrant workers
  - Transnational families and caregivers
  - Mobility across borders
  - Students
- Guideline development such as social determinants of migration health and impact on achieving SDGs

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR ISTM / PARTNERSHIP WITH IOM TO PROMOTE MIGRANT HEALTH & CONTRIBUTE TO EVIDENCE BASE

- Supporting advocacy efforts such as those for low-skilled labour migrants
- Linkage across systems (pre- & post-arrival care) – portability of health across borders (UHC/insurance/information)
- Making health systems more flexible to respond to changing population movement dynamics (e.g. large influx, circulatory, fragile, conflict and violence affected states) – migration dynamics mapping
- Training on migrant friendly/mobility competent health systems
  - Reduce discrimination (social and individual) against migrants/stigma
  - Culturally and linguistic access
  - Cost, continuity of care
  - Prevention/disease control
- UHC barriers and use of "social capital"

STRATEGIC MIGRATION HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR IOM

- Support MS to address migrants’ rights to health – research, partnerships and policy
- Technical advice and operations to address mobility dimensions of health (crises and regular)
- Collection and analysis of health and mobility data – fostering partnerships with academia and communities of practice
- Advocacy of health on migration agenda and vice versa – transnational partnerships and policy dialogue
- Leaders in innovation in migration health (human, technological, partnerships) – public health surveillance along mobility corridors; standardised health assessment tools and SOPs

Data needed per each country

- What is the extent of health coverage (emergency care) /primary health care & specialized care/ transplant
- Mapping

- Identifying migration trajectories, mapping inflow, outflow, internal flows...
- Domestic policy and legal framework (e.g. rights on health of migrant populations)
- Stakeholder mapping (incl. power dynamics)
- Existing Service mapping
- Mapping existing social and health protection mechanisms (portability, extent of coverage)
- Identifying evidence base on MH (existing registries, surveys, research studies)

- Evidence needed for:
  - Health outlining framework
  - Role of international organizations
  - Role of bilateral/national agreements
  - Role of migrants' organizations
  - Role of IOM

Needs to consider

- Which migrant groups to cover? (labour migrants to GCC, frontier workers, international students, refugees)
- What is the extent of health coverage (emergency care) /primary health care & specialized care/ transplant

Migration dynamics mapping

Service and Coverage mapping

Health issues mapping