Migration health round-table: Lessons learned and moving forward

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ECDC's mission and vision:
"ECDC’s mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases."

• An agency of the European Union located in Stockholm, Sweden
• Established in 2005; 280 employees & 27 EU nationalities
• Work with and through National Public Health Authorities in the 31 EU/EEA countries

Putting migrant health and infectious diseases in context

512 million people living in the EU-28 in 2017 (1st January)*

Migrants are disproportionally affected by some infectious diseases:
- > 40% of all HIV diagnoses in the EU in any given year
- > 30% of all TB diagnoses in the EU in any given year
- > 25% of hepatitis B and C diagnoses in the EU in any given year
- Some sub-groups of migrants have significantly lower vaccination rates compared to the general population
- Some sub-groups of migrants & asylum seekers are over-represented when it comes to multidrug-resistant bacteria compared to the general population


Risk assessments

2015

ECDC threat assessment:
- Newly arrived migrants and refugees do not represent a threat to Europe with respect to communicable diseases
- The risk to refugees has increased due to overcrowding at reception facilities, resulting in poor hygiene and sanitation arrangements

Scientific advice/guidance

Public health guidance on screening and early detection on the migrant, refugee, humanitarian and other refugee settings


Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

- Priority 1. Facilitate voluntary and early voluntary repatriation and return

- Priority 2. Facilitate voluntary and early voluntary return

- Priority 3. Facilitate voluntary and early voluntary return

- Priority 4. Facilitate voluntary and early voluntary return

- Priority 5. Facilitate voluntary and early voluntary return

ECDC assessing its surveillance system to improve its understanding of migrant health

Objective: To produce a comprehensive overview of the key infectious diseases affecting migrant populations in the EU/EEA

### Migrant related variables collected through The European Surveillance System (TESSy)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>MR</th>
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<th>HEP</th>
<th>HCV</th>
<th>Malaria</th>
<th>Chagas Disease</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
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<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Country of nationality</td>
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<td>Probability of infection</td>
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<td>Region of origin (if applicable)</td>
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### Completeness (%) of migrant related variables collected through TESSy (2011-2013)

Conclusions:
- Gaps in national data surveillance systems make it difficult to draw overall conclusions on the health of migrants
- In ECDC's surveillance system, which includes more than 50 infectious diseases, it was concluded that meaningful analysis of migrant health data was only possible for HIV and TB
- The biggest contribution to improving our understanding of migrant health would be to work with European Member States to discuss how we can better support them in collecting the 'country of birth' variable across disease networks

### Recommendation to the WHO and all UN agencies: Standardise migrant health variables across existing monitoring systems

- WHO, as well as multiple other UN agencies, have a whole set of monitoring systems in place covering a wide range of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- A mapping exercise needs to be undertaken to assess which migrant specific variables (if any) are currently collected in these monitoring systems
- Standardise all data collection systems by including the 'country of birth' variable
Continue keeping the topic of migrant/refugee health high on the ISTM agenda (your leadership is valued)

Continue promoting migrant specific research in the Journal of Travel Medicine

Provide training to ISTM members on migrant and refugee health through webinars, workshops, etc.

Advocate for disaggregated data collection on migrant health

Provide clinical standards of care for migrant and refugee populations

Continue convening biennial migrant specific conferences (i.e. Rome 2018)

Convene a global advisory group on migrant health (in partnership with key stakeholders)

Develop international clinical guidance on screening for communicable and non-communicable diseases for travel medicine physicians

Consider developing an online Migrant Health Guide (a valuable tool for clinicians working in the area of migrant/refugee health)

Thank You!

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