Healthy Migrants: Pandemic preparedness and beyond

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IOM at a glance

• The global, inter-governmental organization dealing with the entire range of migration issues
  – Migrants - irregular migrants, asylum seekers, labour migrants, economic migrants, trafficked persons, urban migrants, commercial farm workers, IDPs and refugees.

• 146 Member States and 89 Observer States

• Member of UN Country Teams; Not a UN agency
Objective - preventive and curative health programmes and services which are beneficial, accessible and equitable for vulnerable migrants.

- Advocacy for health-inclusive migration management policies and programmes
- Development of evidence-based policies to promote and protect the health of migrants.
- Health Service Delivery: request of and in agreement with concerned States
- Capacity-Building: Raise awareness and knowledge on migrant health issues.
- Research and Dissemination: evidence-based programming, policy and dialogue.
Migration Health

• Health Assessment and Travel-related Assistance
  – Health assessment for refugees and migrants (US, Australia, Canada, UK)
    – Pre-departure medical screenings
    – Pre embarkation check
    – Medical escort

• Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants
Migration Health
### TB Infections in All Exams in Africa, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Examined</th>
<th>Inactive TB</th>
<th>Active Infectious TB</th>
<th>% Active TB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>25614</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3876</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3460</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IOM assisted departures

- Others
- West Africa
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Nairobi
- Kakuma
- Dadaab
- Ethiopia
Departure health check

Reasons for Travel Cancellation

- No show for PDMS: 35%
- Advanced pregnancy: 19%
- TB investigations: 9%
- Medical Escort issues: 9%
- Pneumonia: 6%
- Anemia: 4%
- Expired Medicals: 4%
- Severe Malaria: 2%
- Chicken pox: 2%
- Epilepsy: 2%
- Malnutrition: 2%
- URTI: 11%

Pandemic preparedness for migrants
Pandemic preparedness

• **Staff Health and Safety** - Implement measures that may minimize impact on staff health and safety

• **Business Continuity** - Maintain operational continuity (programme and infrastructure)

• **Pandemic Preparedness for migrant programmes** - Identify and address pandemic preparedness capacity building for migrant communities

• **Partnerships** - Contribute to a system wide effort to prepare for, and combat an Influenza Pandemic
Pandemic preparedness
Pandemic preparedness

- Training on basic counseling and communication skills
  - Mainstreaming migrant and mobile populations’ needs into pandemic preparedness and communication plans
  - National influenza taskforces, MoH, Immigration, Police, IGAD, UNOCHA, Red Cross/Red Crescent.
  - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

- Development of appropriate migrant friendly IEC materials.
  - Basic measures to help stop the spread of pandemic influenza.
  - Translated into Tirgnigna, Amharic, Angwak, Nuer, Oromigna, Somali and Swahili.
Pandemic preparedness

• Lessons
  – importance of including a migrants’ component to national plans
  – national actions must be accompanied by simultaneous communication activities at the community
  – surveillance system for the target population living in areas at high risk, such as informal urban settlements
  – Implement mobile activities (e.g. home visits / mobile health clinics) to suit the mobile lifestyle among migrants;
Health Promotion

Tuberculosis  Measles  Cholera
Health Promotion

Air Travel and Pregnancy

Air Travel and Health
• If I am found to have TB, can I still migrate to another country?
   Yes, you can, but only after having undergone successful treatment for TB and tests show that you have been cured.
• What is cholera?
• How is cholera spread?
• How do I know if I am infected with cholera?
• Is it safe to walk through airport screening machines during pregnancy?
• Which vaccines should I receive before I migrate?
Thank you

Questions??