



IOM International Organization for Migration

KENYA

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MANAGING MIGRATION HEALTH

“OUR AIM IS TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF MIGRANTS”

In line with Kenya’s National Health Sector Strategic Plan II, which aims to reduce health inequity and improve service access, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assists the Government of Kenya in promoting health equity for migrants and their host communities.

Increasing awareness

IOM aims to increase awareness of governments and stakeholders in East Africa, and globally, on the issues, challenges and successful models for addressing migration health.

Coordinating Centre on Migration Health

The model involves assisting the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to establish a Coordinating Centre on Migrant Health (CCMH) within the Department of Health Promotion.

Collaborative efforts

The centre leads and coordinates collaborative efforts on national migration health policy, strategy, and programming. First initiated in 1999 by the Royal Thai Government, IOM was invited to collaborate on the development of a pilot, government-driven, health model to assist irregular migrants. Sri Lanka, Spain, Mexico, and Jordan have all adopted similar mechanisms.

Strengthening policy

In Kenya, the CCMH promotes expanded service delivery, inter-governmental dialogue, and the strengthening of health policies to promote the health of migrants. This includes facilitating service delivery with government partners, reporting on the 61st World Health Assembly Resolution *Health of Migrants 61.17*, and sharing experiences with partner states in the East African Community.

IOM IN ACTION

- A South-South knowledge exchange to the Thai Ministry of Public Health was organized in 2009
- IOM supported the establishment of a Coordinating Centre for Migration Health
- IOM co-facilitated a subplenary session during 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion and delivered a key note address
- IOM organized the first ever National Consultation on Migration Health hosted by the Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation
- US-CDC and IOM conducted a Health Utilization Survey in 2010 which assessed the utilization of health care in children and adults suffering from acute illnesses in Nairobi
- McGill University and IOM undertook a study on maternal and early childhood health establishing disparities between urban migrant women and Kenyan-born women



Dr Shihaji from IOM and Dr Muli from MoPHS at the National Consultation © IOM 2011

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, in partnership with IOM and the World Health Organization, hosted a National Consultation on Migration Health to reach a common consensus on securing quality and equitable health services for migrants and mobile populations in Kenya.

The National Consultation, held in Mombasa from 4 - 6 May 2011, was attended by various ministries, including Immigration and Registration of Persons, Foreign Affairs, Special Programmes and the National AIDS Control Council. Attendees also included non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, migrant representatives and embassies.

The National Consultation on Migration Health challenged current inequities to draw a common action plan for providing accessible, affordable, and non-discriminatory health care.

IOM and the World Health Organization collaborated in organizing one of 12 sub-plenary sessions during the course of the 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion in October 2009. In addition, IOM's Regional Representative for East & Central Africa delivered one of four keynote addresses during the Africa Day celebration. IOM's assistance in sponsoring delegates from governments and regional inter-governmental authorities was appreciated by both the Kenyan Government and the World Health Organization.



Dr Salim from the MoPHS in Kenya at the MoH in Thailand © IOM 2009

IOM Nairobi hosted its first South-South knowledge exchange visit in August 2009. IOM facilitated the travel of officials from the Kenyan and South African Ministry of Public Health to visit their counterparts in Thailand. Government decision-makers observed the activities of the Thai Ministry of Public Health, IOM Thailand, and organizations specializing in health. The South-South visit reinforced the importance of accessible health within vulnerable migrant communities and strengthened the CCMH.

“Migrants and mobile populations deserve to live healthy lives among us. We must accommodate them in our laws, policies, and health care systems. It is our duty to show strong leadership in the area of migration health.”

Hon Beth Mugo EGH, MP,
Minister for Public Health and Sanitation, Kenya

WE ASSIST:

- Government of Kenya
- Irregular migrants
- Academia



HEALTHY MIGRANTS IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:

