



IOM International Organization for Migration

**KENYA**

## MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTRE, NAIROBI

**“OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE MIGRANTS ARE FIT TO TRAVEL IN A SAFE AND DIGNIFIED MANNER”**

The Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC), in Nairobi provides the opportunity to promote the health of migrants through the initiation of preventative and curative interventions for conditions that, if left untreated, could have a negative impact on the migrant’s health and/or on the public health of the host communities.

The programme addresses individual health and safety, and manages conditions of public health concern, as individuals move across geographical, health system and epidemiological boundaries.

As part of the health assessment pre-embarkation checks and pre-departure medical screenings are performed in order to assess a migrant’s

fitness to travel and/or to provide medical clearance.

These measures also ensure that migrants are linked to and given appropriate referrals to medical services once they have arrived in their destination countries.

Migrants who need medical assistance and care during travel are escorted by health professionals to avoid complications during transit.

MHAC Nairobi provides travel health assessments for the following receiving countries:

- **United States of America;**
- **United Kingdom;**
- **Australia;**
- **Canada;**
- **New Zealand.**

The IOM panel physicians administer or oversee the administration of comprehensive health

assessment services that involve a medical screening, a review of the migrant’s medical history, preventative or curative treatment, counselling and health education, and final preparation of required immigration health forms.

Medical screenings serve to detect and diagnose health conditions of concern, such as tuberculosis (TB), sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, mental health, substance abuse or certain chronic illnesses.

### IOM IN ACTION

- MHAC Nairobi runs its own level three bio-safety laboratory, providing quality assured TB culture testing on solid and liquid media and drug susceptibility testing;
- Ensures 100% treatment or referral for treatment or stabilization before travel;
- All migrants undergo tailored information sessions and full consent is obtained prior to the health assessment process.

**The figures below present clients attended to at MHAC Nairobi in 2013.**

- 19,126 Migrants were examined in 2013 in Kenya;
- 57 Migrants were treated for tuberculosis in 2012 in Kenya;
- 12,353 migrants were vaccinated in 2012 against various communicable diseases as required by the protocol of the destination countries.

As such conditions may be considered inadmissible by destination country governments; IOM provides treatment or referrals for treatment. Upon successful completion of treatment, migrants are able to continue the resettlement process.

Additionally, health assessment services provide preventive measures, such as immunizations for major vaccine-preventable diseases, health education sessions and pre-and post-test counselling for HIV.

Other services provided include:

- Assistance in DNA testing and/or DNA sample collection

for immigration purposes;

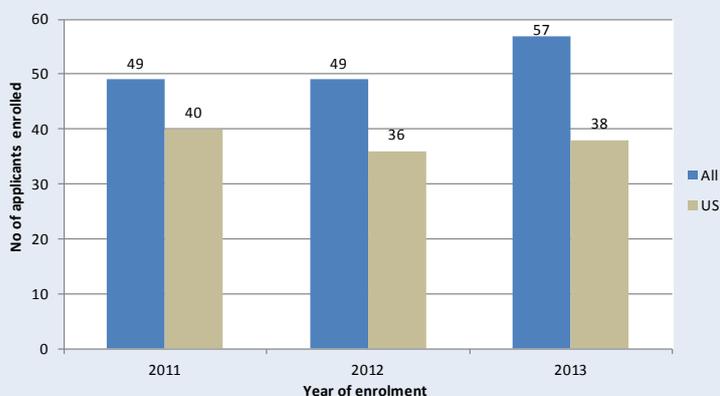
- Surveillance and outbreak management in transit centres or other temporary settlements.

The purpose of travel health assistance is to:

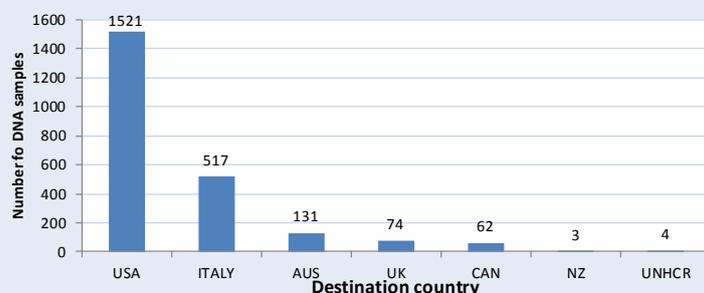
- Reduce mortality and disability among IOM beneficiaries during and immediately after assisted movement.
- Guarantee continuity of care throughout the phases of migration.
- Promote community health, as well as health system recovery and strengthening in areas of return.

## IN 2013 MHAC CONDUCTED OVER 19,126 HEALTH ASSESSMENTS IN KENYA

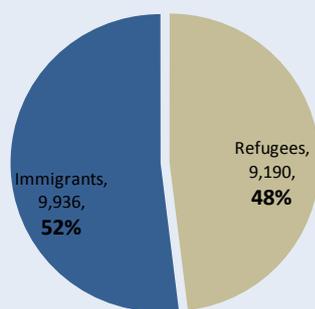
TB treatment enrolment statistics in Kenya, 2011-2013



DNA Sample collection, MHAC Nairobi, CY 2013



Health Assessments in KENYA by category, CY 2013



Health Assessments in Kenya by destination, country and category, CY 2013



The Migration Health Assessment Centre carries out health assessments for various categories of migrants including:

- Resettling refugees
- Migrant workers
- Asylum seekers

# CLIENT FEEDBACK

“ I just had to write to express my thanks and appreciation for the wonderful care and support you gave me during my DOT treatment at IOM. I had such mixed emotions this morning when I went in for the last time. Excited that I came to the end of my six month of treatment but also extremely saddened that my morning visits with you also came to an end.

I do not know that I would have been able to get through my treatment without you. There were days that I thought I could not go on but you were always there to encourage me. You even went out of your way to assist with my DOT treatment during the Christmas Holidays.

I can only imagine what it’s like to deal with individuals’ personalities, responsibilities and stress on a daily basis. However you showed no negative signs of the above... just the opposite. You are truly angels and I will forever remember what you have done for me.”



## WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:



## WE ASSIST:

- Migrants
- Trafficked persons
- Refugees



## HEALTHY MIGRANTS IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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UPDATED APRIL 2014