

Technical Specification – Migrants’ Health (HP 17)

Migration continues to shape the economic and social landscape of the ASEAN region. With millions of people moving across borders for work, education, and safety, ensuring equitable access to health services for migrant populations is both a public health duty and a matter of regional solidarity. HP 17 focuses on Migrants’ Health, aiming to reduce health inequities, enhance service access, and protect the health rights of migrants across the region. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated, cross-border approaches and health systems that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all, regardless of nationality or migration status. Projects contributed to HP 17 are encouraged to support policies and initiatives that expand health coverage for migrants, improve surveillance and data-sharing, and strengthen the capacity of health systems to deliver migrant-sensitive services.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 17 should demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- Multi-sectoral collaboration between health, immigration, labor, and border agencies
- Inclusive access to health services for migrants, refugees, and displaced populations
- Data disaggregation by migratory status for health surveillance

Global

- Refer to the [“WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants 2019 – 2030”](#) - Provides a comprehensive, evidence-based, and globally endorsed framework to guide countries, institutions, and partners in improving health outcomes for refugees and migrants
- Refer to the [IOM Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028](#) - A key resource for anyone working in migration, public health, humanitarian response, and development
- Use the [“Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”](#) - Provides a non-binding but cooperative framework for governments, organisations, and stakeholders to address the drivers and impacts of migration
- Use the [“Interagency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings”](#) - Provides guidance on how to prioritise and implement interventions that save lives and reduce suffering from the earliest phase of a humanitarian crisis
- Refer to [“The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Fourth Edition\)”](#) - Establishes what people affected by disaster or conflict have a right to expect from humanitarian actors

- Refer to the [CDC Immigrant and Refugee Health Guideline](#) which provides official health guidance for pre- and post-arrival medical screening of immigrants and refugees

Regional (Asia):

- Refer to the "[ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers](#)" which provides a shared framework endorsed by all ASEAN Member States that defines basic rights and protections for migrant workers. Using it helps ensure compliance with agreed regional standards, rather than relying on fragmented national policies
- Read the WHO Western Pacific technical stakeholder forums (April 2025) ([Regional technical stakeholder forums: Developing the Western Pacific regional research agenda on health, migration and displacement](#)) that capture agreements on priority health risks linked to migration and displacement
- Refer to the "[IOM Regional Strategy for Asia-Pacific \(2025-2029\)](#)" which provides strategic direction for engaging with migration challenges and opportunities
- Reach out to WHO or FAO regional offices to learn of any relevant regional initiatives to complement or collaborate with
- Refer to the [AHC 3 work plan for Cluster Priority 17 \(Migrant health\)](#) for details of ASEAN priorities
- Review materials and information issued by the [Asia Regional Migration Program](#) to learn of regional coordination efforts and details of ESCAP and UNNM-led review forums, along with profiles of the 22 UN country networks in the region
- Review information issued by the [Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants](#) about their regional network empowering migrant-led organisations across Asia Pacific and the Middle East through advocacy, education, research, and organising collaborative events

National

- National migrant health policies and operational guidelines
- Health screening protocols at points of entry and migrant health facilities
- Mobile clinic outreach guidelines for underserved migrant communities
- Training modules on migrant-sensitive service delivery
- National coordination committees or taskforces on migration and health
- Migrant-inclusive UHC and primary healthcare frameworks