



PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

Last updated September 2020

PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES

1. IOM'S Migration Health Division (MHD)
2. 2019: IOM Migration Health in numbers
3. Health in Resettlement
4. Migration Health in the Time of COVID-19



IOM'S MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD): 3 CORE AREAS



**Migration health assessments
and travel health assistance
for migrants and refugees (Pre-
migration health activities)**



**•Health response to crisis
situations
(public health and humanitarian
emergencies)**



**•Health promotion
and assistance for migrants**



USD 242 million spent
on health operations



208 projects implemented
worldwide



112 countries covered
with pre-migration, health
promotion or emergency
health operations



1,310 health staff
worldwide



66 health publications
including 21 peer-reviewed
scientific articles



**71 migration health
assessment centres**
operating across the world



**185,150 ante-natal
care consultations**
in crisis contexts



**620 tuberculosis
diagnoses**
through pre-migration
health assessments



**3.66 million
primary health
care consultations**
in crisis contexts



141,343 immigrants vaccinated
through pre-migration health activities

380,760 children vaccinated
against polio and/or measles



**429,000 migration
health assessments**
for refugees (26 per cent)
and immigrants (74 per cent)



**4,740 health
workers trained**
in communicable diseases
and outbreaks



**1,520 medically-
escorted migrants**

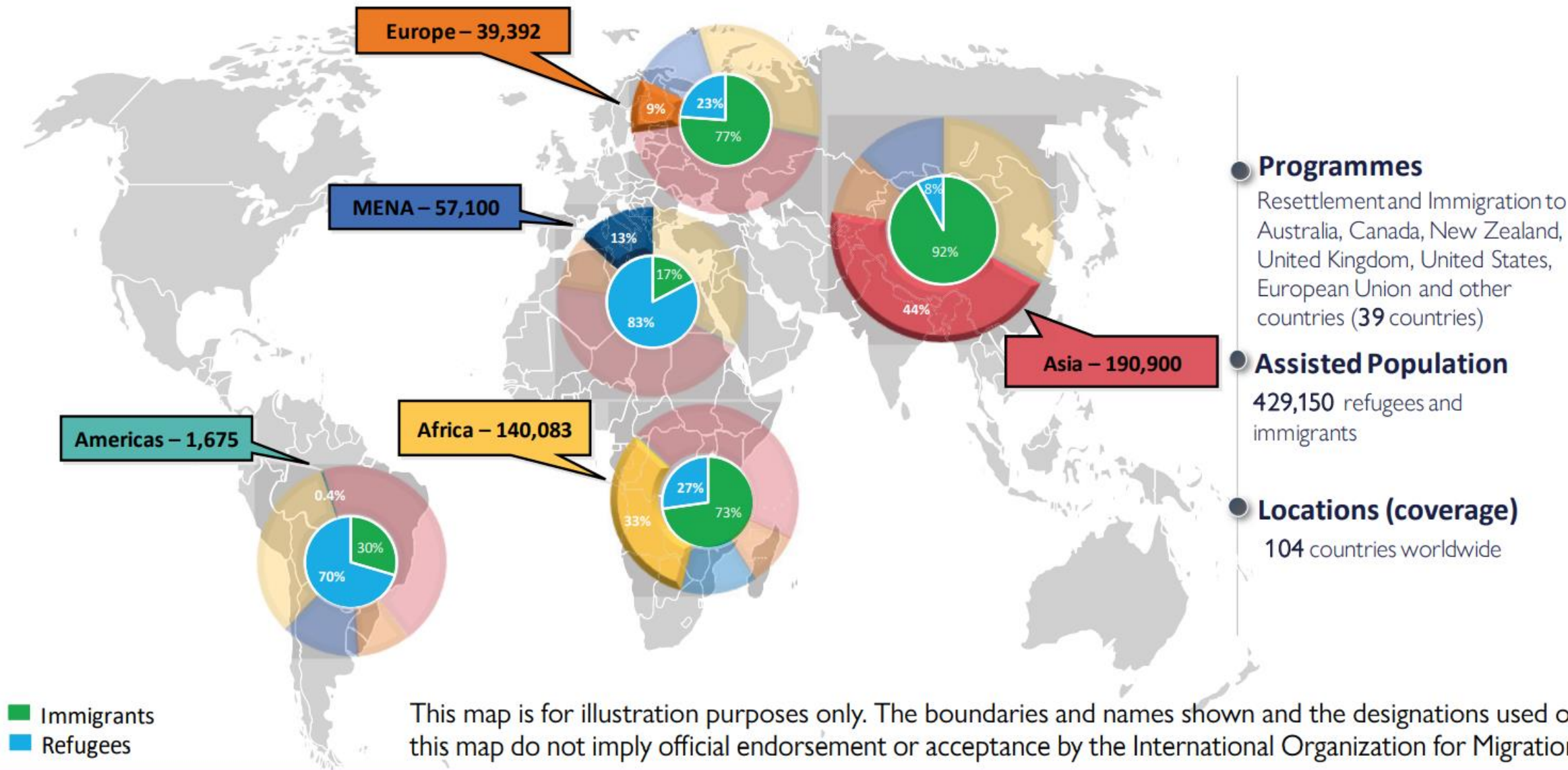


**362,260 persons
assisted with MHPSS**
(mental health and psychosocial support)

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

Figure 1: IOM global migration health assessment programme global footprint (IOM and IOM-assisted migration health assessments)

2019



HEALTH IN RESETTLEMENT... WHY?

- To address certain public health issues related to mobility;
- To facilitate integration of refugees into communities and health systems of the receiving countries and to ensure continuity of care for refugees with significant medical conditions;
- To promote health of refugees;
- To ensure that the refugees traveling under the IOM's auspices do so in a safe and dignified manner;
- To address biases and dispel myths about migrant health

PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES (PMHA)

- PMHA is an array of procedures in context of regular migration, consisted of:

MHA (Migration health assessment)

- Identify health conditions of public health importance (communicable and non-communicable) in relation to International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Recording and transmitting completed health records to ensure continuity of care for beneficiaries with SMC (Significant Medical Condition) linking pre-departure, travel and post-arrival phases
- Improve the health of migrants before departure to another country through the provision of preventative or curative care;

PDMP (Pre-departure medical procedures) - PDE (Pre-departure evaluation) & PEC (Pre-embarkation check)

- Minimize or mitigate public health risks and risk associated with SMC in relation to mobility
 - PDE** - reassessment, stabilization and travel requirements adjustment for beneficiaries with SMCs
 - PEC** - final assertion of fitness to travel.

EXAMPLE OF PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES - STAGES AND TIMELINES

Start

- Initial health assessment: history, physical exam, assessment of mental status, screening for TB/STIs

1–5 months

- Follow-up phase: vaccination, TB treatment, specialist referrals, management of chronic diseases

1-3 weeks before departure

- Pre-departure medical procedures – Pre-departure evaluation

24-72hrs before departure

- Pre-embarkation check.

RESETTLEMENT HEALTH SUPPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19



- **Identify refugees at risk** for COVID-19: special preparations for travel, post-arrival arrangements

- Importance of health assessments.



- **Identify and isolate/refer symptomatic individuals**

- Importance of thorough pre-departure checks;



- **Minimize risk of transmission before and during travel**

- Physical distancing between – Carrier capacity, accommodation;
- Hand and respiratory hygiene -- enhancement of hygiene measures, distribution of hand sanitizers and masks;
- Provide access to and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).



- **Provide information and health education**

COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINE

- **RT PCR test** is widely used as the most recognized test to detect acute infection

- Negative test does not mean absence of infection

Rapid tests currently available, detecting IgG, IgM antibodies, - not suitable stand alone to diagnose active infection, while C19 antigen – useful in symptomatic, within the first week, individuals where PCR is not available.

- **IOM does not recommend a routine pre-departure testing outside of the WHO/CDC and national testing algorithm:**

- Possibility of infection after testing
- Waste of precious resources
- False assurance
- Stigmatization if applied only to refugees

COVID-19 vaccine - once available concern that refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups may have issues with access and emphasize on importance of universal health coverage



Thank you! 😊