

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1- Dedicate political capital, financial, and human resources to fulfil global commitments to secure healthy migration and improve the security and wellbeing of mobile groups, especially the most marginalised.

2 - Re-balance policy making in migration, trade and environment, and foreign affairs to give greater prominence to health. Foster cross-sector, complementary decision making that integrates health considerations across policies and services that determine the health of migrants.

3 - Confront urgently, vigorously, and persistently divisive myths and discriminatory rhetoric about migrants.

4 - Advocate for and improve the rights of migrants to ensure safe and healthy educational and working conditions that includes freedom of movement with no arbitrary arrest.

5 - There is an urgent need to ensure adequate monitoring, evaluation, and research to support the implementation of the Global Compacts.

Commission Chair, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar

"Migration is the defining issue of our time. How the world addresses human mobility will determine public health and social cohesion for decades ahead. Creating health systems that integrate migrant populations will benefit entire communities with better health access for all and positive gains for local populations. Failing to do so could be more expensive to national economies, health security, and global health than the modest investments required to protect migrants' right to health, and ensure migrants can be productive members of society."



UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health

www.migrationandhealth.org

MIGRATION AND HEALTH

In a time of unprecedented internal and international migration, and their relative public health impacts, the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health provides a foundation for policy makers, advocates, health systems and communities to improve migration and health locally and globally. The Commission is the result of a two-year project led by 20 leading experts from 13 countries, and includes new data analysis, with two original research papers, and represents the most comprehensive review of the available evidence to date. The report, including its recommendations to improve the public health response to migration, will be launched on 8th December at the UN Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in Marrakech.

KEY MESSAGES

- We call on nation states, multilateral agencies, non-governmental organisations, and civil society to positively and effectively address the health of migrants by improving leadership and accountability.
- International and regional bodies and states should re-balance policy making in migration to give greater prominence to health by inviting health representatives to high level policy making forums on migration. Health leaders and practitioners should fully engage in dialogues on the macroeconomic forces that affect population mobility.
- Racism and prejudice should be confronted with a zero tolerance approach.
- Universal and equitable access to health services and to all determinants of the highest attainable standard of health within the scope of universal health coverage needs to be provided by governments to migrant populations, regardless of age, gender, or legal status.
- This Commission argues for a paradigm shift in research on migration and health, with a deliberate effort to enhance the funding mechanisms and networks supporting this change. Collaborative work is needed that links academia, policy, and front-line health and humanitarian workers.

REPORT FINDINGS

- A new, comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis concludes that international migrants in high-income countries have lower rates of mortality compared to general populations across the majority of disease categories.
- There is no systematic association between migration and importation of infectious diseases, and the evidence shows that the risk of transmission from migrating populations to host populations is generally low.
- The Commission points to a growing trend of states limiting access to health care for migrants. Despite widespread recognition of the numerous migration related health risks, mobile populations—even forced migrants who are fleeing for their lives—are often met with punitive border policies, arbitrary detention, abuse and extortion, and are commonly denied access to care.
- States are increasingly treating unauthorised border crossings as a criminal offence, leading to detention, at times indefinitely. Detention poses clear violations of international law, and findings from a systematic review of 38 studies shows that detention is associated with negative health outcomes, especially mental health.
- An overwhelming consensus of evidence exists on the positive economic benefits of migration, which is insufficiently acknowledged. In advanced economies, each 1% increase in migrants in the adult population increases the gross domestic product per person by up to 2%.
- Migrants constitute a substantial proportion of the health care workforce in many high-income countries. Rather than being a burden, migrants are more likely to bolster services by providing medical care, teaching children, caring for older people, and supporting understaffed services. In the UK, 37% of doctors received their medical qualification in another country.

