

75th WHO Regional Committee for Europe

Copenhagen, October 2025

**Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Action Plan for Refugee and Migrant Health in the WHO
European Region 2023–2030 (EUR/RC73(8))**

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Honourable Chair, Director-General, Regional Director, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the progress report on the Action Plan for Refugee and Migrant Health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030. We commend Member States and WHO EURO for their commitment to advancing refugee and migrant health as part of universal health coverage and the European Programme of Work.

The Action Plan remains highly relevant in today's context. Migration continues to shape the demographic, social and health landscape of the Region. The progress reported, including the integration of refugees and migrants into national health policies by the majority of responding Member States, is encouraging. At the same time, persistent gaps—particularly in access for irregular migrants, inclusion in emergency preparedness, and culturally responsive service delivery—require continued joint attention.

IOM's operational and technical experience confirms the importance of addressing these gaps. In our work across Europe, including joint initiatives with WHO and the European Commission, we have seen how tailored, culturally sensitive health services improve access and outcomes for displaced populations, such as those from Ukraine. Equally, we note that inclusive governance, strong data systems, and safeguards for the protection of health information are essential for building trust and accountability.

We particularly welcome the Action Plan's emphasis on partnerships. Responding effectively to the health needs of refugees and migrants requires coordinated, multisectoral approaches that bring together governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia, and importantly, migrants themselves. IOM remains committed to supporting Member States in these efforts, including through technical guidance, data collection, and capacity-building.

In conclusion, IOM urges Member States to sustain momentum in implementing the Action Plan, ensuring that no one is left behind, regardless of migrants' status. We reaffirm our strong partnership with WHO EURO and all Member States in promoting health equity and advancing a comprehensive, inclusive response to migration and health.

Thank you.

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