

## COMMUNITY PAPER

# PRIORITISING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH DISCOURSE

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A Policy Brief of the Global Health Hub Germany Community on Global Health and Migration

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## Key Questions

1. Why prioritise migrants and refugees in this discourse?
2. How can awareness of their health challenges be improved in the context of global health?

## Abstract

This policy brief aims to provide a comprehensive framework with key policy recommendations and actions that highlight the critical importance of addressing **the health challenges faced by migrants and refugees in host countries**. By addressing facilitators, barriers, frontline worker experiences, system integration, and specific healthcare needs, the brief aims to inform policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in Germany about the measures needed to ensure equitable and effective healthcare for this vulnerable population and the opportunities that migrants can offer to the host countries.

There is a crucial need to address the disconnect between global policy on migration and individual national responses towards migrants and refugees. Displaced populations, particularly those in low-resource settings, grapple with specific health challenges that demand focused attention. Addressing their health needs is paramount for advancing global health outcomes. The imperative to acknowledge their distinct health concerns calls for strategic measures. There is a need to raise awareness about these challenges and foster tangible actions to mitigate them.

## Action Plan

Migrants and refugees should be recognised as central stakeholders in the global health and One Health discourses.

To achieve this, we suggest the following key actions:

- Raise awareness about the unique social determinants and health challenges faced by migrants and refugees, particularly those in low-resource settings, and the opportunities they bring.
- Advocate for strategic integration of the needs of migrants and refugees within German and global policy agendas to enhance domestic and global health outcomes.
- Facilitate a participatory approach to discussions around migrants and refugees where all stakeholders can partake in the co-design, co-authorship, and co-production of the discussions and associated output.



### About the authors

The policy brief reflects the results of discussions in the Hub Community on Global Health and Migration of the Global Health Hub Germany. The Community is comprised of a diverse group of professionals from various academic disciplines, organizations, and civil society representatives who are dedicated to improving the well-being of migrant populations and the health systems in the host societies that serve them. Our work encompasses a range of important aspects related to this topic, such as specific health system challenges faced by migrants and refugees, which necessitate careful consideration and proactive measures. The Hub Community on Migration and Global Health enthusiastically offers to continue exchanging ideas and expertise on the challenges and opportunities associated with migration. We are readily available for consultation and can provide insights on relevant inquiries. Our goal is to contribute to the development of a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable healthcare system that benefits all individuals.

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## Policy Challenges

### Challenge 1: Contextualising migration within the global health and One Health discourses

It is imperative to confront the challenge of embedding migration within the broader context of global health and the One Health discourse. One Health, as delineated by the World Health Organization (WHO), represents an integrated and unifying approach aimed at balancing and optimizing the health of people, animals, and the environment. One in every 30 people worldwide is broadly classified as a migrant (IOM, 2022) [1]. As of 2021, a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reveals a threefold increase in the global migrant labour force over the past decade [2]. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), migrant workers constituted 1 in 20 of the world's workforce in 2019, playing vital roles in sectors like healthcare, transportation, and food processing [3]. However, as of January 2022, a Grattan Institute

report highlighted a decrease in Australia's temporary migrant population from nearly 2 million in 2019 to 1.5 million [4]. This decline is primarily attributed to the absence of approximately 500,000 'missing migrants,' mainly comprising international students and working holidaymakers. The ever-intensifying interconnectedness on a global scale is anticipated to drive migration, both from the Global North to the Global South and vice versa. There also exists a disconnect between global policy and individual responses, as embodied by the 2022 Global Compact for Migration ratified by the United Nations General Assembly [5]. Moreover, the compounding impacts of climate change have exacerbated this situation, leading to increased instances of internal displacements and South-South migrations [6]. The vulnerabilities, exposure to health disparities, and struggles with healthcare access form a compelling rationale for immediate attention.

**Solutions:** Migration should be central to the global and national health discourse. There is an emerging understanding in Germany to contextualise migration within the broader canvas of One Health and global health [7]. The ethical dimension of the integration of migrants and refugees into global health also needs to be emphasised, spotlighting the intricate nexus connecting migration push and pull factors, One Health, geopolitics, and global health security. These health concerns are closely intertwined with broader domains such as women's health, mental health, and urban health. While examples from other nations (such as Australia) or good practices may not directly transpose to Germany, there are lessons and practices that can provide insights and potential solutions. Tailoring these examples and recommendations to the German context while considering cultural and institutional differences can play a pivotal role in elevating migration's centrality in the global health discourse. Prioritizing collaboration, inclusivity, and evidence-based approaches is crucial to safeguarding the health and well-being of migrant populations in Germany. **Here are some examples and recommendations:**

#### Example 1: Health Screening and Access

- **Australia:** Currently, the Australian migration system incorporates health screenings for migrants, involving comprehensive health assessments for visa

applicants to verify their compliance with health requirements. Moreover, specific programs have been implemented to cater to the health needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

- **Recommendation for Germany:** Implement comprehensive health screenings for migrants entering the country. Ensure that the screening process is not a barrier to entry but rather a means to identify health needs and provide appropriate support.

### Example 2: Community Health Programs

- **Australia:** Australia has community-based health programs that target migrant populations. These programs focus on health education, access to healthcare services, and cultural sensitivity in healthcare delivery.
- **Recommendation for Germany:** Develop and expand community health programs tailored to the diverse needs of migrant populations. Collaborate with community organizations to bridge language and cultural gaps in health communication.

### Example 3: Partnerships with NGOs and International Organizations

- **Australia:** Australia collaborates with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international health organizations to address the health needs of migrants. These partnerships facilitate the provision of healthcare services and support systems.
- **Recommendation for Germany:** Establish strong partnerships with NGOs and international organizations to leverage resources and expertise in addressing the health challenges of migrant populations. Engage in knowledge-sharing and collaborative initiatives.

### Example 4: Inclusive Health Policies

- **Australia:** Australia has inclusive health policies that prioritize equitable access to healthcare services for all residents, regardless of their migration status.
- **Recommendation for Germany:** Adopt and strengthen inclusive health policies that ensure migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, have equal access to healthcare services. Promote policies that do not discriminate based on immigration status.

### Example 5: Research and Data Collection

- **Australia:** Australia conducts research on the health status of migrant populations, contributing to evidence-based policies and programs.
- **Recommendation for Germany:** Invest in research and data collection on the health status of migrants. Use the findings to tailor health interventions and policies to meet the specific needs of different migrant groups.

### Example 6: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

- **Australia:** Australia encourages collaboration between the health sector and other sectors, such as education and employment, to address the broader determinants of health for migrants.
- **Recommendation for Germany:** Foster cross-sectoral collaboration to address social determinants of health for migrants. Engage multiple sectors in creating comprehensive strategies that go beyond healthcare services.

## Challenge 2: Unique health risks and challenges faced by migrants and refugees

Healthcare challenges for refugees and migrants include heightened vulnerability to poverty-related illnesses, hygiene-related diseases, poor mental health, and inadequate access to basic healthcare services [8]. Addressing the health needs of migrant populations is not only a humanitarian imperative but also a matter of public health concern. Neglecting the health of migrants may accrue public health risks, which can have far-reaching implications for both migrant and host populations in Germany and the European Union. The triggers and effects of migration are deeply intertwined with historical legacies and economic policies. From the perspective of the migrants' country of origin and journey, the exposure risks, conditions of migration, whether voluntary or forced, and frequently insufficient access to basic healthcare services all increase the health risks. Screening for hygiene- and poverty-related diseases, or certain infectious diseases that are highly prevalent in certain origin countries or refugee camps but less known in Germany, is critical. From a host country perspective, tuberculosis

[9], COVID, lice, infestations of pests like rats, and cockroaches may warrant attention. For example, migrants and health workers, especially migrant health workers, are at an increased risk of COVID-19 infection [10]. Moreover, depending on countries of origin and transit, specific conditions such as Malaria, HIV due to sexualized violence, and scabies may be more prevalent in refugees emanating from specific countries or refugee camps. In addition, hygiene-related diseases (e.g., diphtheria and cholera) and some less-known poverty-related diseases (e.g., Chikungunya) may also pose a significant threat to migrants, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Migrants, especially those living in temporary or informal settlements, are at greater risk of exposure. Inadequate access to healthcare further complicates the timely diagnosis and treatment of such conditions among migrants. In summary, addressing the health needs of migrants and refugees is not only a matter of humanitarian concern but is also essential for promoting global health security, preventing the spread of diseases, fostering social harmony, and harnessing the full potential of diverse populations for the betterment of global society.

**Solutions:** The challenges faced by refugees and migrants, specifically in Germany and the European Union, have been outlined in *Appendix Table 1*, emphasizing the need for comprehensive solutions. Addressing health-related challenges requires a holistic approach integrating humanitarian, economic, and public health considerations. Vulnerable populations, particularly those at risk of infectious diseases and lacking robust healthcare infrastructure, must be prioritized. The complexities of migration's triggers and effects necessitate holistic and effective approaches. It is crucial to understand the root causes of migration and create conditions that allow individuals to thrive in their places of origin, respecting the universal right to seek a better life. A comprehensive healthcare strategy, including cultural competency training, tailored screenings, collaboration with NGOs, mental health services, education campaigns, and inclusive policies, is crucial. This approach ensures the well-being of migrants and fosters social cohesion in a diverse and resilient Europe.

### **Challenge 3: Challenges faced by migrants and refugees in accessing health systems**

Migrants often encounter intersecting challenges that hinder their ability to access healthcare and maintain optimal health [11]. Limited access to essential healthcare services for migrants represents a significant public health concern, particularly in the domains of chronic conditions, infectious diseases, HIV testing, and reproductive healthcare [12]. Migrants living in host countries may lack awareness, familiarity, and understanding of the health systems in those countries, particularly when these systems differ significantly from

those in their countries of origin [13, 14]. In Germany, migrants face language barriers in accessing care, which nonetheless end up being a serious obstacle, as translation and interpretation services are not consistently offered by the German public health system [15]. The onus falls on the patients to secure these services, creating obstacles in terms of navigating the system and managing associated financial responsibilities. The impediments faced by migrants and refugees extend beyond healthcare and are often tangled with political dynamics and economic factors.


**Solution:** To address challenges faced by migrants accessing healthcare in host countries (e.g., in Germany), a best-case solution involves integrating multilingual support and cultural competence. Establishing a program would include training multilingual healthcare navigators, providing cultural competence training for healthcare professionals, and disseminating informational materials in multiple languages. Consistent translation services within healthcare facilities and community engagement initiatives would bridge language gaps, fostering understanding. Policy advocacy is crucial for mandating translation services in the public health system. This comprehensive approach enhances accessibility for migrants, addressing language barriers, cultural sensitivities, and healthcare navigation challenges. Aligned with the principles of One Health, it recognizes the interconnectedness of human health and social factors, contributing to the well-being of both migrants and the broader community.

Comprehensive solutions, encompassing legal frameworks and strategic funding considerations, are essential for addressing services, communication, and systemic barriers to access and funding. These measures, outlined in *Appendix Table 2*, play a vital role in bridging healthcare disparities and ensuring the well-being of migrants and host communities alike.

### **Challenge 4: Complexities at the Intersections of One Health and Migrant Health**

The intricate landscape in the Global South, especially concerning “undocumented” migrants, introduces added complexities [15]. Medinet is a non-government organisation that provides anonymous treatment to undocumented migrants or special

populations in Germany. This places significant strain on the healthcare budgets of host nations, which are already stretched to accommodate the healthcare needs of undocumented migrants. The combination of undocumented migration and strained healthcare resources creates a volatile dynamic that not only contributes to societal tensions but also raises the



risk of potential unrest. The issue of biodiversity, a crucial component of "One Health," intersects with migration patterns in complex ways. Climate change, driven by various factors including environmental degradation and natural disasters, disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups such as forced migrants and refugees [6]. The adverse consequences of climate change, such as extreme weather events and resource scarcity, often act as push factors for migration, exacerbating the existing challenges associated with this phenomenon. Forced migration caused by environmental factors adds another layer of complexity to the

already-strained systems of host nations [8]. It places additional pressure on healthcare resources, public services, and infrastructure. In particular, regions prone to climate-related challenges may experience surges in migration flows, testing the resilience of healthcare and social support systems.


In essence, the confluence of undocumented migration, strained healthcare budgets, and the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations intensifies the multifaceted challenges associated with migration.


**Solution:** To navigate challenges at the nexus of One Health and migrant health, a proactive approach, exemplified by the "Integrative Resilience Framework", offers a best-case scenario. For instance, host nations adopting this model could reduce healthcare budget strain, enhance societal harmony, and bolster climate resilience. Scaling up anonymous healthcare services, inspired by organizations like Medinet, can effectively address the health needs of undocumented migrants without overwhelming the system. This proactive approach not only tackles immediate healthcare concerns but also fosters long-term sustainability by addressing root causes, especially those related to climate change. Embracing an integrative and resilient approach enables nations to navigate complexities, fostering a more sustainable and equitable future. Additionally, a comprehensive approach is crucial, recognizing the broader implications for public health, societal stability, and the environment. Promoting legal pathways for migration, bolstering healthcare infrastructure, and addressing climate change-related displacement are pivotal efforts in mitigating these challenges.

### **Challenge 5: The demographic pressures and migrants as an opportunity to address labor shortages**

The demographic landscape is undergoing a significant transformation characterized by a rapidly ageing population in European countries. Germany, in particular, faces a demographic challenge where a

substantial proportion of its citizens are reaching retirement age, leading to a decline in the working-age population. This presents a dual challenge and opportunity. The challenge lies in the strain it places on the labour market and social welfare systems, while the opportunity lies in the potential of migration to provide a solution.





**Solution:** Migration cannot only address labour shortages in Germany but also contribute to economic growth and the sustainability of social services in the face of demographic change [16]. Germany has recognized the value of migration as a solution to address the growing demand for labour. It's important to recognize that the successful integration of migrants into the labour market is a complex process that requires appropriate policies, infrastructure, and cultural considerations. Germany needs to continue investing more in language training, vocational education, and programs that facilitate the cultural integration of migrants. In the context of the healthcare workforce, there are opportunities to integrate skilled migrants into existing health systems or community-based public health interventions [16]. This is to emphasise that this should follow the WHO code for ethical migration of the healthcare workforce [17]. Finally, ensuring access to healthcare for these populations enhances economic productivity, as healthy migrants and refugees are better equipped to contribute economically to their host countries, leading to overall improvements in global economic wellbeing.



## Recommendations

An overview of the policy recommendations to address the healthcare challenges faced by migrants and refugees is summarised in Table 1 [further details on specific health risks and challenges faced by refugees and migrants as well as the health systems are presented in *Appendix Tables 1 and 2*].

**Table 1. Summary of policy recommendations to address specific healthcare challenges experienced by migrants and refugees.**

	Policy area	Recommendations	Reality check (5-year perspective)
Policy & strategic considerations	Integration of migration into global health discourse	- Advocate for the inclusion of migration in global and One Health discussions. Raise awareness about the ethical imperative to incorporate migrants and refugees into global health agendas	Platforms such as the Global Health and Migration Hub Community contribute to ongoing discussions. Need for additional efforts to optimize its functionality and effectiveness both at the local and global levels.
	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	- Formulate strategies to address the underlying causes of environmental displacement. Enhance disaster preparedness and response mechanisms for more robust crisis management.	Struggling with the intricacies of the federal system, particularly evident in the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Operational Research / Evidence	Comprehensive Assessment of Health Concerns	- Conduct comprehensive health assessments addressing a spectrum of concerns among migrant populations, encompassing both physical and mental well-being, with specific attention to women's health and the unique dynamics of urban health.	High potential identified in various initiatives in Germany funded by BMG.
		- Foster collaboration with international organizations, governments, and research institutions to collect comprehensive data on the specific health challenges confronted by migrants.  - Advocate for the promotion of health equity through robust assessment and research initiatives, raising awareness on the diverse health needs of migrant populations.	Limited capacity to participate at the operational level due to time constraints. Despite activities taking place, there is currently no discernible impact on policy or operational levels. Research efforts are underway, but their influence on policy development remains minimal.

	Research and Policy Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support research initiatives to inform evidence-based policies and strategies.</li> <li>- Engage policymakers to develop policies considering the health concerns of migrants</li> </ul>	Initiatives are currently being implemented; however, there is an opportunity for expanded assistance and more active engagement.	
	Data Collection and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gather comprehensive data on health challenges faced by migrants.</li> <li>- Promote international cooperation for financial and technical support.</li> <li>- Promote research initiatives that focus on understanding the specific healthcare challenges faced by migrants and refugees and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.</li> </ul>	Significant potential for operationalization exists, but currently, the process lacks a centralized system for information gathering (knowledge management practices).	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use research findings to inform evidence-based policies and strategies that enhance healthcare access and services for migrants.</li> </ul>	Currently happening, though encountering difficulties within the federal framework.	
<b>Interdisciplinary collaboration</b>	Cross-Sectoral Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage cross-sectoral collaboration between health, environmental, and migration experts.</li> <li>- Foster dialogue and cooperation between governments, NGOs, and academia for a multidisciplinary approach.</li> </ul>	Opportunities for growth and development not systematically pursued.	
<b>Health Infrastructure and Services</b>	Health Infrastructure Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invest in health infrastructure to ensure equitable access to healthcare services, with focus on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increasing the availability of translation services.</li> <li>- provider training</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Develop and implement community-based healthcare services that cater to the specific needs of migrant populations. These services should include culturally sensitive care and language support.</li> <li>- Collaborate with local and international NGOs for community-based healthcare services</li> <li>- Enhance disaster preparedness.</li> </ul>	<p>Historical data indicates that the likelihood of this occurrence is low, based on experiences dating back to 2014.</p> <p>Unlikely in Germany, parallel structures are neither desired nor sustainable.</p> <p>Unlikely due to a lack of financial resources and political willingness.</p>	
		<p>Access: Ensure migrants have access to comprehensive healthcare services.</p>	Limited options within the initial 18 months due to national law (AsylbLG). Currently constrained by legal provisions, hindering any significant changes or adjustments.	
	Comprehensive Healthcare Services including Information, Education and Communication (IEC)	<p>Information, Education, Communication (IEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multilingual materials: Develop educational materials in multiple languages to ensure that information is accessible and comprehensible to diverse populations.</li> </ul>	High Potential Evaluation. Evaluate the quality of materials from BZgA, assess their reach within the target group, and identify opportunities for optimization. Consider refining content, outreach strategies, and exploring innovative approaches to unleash the full potential of available resources.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and launch health education campaigns and awareness programs, sanitation and hygiene improvement initiatives, and economic empowerment programs, targeting both migrant and host communities to raise awareness about the importance of inclusive healthcare access.</li> </ul>	<p>The current initiative is not making a substantial impact, prompting concerns about its relevance and effectiveness. An evaluation conducted by a COVID-19 expert group has highlighted shortcomings in terms of the initiative's relevance, effectiveness, and impact. The initiative may be facing challenges related to funding, affecting its ability to execute strategies and achieve meaningful outcomes.</p>	
		<p><b>Training / Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide training for healthcare providers in cultural sensitivity and effective communication to create an inclusive healthcare environment.</li> <li>- Peer-to-peer education and guidance model with host citizens to migrants</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrates moderate potential for effectiveness. Need to be administered via collaboration with NGOs or medical professional associations.</p> <p>Few instances of success have been observed, with SoulTalk and IPSO Care standing out as a notable example.</p>	
	Legal Pathways for Migration (for health care workforce)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and facilitate legal pathways for safe migration.</li> <li>- Enhance healthcare infrastructure and disaster preparedness.</li> </ul>	<p>Unlikely scenario: Federal states are not expected to delegate responsibilities to the national level, and vice versa.</p>	
	Funding Allocation and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allocate sufficient funding to sustain healthcare initiatives.</li> <li>- Seek international support for healthcare funding.</li> </ul>	<p>Unlikely due to the federal structure.</p>	

### **About the Global Health Hub Germany**

The Global Health Hub Germany offers all individuals and institutions active in the field of global health the opportunity to connect in an independent network across eight different stakeholder groups: International organisations, youth, politics, foundations, think tanks, business, science and civil society. The members of the Hub work together on current issues of global health. The interdisciplinary exchange generates themes, issues and solutions that the Hub brings to policymakers to support informed policy-making and advance global health.

Founded in 2019, the Hub now has around 1,500 members. For more information: [www.globalhealthhub.de](http://www.globalhealthhub.de)

### **About the Hub Communities**

The Hub Communities are working groups led by the members of the Global Health Hub Germany themselves. They meet regularly to exchange ideas, share expertise and work together on global health issues. If you would like to join a Hub Community or learn more about their work, contact Merle Wangerin, Head of Community Management: [merle.wangerin@globalhealthhub.de](mailto:merle.wangerin@globalhealthhub.de)

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## Appendix

### Methodology:

The policy brief on Global Health and Migration embodies a collaborative and inclusive approach, mirroring the diverse perspectives within the Hub Community [4]. It emerges from the collective efforts of professionals from varied fields, organisations, and civil society, all committed to improving the health and well-being of migrant populations and the healthcare systems of their host societies. The policy brief stems from vibrant discussions within the Global Health Hub Germany's Hub Community on Migration and Global Health. Comprising diverse professionals, the community's core emphasis is addressing intricate challenges and opportunities pertaining to migrants and refugees in the global health context. Various elements and stages involved in policy development have been summarised below:

1. The policy brief's foundation lies in the virtual roundtable held during **the Annual Symposium of the Global Health and Migration Hub Community** on April 19, 2023. Ahead of this symposium, a draft agenda with five focused sessions was shared. Specific queries from the policy brief were distributed prior to the event, prompting concise statements on Global Health and Migration. The symposium featured dedicated sessions, allowing members to express viewpoints through in-person and written interactions.
2. Data collection drew from the virtual Global Health and Migration Hub Community Annual Symposium, the in-person Global Health Hub Germany's Annual Community Day (June 12-13, Berlin), and subsequent regular HC meetings. Active member participation and input enriched this process, fostering an exchange of insights on Global Health and Migration challenges. A working draft was compiled to collate suggestions, embracing a collaborative and iterative approach to document creation.

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3. The policy brief draws inspiration from the groundwork laid by previous projects undertaken within the Hub Community. The **“Migrant Kaleidoscope”** shared healthcare experiences of migrants/refugees. Seven individuals, migrants/refugees in Germany (Ukraine, Syria, Ghana, Nigeria, Palestine/Lebanon, Iran/Afghanistan), were interviewed from August to December 2022 [12]. Insights shaped recommendations on language barriers, training, healthcare navigation, and combating discrimination. Also, our submission to **Bundestag's Sub-Committee on Global Health** highlighted our active role, with constructive feedback enhancing policy discussions, underscoring collaborative importance [13].
  4. An inclusive call for collaboration was extended to all Hub Community members, fostering a sense of shared ownership and participation in the policy brief. The real-time working document of the brief was openly shared, actively encouraging input and contributions. The creation of a dedicated working committee and regular meetings facilitated the participation of interested members, enabling collaboration, discussions, and the refining of the document.
  5. The methodology prioritises openness and inclusivity. All members were notified in advance about project discussions, ensuring fair and inclusive participation opportunities. Specialised committee-led meetings enabled in-depth deliberations on specific tasks. Platforms like Google Docs streamlined consultation, review, and member contributions, fostering collective ownership and transparency.

In summary, the policy brief on Global Health and Migration is a testament to the Hub Community's enduring dedication to collaboration, inclusivity, and informed decision-making. This iterative approach combines symposium discussions, member input, and insights from previous initiatives to craft a comprehensive and actionable framework for addressing migrant health challenges. The aim is to contribute meaningfully to the development of equitable and sustainable healthcare systems.



## **Appendix Table 1. Various healthcare challenges, and solutions aimed to address them, faced by refugees and migrants.**

<b>Healthcare Challenge</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
<b>Improved Healthcare Coverage</b>	- Establish healthcare centers or mobile clinics in areas with high migrant populations.
	- Collaborate with NGOs to provide culturally sensitive care.
	- Digital tools (mHealth, eHealth, and telehealth) to enable access to information, services and lifelong engagement, e.g., use of interactive digital interventions towards advancing HIV knowledge and prevention behaviours
	- Address maternal and child health in the context of humanitarian camps.
<b>Health Education</b>	- Launch health education campaigns in multiple languages to increase awareness about hygiene practices and disease prevention.
	- Develop educational materials accessible to diverse migrant groups.
<b>Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure</b>	- Improve sanitation facilities in migrant settlements to reduce hygiene-related disease risks.
	- Ensure access to clean water sources and promote hygiene practices like handwashing.
<b>Poverty Alleviation</b>	- Implement programs addressing economic disparities among migrants, including job training and income generation.
	- Collaborate with local businesses to provide employment opportunities.
<b>Preventive Measures for Vector Borne Diseases (VBD)</b>	- Distribute insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce malaria transmission risk.
	- Establish mobile testing and treatment centers for timely diagnosis and management of VBD such as malaria, Zika, and Chikungunya cases.
<b>Collaboration and Funding</b>	- Foster collaboration between governments, international organizations, NGOs, and local communities.
	- Allocate sufficient funding to sustain healthcare initiatives and ensure equitable access to services.
<b>Legal and Social Support</b>	- Provide legal assistance to help migrants navigate healthcare and immigration systems.
	- Offer social support services, including counseling and mental health care.
<b>Integration and Inclusivity</b>	- Promote the integration of migrants into local communities to reduce vulnerability and improve access to healthcare.
	- Encourage local cultural understanding and acceptance.



<b>Data Collection, Monitoring evaluation, and Implementation Research</b>	- Gather comprehensive health data on migrant populations to tailor healthcare interventions.
	- Conduct research on the health status of migrants to inform evidence-based policies.
	- Formulate clear definitions for key outcome and impact indicators to effectively evaluate the current situation, identify improvements, and facilitate comparisons across diverse regions.

**Appendix Table 2. Table outlining healthcare challenges faced by host countries regarding migrants, potential solutions, and funding considerations.**

<b>Healthcare Challenge</b>	<b>Solutions</b>	<b>Funding Considerations</b>
<b>Limited Access to Infectious Disease/HIV Testing</b>	- Awareness campaigns	- Allocate funds for community-based testing
	- Culturally sensitive healthcare services	- Support healthcare infrastructure in high migrant areas
	- Community-based testing initiatives	- Training healthcare providers in cultural sensitivity
<b>Reproductive Healthcare Disparities</b>	- Prenatal care and childbirth facilities	- Investment in healthcare infrastructure in areas with high migrant populations
	- Educational programs about healthcare rights	- Training healthcare providers for cultural sensitivity
	- Inclusive and respectful care practices	
<b>Comprehensive Healthcare Approach</b>	- Collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and international bodies	- Develop and implement policies ensuring equitable healthcare access
	- Addressing the entire healthcare spectrum, from prevention to treatment	- Allocate necessary funds to sustain healthcare initiatives for migrants

**Declarations:** The photos/graphics presented in this policy brief were generated using DALL-E by Ruth Kopelke.