



# WHO EURO Health and Migration briefing

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**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**Europe**



**Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

**Europe**



**Weltgesundheitsorganisation**

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

**Europa**



**Всемирная организация  
здравоохранения**

**Европейское** региональное бюро

# A challenge for the Region?

**77 millions of migrants** are living in the WHO European Region,  
**8% of its population**



1 in 12 residents is  
a migrant



1.100.000 refugees  
and migrants crossed  
the Mediterranean in  
2015 so far  
(UNHCR)



Increasing number of  
families with young  
children, pregnant  
women and elderly



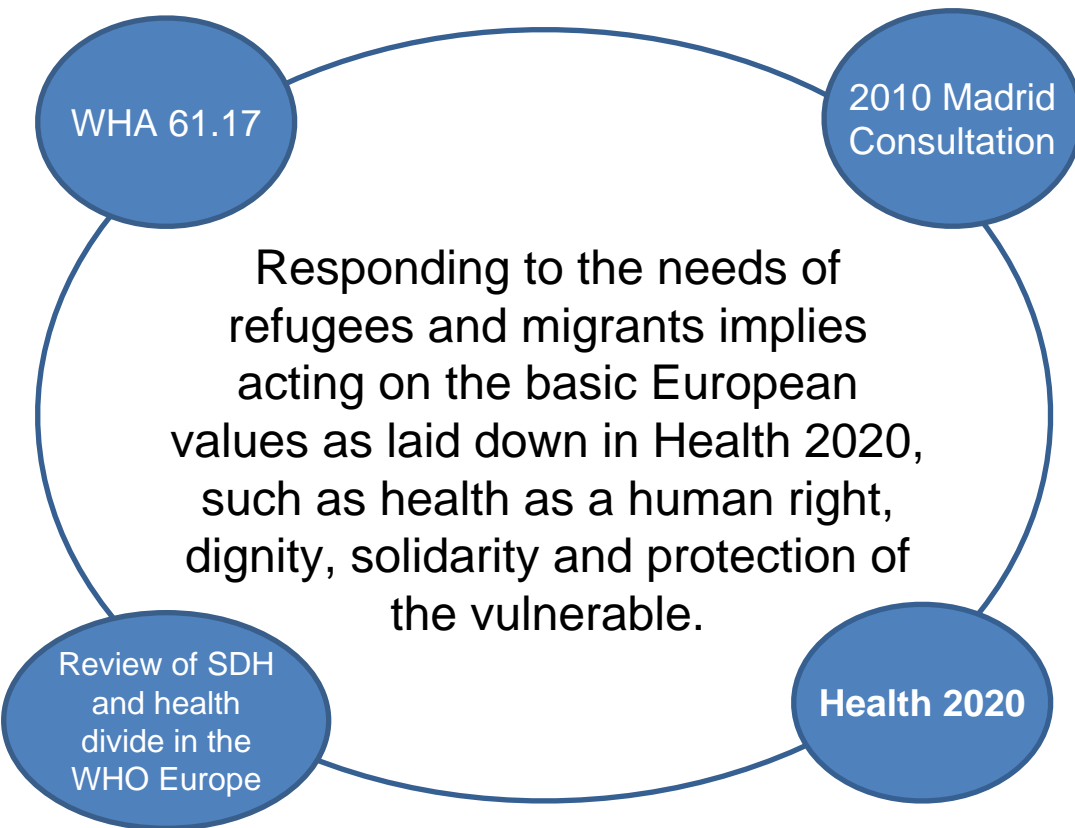
Migration associated to  
emergency situations:  
conflicts, economic crises,  
natural disasters, manmade  
disasters, climate changes



# Refugee and migrant health, a challenge for the WHO European Region

- Responding quickly and efficiently to large-scale migration can be complex, resource-intensive and potentially socially disruptive if health systems are not fully prepared.
- Large arrivals of refugees and migrants have an impact on:
  - The management of communicable diseases.
  - The management of non-communicable diseases.
  - The capacity and readiness of health systems.
- The health needs of refugees and migrants must be integrated into national health policies, strategies and plans.

# Guiding principles



The focus should be placed on:

- The approaches required to meet the different short and medium term health needs of refugees and migrants.
- The response to immediate health requirements of large arrivals.
- The long-term provision of health care for those who remain in host countries.
- The health needs of host populations.

# Building on the experience of the WHO European Region

- The proposed strategy, action plan and resolution will build on:
  - The implementation of the project ‘Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe’ (PHAME), created in 2012 with the financial support of the Ministry of Health of Italy.
  - The PHAME experience gathered through the work in Mediterranean and South Eastern European countries.
  - Other initiatives of the WHO Regional Office for Europe such as the work done in the Gaziantep office, located on the border between Turkey and Syria.



# Key areas of action

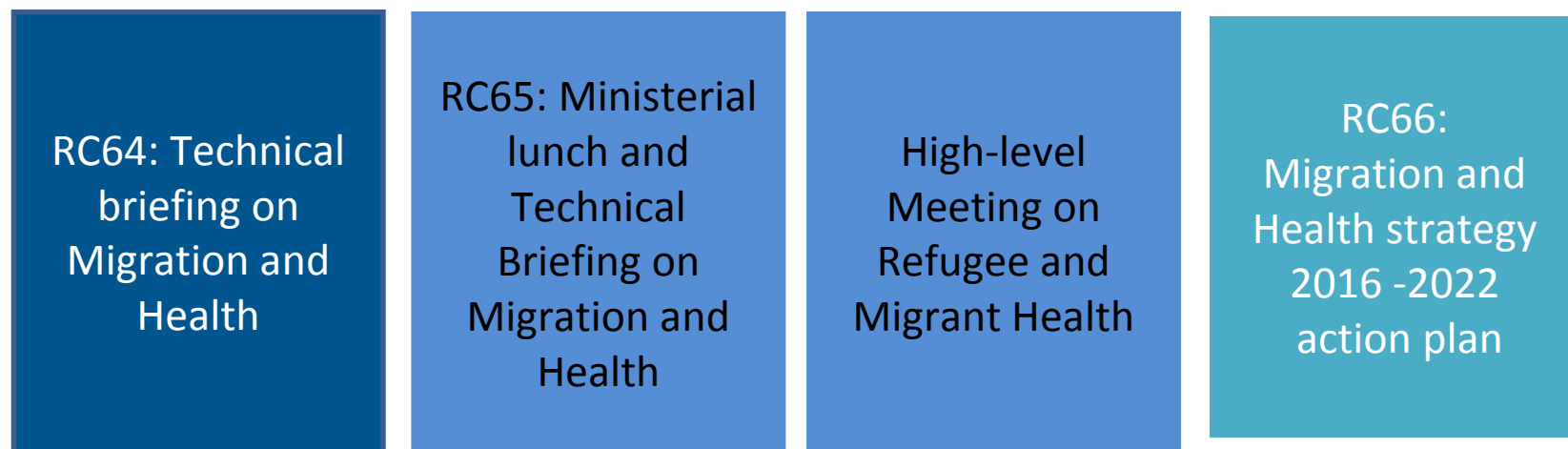
- The WHO European strategy and action plan on refugee and migrant health will support MS development of national health policies aligned with H2020.
- They will also identify the priority actions needed in the following areas:
  - Addressing the challenges of communicable diseases.
  - Addressing the challenges of non-communicable diseases.
  - Strengthening the capacity of the health systems to adapt to refugee and migrant health needs.
  - Improving health information on refugee and migrant health.
  - Addressing the social, cultural, economic and environmental determinants of the health of refugees and migrants.

# High Level meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health in Rome, 23-24 November

- Participants: Ministries of Health of 44 European countries, 3 Eastern Mediterranean countries and 3 African countries; UN agencies and international organizations.
- Outcome document: ***Stepping up action on refugee and migrant health – Towards a WHO European framework for collaborative action.***
  - Rational, agenda and framework for action on public health and migration.
  - Focus on the health needs of refugees and migrants, as well as the host population, according to population health and human rights principles.
  - Key issues: strengthening of surveillance; cross-border sharing of health data; improvement of evidence and communication to avoid misconceptions; focus on NCDs, mental health; improvement of coordination between countries, UN agencies and international organizations, etc.
  - Basis for the development of regional policy documentation, to be submitted to RC66.



# Background and what next



RC64: Technical briefing on Migration and Health

**SCRC** agrees to hold a preliminary discussion at RC65 before a formal discussion at RC66

RC65: Ministerial lunch and Technical Briefing on Migration and Health

High-level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health

**Development of regional policy documentation to be submitted and discussed at RC66**

RC66: Migration and Health strategy 2016 -2022 action plan