



FIFTH GLOBAL SCHOOL ON REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH

Advancing universal health coverage for refugees and
migrants: from evidence to action

2 - 6 DECEMBER 2024

COLOMBIA

REFLECTIONS AND KEY TAKE AWAY MESSAGES



BACKGROUND

THE GLOBAL SCHOOL ON REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH

The 5th Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health aims to enhance the health and well-being of migrants, refugees, and their host communities by facilitating knowledge exchange and drawing on practical experiences in the field of refugee and migrant health.

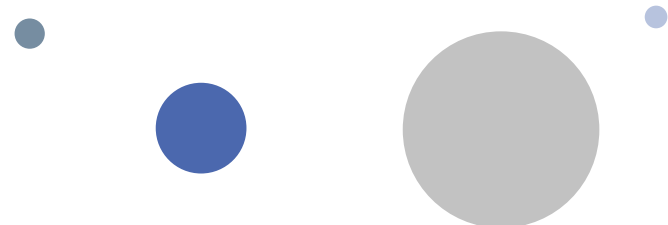
Millions of people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution, disasters and the impact of climate change every year.

Migration has become one of the most significant demographic and social phenomena in history, profoundly shaping societies and influencing their future trajectories. It brings with it both promising opportunities and intricate challenges for socioeconomic progress and public health, necessitating a coordinated global response.

The WHO Global Action Plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants 2019–2030 acknowledges these transformative migration dynamics. To address the emerging challenges posed by population movements, WHO Health and Migration focuses on fostering knowledge exchange and building on shared experiences to enhance the health and well-being of refugees and migrants.

A cornerstone of these efforts is the Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health, an annual 5-day flagship course hosted by WHO in various regions. This initiative brings together a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the health and migration sectors including governments, United Nations agencies, researchers as well as nongovernmental and civil society organizations to share national experiences, disseminate best practices, identify gaps and collaboratively chart a path forward, ensuring inclusivity for all.

This report compiles essential insights from the Fifth Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health 2024, showcasing the key take away messages to advance health care access for refugees and migrants.





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FIFTH GLOBAL SCHOOL ON REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH

FORMAT AND APPROACH

Beyond its educational mission, the Global School serves as a vital advocacy platform. It highlights the importance of addressing the health needs and rights of refugees and migrants, showcases regional and national efforts and garners the interest of diverse stakeholders, including the media and donor communities.

The School emphasizes the development of innovative, evidence-informed and scalable solutions to local public health issues related to health and migration, drawing insights from real-world challenges and opportunities encountered by different countries.



Program structure

The programme consists of five modules delivered over five consecutive days from Monday to Friday. Each module was dedicated to one specific thematic area and lasted 90 minutes.



Learning methodology

Modules utilize a mixed-learning approach that includes prerecorded and live high-level remarks, expert keynotes, country video reportages, panel discussions and interactive discussions with the audience.



Annual thematic focus

Each year, the School revolves around a central thematic area, which is further divided into four subthematic areas, one for each module.



Collaboration on the final day

The final day was dedicated to panel discussions on relevant and pressing topics, fostering collaboration and actionable insights.

Explore our past editions

Discover the highlights of previous Global School editions. Browse each event card to uncover key moments, insights, and impact.





COLOMBIA 2024

ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

“

We are pleased to host the School in Colombia, with the representation of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. As countries, we must understand that above all else, we are human beings.

His Excellency Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo Martínez, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia

”

“

It is essential to understand that the health sector can play a crucial role in addressing the needs of the migrant population. Inclusion and compassion must be incorporated into the health sector.

Dr Santino Severoni, Director of Migration and Health, WHO

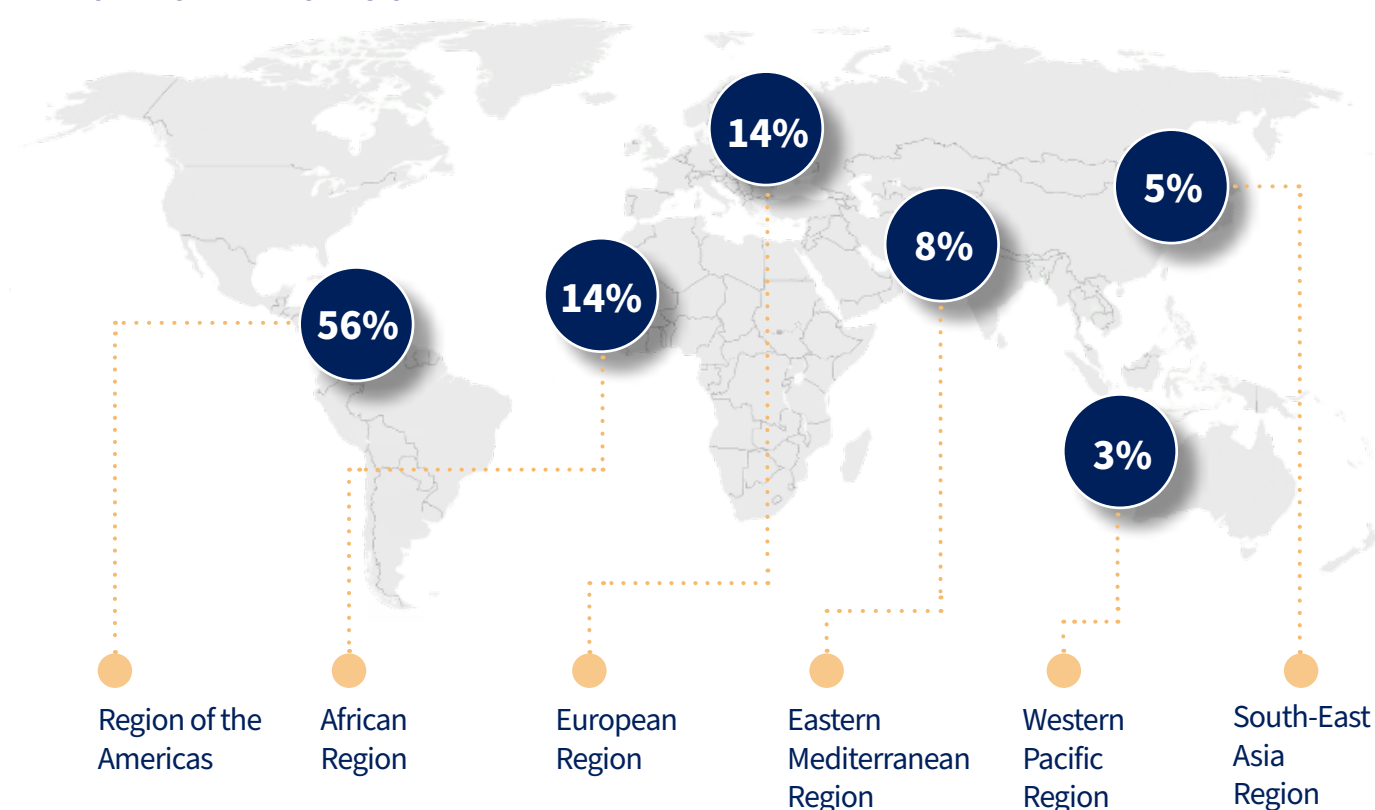
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BY THE NUMBERS

THE FIFTH GLOBAL SCHOOL AT A GLANCE



PARTICIPATION BY WHO REGION^a



Participants from **147** countries

Throughout the years, we reached out to participants in every corner of the world.

^aThe designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.



We appreciate events like the Global School, as they allow us to learn from other countries.

Professor Néstor Medina, Deputy Director of Migration, Colombia

Professor Medina also emphasized the importance of welcoming people from different nationalities and including them in public policies for regularization and integration in the country. Additionally, he acknowledged the contribution of the migrant population to the national economy, as well as the importance of incorporating a health-focused approach into integration processes.

FACULTY

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

The Faculty of the Global School consists of representatives from WHO and other United Nations agencies, international experts, field actors from different regions and disciplines relevant to the area of refugee and migrant health.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General, WHO



Ms Amy Pope

Director General, International Organization for Migration



His Excellency Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo Martínez

Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia



Dr Ailan Li

Assistant Director General, Universal Health Coverage and Healthier Populations Division, WHO



Dr Jeremy Farrar

Chief Scientist, WHO Science Division



Dr Jarbas Barbosa

Regional Director, Pan American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO/WHO)



Dr. Ciro Ugarte

Director of the Health Emergencies Department, PAHO/WHO



Dr Gina Tambini

PAHO/WHO Representative in Colombia



Dr James Fitzgerald

Director of the Department of Health Systems and Services, PAHO/WHO



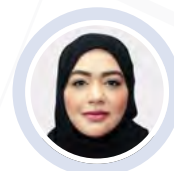
Dr Poonam Dhavan

Director of the Migration Health Division within the Department of Mobility, Pathways and Inclusion, International Organization for Migration



Dr Santino Severoni

Director, WHO Health and Migration, WHO headquarters



Dr Soha Shawqi Albayat

Director, Health Emergency at the Ministry of Public Health, Qatar



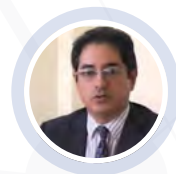
Dr Ali Ardalan

Regional Adviser and Head of the Health Systems Resilience Unit, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



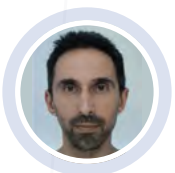
Dr Allen G.K. Maina

Senior Public Health Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Dr Celso Bambarén

Country Health Emergency Preparedness Department, PAHO/WHO



Dr Kiran Jobanputra

Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, Rehabilitation and Disability, WHO



Professor Baltica Cabieses

Professor of Social Epidemiology, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile, and Director of the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre on Capacity-building for Training and Research in the Health of Refugees and Migrants



Professor Josephine Borghi

Professor in Health Economics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Professor Karl Blanchet

Director, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies and InZone, University of Geneva



Ms Mayra Alejandra Nieto Guevara

International Relations and Political Studies Professional, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Colombia



Dr Kenneth G. Ronquillo

Undersecretary for Universal Health Care Policy and Strategy, Department of Health, Philippines



Ms Claudia Palacios

Master of Ceremonies



PARTICIPANTS

ABOUT OUR PARTICIPANTS

The Global School presented an opportunity to enhance communication and cooperation between different stakeholders in the field of health and migration.

3632 registered



37% Men | 63% Women

Area of work

Management and administration of health services



Health centres



Hospital



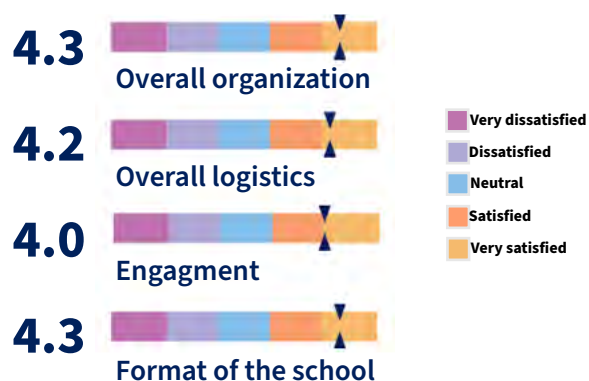
Main professions

- 1 Nursing professionals
- 2 Specialist physicians
- 3 Psychologists
- 4 Health service directors
- 5 Social workers

Participant feedback

6350
Surveys
received

Themes & ratings



Most-mentioned topics



82% of participants stated that the event **significantly inspired them to take action or apply the knowledge gained**, with **52%** indicating they felt **“very inspired”** and **30%** **“extremely inspired”**.



“

Strengthening surveillance and improving migrants' access to health care also requires reducing xenophobia, stigma and discrimination. Providing opportunities for migrants is essential, as they contribute to the development of communities, territories and the country.

Dr Ciro Ugarte, Regional Director of Emergencies, PAHO/WHO

”



OVERARCHING THEME 2024

ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a fundamental pillar for enhancing the health of all individuals, promoting well-being and eradicating poverty in all its forms. This was prominently recognized in the United Nations Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in September 2023, where Member States reaffirmed their commitment to UHC and emphasized the significance of national ownership and governmental responsibility in prioritizing the achievement of UHC, defining it as an indispensable goal in their agendas.

UHC ensures that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care across the life course.

Challenges and barriers for refugees and migrants

Refugees, migrants and displaced populations often face substantial health challenges and barriers when accessing health care services, complicating progress toward UHC. While many countries are making progress in safeguarding migrants' right to health, intensified efforts are required to improve access to health services across the mobility continuum for refugees, migrants and displaced populations, and accelerate progress toward UHC in an inclusive and equitable manner.

Strengthening health strategies for inclusion

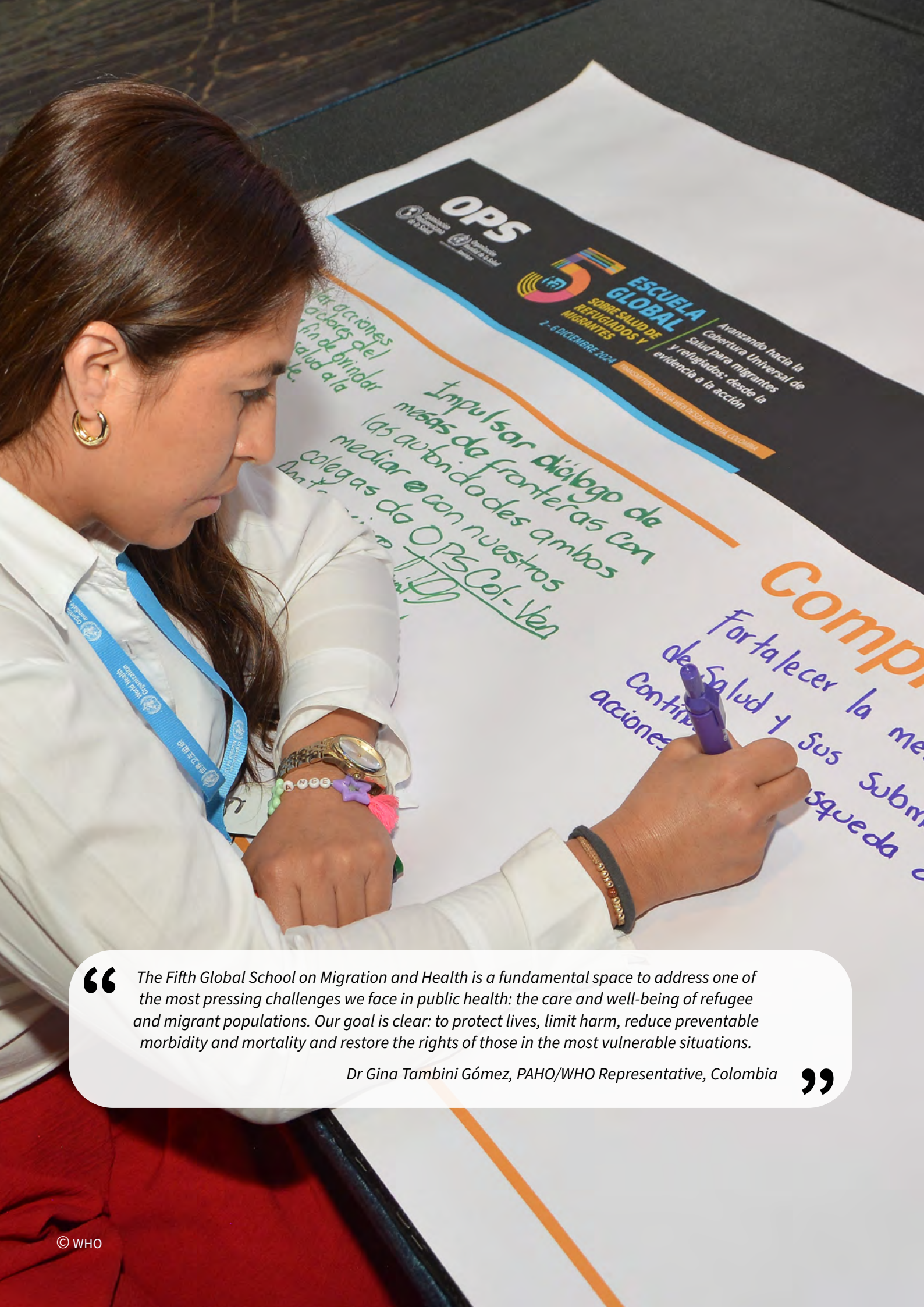
Advancing towards UHC requires a broad range of actions focused on the strengthening of national health strategies, policies, and programmes tailored to address the health needs and rights of refugees and migrants. This includes providing comprehensive, integrated, and quality health services that are sensitive to language and culture.

Investing in the health of refugees and migrants, including health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment, is not only a sound public health strategy but also a wise economic practice. The potential costs of excluding them from health care services, both in terms of health outcomes and financial impact, are likely to exceed the expenses of implementing inclusive health policies and programmes.

The role of the Global School 2024

As countries prioritize equity and inclusion in their health policies, they must also ensure that refugees and migrants have equal access to quality health care services. This endeavour is crucial for advancing the goal of Universal Health Coverage.

The Global School 2024 aimed to promote evidence-informed policy-making and targeted interventions by disseminating knowledge and information on challenges and achievements in implementing UHC for refugees and migrants in different geographical and social contexts.



OPS



ESCUELA
GLOBAL

SOBRE SALUD DE
REFUGIADOS Y
MIGRANTES

2-6 DICIEMBRE 2024

Avanzando hacia la
Cobertura Universal de
Salud para migrantes
y refugiados: desde la
evidencia a la acción

Impulsar diálogo de
mesas de fronteras con
las autoridades ambos
medios con nuestros
colegas de OPS Col-Ven

Compi
Fortalecer la me
de Salud y sus subm
Contin
acciones
squeda

“

The Fifth Global School on Migration and Health is a fundamental space to address one of the most pressing challenges we face in public health: the care and well-being of refugee and migrant populations. Our goal is clear: to protect lives, limit harm, reduce preventable morbidity and mortality and restore the rights of those in the most vulnerable situations.

Dr Gina Tambini Gómez, PAHO/WHO Representative, Colombia

”

DAY SUMMARIES

DAY 1

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH NEEDS AND RIGHTS

The first session of the school provided innovative approaches to delivering culturally sensitive primary health care that meet the specific needs of these populations, with two video reportages highlighting successful programmes and initiatives that have effectively addressed the health care needs and rights of refugees and migrants on the ground.



Speakers

- **High-level address: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** highlighted the importance of health equity and UHC in his opening remarks.
- **High-level address: His Excellency Guillermo Jaramillo Martínez**, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia, shared Colombia's exemplary initiatives in ensuring equitable access to health services for refugees and migrants.
- **Keynote address: Professor Karl Blanchet** discussed the significance of culturally adapted PHC and community-based solutions for refugee and migrant health.



Take away messages

01 PHC is the backbone of inclusivity

PHC is essential because it forms the backbone of any health system that strives to be inclusive. For refugees and migrants, PHC often serves as their first and most critical point of contact. It provides access to essential services such as vaccinations, basic medical care and health education – services fundamental to their well - being and integration.

02 PHC-oriented health systems foster equity

A PHC-oriented health system ensures a more equitable approach to health care by addressing the diverse needs of refugees and migrants. These systems emphasize preventive care, community-based solutions and culturally sensitive services, which are critical for overcoming barriers to access.

03 Collaborative efforts are key to sustainability

Collaborative efforts between governments, humanitarian agencies and local communities yield sustainable health care solutions for migrants. Such partnerships enhance resource-sharing, strengthen local health capacities and create long-term, inclusive health care frameworks.



Learning objectives

- Recognize PHC's foundational role in refugee and migrant well-being.
- Link UHC principles to equitable PHC access for refugees and migrants.
- Identify and address access barriers (language, legal, cultural) for these groups.
- Review successful PHC models for refugee/migrant health needs.
- Emphasize cross-sectoral efforts in tackling social health determinants.



Video reportage

Brazil

Highlighted the critical importance of collaborative efforts in integrating health care services for migrants.

► <https://youtu.be/rwjeSrEJHQw>

South Sudan

Showcased strategies for addressing public health challenges in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

► https://youtu.be/yuN0lF4g_Hw



DAY 2

MANAGING THE CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES DURING THE MIGRATION CYCLE

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are a growing challenge globally, and their management becomes even more complex for refugees and migrants due to disruptions in care and other social determinants that impact their health. Refugees and migrants face heightened risks due to socioeconomic inequalities, interrupted health care and barriers such as legal status, cultural differences and lack of access to care, which affect continuity of care for NCDs. Day 2's interventions and video reportages focused on challenges and strategies to ensure continuity of care across borders and health care systems for refugees and migrants.



Speakers

- **High-level address: Dr Jarbas Barbosa** emphasized the urgent need to ensure full and equitable access to health care services for refugees and migrants at all levels of care.
- **Keynote address: Dr Kiran Jobanputra** presented case studies that highlighted the main access barriers faced by displaced people living with NCDs during the migration cycle and discussed actionable measures to address them.



Learning objectives

- Understand the impact of migration on NCD risk factors and access to health care.
- Identify barriers within health systems that disrupt the continuity of NCD care for refugees and migrants.
- Review and evaluate NCD health care services to effectively address the needs of refugee and migrant populations.



Take away messages

01 Integrated NCD services as a foundation for migrant health

Embedding NCD services including mental health care into PHC is a critical starting point for meeting the needs of displaced populations living with NCDs.

02 Address barriers through legislative and financial measures

Legislative, financial and operational reforms are required to overcome access barriers for displaced people living with NCDs.

03 Collaborative efforts are key to sustainability

Particular attention must be given to managing conditions requiring specialized care, such as insulin therapy for patients with diabetes, dialysis for patients with renal failure and systemic therapy for patients with cancer.



Video reportage

Jordan

Outlined the importance of tailored approaches to address the diverse health needs of refugees and migrants, particularly in regions impacted by emerging and protracted crises.

► <https://youtu.be/P6Yf0Ltdb8Q>

Italy

Showcased a comprehensive and inclusive health care system approach for managing continuity of care for refugees and migrants, offering a practical model for success.

► <https://youtu.be/ljHbSygouL8>



DAY 3

INCLUDING MIGRANTS IN COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH FINANCING STRATEGIES

Migrants, especially those without formal legal status, often find their access to health care limited to emergency services or less, a policy frequently justified on economic grounds. This approach not only involves human and social cost but may also increase long-term expenses. Adopting inclusive health financing strategies is therefore not only a matter of human rights - the right to health - but also an economic matter.



Speakers

- **High-level address: Dr James Fitzgerald** highlighted the critical needs in border areas, where portability and cross-border financing arrangements can play a transformative role.
- **Keynote address: Dr Josephine Borghi** outlined diverse financing mechanisms to support refugees and migrants, from progressive contributions based on ability to pay through to pooling resources through supranational UHC schemes. She emphasized the necessity of global solidarity, proposing innovative approaches to establish a cosmopolitan UHC framework.



Take away messages

01 Towards a paradigm shift: health as a global public good

Provision of health care to migrants must be reframed as a global public good. A shift from national to supranational responsibility, such as global UHC pools, is essential for equitable health care financing and ensuring health access for all migrant populations.

02 Cross-border health insurance: a regional approach

Cross-border financing arrangements, such as portable health benefits and extending health insurance abroad, play a crucial role in ensuring that migrants have continuous access to health care. Eliminating out-of-pocket costs reduces critical barriers, making essential care more accessible and equitable for all.

03 Innovative global financing mechanisms

Global solidarity demands financing innovations, including supranational contributions and global taxation to alleviate the disproportionate burden placed on low- and middle-income countries. Such mechanisms promote redistribution and ensure minimum health benefits for all refugee and migrant populations.



Learning objectives

- Create an understanding of the advantages of migrant-inclusive national health financing;
- Examine effective financing mechanisms for equitable migrant health care access;
- Establish barriers to implementing inclusive health financing.



Video reportage

Colombia

Showcased an example of how a nation can transform the lives of refugees and migrants by integrating these groups into its health system through inclusive financing.

► <https://youtu.be/Lw7N8akmLpk>

Thailand

Highlighted the challenges that can arise while applying inclusive financing and the importance of addressing the gaps between policies and implementation.

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6qEkpKANLY>



DAY 4

CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY MAKING TO BETTER ADDRESS REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH NEEDS

Research on health, migration, and displacement remains critical but insufficient, especially in addressing the needs of marginalized migrant subgroups and ensuring responsive health strategies. Refugees and migrants often face gaps in evidence-based policies, hindering efforts to achieve UHC and PHC. Day 4 of the Global School 2024 highlighted how targeted research aligned with WHO's Global Research Agenda can be translated into actionable strategies to improve health outcomes for migrants, refugees, and displaced populations. Through case studies and discussions, the day emphasized the pivotal role of research in shaping inclusive, evidence-informed policies at the national level.



Speakers

- **High-level address: Ms Amy Pope** outlined the importance of collaboration across sectors to address health challenges faced by refugees and migrants.
- **Keynote address: Dr Jeremy Farrar** emphasized the evolving dynamics of the “scientific golden age” we are living in, which must be leveraged as a public good to enhance equity and leave no one behind. He highlighted that science does not exist in a vacuum; it is deeply embedded in society and must integrate the lived experiences of affected populations to remain impactful and relevant. This is especially critical in refugee and migrant health, where contextualized, community-grounded solutions are essential for achieving meaningful change.



Learning objectives

- Develop an understanding of how research can address gaps in health policy and practices for refugees and migrants.
- Identify key research priorities for enhancing UHC and PHC for displaced populations.
- Explore methods for translating health research into impactful policies for refugee and migrant health.



Video reportage

Estonia

Showcased the critical role of health system reviews in identifying actionable insights to strengthen health care for refugees and migrants.

► <https://youtu.be/yot64aQmM7Y>



Take away messages

01 Science driving equity for improving health for refugees and migrants

The rapid advancements in technology and innovation we are witnessing must benefit all, not just a select few. Science should be seen as part of the public good and utilized to drive equity and inclusivity in addressing health challenges for refugees and migrants.

02 Bridging the policy gap in health and migration

The time lag between generating evidence and implementing policies must be addressed, particularly in the polarizing and politicized context of migration. One way to address this is by investing in robust health information systems to provide relevant, disaggregated and timely data, which are essential to inform actionable and effective policies.



03 Fostering health migration research where it is most needed

The focus of scientific and research needs to be shifted to regions where migration-related health issues are most pressing. Domestic, systematic investment in scientific ecosystems must be prioritized and complemented by equitable international partnerships.



DAY 5

UHC THROUGHOUT AND BEYOND REFUGEE AND MIGRANT HEALTH EMERGENCY CRISES

One of the most critical aspects of achieving UHC is addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants during and beyond emergency crises to ensure that health systems are resilient, inclusive and prepared for the challenges of both today and tomorrow.

The final day featured a dynamic panel discussion exploring the intersection of UHC and health emergency responses, with a focus on refugee and migrant populations. Experts highlighted best practices for integrating emergency health interventions into long-term health strategies, emphasizing the importance of adaptability, cross-sectoral collaboration and policy coherence to build equitable health systems that endure beyond crises.



Speakers

- **High-level address: Dr Ailan Li** outlined the role of emergency health responses in achieving UHC and creating pathways from crisis response to long-term integration.
- **Keynote address: Dr Ciro Ugarte** presented data from the WHO Region of the Americas on refugees' and migrants' access to health services and the main health risks and challenges they encounter in emergency situations. Aiming to address these challenges, Member States approved a regional migration and health strategy that will last from 2026 through to 2031, deepen connections in the region and draw on countries' experiences.



Learning objectives

- Create an understanding of the link between emergency health responses and health system strengthening for the support of refugee and migrant populations.
- Identify approaches for linking immediate health interventions with longer-term health planning within the context of UHC and PHC.
- Explore country experiences in addressing refugee and migrant health needs during and beyond crises.



Panel discussion

Focused on aligning emergency responses with long-term health system strengthening to advance UHC for refugees and migrants. Panellists provided a comprehensive view of strategies for properly addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants during emergencies, while also facing challenges presented in the field.

- » **Dr Kenneth G. Ronquillo** presented the Philippines' strategies for managing health emergencies affecting its migrant workers abroad.
- » **Dr Soha Shawqi Albayat** elaborated on Qatar's strategies for safeguarding refugee and migrant health during crises.
- » **Ms Mayra Alejandra Nieto Guevara** described Colombia's experience of and response to the Venezuelan migrant crisis, focusing on balancing emergency health interventions with sustainable integration into national systems.
- » **Dr Santino Severoni** brought forward a global perspective on how to balance humanitarian health responses with long-term health system strengthening, bringing the humanitarian-development nexus into the health and migration field.
- » **Dr Poonam Dhavan** outlined the International Organization for Migration's strategy of responding to immediate health needs while contributing to long-term solutions to displacement.
- » **Dr Allen G.K. Maina** presented the most critical challenges faced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees when providing health care in refugee camps during emergencies and its work with ministries of health and partners to ensure that displaced populations have access to health care in both acute and protracted crises.



Take away messages

01 Integrating emergency response into long-term solutions

- **Dual planning:** emergencies require immediate action, but effective responses must include a vision that considers their long-term integration into the health system.
- **Capacity-building:** strengthening capacity is a multifaceted challenge that involves enhancing technical skills, resources and institutional frameworks across all levels of the health system. Capacity-building efforts should also emphasize equity to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations such as refugees and migrants.
- **Fostering partnerships:** effective responses require establishing horizontal collaborations and even more importantly, vertical coordination from central governments to local communities. Bridging the gap between national-level strategies and grass roots implementation requires fostering community trust and ensuring that resources flow efficiently to where they are most needed.

02 Scalable and sustainable responses

Developing interventions with scalability in mind ensures that responses can evolve from localized pilot projects into broader, system-wide solutions, ensuring a long-term perspective. Policies must prioritize universal access to essential health services by ensuring that they are culturally and linguistically appropriate for refugees and migrants.

03 Data availability and transition

Emergency responses often generate valuable data, including health surveillance, population demographics and service utilization. However, these data are frequently siloed and underutilized in informing long-term public health planning. Establishing mechanisms for data transition and integration between emergency operations and national health systems is essential.



SIDE EVENTS

STRATEGIC MEETINGS ON MIGRATION AND HEALTH AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

1

Global, national and territorial perspectives on mental health and sexual and reproductive health

Objective: analyse challenges and opportunities in mental health and sexual and reproductive health for migrant populations, with a territorial focus on Colombia

Audience: Ministry of Health, health cluster partners, 24 territories and international actors

Next steps:

- Development of an action plan for mental health and psychosocial support and sexual and reproductive health
- Preparation of an infographic with key data
- Conducting a mental health and psychosocial support and sexual and reproductive health forum in Colombia and analysing its regional impact

2

National meeting of territorial health clusters

Objective: reflect on the territorial health response for migrants and develop guidelines for national policy

Audience: 26 departments, civil society, state institutions, academics and international actors

Next steps:

- Creation of a regional network to address migrant health
- Publication of a report outlining strategic priorities
- Organization of the next national meeting

4

Coffee with academia

Objective: highlight research initiatives on migration in Colombia

Audience: representatives from the Universidad de los Andes, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Semillas de Apego and the Colombian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Next steps:

- Strengthen collaboration between academia and the state for decision-making health
- Publish key studies on migrant health

3

Border Coordination Meeting

Objective: establish binational coordination scenarios to address the needs of migrants and host communities

Audience: representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), civil society organizations and international partners

Next steps:

- Publication of Terms of Reference for border health coordination
- Consolidation of health coordination spaces with neighbouring countries
- Release of research findings on pendular migration



FINAL REMARKS

THE GLOBAL SCHOOL 2024

The Global School 2024 on Refugee and Migrant Health has reaffirmed its role as a vital platform for advancing the global agenda on equitable health care access. With more than 3000 participants worldwide, this year's focus on inclusive, sustainable health systems emphasized the shared responsibility to address the unique challenges faced by refugees and migrants.

This year's message—health care as a shared global responsibility—resonates deeply in a world where migration continues to reshape societies.

The Global School has provided actionable pathways to address key global challenges:



Showcasing innovative models



Bridging research and policy



Fostering global collaboration



Ensuring no one is left behind

The event highlighted:

the importance of culturally sensitive, community-based solutions and the integration of emergency responses into long-term health strategies to achieve UHC and PHC. This should be conducted through:



impactful discussions



case studies



high-level addresses



JOIN US AGAIN IN 2025!

The Global School is more than an event - it is a movement driving global solidarity and action. Its ability to inspire meaningful change lies in its commitment to translating dialogue into impactful, scalable solutions.

As we look ahead, the lessons and strategies shared this year must serve as a catalyst for policies and partnerships that protect the health rights of all, reaffirming health as a universal and inalienable right.

Don't miss out on what's coming up! Here's how you can stay connected:



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

Technical conceptualization and coordination in organizing the WHO Fifth Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health were provided by WHO Health and Migration (Division of Universal Health Coverage and Healthier Populations, WHO headquarters, Geneva) under the strategic guidance of Dr Santino Severoni, Director, WHO Health and Migration, with technical lead and coordination from Dr Candelaria Araoz and Dr Giuseppe Annunziata, Technical Programme Coordinator. This year's School was hosted in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and the WHO Country Office in Colombia.

Special thanks are extended to the following staff and consultants of WHO Health and Migration for providing technical contributions: Ms Yosr Bellourou, Mr Çetin Dikmen, Dr Claudia Marotta, Ms Sylvia Namuju, Ms Khawla Nasser AlDeen and Dr Daniela Timus.

High-level address, keynote presentations, panel discussions and video reportages production

We are particularly grateful to His Excellency Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo Martínez, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia and all the dedicated staff from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia and the Colombia National Health Institute; Dr Ciro Ugarte, Director of the PAHO/WHO Department of Health Emergencies and his dedicated team from the WHO Regional Office for the Americas; and Dr Gina Tambini, PAHO/WHO Representative for Colombia and her entire office for their steadfast support and contributions.

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