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Ethiopia: Written statement [English version]

The 3rd Global Consultation on the Health of Refugees and Migrants

Ethiopia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants and Refugees including returnees migrating due to the factors driven by natural and man-made disasters and severe economic hardship. With large influx of Migrants and Refugees including returnees into Ethiopia from neighbouring countries, need safe and secure transportation of vulnerable populations to the designated sites/shelters.

Limited food availability is likely to lead to increased migration as populations move in search of food and pasture. People on the move commonly have additional barriers to access healthcare and are more at risk to disease including malnutrition. Poor living conditions in a temporary settlements also predispose populations to disease outbreaks, including cholera, scabies, measles, mental disorder and other diseases. Furthermore, limited healthcare access can fuel tensions between displaced and host communities.

To enhance the health of the Migrants and Refugees government of Ethiopia in collaboration with IOM has developed a comprehensive four year Strategy (2023-2026) that are fully aligned with the four priorities of the Ethiopia United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2025;

1. **People:** All people in Ethiopia enjoy the rights and capabilities to realize their potential in equality and with dignity.
2. **Democracy, Justice, and Peace:** All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive, and democratic society.
3. **Prosperity:** All people in Ethiopia benefit from an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economy.
4. **Environmental Protection and Climate Change:** All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adapted to climate change

Regarding the Health of Migrants and Refugees including Returnees, the government of Ethiopia has an open policy and been implementing its' domestic law and international legislation in collaboration with government agencies and international organization (WHO, IOM, UNHCR, MSF, Red Cross) and other relevant partners.

Currently, the government of Ethiopian has been handling thousands of Migrants and Refugees including Returnees following the armed conflict in Sudan through which people have arrived in Ethiopia through multiple border crossing points in Amhara, Benishangul Gumz and Gambella Regions.

Some of the responses scaled up as government of Ethiopia during the last three years for the handling of the Migrants and Refugees including Returnees from the Middle East countries (KSA,Yemen) at the cross-border areas and at shelter/camp upon arrival were;

1. Activation of the coordination and collaboration platform with relevant government agencies and international organizations
2. Development of the Terms of reference (TOR) for the coordination platform
3. Resource mobilization and distribution(EDK) to the sites including health workforces
4. Establishment of the health and nutrition team including the Emergency Medical Team (EMT)
5. Establishment of shelter/camp in collaboration with international organizations
6. Provision of the health care for migrants and refugees including returnees
7. Designating/establishing referral health facilities in addition to the established EMT
8. Enhancing the routine public health surveillance at arrival/shelter/camp and
9. Establishment of the regular monitoring and evaluation platform

Hence, as a government representatives we would like to assure to; reaffirm the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; enhance international cooperation on migration and in all its dimensions, recognizing the positive role and contributions of migrants and refugees for inclusive growth and sustainable development, and; enhance action for an improved international response to refugees and migrants according to all relevant international and domestic instruments, in support of governments-led arrangements, as appropriate, for the protection of refugees and migrants and other forcibly displaced persons, bearing in mind that registration of refugees, in line with international legality, also constitutes an important element in ensuring the integrity of refugee healthcare and social protection systems.

Additionally, we would also like assure to further strengthen the equitable health inclusion agenda of refugees, migrants and their hosting communities, in a spirit of international cooperation, including within the efforts to promote universal health coverage at the country, regional and global, taking into account the lessons learned in the context of COVID-19, bearing in mind a burden and responsibility sharing, in line with national legislation and available resources, uniting to scale up efforts and interventions to advance action in promoting the health of refugees, migrants and their hosting communities.

Thanks

Ethiopian Government Representatives