

OVERVIEW

Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement

Strengthening research and translating research priorities into
policy and practice



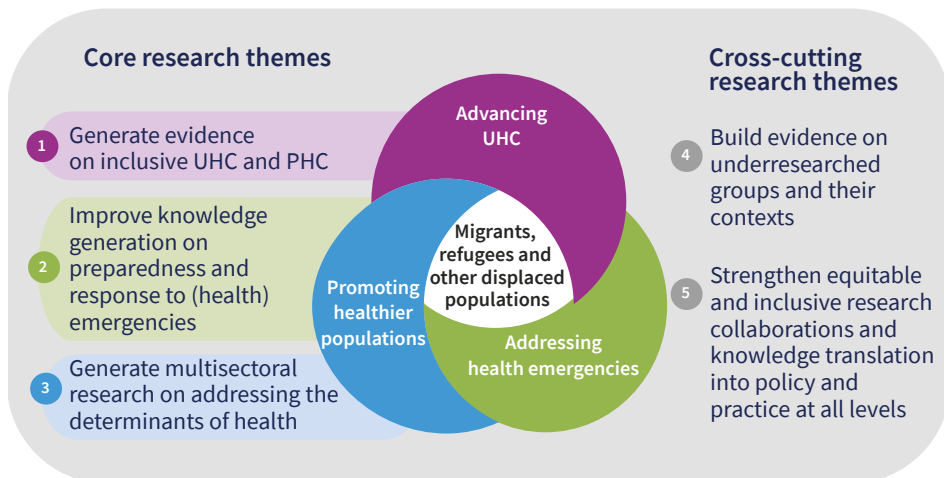


The need to strengthen research on health, migration and displacement

Globally, a lack of comprehensive, high-quality and contextualized research on the health of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations hampers the ability of health systems to adapt and respond to the health needs and rights of these populations. It also challenges the development of inclusive policies and programmes, and jeopardizes the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement is a framework and guide for prioritizing research on the health of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations. It is also a tool to help Member States, research funders, regional actors, researchers, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies to identify and address context-specific knowledge gaps at the regional, country, subnational and organizational levels.

The Global research agenda outlines five key research themes (three core themes and two cross-cutting themes) that require prioritization and investment.



Under the three core research themes, six subthemes have been highlighted as key to strengthening research on health, migration and displacement:

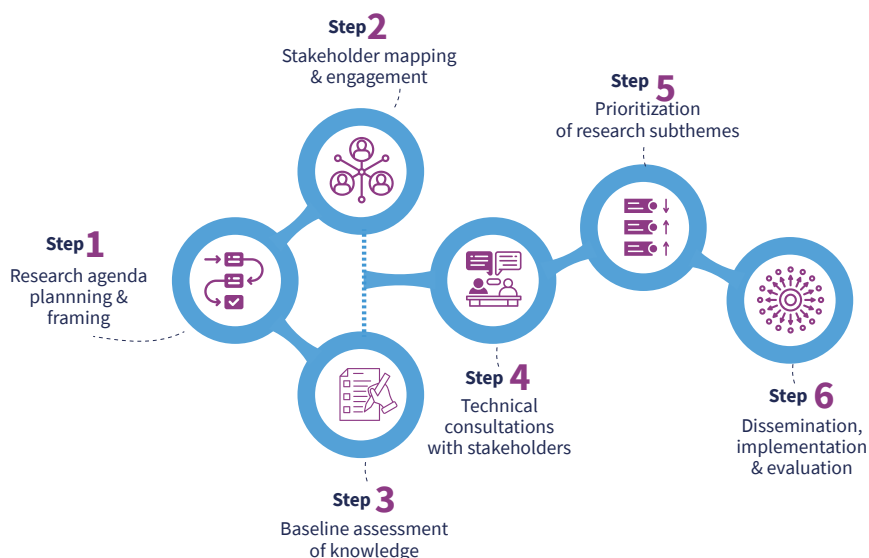
- effective models of health financing for migrants, refugees and other displaced populations;
- interventions to improve the responsiveness of service provision to diversity (for example, but not limited to: cultural background, language, religion, gender and sexuality);
- effective and sustainable models of health care for migrants, refugees and other displaced populations in humanitarian settings in low- and middle-income countries and fragile contexts;
- effective models of universal health coverage (UHC) in protracted displacement contexts;
- impact of living and working conditions on the health of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations; and
- impact of restrictive immigration policies, securitization and externalization of borders on the health of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations.



The Global research agenda was developed by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Department of Health and Migration, working closely with the WHO Science Division and the Research for Health Department. It resulted from the participatory engagement of over 180 key stakeholders from all WHO regions and across diverse backgrounds and health, migration and displacement contexts; these included representatives from civil society and academia, United Nations agencies, international organizations and NGOs.

Implementation: translating the Global research agenda into policy and practice

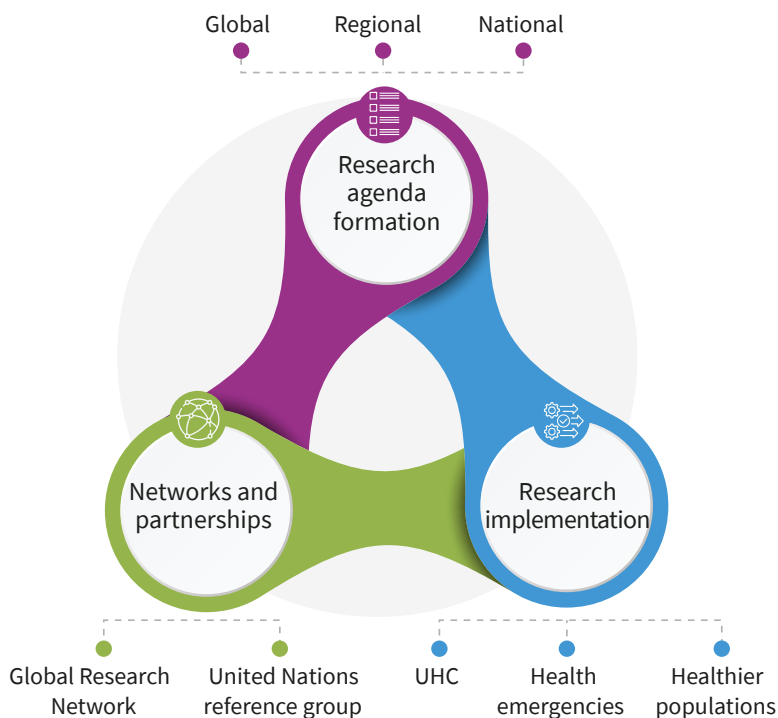
The Global research agenda will serve as a catalyst and foundation for the development of regional and country level research agendas. Its Implementation Guide and Toolkit provides guidance and resources, and outlines a six-step process with tools for stakeholders to adapt to their own regional, country and local contexts.



The Global research agenda will also significantly contribute to a substantial increase in both the quantity and quality of research on health, migration and displacement, thus bridging the gap between research, policy and practice and fostering evidence-informed policy-making towards the global commitments. Addressing the health needs of migrants, refugees, other displaced populations and receiving communities is essential to achieving health and migration objectives across sectors as comprehensive knowledge generation contributes to understanding and meeting these needs. The Global research agenda is a call to action to galvanize commitment and funding for the priority research themes and to translate the findings into policy and practice worldwide.

WHO's Department of Health and Migration: research activities

The Department of Health and Migration has three main areas of focus to facilitate the implementation of the Global research agenda: research agenda formation, research implementation, and strengthening networks and partnerships.



Research agenda formation

By working closely with WHO regions and countries within each region, the Department will support the production of regional and country level research agendas and research action plans.

Research implementation

In collaboration with partners, the Department will support the implementation of research activities on health, migration and displacement at the country and regional levels to generate action-focused knowledge. Informed by the Global research agenda and WHO's strategic objectives, the Department will work with key countries across each region to conduct interregional comparative research projects on the following topics over the next two years:

- refugee- and migrant-inclusive UHC, primary health care (PHC) and health financing;
- equitable access to and use of vaccines among migrants, refugees and other displaced populations;
- climate change, migration, displacement and health; and
- noncommunicable diseases, migration and displacement.

Networks and partnerships

The Global Research Network on health, migration and displacement will be formed to further develop the collaborative, multistakeholder engagement that was established during the Global research agenda process. The Network will improve the translation of evidence into policy by strengthening knowledge exchange across regional and national borders. By leveraging the Global research agenda and establishing this Network, policy-makers and stakeholders will have a structured framework to drive evidence-informed research that addresses the evolving challenges and health needs of migrants, refugees and other displaced populations.

In all activities, the Department will develop and apply participatory mechanisms to engage broader stakeholder groups and involve migrants, refugees and other displaced populations, alongside collaboration with global stakeholders, WHO Regional and Country Offices, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, and other United Nations agencies.

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