



IOM 103rd Session of the IOM Council - Geneva, November 27, 2013

Partnership on Migrants' Health :

A Civil Society Perspective on High-level Dialogue Commitments



High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013

8. recognize that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development which should be adequately considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

10. Reaffirm the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status (...) recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

*(Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,
68th Session UNGA , Oct. 2013)*

Challenges in promoting migrants' health rights

International level: **health of migrants absent in global debates:**

- Often absent in global **health debates** (SDH, NCD, Disease Control programmes, etc.)
- Often absent in debates on **migration & development** (HLD M&D, GFMD, GMG, Colombo Process, Regional Consultative Processes, etc.)
- Lack of global advocacy, champions, high level testimonials

National level: **health of migrants not often safeguarded:**

- Migrants still seen as burden on health system and carriers of disease (**myths**)
- 'Generous' social rights seen as a potential **pull factor**
- Migrants too often remain **invisible**, **marginalized** and **excluded** (empowerment of communities? Evidence/reasearch?)
- Lack of policy coherence, and multi-sectoral collaboration



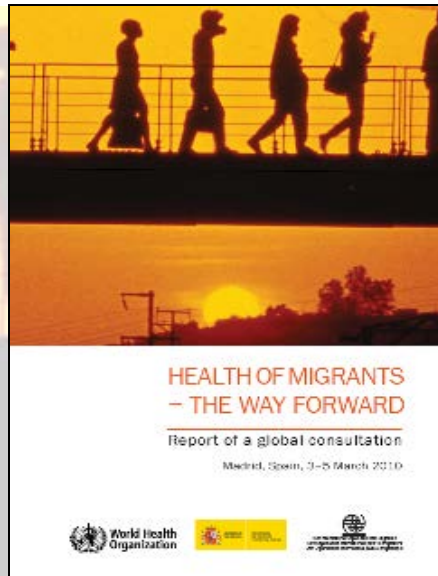
Challenges II: Discrimination, exclusion, unethical treatment of migrant workers

- **Limitations to travel, work and reside abroad** based on medical ground (HIV, TB)
- Pre-departure **forced contraception**;
- **Unethical medical screenings** for prospective migrant workers
- **Deportation** of migrants with treatable conditions and **pregnant**
- **Refusal of visa to dependents** for temporary labour migrants
- **Impact on families left behind**



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- Evidence-based **good practices exist.**
 - **Dialogue and partnership** can help in advancing an equity agenda for the benefit of all

WHA Resolution 61.17 *The Health of Migrants* (2008) and WHO-IOM Global Consultation on Health of Migrants (2010)



Operational Framework on Migrants' Health:

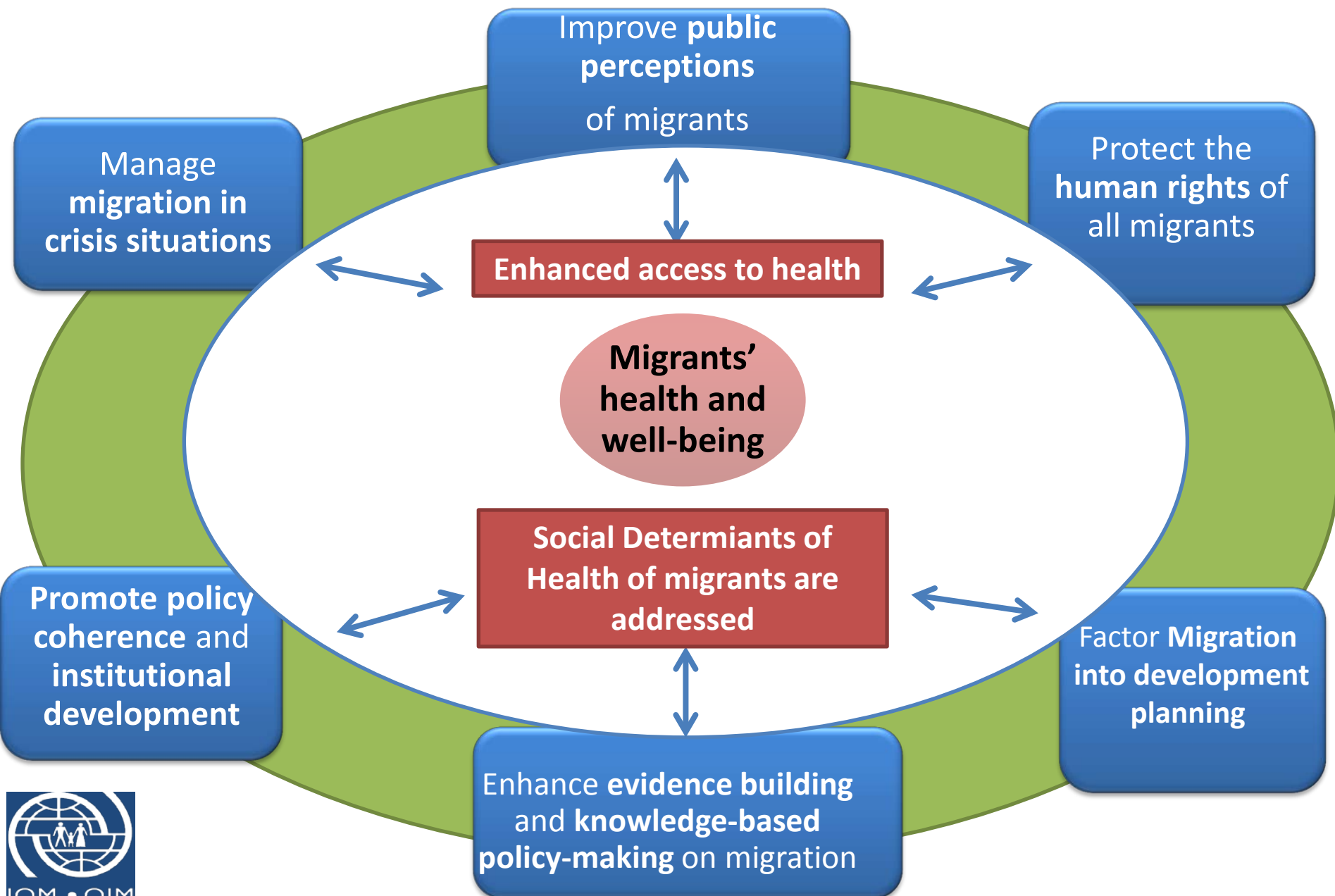
**Monitoring Migrant
Health**

**Policy and Legal
Frameworks**

**Migrant-Sensitive
Health Systems**

**Partnerships, Networks
and Multi country
Frameworks**

Linking 'migration health' and 'migration and development'





Making migration work: an eight point agenda for action

1. Protect the human rights of all migrants
2. Reduce the cost of labour migration
3. Eliminate migration exploitation, including human trafficking
4. Address the plight of stranded migrants
5. Improve public perception of migrants
6. Integrate migration into the development agenda
7. Strengthen the migration evidence base
8. Enhance migration partnership and cooperation

(From the Report of the UN Secretary General– A/68/190)

The Way Forward

- ✓ Implement the **WHA Resolution 61.17** and its action framework (Madrid 2010)
- ✓ Maintain the **health of migrants** in global migration and development debates
- ✓ Address **discriminatory practices**
- ✓ Produce **evidence** and share **good practices**
- ✓ Enhance **advocacy**
- ✓ Include **migrant-health indicators** in the **post-2015** development framework
- ✓ Forge a large **partnership cross- sector and cross-countries**



CSOs 8 points, 5-year Action Plan: a place for health?

1. Integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda
 - **develop, harmonize and adopt health indicators of migrants' health**
2. Engagement of diaspora and migrant associations
 - **migrant friendly health services**; integration of health diaspora; empowerment
3. Protection needs of migrants stranded in distress
4. Rights of migrants women (access to basic services, protection against violence, redress, etc.) and **best interest of children**
 - **mainstream health interventions cross-sector**
5. Promoting the **exchange of good practice**, and enactment and implementation of national legislation
 - **cost-effective health care models; good practices**; implement the **WHA Resolution 61.17**
6. Redefinition of the interaction of international mechanisms of migrants' rights protection; participation of civil society in future governance mechanisms
 - **Partnership on Migrants' Health; Travel restriction task force**
7. Effective standards and **mechanisms to regulate the migrant labour recruitment** industry
8. Guarantee labour rights for migrant workers
 - **Social and health protection; health insurances; equitable occupational health ; combat discriminatory practices**