Globally, there were 250 million international migrants in 2015, up from 173 million in 2000\(^1\). There are a further estimated 763 million internal migrants (those moving within their own country) worldwide, and 65 million people are forcibly displaced.

In 2015, the number of refugees was estimated at 21 million\(^2\). Developing regions host 86% of all refugees. In 2015, 67% of all international migrants lived in just 20 countries\(^1\).

There are many reasons why people migrate, such as globalization, conflict, poverty, climate change, urbanization, inequality and to improve job prospects.

In 2015, migrants from developing countries sent home an estimated US$ 441 billion in remittances\(^3\). These funds are often then used to improve the livelihoods of families and communities through investments in education, health, sanitation, housing and infrastructure.

While most migrants are in good health and their health problems are similar to those of the host populations, some may be exposed to health problems, including physical and mental trauma experiences at origin, during transit, and at destination.

During the process of migration, access to essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health services, preventive interventions, and other routine health care might be limited, leading to increased risks of both communicable and noncommunicable disease.

Access to health services is affected by poverty, stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, language and cultural differences, separation from family and socio-cultural norms, financial and administrative hurdles, and lack of legal status.

Health systems in host countries may need support due to resource constraints, in order to ensure that quality health services are available to all.

There is a need for reliable global data on migration and health, particularly in relation to undocumented migrants and those not accessing formal services.

Resolution WHA61.17 was passed by the World Health Assembly in 2008. The resolution asks Member States for migrant sensitive health policies and practices and requests WHO to promote migrant health.

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