At its Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019, the Health Assembly will discuss a report 'Promoting the health of refugees and migrants, Draft global action plan, 2019-2023' (https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_25-en.pdf). Its development is in response to a request by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA70.15 on promoting the health of refugees and migrants for the Director-General, inter alia, to develop a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants for consideration by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

The aim of the draft action plan is to improve global health by addressing the health and well-being of refugees and migrants in an inclusive, comprehensive manner and as part of holistic efforts to respond to the health needs of the overall population in any given setting, including the coordination of international efforts to link health care for refugees and migrants to humanitarian programmes. The draft action plan focuses on achieving universal health coverage and the highest attainable standard of health, as mandated in WHO's Constitution, for refugees, migrants and host populations within the context of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023. It reaffirms the universal health coverage principles – 'all' includes refugees and migrants regardless of their migratory status. Implementation of the plan will take account of specific country situations and be in accordance with national legislation, priorities and circumstances and international instruments on equal access to public health care services.

The draft action plan recommends the following six priorities and options for action by WHO in coordination and collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant partners:

1. Promote the health of refugees and migrants through short-term and long-term public health interventions;
2. Promote continuity and quality of essential health care, while developing, reinforcing and implementing occupational health and safety measures;
3. Advocate the mainstreaming of refugee and migrant health into global, regional and country agendas and the promotion of: refugee-sensitive and migrant-sensitive health policies and legal and social protection; the health and well-being of refugee and migrant women, children and adolescents; gender equality and empowerment of refugee and migrant women and girls; and partnerships and intersectoral, intercountry and interagency coordination and collaboration mechanisms;
4. Enhance capacity to tackle the social determinants of health and to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage;
5. Strengthen health monitoring and health information systems;
6. Support measures to improve evidence-based health communication and to counter misperceptions about migrant and refugee health.

The implementation of the action plan will be in line with nationally expressed needs, national contexts, priorities, legal frameworks and financial situations, with no binding implications for individual Member States.