



THE IOM MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION AND THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (HAP)

Migration Health Assessments are among the most well-established migration management services offered by IOM. They consist of an evaluation of the physical and mental health status of migrants, made either prior to departure or upon arrival, for the purpose of resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programs, or for obtaining a temporary or permanent visa. Reflecting national differences in immigration and public policies and practices, there is a diverse range of assessment requirements, the most common denominator being the need to ensure that the migration process does not endanger the health of either the migrant or the host population.

The purpose of the health assessments is to identify and address conditions of public health concern in order to mitigate the impact of the migrants' disease burden on national health or social services. The program also seeks to address the migrants' specific health needs in order to facilitate integration with the host community.

Health assessments are valuable in the migration process. Migrants benefit from the health assessment by becoming more aware of their own personal health conditions and by being empowered to take preventative or curative actions. Migration health assessments contribute substantially to addressing the health needs of migrants and of hosting communities alike, particularly when supported by adequate pre- and post-arrival health services and community-based interventions. These measures can also promote positive health seeking behaviours through pre-departure health education and awareness campaigns.

With the migrant's consent, health care providers at the receiving community level can obtain information on individual conditions that require follow-up treatment or specialized investigation so they are better prepared to receive and provide relevant services.

In the context of health assessments, IOM provides many complementary travel and integration-oriented health promotion services, including treatment, counselling, health education, immunization and medical escorts.

Increasingly, there has been a willingness of governments to use health assessments as a tool for the integration of migrants into receiving communities and not for the exclusion of persons with certain health conditions.

“ OUR OBJECTIVE

TO ENSURE THAT MIGRATION DOES NOT ENDANGER THE HEALTH OF THE MIGRANT OR POSE A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK DURING TRAVEL OR UPON ARRIVAL AT THE FINAL DESTINATION.

”





COMPONENTS OF IOM MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Depending on the situation, the type of migrant and country-specific guidelines, a migration health assessment may include some or all of the following components:

- Review of medical and immunization history
- Detailed physical examination and mental health evaluation
- Clinical or laboratory investigations
- Radiological screening (chest x-ray for tuberculosis)
- Serological tests and chemical analysis (blood/urine)
- Referral for consultation with specialists, as required
- Health education and pre- and post-test counselling
- Public health surveillance and outbreak management in camps, transit centres and other temporary settlements
- Arranging for the administration of vaccinations and provision of or referral for directly-observed treatment for certain conditions (e.g. tuberculosis, malaria, sexually-transmitted infections, parasitic infections, anti-retroviral administration and prevention of mother-to-child vertical transmission)
- Ensuring fitness to travel (i.e. pre-embarkation checks and/or pre-departure medical screenings)
- Detailed documentation of findings, preparation of required immigration health forms and documents
- Quality control/quality assurance of services
- Confidential transfer of relevant information or documentation to appropriate immigration or public health authorities
- Provision of medical escorts/special services or arrangements for travel and relocation

IOM Migration Health Assessments are carried out in the context of refugee resettlement, immigration (e.g. for labour migration, student visas), post-crisis movements, assisted voluntary returns and reintegration (AVRR) and family reunification.

MIGRATION HEALTH INFORMATICS (MHI)

Migration health informatics (MHI) refers to the systematic application of information, computer science and technology to migration health practice, research and learning. Applied in the context of health assessments, MHI gives IOM a major competitive advantage in the domain of global service provision. This advantage is exemplified by MiMOSA, a health informatics tool that was developed to integrate all activities at the IOM mission level, to standardize data collection between missions and to create a venue for centralized data collection at the organizational level. These functions enable IOM to analyze and understand patterns of morbidity related to migration health, to aggregate data and to ensure quality control in services. As a result, IOM and receiving governments are able to tailor screening tools for different epidemiological contexts, thereby enabling receiving governments to provide more rational screening protocols, as well as better integration services for migrants.

Additionally, MHI allows for the continuity of care through electronic transmission of relevant health data prior to a migrant's arrival in the receiving country.

**IOM
TODAY**

157 MEMBER STATES

MORE THAN 480 FIELD LOCATIONS

8,400 STAFF WORKING ON 2,600 ACTIVE PROJECTS

MORE THAN USD 1 BILLION EXPENDITURE

IOM IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY. AS AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, IOM ACTS WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO: ASSIST IN MEETING THE OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION, ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION ISSUES, ENCOURAGE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MIGRATION, AND WORK TOWARDS EFFECTIVE RESPECT OF THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS.