



Intercountry workshop
WHO-IOM-EU EU4Health joint action
Location: Bucharest, Romania
Dates: 18-19 February 2025

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11 November 2024
Original: English

Concept note

1. Background

Since the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, there are currently 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine forcibly displaced across Europe. To promote a balance of efforts between Member States receiving refugees and displaced people from Ukraine, the European Commission proposed to activate the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC), which was unanimously adopted by the European Council in March 2022. The European Council adopted the decision to extend the temporary protection until 4 March 2026.

Holders of temporary protection have access to rights and entitlements, including healthcare. Since October 2023 and for two years, the European Commission is funding two actions with WHO and IOM via the EU4Health 2023 Work Programme. Building on each other's mandates and areas of expertise, the two UN agencies are implementing two actions in full coordination and complementarity, and therefore, they are referred to as [the joint WHO-IOM-EU action](#). The joint action is implemented in 10 countries, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. Its overall objective is to strengthen the health systems of these 10 countries to ensure access to services for refugees and displaced people from Ukraine. To do so, the joint action seeks to contribute to the following deliverables:

- Support national health authorities to adjust the health coverage to meet the needs of refugees and displaced people
- Conduct health system reviews to understand the barriers and enablers for refugees from Ukraine in accessing health services
- Deploy health mediators to support refugees in navigating the health system and accessing services
- Strengthen/establish networks of relevant health actors providing services to refugees
- Develop and support programmes in country aimed at empowering displaced health workers to continue their professional development
- Increase the vaccination coverage among refugees
- Promote and disseminate health information among refugees

Given the rapid response that countries offered to support the health needs of refugees and displaced people from Ukraine, they have gained knowledge, experience and lessons learned on how to improve access to services while collaborating with local partners for increased impact.

These learnings can be shared with other countries with the potential to be replicated in other contexts.

2. Purpose and objectives

The intercountry event is organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and it aims at creating a platform for sharing lessons learned and good practices among countries of implementation of the WHO-IOM-EU joint action with the objective to build/strengthen the capacity of Member States in technical areas of refugee and migrant health.

The event will bring together MoH representatives of the 10 countries of implementation (Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia), EU, WHO and IOM representatives, and key partners involved in the implementation of deliverables.

The technical workshops will delve into 4 themes in alignment with some deliverables of the joint action:

- Understanding legal frameworks and procedures to support displaced health workers from Ukraine to continue their professional development in the host country
- Strategies to ensure access to health services. Examples from health mediators, and dedicated health working groups
- Enhancing public health messaging for Ukrainian refugee communities
- Strategies on immunization services for refugees to increase vaccination uptake

Objectives of the event:

- To disseminate lessons learned and good practices based on the implementation of the action
- Enable communication exchange among national health authorities on strategies to meet the health needs of refugees and displaced people from Ukraine
- Identify areas of support for Member States, including cross-border collaboration

Expected outcomes:

- Facilitate sharing of lessons learned and good practices
- Strengthen the capacity of Member States in addressed technical areas
- Generate key insights for actions aimed at supporting the health needs of refugees and displaced people from Ukraine

3. Participants

There will be approximately 40 participants attending the event.

Invited participants include:

- MoH and/or relevant health authorities' representatives of the countries of implementation

- Key partners involved in the delivery of services for refugees and displaced people from Ukraine
- WHO, IOM, and EU representatives

4. Format of the event

This is an in-person workshop which will be conducted in English. The workshop will include different thematic sessions and group discussions on some of the technical areas covered by the joint action.