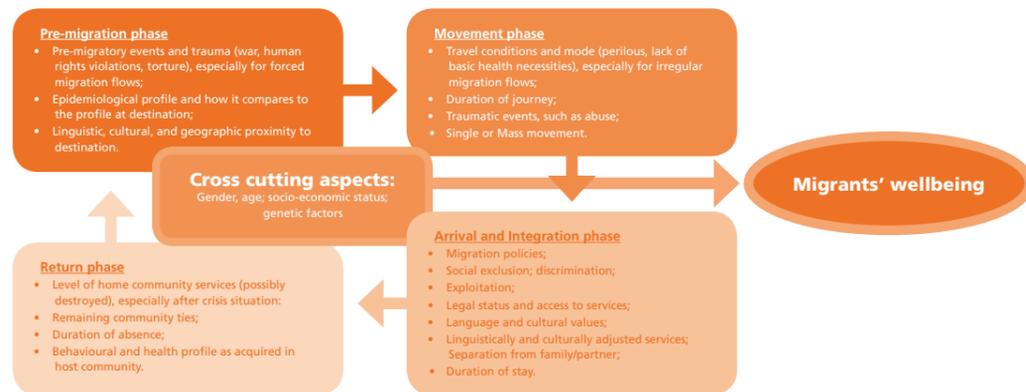




Mobility and Health

The Partnership on Health and Mobility in East and Southern Africa (PHAMESA) is a bi-regional programme aimed at improving the management of migration and health to reduce migrants' vulnerability to ill health. Previously known as the Partnership on HIV and Mobility in Southern Africa (PHAMSA), PHAMESA is now in its third phase of implementation and has been expanded to include East Africa. It has also extended its focus to include broader health issues relating to mobility, not just HIV, throughout all the phases of the migration process. (See diagram).



Why focus on Mobility and Health?

In most African societies many people migrate in search of income opportunities in different locations and sectors. Poverty and exploitation, being away from family, and limited access to health care including HIV prevention and services, makes labour migrants and mobile workers vulnerable to treatable health conditions. Separation from family can also induce loneliness and isolation which can lead to multiple and concurrent sexual partners, subsequently making them vulnerable to HIV and adverse health and reproductive health concerns.

Migration and Health Programmes

IOM's migration and health programmes assist governmental and non-governmental partners to develop and implement policies and programmes. This is done through three global programme areas that promote the health of migrants:

1) Migration and Health Assessment and Travel Assistance

IOM provides physical examinations, laboratory services and vaccinations on behalf of destination governments. These health assessments help reduce and better manage the public health impact of migration on communities of receiving countries.

2) Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants

IOM provides health services in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, immunization and environmental health and hygiene. The programme also involves health promotion and education on migration and health, as well as capacity building in migrants' specific health needs.

3) Migration and Health Assistance for Crisis-affected Populations

IOM supports governments and populations during emergencies, both natural and man-made whether arising from political strife or conflict, and in their aftermaths by providing psychosocial assistance, communicable disease control and response and reconstruction of damaged health infrastructure.

Highlights

IOM provided financial and technical assistance to the Government of Zambia's Ministry of Communications and Transport (MCT) to develop a new HIV policy for the transport sector. The new policy was adopted in September 2010 and provides guidelines and strategic direction for coordination, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of all workplace HIV programmes in the transport sector of Zambia.



In March 2011, IOM and the National AIDS Control Council in Kenya launched a free 24 hour health care clinic on the Kenyan/Ugandan border. Known as the Busia Wellness Centre, the clinic is targeted at hard-to-reach populations such as truck drivers, civil servants and female sex workers who, due to their social environment, are particularly vulnerable to engaging in risky sex, and subsequently HIV.

"The PHAMSA project improved my life and people's lives. If it wasn't for this project I would not be here today, but through their activities I am now living a new life. I am a new person and so is my wife because we both know our status. I couldn't think of myself taking my wife for treatment. I could have kept this as a secret if it wasn't for this project. I am not the only one. There are also other friends of mine and many other people in the community who we met at the hospital while doing check ups. There is change in our behaviour. The people in the community collect condoms from the project people and they are seeking healthy behaviour. I've learned how important it is if one knows his or her status and the importance of breaking the silence and sharing information."

Story collected from a beneficiary of the IOM PHAMSA project in Mozambique, collected as part of the Most Significant Change Story process in 2010.

International Organization for Migration

IOM is an intergovernmental organization, with 132 member states, committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

Established in 1951 and now active in over 340 field locations worldwide, IOM works with partners, government and civil society to:

- Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration and mobility
- Advance understanding of migration issues
- Encourage social and economic development through migration; and
- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants and mobile populations.

IOM's programmes in East and Southern Africa region include:

- Movements and assisted returns
- Counter-trafficking
- Migration and health
- Migration and development.
- Counter-xenophobia
- Humanitarian and Post-Crisis Management; and
- Migration management and policy.

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IOM International Organization for Migration

Migration and Health in East and Southern Africa





Partnership on Health and Mobility in East and Southern Africa

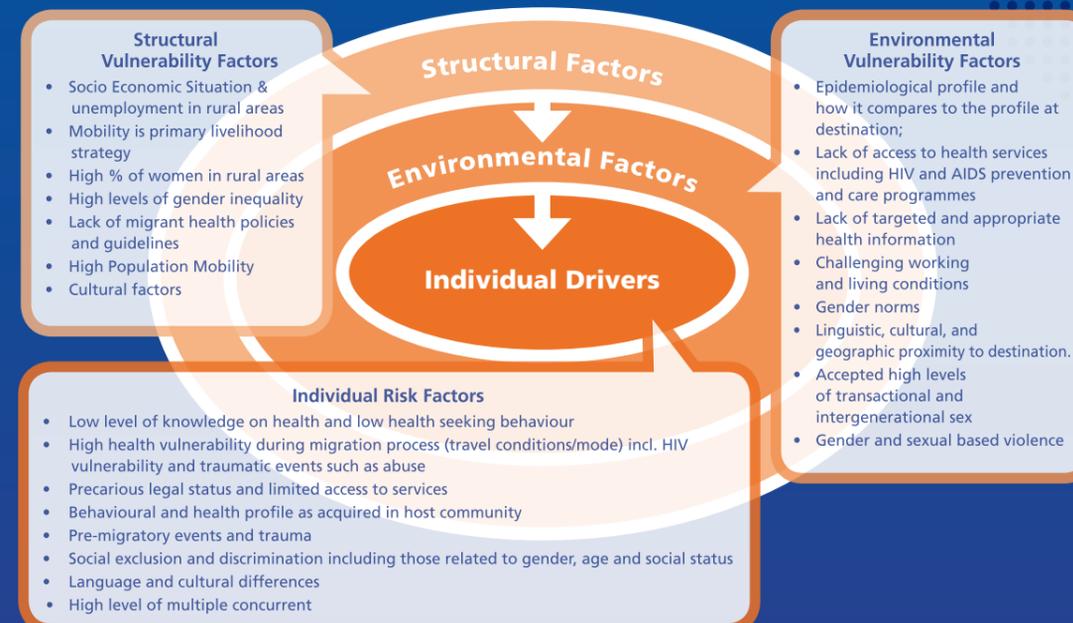
IOM's Partnership on Health and Mobility in East and Southern Africa (PHAMESA) aims to improve the management of migration and health and reduce migrants' vulnerability to ill health and HIV by responding to their health needs throughout all phases of the migration process.

IOM's approach to the health and HIV vulnerability of migrants and mobile populations is guided by the concept of 'spaces of vulnerability'. This approach is based on the understanding that health vulnerability stems not only from individual but also a range of environmental and structural factors specific to the unique conditions of a location, including the relationship dynamics among mobile and sedentary populations. Thus these factors should be taken into consideration when addressing Migration and Health concerns, and interventions should consider and target both migrants/mobile populations and the communities with which they interact, including families in migrant-sending communities.

Spaces of vulnerability are those areas where migrants and mobile populations live, work, pass-through or from which they originate. They may include the following; land border posts, ports, truck stops or hot spots along transport corridors, construction sites, commercial farms, fishing communities, mines, migrant communities and urban informal settlements, migrant-sending sites, detention centres, and emergency settlements. Target groups in these areas may include: Labour migrants and mobile workers; Forced migrants and irregular migrants; and People affected by mobility.

PHAMESA offers a comprehensive health approach, with particular focus on HIV prevention, care, treatment and support. The programme also addresses other aspects of health that relate closely to HIV, such as Tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment as well as sexual and reproductive health.

This is done through a multi-level approach to reducing individual risks by addressing individual and environmental factors while taking into account structural issues that increase vulnerability to ill health. (See diagram)

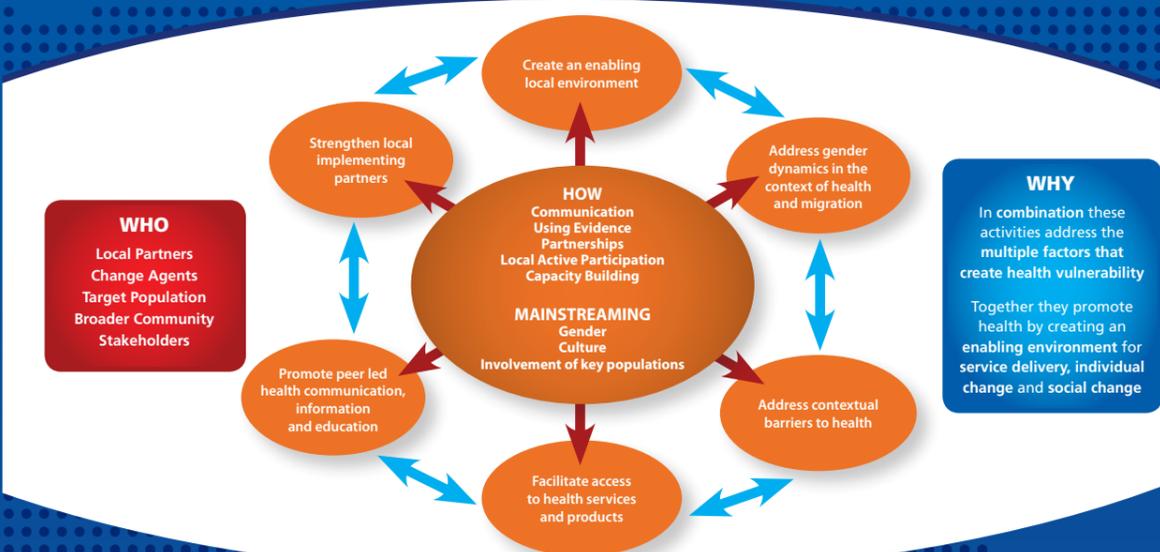


IOM's PHAMESA programme promotes migration and health through five programme components:

1) Service Delivery and Capacity Building

IOM facilitates, provides and promotes equitable and improved access to comprehensive health care services, with particular attention given to the prevention of HIV, tuberculosis, and gender based violence. IOM develops and implements comprehensive interventions that are responsive to the unique environment of migrants and mobile populations. By implementing the PHAMESA Health Promotion and Service Delivery Model IOM strives to address conditions that increase the health vulnerability of migrants and migration affected communities, and identify gaps in health service delivery in order to facilitate migrants' access to health care services.

Health Promotion and Service Delivery Model



2) Advocacy for Policy Development

In order to create a supportive policy environment for responding to migration and health concerns and the public health needs of host communities, IOM advocates for policy development at regional, national and sectoral levels, and undertakes activities to create a conducive general environment for migration and health.

3) Research and Information Dissemination

Evidence-based programming and strategic information are critical for effective programming, policy and dialogue. IOM continuously engages with the research community to strengthen and disseminate strategic information relating to migration and health in order to develop effective evidence-based health care programmes, as well as influence policy and dialogue.

4) Regional Coordination

IOM is committed to developing and strengthening partnerships and coordination among governments, regional economic communities and other key stakeholders such as United Nations agencies and regional and international non governmental organizations to improve the harmonization of programmes and facilitate collaboration.

5) Governance and Control

IOM places heavy emphasis on results-based management by ensuring transparent, efficient and effective governance and control through financial control measures, reporting schedules and standard operating procedures.

Mission Statement

Promote migrants' health

Lead on migration and health research, policies and management

To fulfil these goals, the Migration and Health Department endeavours to:

Advocate for migrants' physical, mental and social health

Deliver high quality and comprehensive health care services to migrants and mobile populations

Provide capacity building and technical cooperation

Respond to the changing patterns of mobility and consequent needs in migration and health management through migration policy and in collaboration with States and communities

Conduct research to guide policy making on population mobility health issues

Advocate for comprehensive health policy implementation, including policy changes relevant to the various complex patterns of migration of benefit to both migrants and communities

Provide a forum for dialogue, consultation and learning with counterparts and partners

Promote cooperation and coordination among stakeholders in migration and health issues.

The Migration and Health Department is accountable to:

Migrants for the provision of high quality health services in full respect of their human rights

Governments for the provision of advice on emerging migration and health issues, including how to manage and research them

Donors for delivering needed and cost-effective services

The International Organization for Migration for ensuring the integration of migration and health in all relevant areas of its work.