

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION AND HEALTH

1996 ANNUAL REPORT



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE for Migration and Health

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1996 Annual Report

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1. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

ICMH was established in 1995 as a joint undertaking of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the University of Geneva and with the support of WHO.

2. THE THREE MAIN FOUNDING PARTNERS

IOM

ICMH has continued to benefit very much from the administrative support and technical collaboration of IOM. The administrative support has included recruitment of staff, financial management, travel and the use of technical equipment in the house. Technical collaboration has continued to be built on, and benefit from, discussions with staff of IOM, especially Medical Services.

Joint publications in the past, and now the formulation of a joint project proposal to TACIS for the Russian Federation, have pointed to important mechanisms of working together in mutually cooperative and beneficial ways. This will hopefully continue and open even better ways of mutual support and scientific-technical cooperation.

University of Geneva

Collaboration has continued to evolve. The three recent EC projects ; the health assessment of displaced people project, the drug abuse and migration project, and the migration and health projects, have opened up new possibilities and avenues for a mutual strengthening of international migration related research. The ICMH hopes to open up discussions with staff who are engaged in AIDS related activities.

WHO

Confirmation was received from WHO concerning designation of the ICMH as a WHO/EHA Collaborating Centre for Health Aspects of People Displaced by Disaster in August 1996. Recognition of the ICMH potential contribution to the work of EHA, and to WHO as a whole was very welcome and ICMH looks forward to a strong and close working relationship with EHA. The work already entered into and referred to later in this report as the HADP project is a first such project, and promises to demonstrate how the ICMH can work closely with WHO and hopefully develop new areas of joint activity. Collaboration with FRH continues also to be strong, and with EMC there are also planned discussions.

The ICMH was asked and contracted by WHO/EURO to undertake the analysis of data and prepare the report on the health and social situation of the elderly in Sarajevo. A 50-page report has now been published by WHO. It will form the basis of a meeting to be held in BiH on the health and social needs of the elderly and how the national health and social services should respond.

3. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

With the intent of enhancing relationships and fostering networking between groups with similar interests and mutually supportive backgrounds, contact has been established with a number of institutions and organizations to explore areas of future activity, cooperation and research :

- (a) The Spallanzani Hospital is one of the foremost infectious diseases reference centres in Italy and brings with it a wealth of international experience in AIDS. In the context of the IDDP project in BiH, a sound working

relationship has already evolved with the AIDS Unit of the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome.

- (b) The Johns Hopkins University in the United States is one of the foremost US based teaching and health research institutions. Its interest in developing reproductive health research and training issues has led to collaboration with ICMH in the domain of pregnancy outcome.
- (c) The IPPF (Int. Planned Parenthood Federation) is one of the larger family planning and reproductive health NGOs in the world. Its headquarters are in London, but it has well established regional and national offices in all parts of the world, both developing and developed. Its collaboration with ICMH in reproductive health issues has already started.
- (d) USAID is interested in exploring collaborative work with the ICMH in the field of new and emerging patterns of HIV incidence in East Africa, and in developing other joint projects in the African region.
- (e) The CRED (Centre de Recherche de l'Epidemiologie des Desastres) is based in Brussels. Work has started with this institution in networking a group to study, and ultimately promote better drug and pharmaceutical use procedures in situations of uprooting and disasters.
- (f) AIDSCAP/FHI is the largest AIDS related technical and research NGO in the world. It has offices in most regions of the world, and has been instrumental in developing operational research on communication and prevention in AIDS programmes for people in vulnerable situations.

- (g) The University of Barcelona and the Corporacio Sanitaria Clinic hosted a two-week training visit by a doctor from the Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology at Kosevo Clinical Centre in Sarajevo. This was arranged by ICMH as part of the follow-up to the UNFPA funded study on pregnancy outcome among war displaced women. The University has indicated a willingness to collaborate in any future activities of this kind.

4. PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Health Assessment of Displaced People

Funding : WHO/ECHO

This project constituted one of our first collaborative projects of the ICMH as a WHO Collaborating Centre with EHA, and



Training of data entry staff

is already indicative of the strong working relationship which we can have with the WHO. The project was divided according to a number of themes, including social and demographic aspects ; health care facilities ; drug utilisation ; health status ; projected health care needs ; resettlement projections. It was implemented in the cantons of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica, Bihac and Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are the cantons with the largest displaced populations, and they are also the cantons which the national authorities and UNHCR believe will receive the largest number of returning refugees. Coordinating staff and seventeen field research workers were recruited together

with four data processors. An accelerated work plan was developed and shared with WHO as well as with ECHO.

The survey covered a nationally representative sample of over 5,000 people. It provides a comprehensive description of their overall physical and psychosocial health, their social condition, and the health and social services problems that might go on to influence their eventual resettlement in different parts of the country.



Manuel Carballo supervises data entry

The survey identifies a broad range of both physical and psychosocial health problems resulting from or associated with uprooting and displacement, and in particular it highlights a number of health concerns that could affect resettlement.



Data entry staff

Drug Abuse and Migration *Funding : EC*

This project currently involves seven European cities. The participating cities are Aarhus, Arnhem, Antwerp, Athens, Barcelona, Rome, Roubaix and probably at

the recommendation of Professor Stalder of the University of Geneva, Geneva. The aim of the project is to identify whether and what factors may affect risk taking behaviour (drug abuse) among migrants. The project has started and is based in Antwerp where the city authorities have offered space for a project office. A six person Scientific Advisory Group was selected and met in October.

Infectious Diseases and Displaced & Returning Populations *Funding : IOM/MoH Italy*

The ICMH is the collaborating partner of IOM in this project, which responds to an important operational research need associated with the factors affecting risk exposure among internally displaced people and returning refugees. The project was mobilised as a result of a request from the national health authorities of BiH concerning HIV/AIDS, but also includes applied research questions on other STDs, TB, Hepatitis and selected childhood infections. The project involves the close collaboration of the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome, and will link up with the Kosevo Clinical Centre of Sarajevo. The project has immediate applicability in other areas of major population displacement, and has already been discussed with additional agencies, including UNHCR.

Health and Migration in the EC *Funding : EC*

The project constitutes the basis for what will be the 1997 EC Annual Report, which will deal with migration and health as it affects the countries of the European Community. The project was officially contracted in early October. The project is being undertaken in close collaboration with European centres of excellence and with the University of Geneva.

Pregnancy Outcome in Displaced Populations *Funding : UNFPA*

This project was completed and involved a final workshop and publication of the final report. The project has given rise to considerable interest (see below) and has helped generate support for maternal and child health activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has also generated a joint IPPF-ICMH project (see below). The project has been reported in the *Lancet* (September 28, 1996) and additional articles have been submitted to other journals. A commentary of this project will be included in the final report in relation to the project Health Assessment of Displaced People.

HIV and Migration in Uganda and other East African countries *Funding: FHI/USAID*

This project was funded in November and analyses emerging patterns of HIV incidence in Uganda and other East African countries including an assessment of the extent to which selected interventions are working to reduce the incidence of new infections. It explores new methods of investigating the impact of population movement on differential HIV infection rates and AIDS demographic impacts in Uganda and other East African countries. The applicability of the methodology to other communicable diseases in the context of population movements is being explored by USAID.

5. OTHER PROJECTS

Improving Reproductive Health Among Displaced Populations

This project stems directly from the pregnancy outcome project described above, and is being coordinated by IPPF (London) with the technical collaboration of ICMH. It is designed to upgrade the skills of health professionals in reproductive health, stimulate an exchange

of ideas and experiences with reproductive health services, and generate a national policy on reproductive health among displaced populations and returning refugees. ODA has indicated an interest in extending the project both in time and content.

Experience with Medical Evacuation

At the request of Cooperazione Italiana through IOM, the ICMH prepared and submitted a proposal for a workshop/meeting on the implications of recent medical evacuation experiences for future humanitarian programmes in disaster situations. This project would be a Cooperazione Italiana/IOM/ICMH initiative with the participation of other groups with experience or interest in this theme.

Strengthening the FMS (Russian Federation)

The ICMH was invited to submit a tender for a major project designed to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Migration Services (FMS) of the Russian Federation. In light of the collaboration between ICMH and the IOM, and given the experience of the IOM in this area, the possibility of such a submission is being reviewed. A French based group (SODETEG) is involved and will, if the project submission is successful, be a partner. ICMH interest relates to research issues on migration, forced migration, and the psychological aspects/problems of resettlement and social integration.

Reproductive Health and Migration

One of the key outcomes of the pregnancy outcome study has been the mobilisation of interest in this area. Johns Hopkins University has asked ICMH to be a subcontractor with them on a USAID project. The proposal submitted to USAID by Johns Hopkins is in fact the ICMH reproductive health proposal originally

submitted to UNFPA. The proposal was shared with Johns Hopkins for review, and they have decided that it is something they would want to be affiliated with, and for which they will raise funding.

6. STAFF

All ICMH staff are funded through project support, i.e. "soft" money. This has not been easy on any of the staff, but there are now possibilities for six-month contracts and this will do much to enhance morale.

The staffing position for 1996 was as follows:

Ms Y. Banaji
 Dr M. Carballo
 Ms A. Cuzin
 Mr J.J. Divino
 Ms A. Hadzihasanovic
 Ms V. Durrer-Gasse
 Dr N. Losi
 Dr M. Morival (Antwerp)
 Mrs J. Schmitt
 Dr R. Stoneburner
 Dr D. Serdarevic (Sarajevo)
 Mr D. Zeric

7. INTERNS

In addition to regular staff, the ICMH was fortunate to have the support of three excellent interns for various periods during the summer. They were:

Ms. Y. Banaji, Cambridge University, UK (later recruited for one month)
 Ms S. Halvorsen, Sheffield University, UK.
 Mr C. Hutson, Uniformed Services University, USA

8. FINANCIAL STATUS

The Financial Status below reflects the state of the accounts as of 31 December 1996. All amounts are stated in US\$.

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash at Bank	99,184.00
Sundry Debtors	736,446.00

Liabilities

Sundry Creditors & Accruals	36,000.00
Balance – Project Income	
Carried forward	<u>799,630.00</u>
	<u>835,630.00</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Income	Expend	Balance
ICMH General Account			
Balance b/f 1 January 1996	24,579		
Year end 31 December 1996	<u>31,504</u>	<u>44,085</u>	<u>11,998</u>
	56,083	44,085	11,998
Direct Project Costs			
Reproductive Health	44,619	31,290	13,329
Aids & Infect. Disease BiH	855,263	167,757	
	687,506		
Migration & Drug Abuse EC	78,431	18,112	60,319
Assess. of HIV – Uganda	39,923	13,445	26,478
Health of Migrants in EC	860	860	0
Health Situation of Displaced Persons BiH	113,720	113,720	0
Health Assess of Displaced Persons BiH	<u>403,755</u>	<u>403,755</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,536,571	748,939	
	787,632		
TOTAL	<u>1,592,654</u>	<u>793,024</u>	<u>799,630</u>

The accounts as of 31 December 1996 were audited on 23 July 1998 by Mr J. Ohms, elected auditor for ICMH.

9. CORE FUNDING

To date there has been no major core funding. Support has been primarily "in kind", and although this has been important, the nature of the operation calls for greater infrastructure funding. It will be important for a donor meeting to be organised as soon as possible to replace the one which had to be cancelled earlier this year. There is good reason to believe that some support would be forthcoming from such an initiative. In the interim, until such core funding has been secured, IOM

continues to provide the financial and administrative infrastructure necessary for the functioning of the Centre.

10. OFFICE SPACE

The question of office space continued to be a matter of concern throughout 1996. To date the ICMH has benefited from the good support of the Canton of Geneva (two offices at 24 Beau Séjour) and IOM (two long term offices and flexible loan of others on an "as and when needed" basis).

The growing need to bring all staff together under one roof, which would predicate on greater efficiency, greater exchange of ideas and pooling of intellectual resources and capacities, prompted a search for office premises. In December, ICMH was offered the use of a villa in Geneva which would house up to 15 staff members and which would be provided by the Canton of Geneva at a very low rent. IOM has offered to cover the rent for the first year. The premises would be available from 1 January 1997. ICMH accepted this offer and it is planned to reallocate the office in early February 1997.

There is nothing better than team work, but team work needs to be feasible and fostered. Being under one roof will contribute to that.

11. PUBLICATIONS

Carballo, Simic and Zeric – "Health in Countries Torn by Conflict", *The Lancet* 1996; 348: 872-74

Carballo, Hadzihasanovic and Grocutt – "Women and Migration: A Public Health Issue", *World Health Statistics Quarterly* 1996; 49:158-164

Simic, Zeric and Carballo – "Factors Affecting Low Birth Weight in a Displaced Population Under Siege", submitted 1996

Carballo and Losi – "Bosnie: le défi du rapatriement", *Le Monde*; 2 July 1996

Carballo and Losi – "Il Rientro", il manifesto; 8 August 1996

Carballo – "Water Only Two Days a Week: What It will Take to Rebuild Bosnia", *The Christian Science Monitor*; 26 January 1996

Carballo – "Cura di pace", il manifesto; 20 January 1996

Stoneburner, Low-Ber, Tembo, Mertens and Asiimwe-Okiror – "Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection Dynamics in East Africa Deduced from Surveillance Data", *American Journal of Epidemiology* 1996; 144:7, 682-695

Carballo and Southall – "Can children be protected from the effects of war?", *BMJ* 7 December 1997; 313:1493

12. MEETINGS ATTENDED AND PRESENTATIONS MADE

22 to 24 October 1996 – Workshop on Biomedical Research in the Former Soviet Union – London, UK

25-26 October 1996 – Epidemic Preparedness and Emergency Response – Paris, France

16-17 December 1996 – USAID meeting evaluating evidence of apparent declines on prevalence and incidence patterns of HIV infection – Washington DC, USA



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