



Annual Report

2016

Development
and social inclusion
through health



CONTACT

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About us

The International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD) was established in 1995 as a research, training and policy organisation. It was set up to provide governments, UN agencies, other NGOs and private sector groups with technical and advocacy support on issues related to population movement and health. ICMHD is committed to strengthening the capacity of countries to meet their Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive health development, social integration, and constructive management of population movement.

ICMHD is registered in Switzerland as a non-profit organisation and has its main office in Geneva. ICMHD is also present in Albania, Bosnia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Spain, and the USA. ICMHD is a WHO Collaborating Centre, and an Implementing Partner for UNFPA and UNAIDS. It also works closely with the European Centre for Disease Control, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and with the Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association, of which it is a founding member.

ICMHD collaborates with the Dasman Diabetes Institute in Kuwait and numerous universities and research institutes in

Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

Over the past 20 years, ICMHD has been involved in UN health assessments in Afghanistan, Albania, Iraq, Kosovo, Macedonia, and oPt. In 2005 it led part of the emergency response to the tsunami in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Its research activities include epidemiological and biopsychosocial aspects of health, and the need for inter-sectoral approaches to health and human security. Most recently, ICMHD has provided technical support to a number of European countries on behalf of the European Office of WHO on healthcare preparedness for massive arrivals of migrants and refugees.

ICMHD provides training for MoH officials, healthcare workers, UN and NGO humanitarian relief personnel on issues such as public health in emergencies, sexual gender based violence, HIV, reproductive health, and how best to address the psychosocial needs of people caught up by disasters.

ICMHD seeks to help countries and other stakeholders to prioritise their public health interventions, always recognising the role that people on the move can play in national economic, social and cultural development.

Foreword



We had hoped not to be repetitive in our Foreword address this year. Unfortunately, the global situation has not changed for the better and countries seem just as ill-equipped to deal with large influxes of new people as they were a year ago. In 2016, over 360,000 people are estimated to have entered the European region; another 5,079 drowned in the Mediterranean trying to do so. There is growing evidence that while poverty and conflict continue to push people to leave, the uncontrolled and dangerous shipping of people across the Mediterranean has become a major industry and insecure boat crossings are a part of this. Migrant camps in Greece and Italy continue to be overwhelmed with the ones who have survived the crossing. At the same time, the number of children and elderly people being left behind is growing, and families and family life are being fundamentally disorganised in all the countries they are leaving.

All in all, 2016 was not a positive year for the people who moved, the people they left behind, or for the many people who assumed or were given responsibility for receiving and managing them. At ICMHD, the challenge of looking for solutions to this global dilemma took on even more prominence in our work, and in many of our discussions it became clear that nothing short of a Marshall-like reconstruction programme for the countries migrants are fleeing will work. If left alone, poverty and conflict will continue to displace millions of people every year. Similarly, if Europe and other receiving regions do not plan more comprehensively, they and the migrants who arrive on their territory will feel overwhelmed. In Europe, there is an obvious need for more agreement between countries and more cohesive policies that recognise the long term value of migration and the benefits of managing this human resource more creatively and positively.

Dr Eamon Kelly
President

Dr Manuel Carballo
Executive Director

HIV & Security: 5 Years since UNSCR 1983

Recognising that conflict and post-conflict situations are fertile grounds for HIV and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), in 2011 the United Nations Security Council reiterated its support for work on both these issues and adopted Resolution 1983 (UNSCR 1983), calling for urgent and more coordinated international action on them.

Five years after the adoption of the resolution, ICMHD was asked by UNAIDS to assess the response from UN peacekeeping operations. In close collaboration with UNDPKO and UNAIDS, ICMHD found that peacekeeping missions have made a considerable effort to implement the resolution's demands. The response has nevertheless been variable and, in some cases, short lived as a result of poor resource backup.

On the whole, HIV awareness and testing has been included in most mandates, and is being offered before and during deployment. Some missions are also providing training for national uniformed personnel and ex-combatants on HIV and SGBV. They are also providing HIV services to host communities, including voluntary counselling and testing, condom distribution and post-exposure prophylaxis.

The report ICMHD prepared was discussed at the “HIV and Security: Past, Present and Future” event that took place in New York from 8-10 June as a side-event to the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS. The side-event highlighted the need for renewed attention to be given to HIV and sexual violence in conflict settings, and for more resources to be made available to field missions in a consistent fashion.



Photo: UNAIDS Participants at the “HIV and security: past, present and future” event , New York 8-10 June

Responding to HIV in Emergencies

Humanitarian emergencies associated with natural and man-made disasters are occurring more frequently. They are also affecting more people than ever before. Between 2008 and 2015, over 200 million people are estimated to have been displaced by natural disasters, and in 2015, there were at least 65.3 million refugees and internally displaced people. Given the increasing political and social fragility seen in many parts of the world and the changing climatic environment, the number of displaced people can be expected to grow. In 2016, ICMHD worked with the International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in

finalising a set of guidelines, assessment tools, and training curricula on HIV in humanitarian emergencies for Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers. The documents were introduced at the 28th Asian RCRC HIV/ AIDS Network Annual Meeting and Capacity Building Workshop held from 29 November to 2 December in Jakarta, Indonesia. ICMHD is now preparing an additional series of training courses on this theme for RCRC senior staff; the first of these courses is scheduled to take place in Minsk, Belarus for RCRC health managers from Central Asia and Eastern Europe.



The Challenge of GDM and T2DM in Kuwait

Globally

1 in 7 births is affected by gestational diabetes, and **1 in 11** adults have diabetes (415 million)

IDF 2015

During 2016, ICMHD continued to work closely with the Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) in Kuwait and especially with its Public Health Research Department. In collaboration with the DDI and the Ministry of Health, Primary Healthcare Sector, ICMHD undertook a study of the primary healthcare systems' response to gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), and in particular staff knowledge and their clinical management of it.

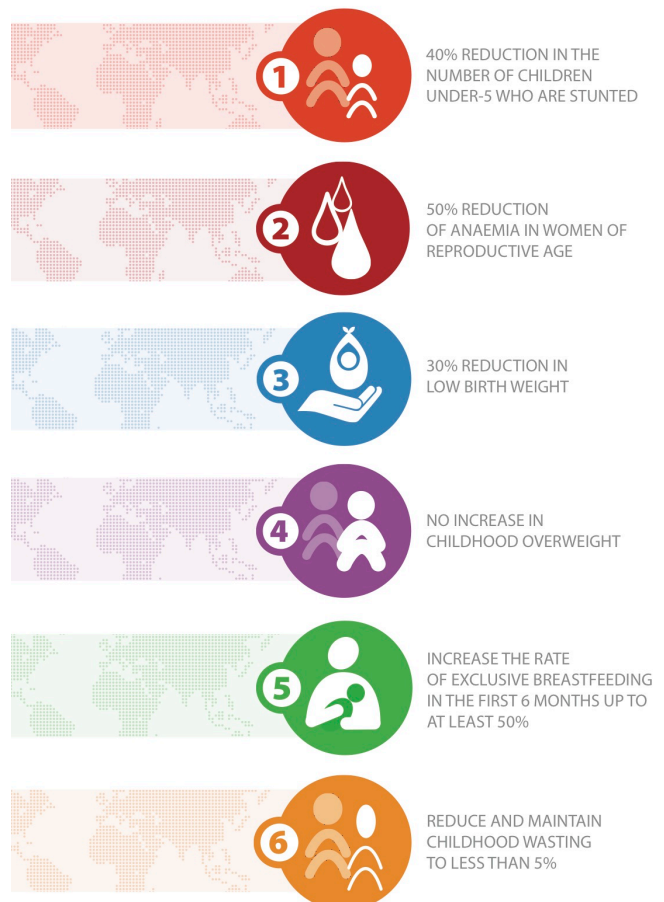
The study found that although GDM has become a major public health and clinical challenge, much remains to be done if the PHC system is to provide the support that pregnant women and mothers need if they are to prevent and/or mitigate the implications of GDM. The study pointed to the need for more routine screening for GDM, and for the systematic introduction of counselling, information, and education for pregnant women.

Another ICMHD-DDI study looked at how Kuwaitis and expatriates in Kuwait perceive the problem of diabetes, what they know about the disease, and what they feel should be done to prevent or manage it. The preliminary findings of the study point to important gaps in terms of the public's knowledge about the factors contributing to diabetes, and what people feel they can do to prevent the disease. Knowledge about the value of exercise and dietary management was poor and levels of physical exercise were largely insufficient. There were clear indications that many people do not associate body size with the risk of obesity and diabetes, and often have a poor or wrong perception of their own body size, and hence of what they should do to avert or better manage their diabetes.

Promoting breastfeeding in Kuwait

Because breastfeeding is thought to prevent T2DM in later life, ICMHD and DDI undertook a study of infant and child feeding practices in Kuwait, especially the incidence and duration of breastfeeding among Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti mothers.

The study showed that on the whole the duration of complete breastfeeding, that is to say without any supplements being given, is well short of the WHO's recommended 6 months. Although the proportion of mothers initiating breastfeeding was relatively high, the prevalence had tapered off considerably by the time of discharge from hospital, and continued to do so over the following months. Ethnic differences in feeding patterns were also observed, with non-Kuwaitis tending to breastfeed longer than expats. The fact that breastmilk substitutes are readily available, if not actually promoted in hospitals, cannot be overlooked as a key factor and must be addressed in the context of WHO's International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. ICMHD supports the WHO Global Target 2025 to increase the rates of exclusive breastfeeding and is preparing a set of recommendations for promoting initiation and duration of breastfeeding in Kuwait.



Surveillance of advanced melanoma in Europe

In 2016 ICMHD continued to work with the Institute of Applied Economics and Health Research (ApEHR) in Denmark on creating a multi-country database designed to allow comparative cross-country collaborative observational studies on melanoma treatment and outcomes.

ICMHD was responsible for coordinating the project with an Italian clinical research centre, the Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori in Meldola, and linking it with the ApEHR

team in Denmark and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The project will be presented at the 2017 EMBL-Cancer Core Europe Conference on Cancer Immunotherapy in Heidelberg, Germany on 2-4 February 2017.

ICMHD participated in a number of network meetings that brought together over 15 scientists in the areas of cancer research, health economics, and statistics. The pilot project is expected to be completed by 2019.



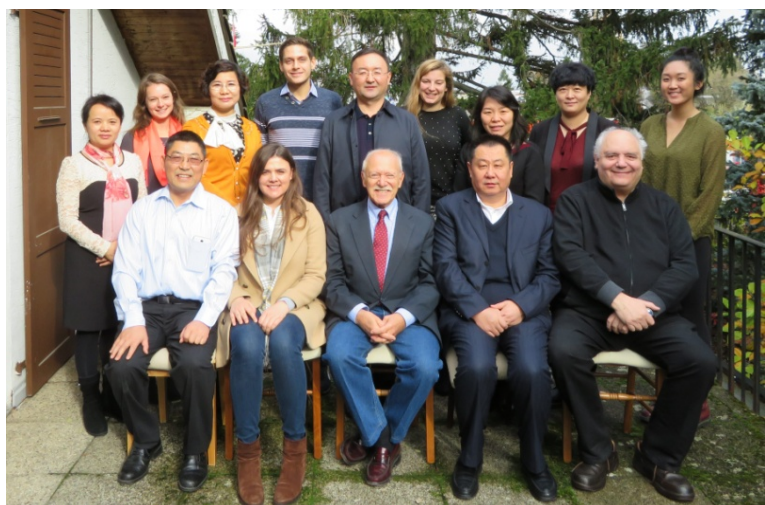
PHOTO: IRST MCD Network Meeting 14 June 2016

Strengthening knowledge and skills

Training continued to be a major theme for ICMHD, and in the summer of 2016 it collaborated with Tulane University in organising a three-week course on “Development, Health and Urban Growth in the 21st Century”. The course consisted of lectures, group discussions, problem solving exercises, and site visits to the ICRC, UNHCR, WHO, and WMO. The course was followed by an in-house internship that also included seminars on public health.

In November, ICMHD conducted a three-day training course for hospital administrators from the Xinjiang Medical University in China. The course focused on management of health emergencies, especially those linked to natural disasters, and the role of hospitals and hospital personnel. The training involved lectures and group discussions, and was facilitated by the Chinese staff at ICMHD. Visits to ICRC, WHO, and the Geneva University Hospital were also organised.

As part of its collaboration with the University of Geneva, ICMHD linked up with the Faculty of Medicine’s Institute of Global Health (IGH), and gave a series of lectures for students enrolled in the IGH’s Master Degree Programme. The first lecture on “Migration: an emerging



determinant of global health” was held on 22 November at Geneva’s Biotech Campus, and was supported by the Institute of Global Health, École Romande de Santé Publique, and the Swiss School of Public Health.

Strengthening national capacities

Throughout 2016, ICMHD continued to emphasise the need for countries to be better prepared to receive migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. From the perspective of ICMHD, Universal Coverage and the recognition of health as a right will remain inconclusive unless countries are able to allocate the human

and financial resources called for.

ICMHD's training programme, as well as its technical support and guidance have tried to address this issue and a number of briefings and short training courses were provided to European countries on the front lines of contemporary migration.

Internships

The ICMHD Internship Programme provides opportunities for students who wish to gain valuable work experience in the fields of public health, migration, international development, and human rights. Over the last 12 months ICMHD welcomed 18 undergraduate and graduate students from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, UK, and the U.S. The interns participated in a range of ongoing projects and benefited from seminars on public health organised for them at ICMHD.



Collaboration

WHO

In 2016, ICMHD strengthened its collaboration with the WHO/HQ and the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development. As a WHO Collaborating Centre, ICMHD was involved in designing a new Plan of Action on Migrant Health, which was proposed during a meeting held on 8 January in Venice, Italy.

Institute of Global Health

ICMHD entered into a systematic relationship with the Institute of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva. Together, ICMHD and IGH will conduct research and training on issues related to migration and global health, including sexual and reproductive health.

Publications

In 2016, ICMHD staff authored and/or co-authored several publications on migration, viral hepatitis, and gestational diabetes.

Papatheodoridis G, Thomas H, Golna C, Bernardi M, Carballo M, Cornberg M et al. Addressing barriers to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B and C in the face of persisting fiscal constraints in Europe: report from a high level conference. *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*. 2016;23:1-12.

Carballo M, Maclean EC, Gudumac I and Van Damme P. Hepatitis C and Migration: A Public Health Challenge. *J Fam Med*. 2016; 3(4): 1065

Carballo M, Al Wotayan R and Maclean EC. Primary Health Care Staff Knowledge and Practices towards Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Kuwait. *Journal of Family Medicine*. September 2016; 3(8): 1083

Carballo M, Hargreaves S, Gudumac I, Maclean EC. The Evolving Migrant Crisis in Europe: Implications for Health Systems. *The Lancet Global Health*. *In press*

Meetings and Conferences

In 2016, ICMHD was invited to give key-note presentations at:

18-19 January, Geneva

WCC/UN High Level Conference: Refugee Crisis in Europe

Organised by the World Council of Churches

4 February, Brussels

Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research

Organised by the European Commission

17 February, Brussels

Hepatitis C: The beginning of the end - key elements for successful European and national strategies to eliminate HCV in Europe

Organised by the HBCPPA

10-11 March, Ljubljana

"Highlighting underserved groups for screening, prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C in Europe"

Organised by the VHPB

9-12 April, Amsterdam

Screening of infectious diseases among migrant populations: challenges and opportunities

Organised by the ECCMID

29-30 April, Paris

Hepatology Academy Inaugural Meeting

Organised by AbbVie, Hepatitis Alliance

8-11 June, Lloret del Mar

Forum of Excellence 2016

Organised by the Foro de Excelencia

30 August, Lugano

Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management

Organised by the Swiss Public Health, University of Lugano, and the Swiss TPH Institute

5-6 October, Stockholm

Prevention and assessment of infectious diseases among newly arrived migrants in the EU/EEA

Organised by the ECDC

7 October, Geneva

Century for Global Health Literacy

Organised by IHLA and ICMHD

8-9 November, Geneva

1st WHO Technical Advisory Meeting of the Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results Group

Organised by WHO

15 November, Bern

Swiss Public Health 2016: Refugees and Public Health

Organised by Public Health Switzerland

17-18 November, Geneva

DHIS 2 Conference

Organised by HISP and University of Oslo

Organisational Structure

- > **General Assembly** - guides the policies and strategies of the Centre
- > **Executive Committee** - implements the strategies of the General Assembly
- > **Executive Director** - guides the day to day activities of the Centre

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Prof Monique Begin	Treasurer
Dr Issakha Diallo	Committee Member
Dr Manuel Carballo	Executive Director

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