

Advocating health for all

Annual Report 2017 - 2018

International Centre for Migration, Health and Development



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International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD)

Address: 11 Route du Nant d'Avril 1214 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 783 10 80
E-mail: admin@icmhd.ch
Homepage: <http://www.icmhd.ch>
Twitter: @ICMHD

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ICMHD's contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development

About ICMHD



The International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD) is a Swiss NGO established in 1995 as a research, training and policy organisation. It is dedicated to providing governments, UN agencies, other NGOs, and private sector groups with technical and advocacy support on population movement and health. ICMHD's evidence-based analysis and critical insights have helped many countries and institutions to set priorities, identify solutions, and implement better policies on migration and health within the context of sustainable development. As a WHO Collaborating Centre for health-related issues among people displaced by conflicts and disasters, ICMHD also provides advice and technical support to countries on natural and man-made emergencies and displaced populations. ICMHD is committed to strengthening the capacity of countries to protect the health and wellbeing of refugees and migrants within the framework of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

As well as its extensive research experience, ICMHD also conducts situation assessments, evaluations and trainings on public health in emergencies. Its training courses cover migrant access to health and healthcare, HIV in conflict situations, migration and viral hepatitis, diabetes, maternal and child health, reproductive health, gender based violence, and psychosocial health of people in disasters. More recently, it has been asked to take up stigma and discrimination in health and wellbeing as it relates to refugees and migrants.

In addition to its main office in Geneva, ICMHD is present in every continent through its network of collaborators. It works with universities and research institutes in Albania, Belgium, Bosnia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Moldova, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA. ICMHD is an Implementing Partner for UNFPA and UNAIDS. It has a close working relationship with the European Centre for Disease Control, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association, of which it is a founding member.

Message from the Executive Director



2017 was a very difficult year for us at ICMHD. In April of 2017 our friend and mentor, Dr Eamon Kelly, president of the ICMHD Executive Committee and General Assembly passed away. Eamon came to ICMHD in 2002 and his legacy is a long and strong one. He brought with him and shared a rich body of national and international experience, first with the U.S.

Department of Labour, then with the Ford Foundation and the U.S. National Science Foundation. As the President of Tulane University, he took Tulane into a global leadership position in health science research and international development. It was under his guidance that ICMHD began to emphasise its capacity strengthening role and developed a training and internship programme that has become a key part of the international agenda on responding to the emerging challenge of migration and health. During his time with ICMHD, our scope of work grew significantly and ICMHD became a partner with a number of UN organisations, such as UNAIDS, UNICEF, as well as WHO. It also entered into a technical advisory relationship with the European Centre for Disease Control, and the Council of Europe. Eamon's commitment to social development and the Sustainable Development Goals took ICMHD into new fields that included collaborating with UN peacekeeping operations and military and police sectors in responding to health crises in conflict settings. His interest in preparing undergraduate and graduate students for work in the field of migration, health and development led to ICMHD receiving over 20 students each year. The past and present staff of ICMHD as well as so many others around the world are indebted to him, his vision and his willingness to fight for what he believed was right and just.



Dr Manuel Carballo
Executive Director, ICMHD

Promoting evidence-based policies on migration and health

While population movement is not new, migration has only recently been recognized as a social determinant of health and a process with potentially major public health implications for the migrants themselves, the countries they transit through and the countries that end up hosting them. The conditions under which people are uprooted and in which they are forced to move are vital parts of a complex migration-health nexus, as are the many administrative, legal, social, cultural, and economic forces governing their arrival in host countries. In order to assess the current migration-health dynamic, ICMHD has been tasked by WHO to look at how population movement has evolved, how countries need to prepare for mass influxes of people, and how countries should be encouraged and helped to respond to the many emerging scenarios associated with mass population movement. On the basis of discussions, interviews, and a comprehensive review of what has been already agreed upon and stated by international bodies, a number of strategies and strategic actions were proposed. The report that resulted from this initial tasking is the first of three reports being prepared by ICMHD for WHO.

- > The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the positive contributions of refugees and migrants for inclusive growth and international development
- > Increased population movement poses new challenges to national healthcare systems and calls for countries to improve their capacity to respond to them
- > Whatever attention has been given to migration and health issues has tended to focus on infectious disease control and not on inclusive and equitable access to healthcare services
- > There is a need for far more attention to be given to migration in and between developing countries, where resources are lacking and where rapid urbanisation is producing serious public health threats

Responding to the health needs of people on the move



65.6 million

forcibly displaced people



258 million

international migrants



740 million

rural-to-urban migrants



1,235 million

international tourists

Health needs of migrant populations in Libya

ICMHD is partnering with WHO to develop a series of multi-disciplinary projects aimed at improving the health of refugees and migrants in Libya. The projects recognise the constantly evolving nature of the problem and the unstable and adverse conditions under which refugees and migrants are living or are being detained in Libya. The projects have generated considerable interest from stakeholders in a number of countries, and work on this is expected to continue throughout 2019.

Screening for infectious diseases among migrants

Screening for infectious diseases for new and resettled migrants has long been the subject of debate in the international public health community. ICMHD has spearheaded the theme of viral hepatitis and migration in Europe and in 2017 it was invited to lead the discussion on this topic at the 27th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Vienna. As a result of this, the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Travellers and Migrants, of which ICMHD is a core part, will soon publish a research paper on screening and immunisation guidelines for migrants in EU countries.

Diabetes in emergencies

Diabetes has become a major global health problem affecting millions of people in both developing and developed countries. Recent climatic events in the Caribbean and the US together with massive upheavals in Iraq and Syria have been a reminder of how challenging living with diabetes can be in situations of natural and man-made disasters. In 2017, ICMHD worked on the theme of diabetes in emergencies and was invited to make a presentation on this topic at the 2017 International Diabetes Federation conference in Abu Dhabi. As a result of its work in this area, ICMHD has been invited to join an international task force that will focus on diabetes among people on the move.



185 million

drug users worldwide

Drug use among migrants and refugees

As part of its work on migration and health, ICMHD was invited by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) to make a presentation on migration and drug use at the sixth edition of the Extended Reitox meeting held in Lisbon on December 1, 2017. Experts and researchers from several countries and from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) shared information on national situations and optional responses to drug use in migrant communities. ICMHD took up the topic from the perspective of public health and presented the results of a study conducted by the centre on vulnerability and drug use among young migrants in six European cities.



200 million

women experienced FGM

FGM among displaced populations

Building on its previous work on female genital mutilation (FGM) and reproductive health among refugees and migrants, ICMHD is partnering with the Karol Wojtyła Association to carry out research in the area of FGM and displaced populations. As a first step, ICMHD conducted a review of what is known about FGM among migrants and refugees coming to Europe. In November 2017, ICMHD led the discussion on migration and FGM at the 12th Forum Risk Management in Sanità in Florence, Italy.



1 billion

migrants in need of health
protection

Health in a globalised world

In March 2017, ICMHD shared its experience and insights on global health and migration at the University of Antwerp's workshop on "Epidemics in a Globalised World". The workshop brought together 15 international experts on global health and disease prevention and control. At the workshop, ICMHD discussed past and current migration trends and their role in changing global patterns of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The same theme of migration and health was presented by ICMHD at the 2018 European Congress of Emergency Medicine in Glasgow, focusing on the situation in Europe.

Strengthening capacities in responding to HIV in emergencies



“ Without significant additional effort, especially with respect to HIV in humanitarian and emergency settings as well as in fragile countries, the Fast-Track Targets will not be reached.

- UNAIDS

Eastern Europe and Central Asia are home to what is currently the fastest growing HIV epidemic. Between 2010 and 2016, the annual number of new HIV infections rose by 60%, while only 27% of people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Instability in parts of the region continues to affect national HIV/AIDS responses and puts obstacles in the path of effective prevention, screening, and treatment activities.

Building on previous work with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), ICMHD organised a Training of Trainers course on HIV/AIDS in natural and man-made disasters. This was done in collaboration with IFRC HQ and the IFRC Regional Office for Europe in Hungary. The course was held in Minsk, Belarus for senior and mid-level Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) health managers from 15 Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The course stressed the need for systematic inclusion of HIV in all RCRC disaster preparedness and emergency response planning and included sessions on population displacement, health needs in disasters, epidemiology of HIV and other related infections, at-risk populations, and approaches to improving prevention, screening, and treatment of HIV in all phases of an emergency. The training also focused on strengthening the capacity of national RCRC Societies to provide technical and coordination leadership in the area of HIV in emergencies, building on its strong national membership base. The guidelines and training curricula on HIV in emergencies developed by ICMHD as part of its work with the IFRC will be published in 2019.

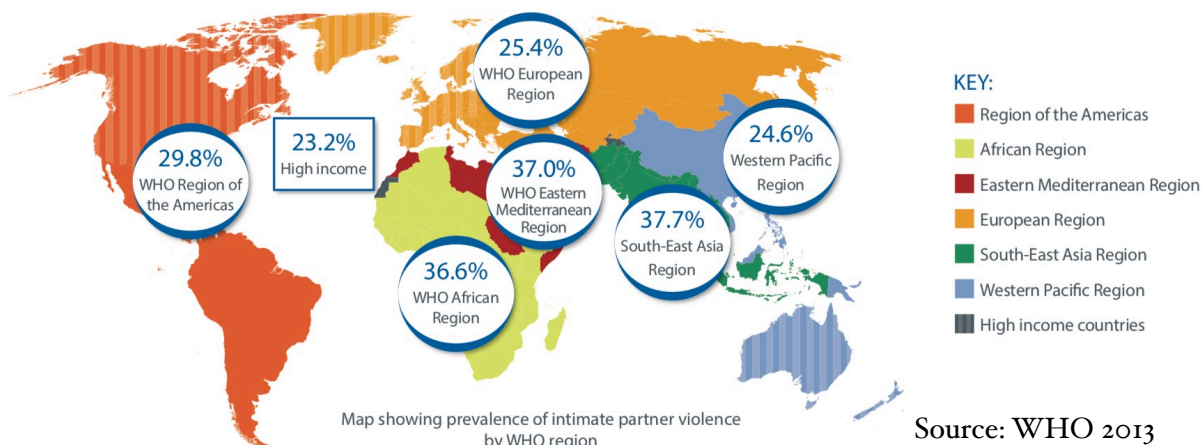
Assessing gender based violence services in the Arab States

Over the last 20 years, violence against women has been increasingly recognised as a health and human rights problem, and an obstacle to sustainable development. In 2015, within the framework of a Joint Global Program, UNFPA together with UNDP, UNODC, UN Women, and WHO launched a set of Global Standards and Essential Package of Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. In preparing for the roll-out of this multi-year initiative, ICMHD was tasked by UNFPA with mapping existing GBV services in ten Arab States* and Gulf Cooperation countries, and assessing the degree of their alignment with the Essential Package of Services. In Jordan, ICMHD conducted a more in-depth assessment with UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, National Council for Family Affairs, Family Protection Department, and national NGOs. The reports prepared by ICMHD included a gap-analysis of legislation, health and social policies, services provided, and the capacity to respond to violence against women at national and regional levels. The findings of these reports will help UNFPA, other UN agencies and relevant ministries in setting national and regional priorities on GBV and designing survivor-centred interventions for the region in keeping with the Essential Services Package.

* Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen

1 in 3 women

throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



Source: WHO 2013

Promoting access to sexual and reproductive health

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) remained a key priority for ICMHD during 2017, and in February, ICMHD led the first international conference on “Sexuality and Youth in Albania”. Organised by the Foundation Together Albania, with support from the Norwegian Embassy, UNFPA, and local ministries, the conference covered a range of themes of concern in modern-day Albania.



Photo: Foundation Together 2017
Dr Carballo (left) at the meeting in Tirana

ICMHD stressed the role of rapid urbanisation and social change on the emergence of new patterns of sexual behaviour in Eastern Europe, and highlighted that this is happening at a time when young people are entering their reproductive years earlier than ever before, but with little information or guidance. The growing rates of unwanted pregnancies, abortion, and STIs in the region is a reflection of the difficult challenge that Eastern European countries are facing in the area of adolescent health.

As a follow-up to the conference, discussions were held with UNFPA to develop a larger initiative on the SRH needs of young people in Albania and Moldova. This was taken up with the Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva, with which ICMHD is working on the topic of SRH among migrants and refugees in Cameroon and Switzerland.

At the request of the Institute of Global Health, ICMHD staff also participated at the OpenSexEd hackathon held on 12 May at the Campus Biotech Innovation Park in Geneva. The meeting was a brainstorming session on ways of presenting information on SRH and dispelling myths in order to promote positive sexual behaviours. The ideas gathered during the hackathon are being used to develop culturally and age appropriate audio-visual materials on sexuality for young people in Geneva and elsewhere.

“Addressing the challenges to universal access to sexual and reproductive health brings substantial health, social and economic benefits to communities and countries, and thereby ensures sustainable development.

- INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

At the request of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, ICMHD gave a speech at the “Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health: Realising Health and Human Rights” event held on the margins of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Based on its expertise on forced migration and sexual and reproductive health, ICMHD shared its insights on family planning in the context of environmental change and forced migration. ICMHD will continue to work on this theme in 2019, and especially in situations of climate change-related forced displacement.



Photo: UNRISD 2017

Addressing infant and young child feeding in Kuwait



The health benefits of breastfeeding have been increasingly recognised by national and international bodies. As well as being a key source of immunological protection against a range of diseases, there is also evidence that breastfeeding may be protective against the development of obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus among children. This theme has gained particular attention in Kuwait, where the prevalence of both obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus is growing rapidly, and where age at first diagnosis of these two diseases is falling.

In 2017, ICMHD published the results of a study it undertook on patterns of infant and young child feeding in Kuwait in 2016 in collaboration with the Dasman Diabetes Institute. The findings showed that, among other things, the average duration of complete breastfeeding in Kuwait falls well short of the WHO's recommended six months. Although the proportion of mothers initiating breastfeeding was high (98%), the duration of full breastfeeding tapered off considerably, with only 37% of mothers fully breastfeeding their children by the time they left the hospital. Multiple social and health reasons were given for this and for complete weaning which occurred in 88% of the cases by three months. Ethnic differences in feeding patterns were also observed, with Kuwaiti mothers being far less likely to breastfeed than expat mothers, especially those coming from South East Asia.

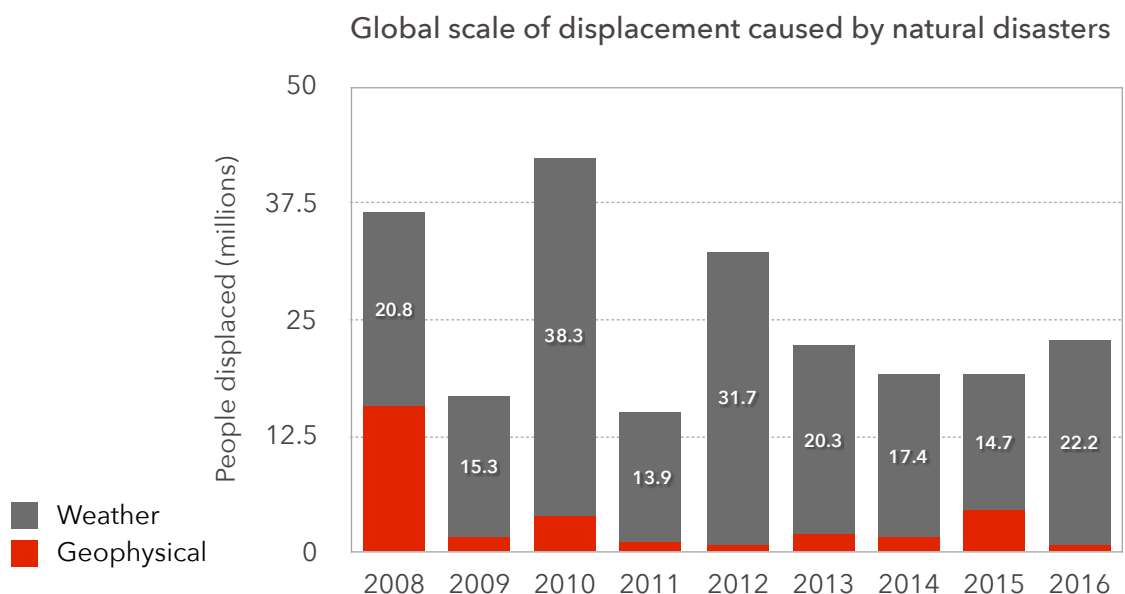
The study highlighted the need for developing nation-wide breastfeeding promotion campaigns, and called for national authorities to adhere to and promote the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in Kuwait.

Read the full study: Carballo, M., Khatoon, N., Maclean, E., Al-Hamad, N., Mohammad, A., Al-Wotayan, R., & Abraham, S. (2017). Infant and young child feeding patterns in Kuwait: results of a cross-sectional survey. *Public Health Nutrition*, 20(12), 2201-2207. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1368980017001094>

Addressing climate change, forced displacement and health

Climate change has become one of the most pressing environmental, social, and economic challenge confronting the world. With global temperatures breaking new records and an average of 26.4 million people being displaced each year by climate-related rapid onset hazards, addressing climate change has never been more urgent. In 2017, ICMHD was invited to be part of the second G7 health experts working group that met in Rome to discuss the impact of climate change on health and displacement. The meeting, held in March focused on preparing for the 43rd G7 summit in Taormina.

As a result of its contribution, the Italian Ministry of Health asked ICMHD to prepare a series of research papers on climate change, displacement and health. The research papers address the growing threat of climate change and its possible implications for health and healthcare systems, and highlight what governments and international agencies need to do next in taking evidence-based decisions on climate change and new health challenges.



Source: IDMC 2017

Fostering partnerships for sustainable development

In 2017, ICMHD strengthened its collaboration with a number of institutions on issues related to population movement, health, and sustainable development. In March 2017, ICMHD renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with UNAIDS which represents a shared commitment to building a comprehensive global response to HIV/AIDS.

ICMHD also strengthened its collaboration with WHO HQ on forced displacement, mass migration and health. As a WHO Collaborating Centre, ICMHD participated at the Annual meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres on Research and Training on Health Care and Public Health in Disasters, hosted by the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

ICMHD also renewed its collaboration with the Glasgow Caledonian University in the UK and will work with GCU to develop research and training programmes on migration, global health, and sustainable development.

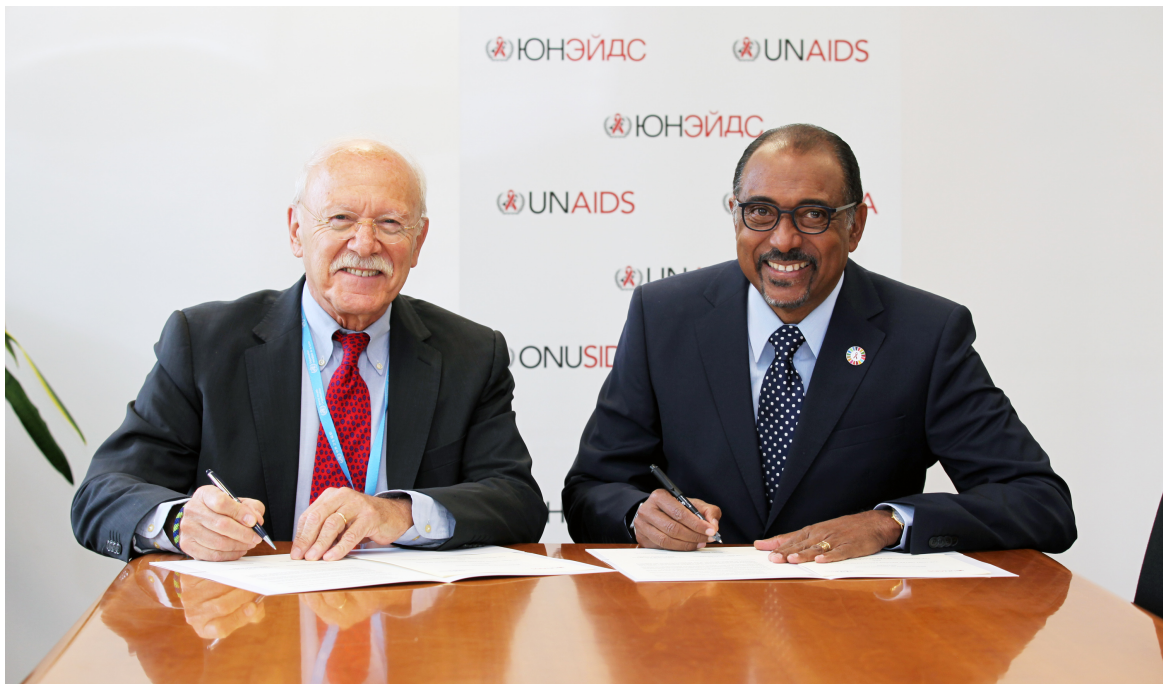


Photo: UNAIDS Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding 2017

Strengthening knowledge and skills

Migration and its implications for health and social development has become a major issue of concern to both receiving and sending countries. At a time when the politics of migration are changing in many parts of the world, it is essential that countries receiving and working with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers be conversant with the dynamics of migration and understand the role they can play in strengthening the health and wellbeing of the newcomers and the public on the whole. As part of its commitment to strengthening knowledge on migration dynamics and health, ICMHD conducted a number of training courses on migration and health.

As part of its collaboration with the University of Geneva, ICMHD gave a series of lectures for students enrolled in the Institute of Global Health's Master Degree Programme. Topics included migration as a determinant of global health and health needs of displaced populations. ICMHD also presented the theme of migration and public health at the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) workshop held in Geneva on 17-21 May 2017.

ICMHD gave lectures on the challenges and opportunities of the current migration crisis at the larger ESCMID Postgraduate Education course on Migration and Health. The course was held in 2017 in Palermo, Italy and involved over 30 specialists in the field of infectious diseases, sexual and reproductive health, psychiatry, and public health.



Photo: IDHA 2018

During 2017-2018, ICMHD also conducted training courses for mid-career professionals and humanitarian workers on psychosocial health of people displaced by disasters. The courses were part of Fordham University's International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance programme which is held every year.

Internship programme

In 2017-2018, ICMHD continued to develop a strong internship programme that provides students with new challenges and learning experiences in the field of international public health and migration. Over the last two years, ICMHD welcomed over 25 undergraduate and graduate students from Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, China, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the USA.

Students came from a range of academic backgrounds, such as biology, government and political science, public health, international relations, and international development. Interns participated in a range of ongoing projects and benefited from seminars on public health organised for them at ICMHD. They also benefited from the lectures given by ICMHD staff at the Institute of Global Health and the Graduate Institute in Geneva. Master's students also received additional guidance and counselling.



Photo: Tamuyen Do 2017

From left to right: Tamuyen Do, Amanda Oeggerli, Maartje Muskens, and Eliza Breed



Personal Experiences

"Being an intern at ICMHD is truly a great experience, as you get to work on interesting topics, together with very knowledgeable and experienced people, in a friendly and encouraging work environment. I have learned a lot about migration, public health and international relations during the internship."

"I am so happy that I decided to come and do my internship at ICMHD. I believe that it has provided me with opportunities that I would never have had elsewhere. I have learned so much from the projects I worked on as well as the people I was privileged to meet. I have no doubts that this experience will continue to be very valuable to me as I go forward with my career."

- Amanda, Canada

"Interning at the ICMHD has allowed us to explore and mold our future career plans in public health. It also allowed us to be exposed to the internal operations of an NGO. The skills we have learned here have been invaluable. The collaborative nature of the office has also nurtured productive and insightful dialogue and research."

- Nicole and Moffat, USA

In memoriam

The passing of Dr Eamon Kelly brought a sad end to an otherwise exceptional year. Dr Kelly joined the ICMHD Executive Committee in 2002 and became president of the Executive Committee a year later. Dr Kelly brought to ICMHD a unique wealth of experience and insights into what today is increasingly called global health. Prior to joining the ICMHD Executive Committee, Dr Kelly had pioneered international and national initiatives for the Ford Foundation in the U.S., working closely with civil rights leaders and politicians representing both of the main parties in the U.S. His work at the Ford Foundation brought about key changes in U.S. society and brought him to the attention of the Tulane University where he was instrumental in making it one of the major universities in the U.S. At Tulane, he created an international program that is still one of the university's key features today. Dr Kelly will be missed by his colleagues on the ICMHD Executive Committee and ICMHD staff and collaborators throughout the world.



Photo: Dr Eamon Kelly - Bottom row, fourth person from the left.

Organisational structure

ICMHD brings together a unique body of international and national experience in migration, international public health and social development. Its Executive Committee, composed of five eminent public health scientists, guides the policies and strategies of the centre, while its General Assembly ensures that ICMHD continues to meet the needs of countries and different stakeholders.

Executive Committee

Dr Eamon Kelly	President
Dr Mohamed Abdelmoumene	Vice President
Professor Monique Begin	Treasurer
Dr Issakha Diallo	Committee Member
Dr Manuel Carballo	Executive Director

General Assembly

Dr Kazem Behbehani	Kuwait
Dr Jose Ramon Calvo	Spain
Dr Edmond Dragoti	Albania
Dr Ashour Gebreel	UK
Dr Benjamin L. Harris	Liberia
Dr Ghada Karmi	UK
Dr Patrick Kayembe	DRC
Dr Jaques Lebas	France
Dr Aldo Morrone	Italy
Dr Elenor Richter	Switzerland
Dr Harald Siem	Norway

