

140th WHO Executive Board Statement
Agenda Item 8.7: Promoting the health of migrants

Honorable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of Alzheimer's Disease International and NCD Alliance.

Delivering quality, timely health care to migrants and refugees is essential to the 2030 Agenda mandate to 'leave no-one behind'. Despite their chronic nature, NCDs and mental and neurological health problems pose an acute threat to health in emergency settings. In a study among Syrian refugees, 50.4 % of households reported a member living with an NCD. We urge WHO, Humanitarian Agencies practice promoted and mainstreamed across responding agencies. and Member States to:

- **Ensure availability of NCD medicines and minimise risk:** In addition to the clear and urgent need to provide NCD medications listed in the WHO PEN package, including palliative care, increased population risk of NCDs during protracted crises requires simultaneous efforts to reduce exposure to NCD risk factors. In refugee camps high availability and consumption of tobacco products; poor ventilation and limited access to clean fuel for cooking, heating and lighting; poor opportunity for physical activity; and unhealthy diets are pervasive.
- **Strengthen health systems:** Health systems in low resource settings are typically overstretched even before arrival of migrants and refugees in host communities. An overarching approach to building resilient health systems oriented towards achieving UHC as recommended in the report, and specifically towards integration of migrant and refugee populations in terms of both access *and* acceptability, will ensure improved outcomes.
- **Develop global and regional strategies and action plans:** We strongly support the suggestion within the report to develop a coherent and comprehensive global migration and health strategy. Furthermore, we note the value of this measure at regional level, not least in EMR, to maximise coordination and cooperation across borders. Interventions must be evidence-based and existing good

Thank you for your attention.

The NCD Alliance is led by:



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Health solutions for the poor

