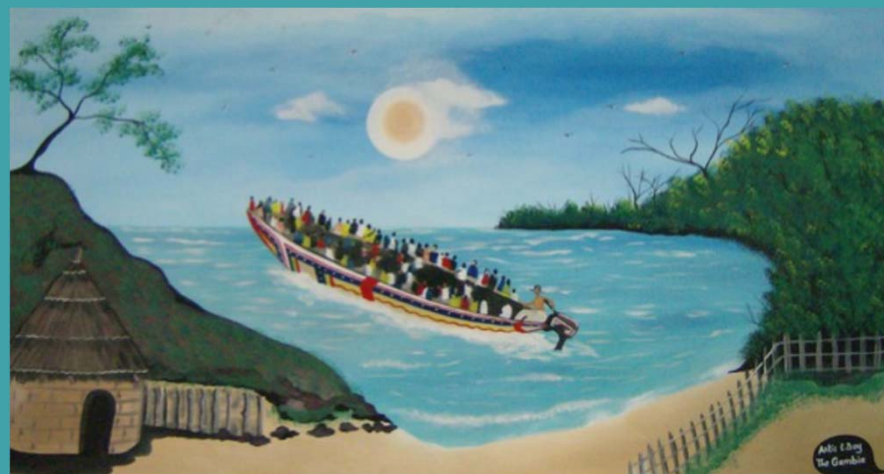




General principles of vaccination of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in the WHO European Region



World Health
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Всемирная организация
здравоохранения

Европейское региональное бюро

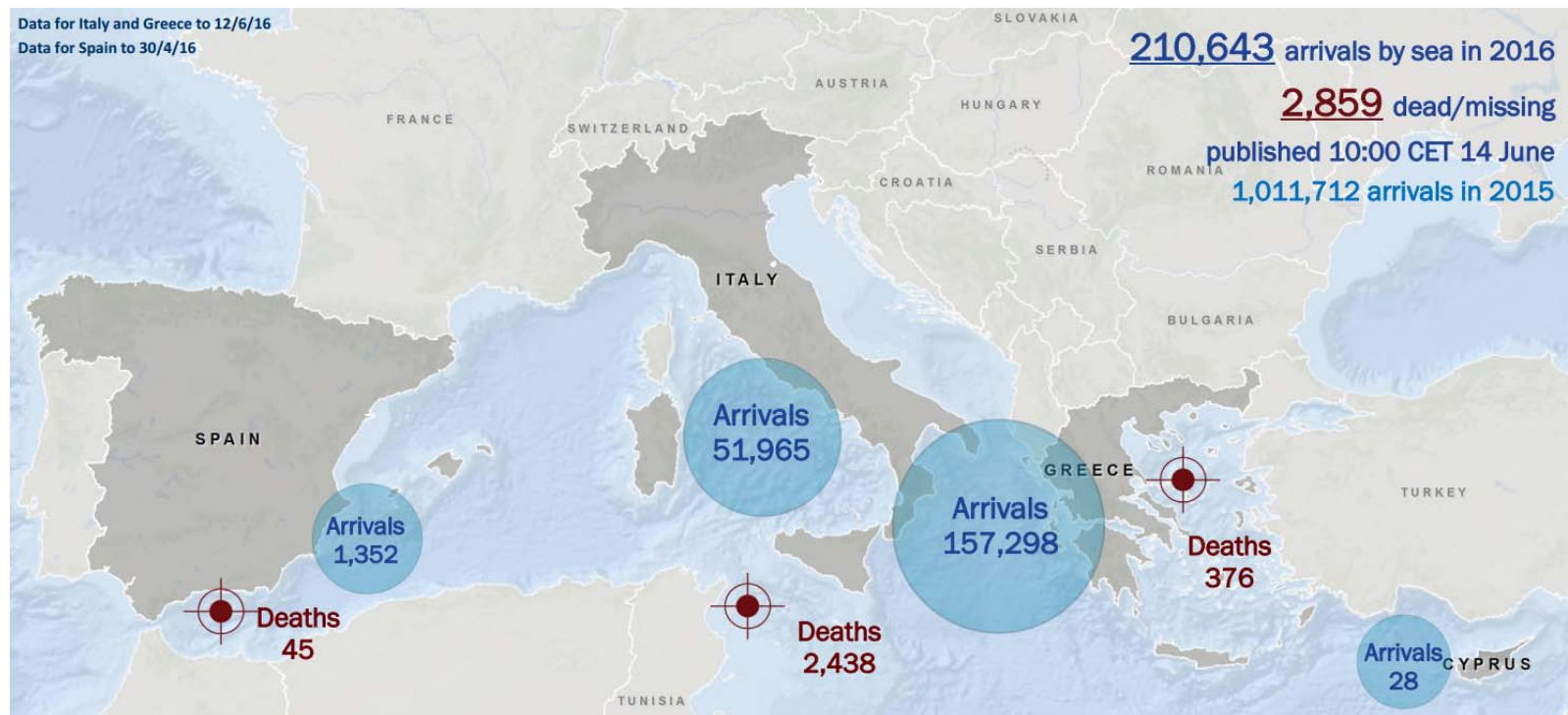
Mark Muscat

Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization

Rome, Italy, 16-17 June 2016

Background

Unprecedented influx of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants: in magnitude and speed of movement



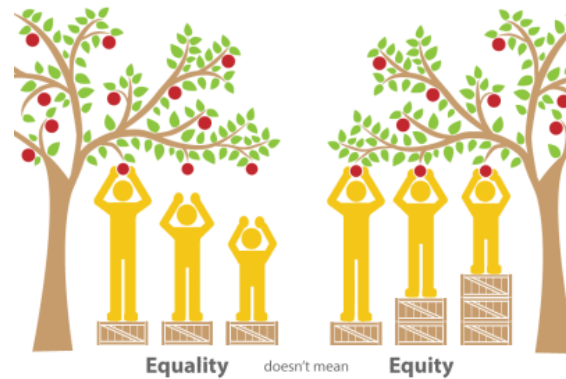
Background

Public health challenge

Strengthening health systems is required

Easy access to health services

EQUITY



HUMAN RIGHTS

SOLIDARITY



DIGNITY

Risk for increased transmission of diseases

Physical and psychological trauma



Increased health risks



Lack of sufficient water

Inadequate shelter

Poor sanitation conditions

Overcrowding

Respiratory diseases
Diarrhoea
Skin infections

Risk for increased transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases

From: Countries where vaccines are widely accepted and coverage has traditionally been high

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Most at risk are young children who have not yet been vaccinated because of disrupted vaccination programmes



To: Countries with misconceptions, complacency, poor awareness of vaccines benefits, religious or philosophical beliefs, lack of access

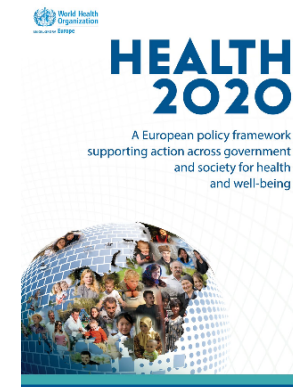
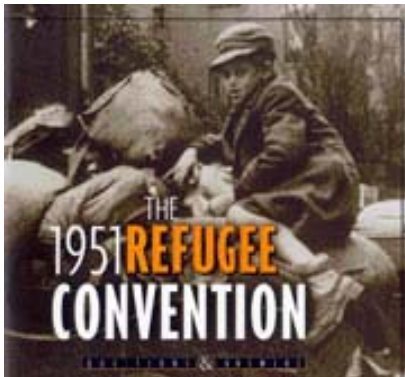
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Many residents and mobile individuals in the host countries of the Region remain susceptible



Provision of health services and vaccines

- 1951 Refugee Convention
- Alma-Ata declaration on universal health coverage (1978)
- World Health Assembly resolution WHA61.17 on migrants' health
- Health 2020 (the European policy for health and well-being)



Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants should have non-discriminatory, equitable access to health care services, including vaccines, irrespective of their legal status.

Provision of health services and vaccines



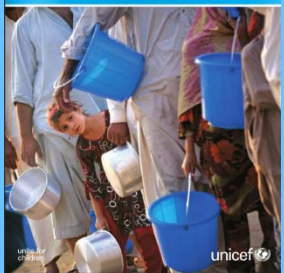
The plan proposes that all countries in the Region ensure that immunization policies are non-discriminatory and that the services are fully inclusive and user-friendly



REPORT 2010

UNICEF
HUMANITARIAN
ACTION

Partnering for children in emergencies



Call for equitable access of all children, adolescents and women to essential health services, with sustained coverage of preventive and curative interventions. These include timely immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly measles and polio.

Provision of health services and vaccines

- The health systems in the countries receiving migrants are well equipped and experienced to diagnose and treat common infectious and non-communicable diseases.
- They must be adequately prepared and organized to provide support to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants while at the same time ensuring the health of the resident population.
- Vaccines should be provided in an equitable manner with a systematic, sustainable, non-stigmatizing approach.
- As vaccination is a health intervention that requires a continuum of follow-up until the full schedule is completed, there must be cooperation among the countries of origin, of transit and of destination.

Provision of health services and vaccines

Many countries receiving large influxes of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, are including them into their routine vaccination programmes.



Mobile immunization team serves asylum seekers in Swedish countryside

WHO acknowledges and applauds the many countries, such as those on the front line of large-scale migration, that have been offering vaccination services to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants regardless of their country of origin and according to these countries' routine vaccination schedules.

Recommendations for vaccination

Challenges

1. Deciding when and where to vaccinate

2. Many vaccines must be given in consecutive doses at timed intervals

3. People are on the move

4. Access to the full vaccination schedule, through follow-up vaccinations, is difficult to ensure

Recommendations

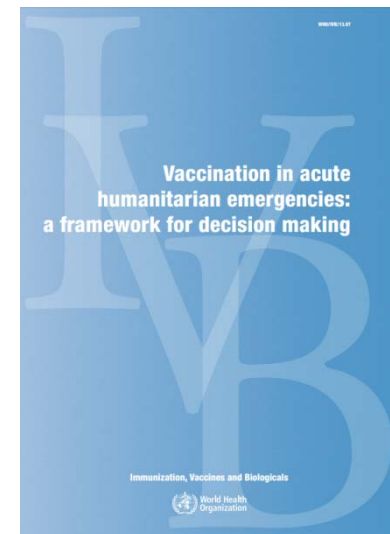
1. Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants should be vaccinated without unnecessary delay according to the immunization schedule of the country in which they intend to stay for more than a week.

2. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and polio vaccines should be priorities.

3. Documentation of the vaccinations should be given to each vaccinee or child's caregiver.

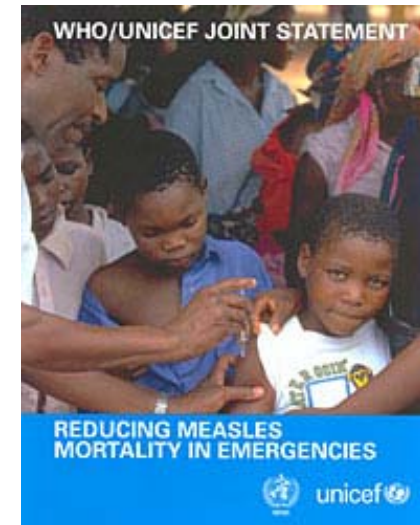
Recommendations for vaccination

- Vaccination of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants is **not recommended at border crossings** unless there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease in the host or transit country.
- In such cases, countries are urged to include refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in any outbreak control measures taken, including vaccination.
- If the level of risk for serious disease transmission is considered high in an epidemiological risk assessment, countries may decide whether to vaccinate on the basis of the recommendations in the document *Vaccination in acute humanitarian emergencies: a framework for decision making*.



Recommendations for vaccination

- Provision of:
 - **measles-containing vaccines**
Reducing measles mortality in emergencies,
WHO–UNICEF joint statement,
 - **polio vaccines**
Reducing risk of poliomyelitis outbreaks in emergencies,
Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).
- The refugee crisis should incite all countries to review any immunity gaps in their populations and ensure tailored immunization services and strong communication and social mobilization in areas and groups that have suboptimal coverage.
- This will help countries fulfil their shared responsibility to attain the goals of **global polio eradication** and **regional measles and rubella elimination**.



POLIO GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE

REDUCING RISK OF
POLIOMYELITIS OUTBREAKS
IN EMERGENCIES

*Protecting vulnerable populations from
lifelong polio paralysis*

Recommendations on specific vaccines

- Provision of:
 - **measles- and rubella-containing vaccines**

As some countries of the Region are still considered endemic for measles and rubella, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants should be vaccinated against these diseases as a priority and in line with national vaccination schedules.

- **polio vaccines**

Supplementary polio immunization campaigns for preventive purposes are not considered essential in the European Region.

Equitable access and administration of polio vaccines be given to all individuals and population groups in accordance with current national routine immunization schedules for children and adults.

National stockpiling of oral polio vaccines in anticipation of a possible polio outbreak is not recommended.

Protection of health care workers

In line with WHO recommendations, most countries of the WHO European Region recommend **seasonal influenza** vaccination for health care workers.

Vaccination against: **hepatitis B, measles and rubella** is also recommended to those who are still susceptible to these diseases.



Strengthening communicable diseases surveillance systems

- Under the International Health Regulations (2005), all countries should have:
 - effective disease surveillance and reporting systems,
 - outbreak investigation ability and
 - case management and response capacity
 - the ability to perform quick, effective epidemiological risk assessments.
- WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) have systems and capacity in place to support national disease surveillance.

