Migration and Health: Determinants, Challenges and Actors

Course Instructors

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Brief course description

International migration is a major contemporary issue with cross-cutting health-related implications globally. This course will explore the relationships between migration and health under different perspectives and help students gain insight into the main challenges in conducting health-related research among migrant populations.

The course will cover four main themes. The first relates to the current global context framing human mobility and its trends. Discussants will present political, demographic, geographical origin, migration route challenges, and social determinants of health and discuss the roles and responsibility of some of the key global actors such as WHO, UNHCR, IOM and MSF in curbing and resolving the migration crises globally, in particular with attention given to health.

Second, it will focus on specific health needs such as screening and diagnosis, communicable infectious diseases, vaccination coverage, non-communicable diseases burdens, mental health related problems, and describe the vulnerability of specific groups such as non-accompanied minors, and women.

Third, the course will explore the healthcare responses in different settings. Heath system accessibilities and challenges, determinants for accessibilities, and challenges will be covered.

The fourth theme will cover methodological challenges in conducting research with mobile populations. It will present examples of recent or ongoing projects. Moreover, updates on new technological advancement in easing the burden of early diagnosis, such as rapid diagnostic tools as compared to the golden standards, particularly in resource-limited setting.

Course objectives

The course aims to provide students with a broad perspective on the current context framing human migration and its impact on global health. Moreover, student will gain insight into major methodological challenges pertaining to health-related research with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers globally.
Target audience

This course is designed for participants from diverse academic or professional backgrounds with or without previous clinical and public health experience in the field of migration health. By the end of this training module, participants will:

- Learn about the key determinants of international human mobility, the role of major international institutions and the impact of migration on health
- Understand the major health disparities migrants exposed at pre-, during, and post-migration situations
- Be familiar with some specific methodological challenges in screening, diagnosing, and conducting research with migrants population
- Have the opportunity to engage and exchange with representatives of diverse key international organizations active in the field of migration and health