

Statement of I.R. Iran on:

“Progress report on the strategy to promote the health and well-being of refugees, migrants, IDPs and other displaced groups in the EMR”

We appreciate the preparation of this progress report with an aim to promote the health of refugees, immigrants and IDPs. This document has well reviewed the general aspects of the health of refugees and immigrants as well as the current challenges. But due to the extensive political, economic and social variety in the Eastern Mediterranean region, the growth rate of immigration has made a sharp increase, so achieving the goals of the document will probably face challenges.

In order to improve the health of refugees and immigrants, by developing the national program for refugees' health, I.R. Iran is committed to providing primary health care services to all these populations, however to continue this program, there is a need to strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and national and international partnership. Regardless of the residence status of refugees and foreign immigrants (authorized/unauthorized), The primary health care services are provided the same as Iranian citizens and are completely free. One of the great experiences during the year 2023, was the campaign of SIAs and prevention of infectious diseases, through which more than one million people got vaccinated and more than 500 thousand people were screened.

Recommendations and suggestions:

- In line with the objective 1 of the report, the policy discussion and especially the formulation of the health insurance package for refugees and foreign immigrants should be determined and planned as an emergency and with high priority via WHO support
- Iran hosts a population of more than 5.5 million refugees and immigrants, the lack of Iran's effective engagement in regional assessments and discussions need special attention.
- Strengthening financial and technical support by organizations and responsible bodies in the field of refugees to Iran.
- Holding international educational and technical tours to transfer the successful experiences of countries hosting refugees.
- Developing a health program and allocating resources for the provision of refugee services in member countries commensurate with the population of refugees and registered foreign immigrants.

Madam/Mr. chairperson, thank you for this opportunity and many thanks for your attention.