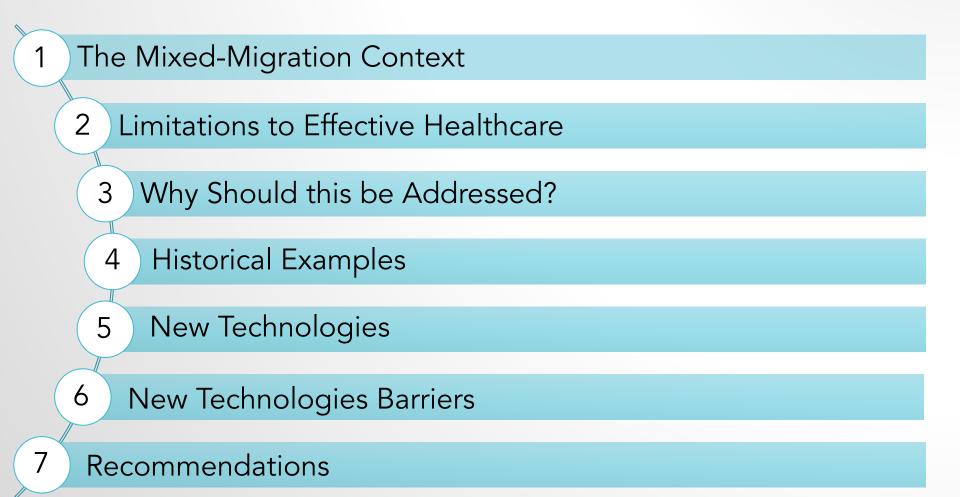
# HEALTH CARE IN MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

Prepared by the Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows at Gettysburg College

# OVERVIEW



## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### PURPOSE

### PROCESS

- To assess health care records in mixed-migration flows both historically and in the Eastern Mediterranean Region today
- To suggest actions the United States Department of State may take to improve refugee access to health care.



# MIXED MIGRATION CONTEXT

### **UN International Norms for Refugees**

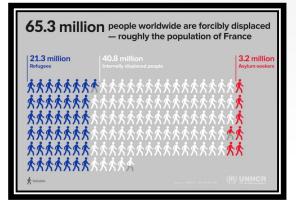
- 1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 14
- 1951: Refugee Convention
- 1967: Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

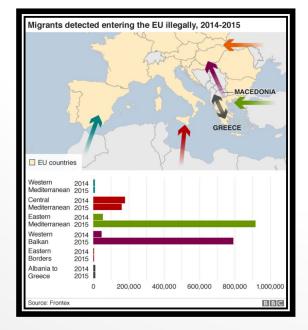
#### **Different Statuses**

- Migrant
- Refugee
- Asylum-seeker

#### **Today's Context**

- Mixed-migration context
- Different vulnerability profiles





### LIMITATIONS

# Increased vulnerability to certain diseases for migrants

- Diabetes
- Communicable diseases
- Maternal/child health problems
- Occupational health hazards & injuries
- Mental health problems
- Tuberculosis/HIV

### Informal barriers between migrants & healthcare

- Lack of information about vaccination
- Language differences
- Lack of trust in government institutions
- Collision of different cultural and social mores

### WHY SHOULD THIS BE ADDRESSED?



### **Rebuilding Nations**

- <1% resettled worldwide</p>
- Return home
- U.S. interest: productive members of workforce



#### **Promote Best Practices**

- Health initiatives in camps:
  - better health care practices in host nation
  - better health care in country of origin upon return



### Enable Healthy Resettlement in the U.S.

- Domestic interest
- Ability to gain self-sufficiency as quickly as possible

## HISTORICAL EXAMPLES

#### **Complex Emergency Situations**

- Kurdish exodus from Iraq (1991)
- Ethnic wars in the former Yugoslavia (1992 - 1995)
- Rwandan Genocide (1994)

#### Preventable Communicable Diseases

- Diarrheal diseases
  - 90% of deaths in Goma camp
  - 70% of deaths of Kurdish refugees at Turkish border

### **Past Solutions**

- Mass Immunization Campaigns
- Community-Based Health Education Programs

## **NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

#### EU Personal Health Record (PHR)

 A template document that helps reconstruct the medical history of migrants who arrive with no documentation

#### EU Common Approach for Refugees (CARE)

Electronic system for tracking/monitoring the health status of migrants that helps to avoid duplication in healthcare treatments

#### KoBoToolbox

 Crowd-sourced information resource for groups on the move

#### Twine

UNHCR tool used to manage and analyze public health data

### NEW TECHNOLOGY BARRIERS

- Migrants' distrust of government institutions
- Limited access to health records
- Sensitive nature of health information
- Lack of adequate funding

## RECOMMENDATIONS

