



M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

**Organized by the M8 Alliance in cooperation with AAHCI
under the leadership of the Sapienza University of Rome**

Migrant Health Issues in Massive Migration Areas in the Covid period

22 February 2021, 15:00 – 16:30 CET

**Participation is free of charge, but registration is compulsory at
<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>**

The M8 Alliance Webinar Series on **Migrant and Refugee Health** is a **new format** which aims at bringing together experts from across the M8 Alliance to discuss global, develop innovative and collaborative answers and promote science-based policy advice. Each lecture will last 90 minutes and different speakers from within the M8 Alliance and beyond.

PROGRAM

WELCOME ADDRESSES

Luciano Saso, Sapienza University of Rome, Coordinator M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health, Member of the M8 Alliance Executive Committee and Member of the AAHCI Steering Committee

Mohamed H. Sayegh, Chair, AAHCI Steering Committee

PANEL SESSION

Chair: Ozge Karadag Caman, Senior Researcher, Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Refugee Health in the Arab Region: A Regional Challenge with a Global Impact by Shadi Saleh, PhD MPH, Founding Director, Global Health Institute, Professor of Health Systems and Financing, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Refugees' health as a pillar for peace and sustainable health development in Iran by Amirhossein Takian MD MPH PhD FHEA, Professor, Department of Health Management & Economics, Chair, Department of Global Health & Public Policy, Vice Dean, School of Public Health-Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS)- Iran

The special needs of migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkey by Selma Karabey, MD, Diploma in Public Health, Professor of Public Health, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Turkey

Impact of Covid-19 on health and health-related determinants among migrants and informal workers in Bangladesh by Mobarak Hossain Khan, Department of Social Relations, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Latin America international migration trends and policies in light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic by Pedro Góis, Professor in Sociology and Methodology at the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra (Portugal), Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (CES)

Mass migration, pandemic and lack of health protection. The Venezuelan case by Claudio R. Brando, Director Oficina de Educación y Relaciones Internacionales Hospital universitario San Ignacio, Bogotá, Colombia

Q&A

Conclusions

Rapporteur: Stephen Matlin, Visiting Professor, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London, UK

DESCRIPTION

The number of international migrants globally reached an estimated 281 million in 2020, up from 173 million in 2000 and 221 million in 2010. Currently, international migrants represent about 3.6 per cent of the world's population. UN Organizations affirm that migration is a part of today's globalized world and shows how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the livelihoods of millions of migrants and their families and undermined progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

There is still lack of data about the current situation migrants and refugees and how governments respond to their needs in many countries, however, existing trends show that they are among the most vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

This panel will bring together experts from around the world to discuss main challenges that international migrants face and urgent solutions to promote their physical, mental, and social health during the pandemic, with a special focus on people affected by forced migration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Middle East, South Asia, and Latin America.

SPEAKERS



Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 250 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in www.pubmed.com, total impact factor > 800, H-index Google Scholar 47, Scopus 39). He coordinated several research projects and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by the UNICA network of the universities from the Capitals of Europe (<http://www.unica-network.eu/>) and other university associations. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and he is currently President of UNICA (2015-2023). Prof. Saso is Member of the Executive Committee of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies (<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance.html>) and Member of the Steering Committee of AAHCI



Ozge Karadag Caman works as a Senior Researcher at the Center for Sustainable Development of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She also holds an Associate Professor of Public Health title in Turkey. Dr. Karadag Caman earned her medical degree at Istanbul University, and her MSc and PhD Degrees in Public Health at Hacettepe University in Turkey. She also holds a postgrad degree in health promotion from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Karadag Caman has more than 15 years of experience working in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams to conduct research,

develop public health policies and programs for different vulnerable/disadvantaged populations. She has worked as a consultant for numerous UN organizations and European Commission in addition to different governmental and non-governmental organizations. Her current work focuses on research, advocacy and training activities regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable populations including migrants and refugees and how to use innovative outreach approaches and digital technologies to increase access to health information and health care among refugee and disadvantaged local youth in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. She is a member of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission Secretariat and the Global Happiness Council.



Shadi Saleh is the Founding Director of the Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the first such institute in the Middle East and North Africa region, and a Professor of Health Systems and Financing at the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB. Dr. Saleh's areas of expertise are in developing and evaluating innovative interventions for health systems in fragile contexts. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and commissioned reports, including publications in the *Lancet*, *American Journal of Public Health* and *Medical Care* among others. Dr. Saleh is an elected board member of the Consortium of Universities in Global Health and represents GHI on the M8 Alliance. He co-led the Health Systems and Rebuilding Thematic Group in the *Lancet* Commission on Syria. Dr. Saleh also served as an appointed member of the National Emergency Social Protection Project and the Committee on Universal Health Coverage with the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon. He also serves as a World Bank, WHO and UN advisor for health care financing policy and system strengthening projects. Shadi Saleh holds a PhD in Health Policy (minor in health care finance) from the University of Iowa and a Masters of Public Health (health services administration) and a BS from AUB.



Amirhossein Takian (MD MPH PhD FHEA) is Chair and Professor at the Department of Global Health & Public Policy, and Vice-Dean for International Affairs at the School of Public Health (SPH)- Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), Iran. He is also Advisor for Medical Education Reform and Member of the National Examination Board for Health Policy, Economics and Management, at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education

(MOHME)- Iran. Amir is Chief Research Officer at the Health Equity Research Centre (HERC)- TUMS and TUMS' focal point at M8 Alliance, serving as a member of World Health Summit (WHS) Executive Committee since 2017, and Secretary of 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting, 2019. From 2013-2018, he was Deputy for International Organizations at the MOHME-Iran, overseeing the relationship between Iran and global organizations, i.e. WHO, UNDP, UN, UNICEF, UNFPA, etc. A physician by training, Prof. Takian has a track record research in health policy analysis in the field of evidence-based policymaking, primary care, global health, non-communicable diseases, universal health coverage, and ehealth. He has published over 90 peer reviewed journal articles, 14 books, 4 book chapters, and 18 commissioned national and international reports. Amir has been a principal investigator in several collaborative research projects at the national and international levels, with the value equivalent to over Seven million Euro. Dr. Takian has supervised/advised over 35 MSc and 42 PhD students, plus two Post-doctorate fellows in Iran and other countries.



Selma Karabey is a graduate of Istanbul Faculty of Medicine and a Public Health Specialist working in the Department of Public Health of Istanbul Faculty of Medicine since 1986. In addition, she has been consulting in various boards of the Ministry of Health, a member of the Competency Board of the Association of Public Health Specialists (HASUDER) and the chair of the "Community Mental Health Working Group" and a member of the National Medical Education Accreditation Board Visit Team. She served as a founding member and board member of the AIDS Prevention Association between 1992-2005, and as the chairman of the board of the Turkish Hospital Infections and Control Association between 2004-2008. Prof. Karabey's current professional interests are "Public mental health", "Vulnerability" and "Advocacy". She has been board member of the BirIZ Association, which has been working in the field of community mental health since 2016, and a member of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, Humanitarian Aid, Social Protection and Vulnerable Groups Task Force since October 2020.



Pedro Góis is a Professor in Sociology and Methodology at the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra, and a Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (CES). He is an expert in sociology of migration and quantitative methodologies. Recently he was consultant or country expert for the International Organization for Migration (OIM), Caritas, ICMPD, European Commission or European Migration Network (EMN). His most recent research-driven publications used quantitative and qualitative methodologies and include papers and books on:

refugees in Europe; Venezuelans in Latin America; Portuguese immigration and emigration; Brazilian migration; and diasporic engagement practices and policies.



Claudio R. Brando, MD, General and Gastrointestinal Surgeon, Chief Academic Officer, (CAO) Universidad Javeriana- Hospital Universitario San Ignacio Bogota Colombia. Advisor for Latin America of the Association of Academic Medical Centers and Member of the Commission for Human Talent in Health of the Ministry of Health in Colombia.



Stephen Matlin is a Visiting Professor in the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Senior Fellow in the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and Secretary of the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development. Educated at Imperial College London as an organic chemist, Stephen worked in academia for over 20 years, including as Professor of Biological Chemistry at City University London and at Warwick University, researching in areas including medicinal chemistry and collaborating with the

WHO Special Programmes in human reproduction and tropical diseases. This was followed by periods as Director of the Health and Education Division in the Commonwealth Secretariat, as Chief Education Adviser at the UK Department for International Development and as Executive Director of the Global Forum for Health Research in Geneva. He has co-authored a number of reports on the health of migrants and refugees, including a major review in [Public Health Reviews](#).

Background

This webinar is part of the **M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health**, organized by the M8 Alliance under the leadership of Prof. Luciano Saso.



The **M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies** is a unique international network of 30 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions, all of which are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

Migrant and Refugee Health has been a focus topic of the M8 Alliance since 2016. Regular sessions at the World Health Summit and dedicated expert meetings have laid the basis for effective international research networks. The webinar series builds on this tradition and uses the opportunities of digital technologies to involve even more experts from around the world.

Contact:

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Further information:

<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>

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