

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) & International Organization for Migration (IOM)

# **Addressing Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Large Migration Flows**

An Inter-Regional Roundtable Discussion

25 April 2016 / Geneva, Switzerland

Salles 5-6, Niveau 3, Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG)

As of January 2016, a staggering figure of 1,084,625 migrants are estimated to have entered the European continent by both land and sea routes. Out of this figure, close to 97% arrived via sea journeys. Over on the other side of the globe within the Southeast Asian region, the Andaman Sea itself saw up to 121,000 refugees and migrants departing by sea from Bangladesh and Myanmar ever since 2014. Many remain unaccounted for by authorities as humanitarian assistance struggle to keep up with this unprecedented surge of migrant flow. Migration crisis across Europe and Asia highlights the need to address migrants' health vulnerabilities; in particular, children, elderlies, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses. Many of the pressing issues faced by these migrants include starvation, dehydration, physical and psychological trauma, contracting communicable diseases, basic sanitation and risk of spread of common water-borne diseases in overcrowded refugee shelters. Humanitarian assistants are also on the high alert for mass outbreaks of influenza as numbers continue to increase.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia to feature a select panel of experts from Asian and European governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and academy. A comparative analysis of the public health challenges within transit and receiving countries will be carried out to draw out common learning points and best case practices to better manage similar phenomena in the future. This is increasingly becoming more relevant in an interconnected world as global migration flows affect everyone in one way or another.

The objectives of the Roundtable are as follows:

- Discuss the public health challenges faced by countries affected by the crisis
- Share best case practices to address the health needs of migrants along these transit routes
- Produce recommendations on how to address health vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees
- Publish a summary report detailing key discussions from the roundtable

## PROGRAMME

**Monday, 25 April 2016**

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9:00	<b>Registration &amp; Welcome Tea</b>
9:30	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <b>Ms Jacqueline WEEKERS</b> , Senior Migration Health Policy Advisor, Migration Health Division (MHD), International Organization for Migration
9:40	<b>Session 1: Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants along Transit Routes in Europe</b> <b>Dr Yiannis BASKOZOS</b> , General Secretary of Public Health, Greece <b>Ms Roumyana PETROVA-BENEDICT</b> , Senior Regional Migration Health Advisor, European region, Migration Health Division(MHD), Head of Unit, Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO, International Organization for Migration <b>Ms Linn Maria BIORKLUND</b> , Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières <b>Moderator: Dr Jaime CALDERON</b> , Senior Regional Migration and Health Specialist, Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, International Organization for Migration
11:00	<b>Open Floor Discussions</b>
11:50	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:10	<b>Session 2: Health Vulnerabilities of Migrants Crossing the Andaman Sea</b> <b>Associate Professor Ignacio CORREA-VELEZ</b> , Faculty of Health, School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane <b>Dr Susheela BALASUNDARAM</b> , Associate Programme Officer (Health), Programme Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <b>Dr Mohammad Iqbal OMAR</b> , Ex-officio Member of Executive Council, MERCY Malaysia <b>Moderator: Ms Sunkyoung LEE</b> , Deputy Director, Political & Economic Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
14:30	<b>Open Floor Discussions</b>
15:20	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>Ms Sunkyoung LEE</b> , Deputy Director, Political & Economic Department, ASEF
15:30	<b>End of Event</b>

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## PROFILE OF EXPERTS



**Dr Yiannis BASKOZOS**  
**General Secretary of Public Health, Greece**

Dr Yiannis Baskozos graduated from the Medical Faculty of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, later attaining his specialization in Endocrinology from the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Athens General Hospital “G. Gennimatas.” He has participated in congresses in Greece and abroad – as a speaker – and has published papers in scientific magazines and congresses in topics of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. He also served as Vice-President and Chairman in the scientific and professional syndicate of Greeks – Endocrinologists named “Hellenic Endocrine Society”.

In February 2015, he was appointed the Secretary General for Public Health in Ministry of Health. Dr Baskozos heads the Committee for the National Action Plan of migration and health and is also the Coordinator of the Committee for health coverage of refugees, migrants and vulnerable groups. He is responsible for the development of international cooperation of the Ministry of Health and for establishing cooperation with World Health Organisation (WHO) and the other international organizations.



**Ms Roumyana PETROVA-BENEDICT**  
**Senior Regional Migration Health Advisor, European region, Migration Health Division(MHD), Head of Unit, Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO, International Organization for Migration**

Roumyana Petrova-Benedict, IOM Senior Regional Migration Health Advisor for Europe, Regional Office Brussels, is responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of IOM Migration Health programs, projects, liaison and partnerships. She has over 20 years’ experience in global public health, health inequities, development and research from within academic, civil society and intergovernmental institutions in several continents. Recent work includes development and implementation of two direct agreements with the EC/DG Sante on Migration Health : Equi-Health “Fostering health provision to migrants, the Roma and other vulnerable groups in the EU/EEA ”<http://equi-health.eea.iom.int/>” and RE-Health supporting MS under particular migratory pressure in their response to health related challenges. She has contributed to numerous publications related to migrant and refugee health, and is co-editor to the volume Migration and Health in the European Union.



**Ms Linn Maria BJORKLUND**  
**Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières**

Linn Bjorklund Belliveau is a Humanitarian Advisor on Displacement and Population Movements at Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders. Linn has extensive experience with national and international non-governmental organizations as well as the United Nations in the fields of humanitarianism and human rights. She has worked in a wide range of countries in Africa, Middle East and Latin America and has developed specific expertise in forced migration and displacement, political transitions, and transnational networks. Currently, Linn’s focus is on the legal frameworks and policies linked to global migration and their humanitarian consequences. Working closely with MSF’s operations, Linn leads MSF’s advocacy efforts aimed at exposing the inadequacies of the global migration system and toward improving protection and assistance mechanisms for displaced populations.

Linn has a Political Science degree from Stockholm University and holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona.



**Associate Professor Ignacio CORREA-VELEZ**  
**Faculty of Health, School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane**

Associate Professor Correa-Velez (MBBS, PhD) has a background in Family Medicine and Public Health. Between 2004 and 2011, he was Deputy Director of the La Trobe Refugee Research Centre (La Trobe University, Australia). He has conducted cohort studies investigating the health and settlement of recently arrived refugees and humanitarian entrants to Australia, and has also researched the health needs and barriers to healthcare access among irregular migrants living in the community on bridging visas. In 2012, A/Prof Correa-Velez joined the School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia) and is currently Head of the Public Health Discipline. Other research interests include health inequalities, social determinants of health, and mental health.



**Dr Susheela BALASUNDARAM**  
**Associate Programme Officer (Health), Programme Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

Dr Balasundaram is currently the Associate Programme Officer in Health with UNHCR Malaysia. She has been involved in leading coordination and management of health programmes for refugees in Malaysia since 2007. This includes the following portfolios among many others: supervising health and HIV activities to promote inter-sectorial coordination; assist in ensuring implementation of Global Strategic Priorities (GSP) and UNHCR's Global Public Health Strategic Objectives in various planning operations; lead advocacy activities with relevant stakeholders in Ministry of Health to facilitate access to and provision of Health and SRH/HIV services for refugees in Malaysia; and liaise with the Ministry of Health to improve surveillance of infectious disease among refugees.



**Dr Mohammad Iqbal OMAR**  
**Ex-officio Member of Executive Council, MERCY Malaysia**

Dr. Iqbal is currently serving as a director of University Health Center of Univeristi Malaysia Perlis since 2008. He has also served in various public and private health facilities in Malaysia since he migrated to Malaysia in 1989.

He received his MBBS degree from Institute of Medicine 1 Yangon in 1985. He obtained his 'Post Graduate Diploma in Reproductive Medicine' from University Putra Malaysia in 1994 and 'Master of Medicine (Geriatric Medicine)' from Edith Cowan University of Australia in 2004.

His interest to involve with humanitarian work started in early 2000 and hence he joined Mercy Malaysia as a medical volunteer. He has participated in some of Mercy Malaysia's medical missions locally as well as internationally namely in Libya, Syria, Somalia, Bosnia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Japan and Nepal. He has involved with Mercy Malaysia's assessment as well as humanitarian aid programmes to assist persons of concern including those irregular migrants during Andaman sea crisis in 2015 in Malaysia as well as Internally Displaced persons in Myanmar. Currently he is an Ex-officio Executive council Member of Mercy Malaysia since 2014.

## ORGANISERS

 <p><b>ASIA-EUROPE</b> FOUNDATION</p>	<p>The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. ASEF is a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).</p> <p>Together with about 750 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 700 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 20,000 Asians and Europeans have actively participated in its activities and it has reached much wider audiences through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.</p> <p>For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.asef.org">www.asef.org</a></p>
 <p>International Organization for Migration (IOM) Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM) Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)</p>	<p>The International Organization for Migration is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. Established in 1951, the Organization has 162 Member States with 9 states holding observer status. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.</p> <p>The IOM Regional Office in Vienna, Austria is one of the nine IOM Regional Offices worldwide. It is tasked in providing strategic guidance and programmatic, administrative and technical support to IOM missions in South-Eastern Europe, including Turkey, Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as Israel. The regional office also liaises with Vienna-based international organizations, which include the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The Office covers five broad themes in migration management, namely Migrant Assistance, Labour Migration and Human Development, Immigration and Border Management, Operations and Emergency, as well as Migration Health.</p> <p>For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.iom.int">www.iom.int</a></p>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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