

The UCL-*Lancet* Commission on Migration and Health

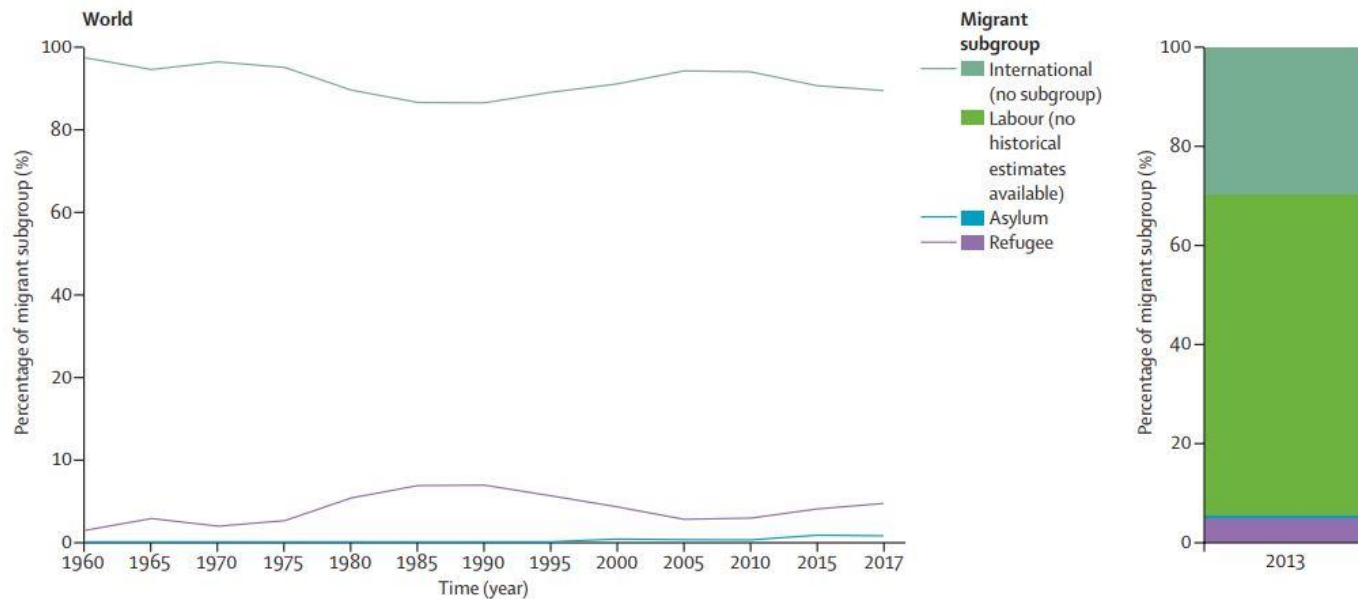
Worldwide mobility is our future—regardless of laws and walls.

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Institute for Global Health, University College London



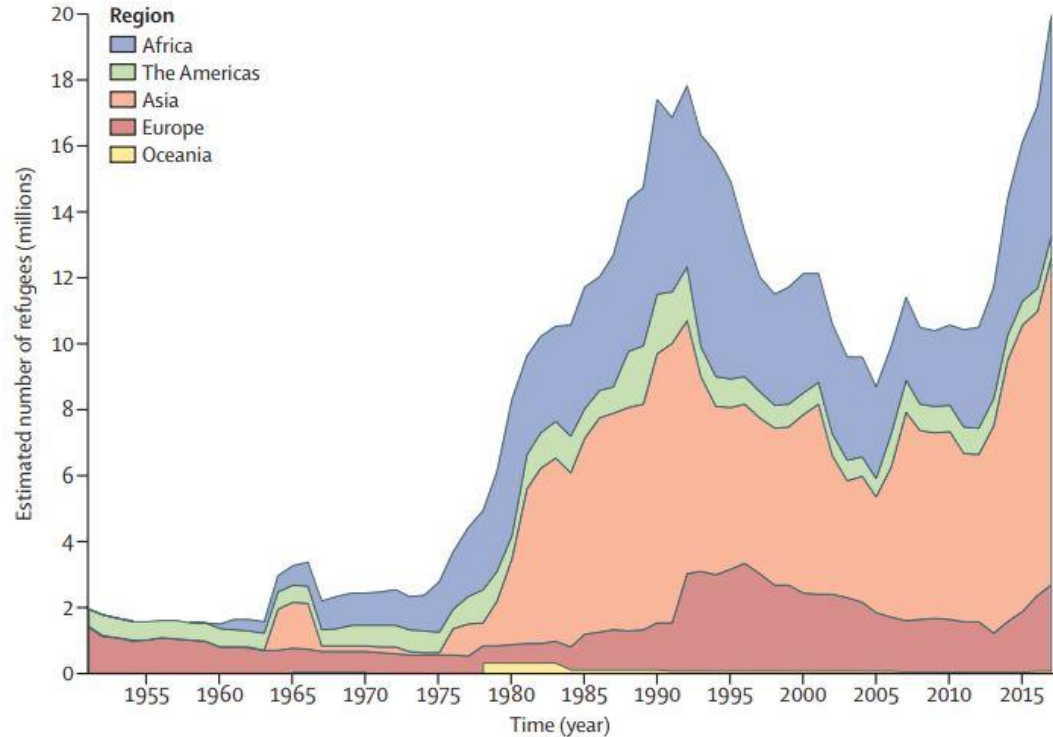
Migration is a global reality - one billion people on the move in 2018.

Little change in % migrants (from 2.9% to 3.4% from 1990 to 2017 globally) with diversity in geographical location of migrants.

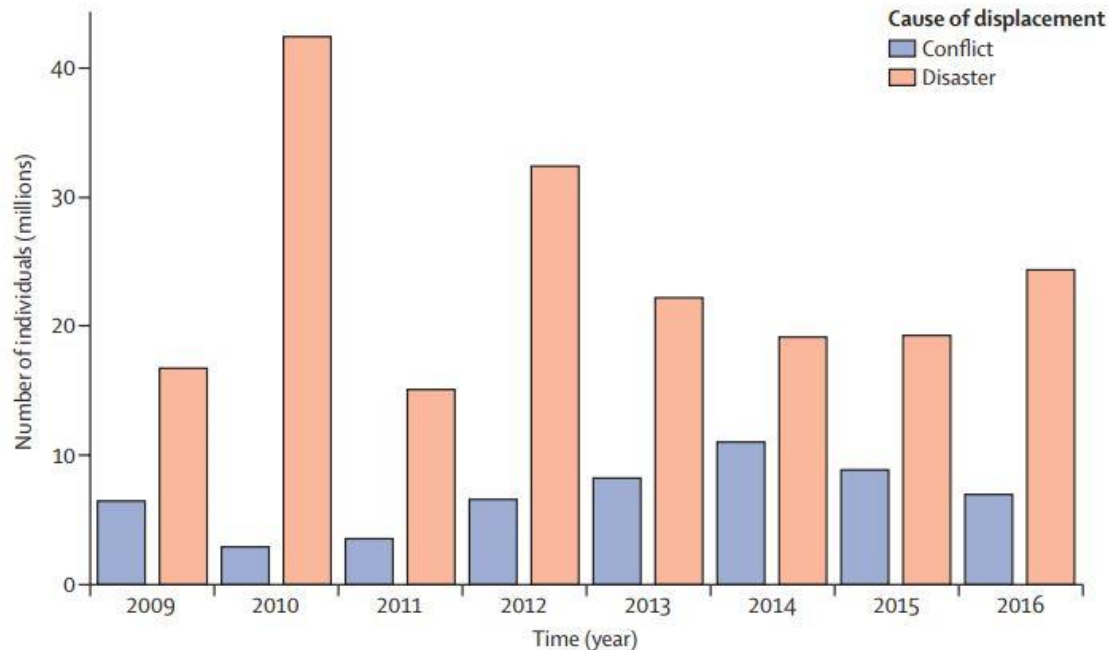


Majority of global migration in low-income and middle-income countries.

>50% of the world's refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic (5.5 million), Afghanistan (2.5 million) and Somalia (1 million).



Causes and impact of displacement



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The Commission

Convened in 2016 to articulate evidence-based approaches to inform public discourse and policy in migration and health.

46 authors from all world regions – writing team



expertise spanning sociology, politics, public health science, law, humanitarianism, and anthropology

1. Leadership and policy

- We examined multisector determinants of health vs current sector-siloed approaches.
 - The health of people who migrate depends greatly on structural and political factors that determine the impetus for migration, the conditions of their journey, and their destination.
- Policy making in migration should give greater prominence to health:
 - Health Envoy at UN level
 - Invite health representatives to high level policy making forums on migration and engaged in dialogues on the macroeconomic forces that affect population mobility

2. Myths: Populist discourse demonises migrants



Our commission concludes that migrants uphold economies, bolster social services, and contribute to health services in both origin and destination locations.

Despite economic, social, and cultural dividends of migration attention focuses largely on security concerns.

2. Myths: Populist discourse demonises migrants

Our commission determined that migrants and do not spread disease. While infections can spread to susceptible populations, data suggests the risk is in migrant populations and not outbreaks in general populations.



2. Myths: Populist discourse demonises migrants

Migrants on average live longer although some vulnerable groups have higher burden and poorer access



Public leaders and elected officials have a political, social, and legal responsibility to oppose xenophobia and racism fuelling prejudice and exclusion.

3. Health Access

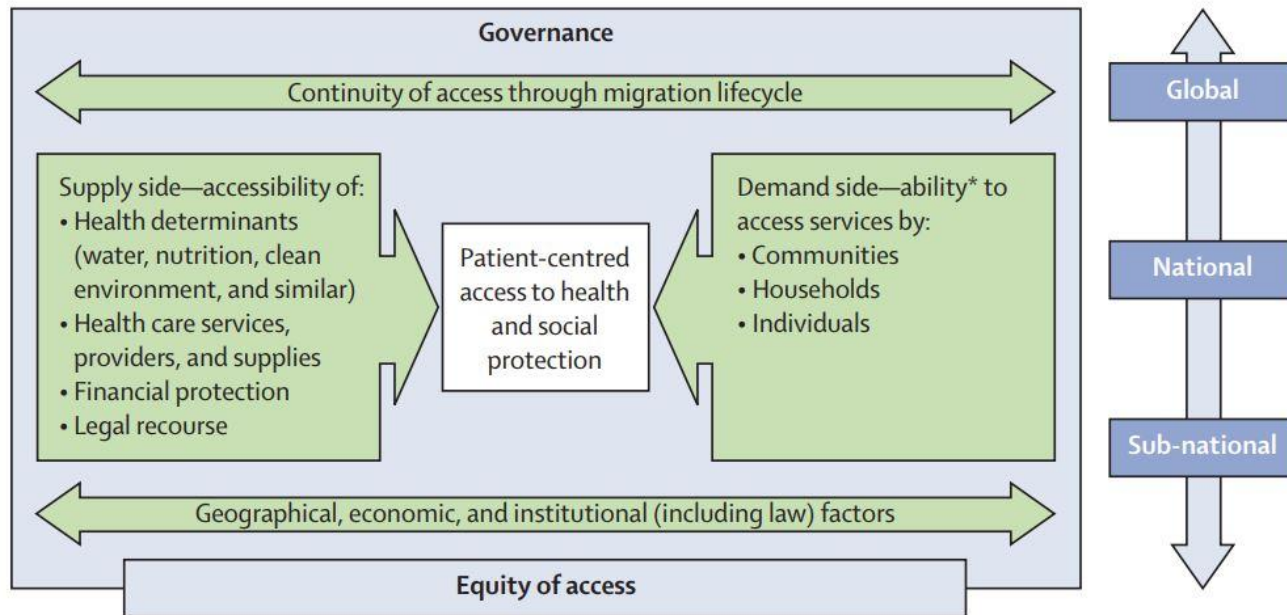
- We examined equity in access to health.
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, guarantee “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”
 - Refugee convention

Migrants should be explicitly included in universal health coverage commitments.

#LancetMigration

3. Health Access

- Growing trend of states limiting access to health, despite commitments to provide “health for all.”
 - e.g. UK hostile environment policy - Windrush scandal 2018 and upfront charging regulations



4. Human rights

- Health restrictions on entry: e.g.
 - 35 countries impose travel restriction on people with HIV and five bar entry if HIV-positive (UNAIDS, June 2015)
 - However, this is impermissible on both public health and human rights grounds
- International law violation: treating unauthorised border crossing as a criminal offence and detaining immigrants, regardless of circumstances – including children and pregnant women despite evidence of harm (38 studies)
- Linking health status to enforcement reinforces distrust of the health system.



5. Accountability

- There is an urgent need to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation to support the implementation of the Global Compacts
- We call on the UN system, states and civil society to create an accountability framework and generate indicators and data



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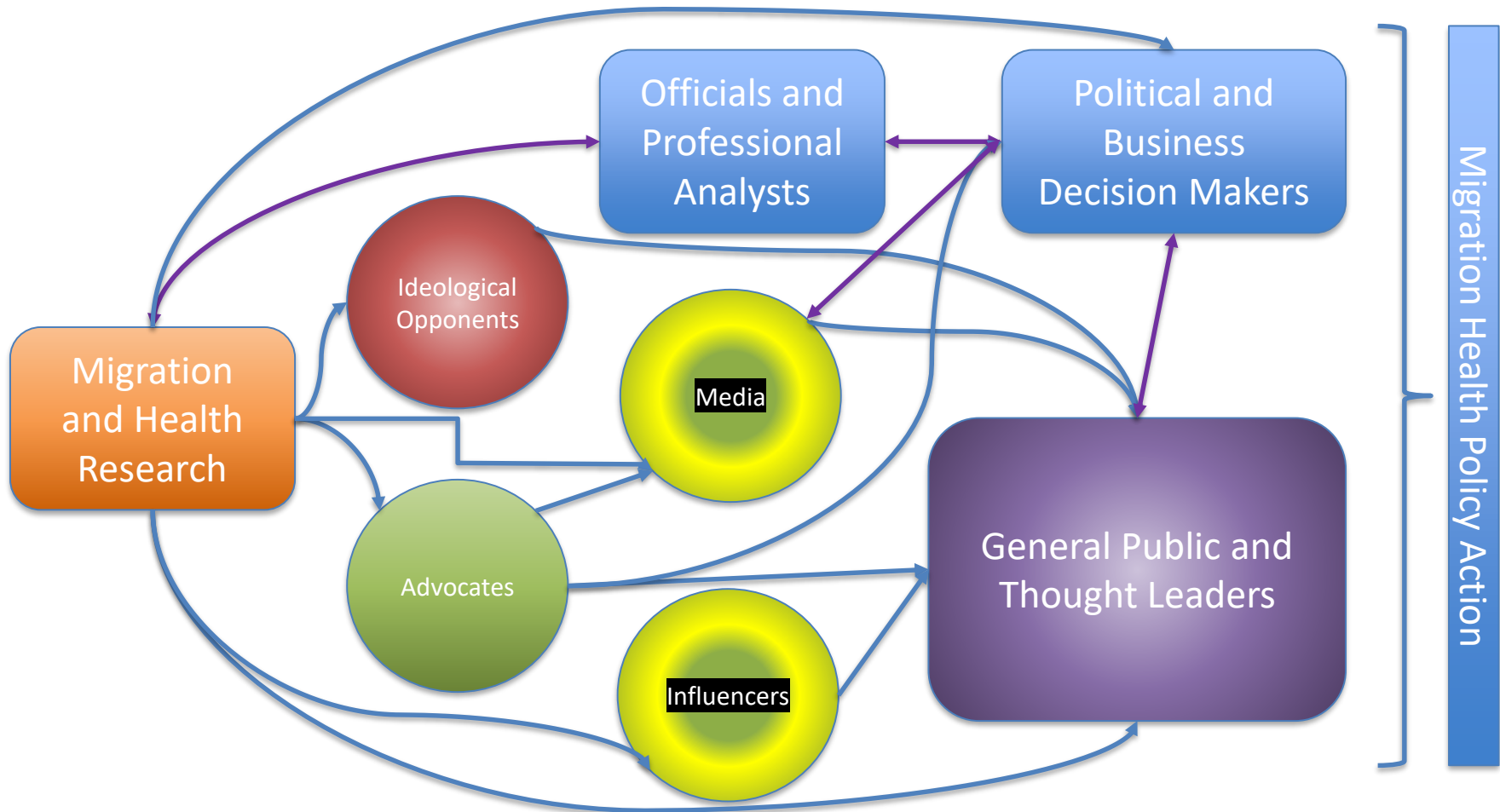
The best science for better lives

#LancetMigration

6. Research

- High quality data collection on migration and health needed including
 - Demographic and longitudinal data
 - Health related drivers and outcomes
 - Disaggregation to tackle inequities
 - Qualitative and behavioural sciences
 - Health policy – finance, law and information systems
- Should be ethical and funded

7. Impact



RESEARCH & POLICY IMPACT

December 2018 - December 2019

GLOBAL POLICY EVENTS

DEC 2018-MAY 2019

Dec 2018 - UN Global Compact for Migration, Morocco
Organiser of official side event and speaker at the main inter-governmental panel

Jan 2019 - Chatham House, London
Organiser of Universal health coverage and migration policy roundtable

February 2019 - WHO, Geneva
Rapporteurs for the 1st WHO Expert Meeting on Migration and Health

DEC 2018-APRIL 2019 LAUNCH EVENTS

Six regional launch events

South America (Brazil)
North America (New York)
Europe (Berlin)
Africa (South Africa)
Asia (Nepal)
Middle East (Beirut)

GLOBAL POLICY EVENTS

MAY-DEC 2019

May 2019 - World Health Assembly
Organiser of Universal health coverage and migration official side event and speaker on the panel
Co-organised with WHO and member states

September 2019 UN General Assembly
Organiser of official side event on Promoting equity in access to Health Services with Financial Protection
Co-organised with WHO, IOM and member states

REGIONAL POLICY EVENTS

MARCH-MAY 2019

March 2019 - South American Health system response to Venezuelan migration (Peru)
Co-organised with IOM South America

May 2019 - UK Parliamentary Policy Roundtable on Improving Migration Health Global Governance, London (UK)
Co-organised with APPG Global Health

RESEARCH EVENTS

DEC 2018-DEC 2019

Middle East, Beirut
Forced migration and health systems
In collaboration with the American University of Beirut

Southern Africa, Johannesburg
Universal health coverage and migration in Southern Africa
In collaboration with Wits University

South America, Peru
Health system response to mass migration
In collaboration with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia

REGIONAL POLICY EVENTS

JUNE-DEC 2019

July 2019 - Southern African Universal Health Coverage and Migration Policy Roundtable (Johannesburg)
Co-organised with Wits University & Chatham House

November 2019 - Migration and mental health in the Middle East (Turkey)
Co-organised with WHO Turkey

December 2019 - South American health system response to mass migration
Co-organised with local partners in Peru

RESEARCH & POLICY OUTPUTS

December 2018 - December 2019

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--> panel presentation with IOM, WHO, MSF, IRC discussing, 'Health: The Key to Migration's Role in Sustainable Development

--> interventions main intergovernmental conference at the Global Compact on human right to health for all migrants

--> interventions in policy roundtable
--> policy briefing and recommendations

--> report and recommendations to WHO
--> input into final draft of the Global Action Plan on the health of migrants and refugees

GLOBAL POLICY EVENTS

MAY-DEC 2019

May 2019 - World Health Assembly
Organiser of Universal health coverage and migration official side event and speaker on the panel

September 2019 UN General Assembly
Organiser of official side event on Promoting equity in access to Health Services with Financial Protection

Other: engagement with the UN High Level Meeting on UHC

--> report and recommendations to WHO following the panel

--> Chair of the panel comprised of IOM, WHO and Member States

--> Input into World Bank 'Fragile States and UHC' advocacy process for UHC 2030 multi-stakeholder meeting and UHC HLM at the UN

--> submitted 'Key Asks' to the UN HLM
--> input into WHO EMRO regional consultation on migration and health

REGIONAL POLICY EVENTS

FOCUS: UHC AND MIGRATION

March 2019 - Peru, South America

May 2019 - UK Parliamentary Policy Roundtable on Improving Migration Health Global Governance, London (UK)

July 2019 - Southern African Universal Health Coverage and Migration Policy Roundtable (Johannesburg)

--> Instigated series of meetings of the Ministers of Health in South America on the topic of migration and health

--> meeting with MP Kate Green's office to discuss importance of migration health in UK

--> Joint statement of all the UK Royal Colleges supporting the recommendations of the Commission

--> correspondence in The Lancet on NHS Overseas Visitors Charging

--> Policy briefing provided to the Elders who raised inclusion of migrants in NHI with the Minister of Health and President

NEXT STEPS

October 2019 onwards

PLANNED EVENTS

October 2019 - Lancet Migration Workshop, Frankfurt, Germany

-25 participants from academia, civil society, key multilateral organisations

Nov 2019 - Lancet Migration Launch, London

--> keynote speaker
--> input from The Lancet

December 2019 - onwards
Research output and policy work on key thematic

--> regional hub approach: South America, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle East

GLOBAL POLICY EVENTS

December 2019 - Climate Change Conference, Chile (COP 25/CMP)
To organise side event on climate change and migration health

May 2020 - World Health Assembly
To organise side event on migration and health data

September 2020 UN General Assembly
To organise side event on climate change and migration health

Other: engagement with the WHO Global Action Plan on the health of refugees and migrations implementation and the Global Compact for Migration implementation

REGIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Engagement in regional hubs to focus on priority issues by region:

- South America - health system response to mass displacement

- Southern Africa: xenophobia, migration and health

- Asia: labour migration and health

-North America: securitisation, deterrence, detention and migration health

- Europe: charging regulations and exclusion from healthcare of vulnerable groups

- Middle East: mental health and forced migration

Conclusions

- We appeal to our collective humanity and to our political leaders to address SDG goals in relation to migration and health.
- We have established a standing migration commission - a collaboration between the Lancet and academic stakeholders:
“LANCET MIGRATION”
- Lancet Migration will continue to generate the evidence, engage society and shape policy.



THE LANCET

Thank you for listening #LancetMigration

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