

EU-Level Consultation on Migration Health – “Better Health for All”

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Migration – A Determinant of Migrants' Health

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Key Messages

- Migration Health **bridges** rights, development and public health
- Migration **is** a social determinant of migrants' health
- The Migrants Health agenda needs affirmative **actions**



Why?

- Reduced stigma at home and away
- Reduced public health burden
- Enhanced integration and social stability
- Migrants contribute to development in source and destination countries
- Remittances sent home and contribution to community well-being (199 billion USD in 2006)



Better health, better integration,
better migration!



Rights and human development

The wealth of poor people lies in their capacities and their assets.

Of these, health is the most important. A sick, weak and disabled body is a liability both to the person affected and to those that must support them.

Thus if health is an asset and ill-health a liability, protecting and promoting health care is central to the entire process of poverty reduction and human development

(chapter 10, Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper, 2002)



Globalization of Migration

**Doubled over the past 25 years
in 2005**

190 million world-wide



**bridging
disparities**





Health hazards and the migration process ...



- Irregular migrants often make long and dangerous journeys
- Trafficking, smuggling, criminal networking
- Long-term physical and mental health impact

Source: Times of Malta, 31/03/2009



Migration, a health risk?





Health hazards in destination countries

- Migrants are the first affected by the financial crisis and exposed to exploitative work (the 3-D)
 - Dirty
 - Dangerous
 - Degrading





Health and social services for the invisible

- Accessibility, Acceptability, Affordability and quality of health care depend on various factors:
 - Legal
 - Cultural
 - Linguistic
 - Gender
 - Financial
 - Geographical
- Mobility makes it difficult to identify available services and to follow long-term treatment





Progress towards Migration and Health: some benchmarks

- The ***Declaration of Alma-Ata*** on Primary Health Care (1976)
- The ***Millenium Declaration*** and the MDGs (2000)
- The ***UNGASS on HIV/AIDS*** (2005)
- White Paper “***Together for Health, a strategic approach for the EU 2008-2013***” (2007)
- The ***Portuguese Presidency*** of the EU (*High-Level European Conference of the EPSCO Council 2007*)
- The 61st World Health Assembly ***Resolution on Health of Migrants*** (May 2008)
- The WHO ***Tallin Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth*** (June 2008)
- ***The Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health*** (Aug. 2008)
- The Report of the ***International Task Team on HIV-Related Travel Restrictions*** (2008)
- ***UNAIDS Programme Coordination Board 2009 focus on HIV and mobility***



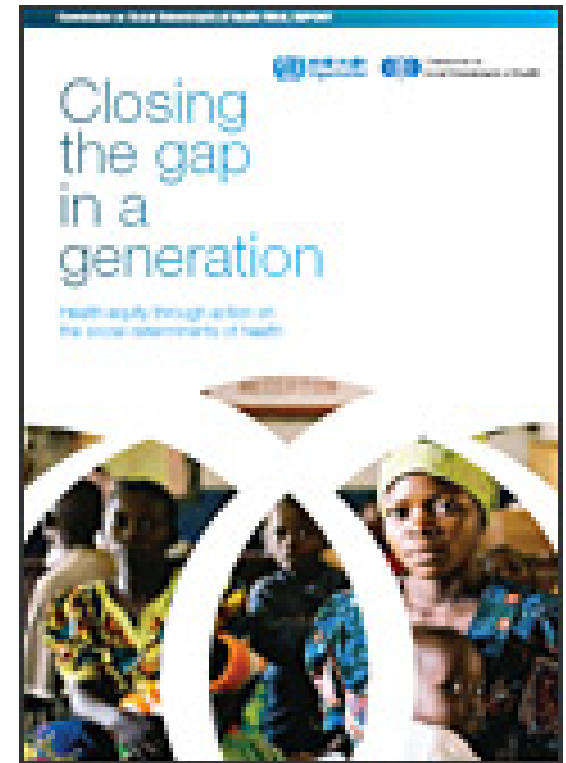
Major hampering factors

- Lack of inter-sectoral dialogue and policy coherence
- Competing agendas (rights - public health -public security)
- Competing priorities and limited resources, various crises.



The Commission on the Social Determinants of Health

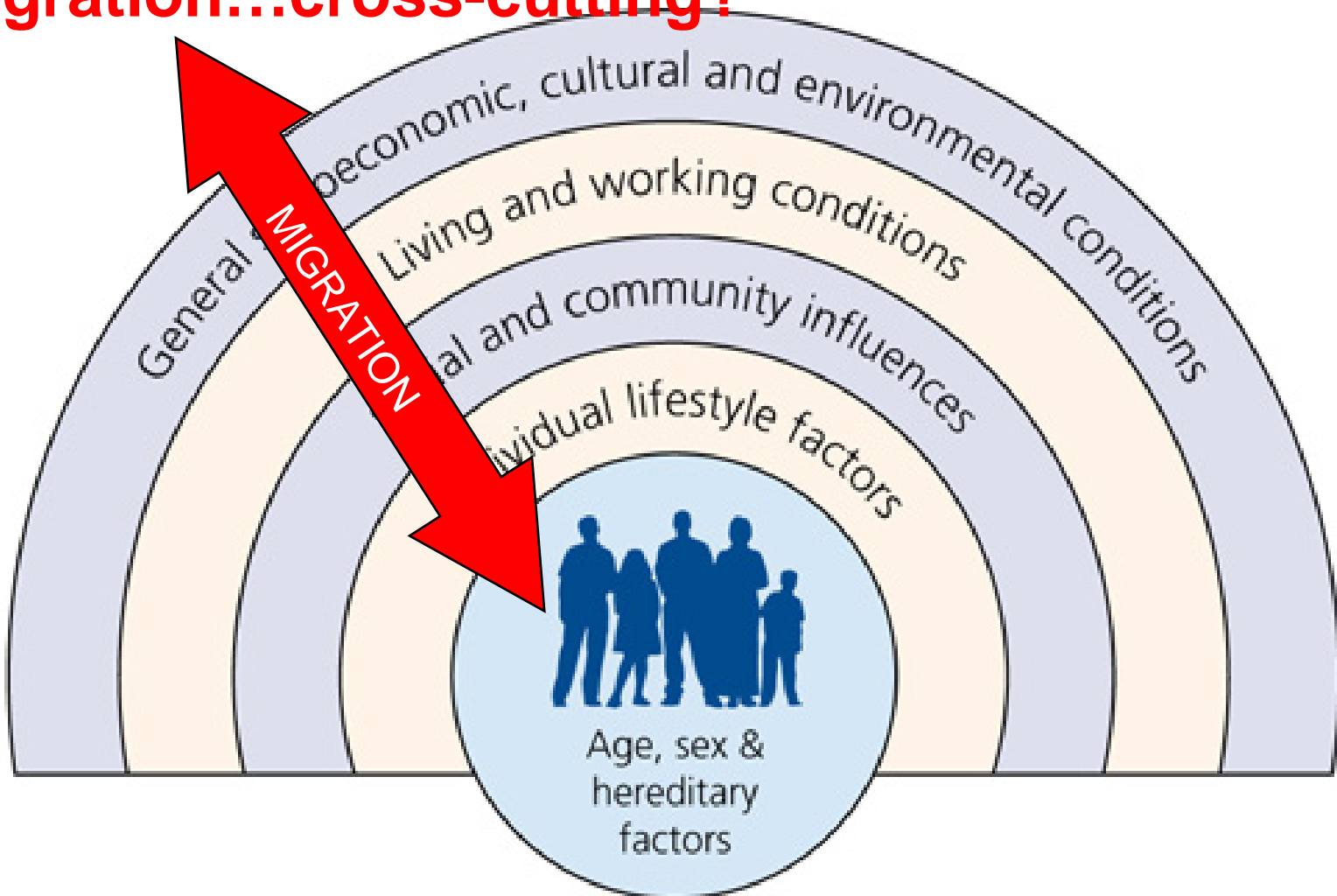
- The Commission on social determinants of health has promoted health equity .
- However there is a need to emphasise the migration dynamics





Social determinants of health

Migration...cross-cutting?



Human need for autonomy, power and freedom to lead a life one values



Empowerment?

- Powerlessness
- Discrimination, stigma
- Anti-migrants sentiments
- Restrictive migration policies





Recommendations

- The Migrant health issues must be brought to the forefront and not lost in the equity debate
- *Migration health policies and strategies need to focus on addressing the barrier that hinder access to health and social services*
- *Multi-sectoral collaboration is needed to implement programmes for migrants*



Some key elements

- Knowledge, evidence to influence policy
- High level advocacy
- Country ownership, leadership :
designated focal entities in MoH



Thank You!



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