

Physician consultation at an IOM Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Ghana © IOM 2022

## PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Pre-migration health activities (PMHA) are one of IOM's most well-established migration management services and are delivered through IOM's Migration Health Assessment Programme (HAP) on behalf of destination countries and migrants.

These activities are undertaken through more than 70 migration health assessment centres (MHACs) worldwide, over one-third of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as through mobile teams in remote areas and a large network of partner service providers.

From 2019 to 2023, the number of migration health assessments provided in the sub-Saharan Africa region **more than tripled**, despite the temporary cessation of many of IOM MHAC's routine pre-migration health activities during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IOM's Migration Health Division (MHD) contributes to global health goals through the provision of health services to migrant populations and through capacity building of national partners and providers. In particular, PMHAs promote progress on the WHO End-TB Strategy and SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages.

## WHAT ARE PRE-MIGRATION HEALTH ACTIVITIES?

PMHA are an array of procedures that are undertaken in the context of regular migration at the request of receiving country governments, and aim to achieve at least one of the following:

- Identification of **health conditions of public health importance** (communicable and non-communicable)
- **Provision of continuity of care**, linking pre-departure, travel, transit and post-arrival phases
- Establishment of **fitness to travel** to another country
- **Improvement of the health of migrants** before departure to another country through the provision of preventative or curative care
- Minimization or mitigation of **public health risks** related to mobility.

IOM provides migrants with PMHA for the purpose of resettlement, international study and employment, temporary or permanent visas, enrolment in migrant assistance programmes, such as assisted voluntary return or post-emergency relocation and repatriation.

Reflecting national differences in immigration policies and practices, pre-migration health requirements vary among receiving countries. Despite these differences, one thing remains constant: the need to ensure that the migration process does not endanger the health of the migrant or the host population.

## 2023 KEY FIGURES FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In 2023<sup>1</sup>, IOM provided or assisted the provision of over **half a million migration health assessments** across sub-Saharan Africa, covering both immigrants (86.8%) and refugees (13.2%), and accounting for **more than half (53.8 per cent) of globally provided IOM migration health assessments**. Key figures depicting IOM's footprint and capacities across Africa in 2023 are shown below.



28

IOM migration health assessment centres (MHACs) across **20 countries**



21

Additional countries covered by mobile teams or partners with IOM support



14

Destination countries



18

IOM laboratories (3 TB containment laboratories)



20

IOM-owned radiology units



1

IOM regional teleradiology centre, networked to **56 locations**, reading a daily average of **2,000 chest X-rays**



246,605

Doses of vaccine administered to over **67,800 migrants**



62.2 M+

USD invested in pre-migration health activities across the region



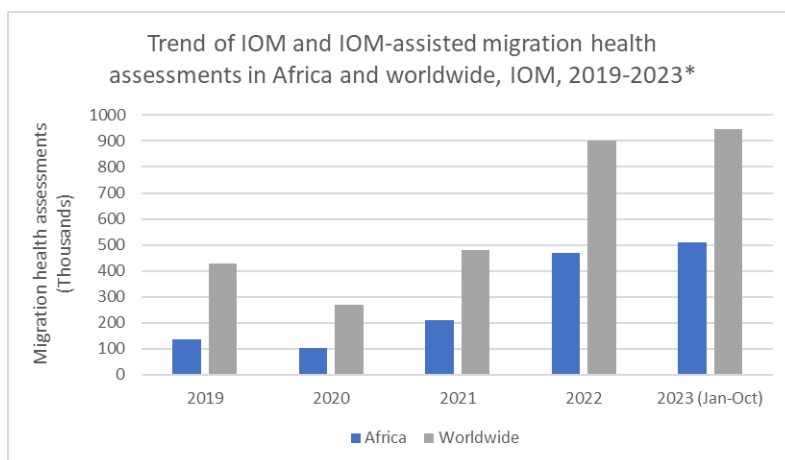
5,047

DNA samples were collected in **15 countries** to facilitate family reunification

<sup>1</sup> Data as of mid-October 2023 (financial figure as of September 2023)



DNA sample collection at the IOM MHAC in Harare, Zimbabwe. © IOM 2022



### Western Africa

- 13 MHACs in 8 countries
- 7 IOM laboratories (1 TB containment laboratory)
- 8 IOM-owned radiology units
- 319,970 IOM and IOM-assisted migration health assessments (98.8% on behalf of immigrants, 1.2% on behalf of refugees)
- 26,278 vaccine doses administered to 7,476 migrants

### Eastern Africa

- 11 MHACs in 8 countries
- 9 IOM laboratories (2 TB containment laboratories)
- 9 IOM-owned radiology units
- 109,069 IOM and IOM-assisted migration health assessments (46.7% on behalf of immigrants, 53.3% on behalf of refugees)
- 204,477 vaccine doses administered to 55,950 migrants

### Southern Africa

- 4 IOM MHACs in 4 countries
- 2 IOM laboratories
- 3 IOM-owned radiology units
- 81,334 IOM and IOM-assisted migration health assessments (93.2% on behalf of immigrants, 6.8% on behalf of refugees)
- 15,842 vaccine doses administered to 4,394 migrants