



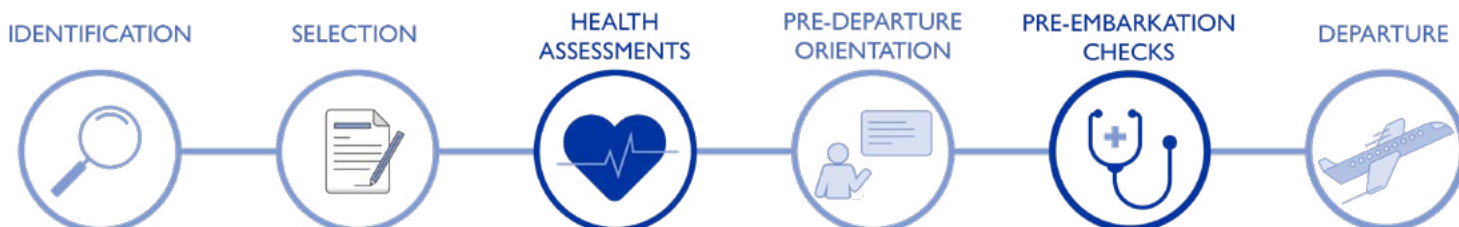
One of the Migration Health Nurses taking history for a patient at the MHAC in Kigali. ©IOM 2023 / Robert Kovacs

## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

Migration health assessments are among the most well-established migration management services offered by IOM. At the request of receiving country governments, IOM provides an evaluation of the physical and mental health status of migrants prior to their departure for the purpose of resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or for obtaining a temporary or permanent visa. Migration health assessments involve a review of the migrant's medical history, a physical examination, additional investigations, such as imaging studies, laboratory tests and specialist referrals, if required, documentation of findings and confidential transfer of relevant information to appropriate immigration or public health authorities. Related services include preventive and/or curative treatment or referral for treatment, counselling, health education, public health interventions, including, but not limited, to surveillance, outbreak response, vaccinations, and travel assistance.

Travel assistance serves to address individual health and safety and to manage conditions of public health concern as individuals move across geographical, health system and epidemiological boundaries. Within health assessments programmes, pre-embarkation checks and pre-departure medical screenings are performed in order to assess a migrant's fitness to travel and provide medical clearance. These measures also ensure that migrants are referred to appropriate medical services once they arrive at their destination countries. Migrants who need medical assistance and care during travel are escorted by health professionals to avoid complications during transit. Pre-departure treatment, vaccinations and other public health interventions are also tailored to meet the needs of migrants and immigration authorities.

### HEALTH IN THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS



## MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTER

IOM Rwanda's migration health assessment center (MHAC) in Kigali is the medical clinic that provides health assessment and travel assistance services for migrants and refugees traveling temporarily or permanently to the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and various countries across Europe. The health assessments are conducted by highly trained and experienced migration health physicians and migration health nurses based on the protocols defined by receiving countries. In 2022, IOM Rwanda conducted over **10,400 health assessments** and **4,027 pre-embarkation checks**.



The migration health assessment center located in Kigali, Rwanda. ©IOM 2023 / Robert Kovacs

## MIGRATION HEALTH SERVICES

### CONSULTATIONS



Physicians conduct consultations with refugees and migrants prior travel with the aim to safeguard public health in receiving countries and minimize the public health impact of human mobility in line with the 2005 International Health Regulations — directly benefitting the individual health of migrants and their communities of origin and destination.

### LABORATORY



In order to keep up with the requirements of receiving country partners, IOM is continuously investing in some of the latest medical equipment and technologies. The MHAC has internal laboratory equipped to test for some communicable diseases of public health concerns in addition to some basic investigations.

### RADIOLOGY



The Radiology unit is equipped with an X-Ray machine using digital radiography system to screen mainly for Tuberculosis.

### IMMUNIZATION



IOM has been working to improve immunization coverage for refugees and migrants. Beneficiaries usually receive the necessary vaccines for their country of destination on the same day of pre-migration health assessment.

### PHARMACY



Refugees can receive prior to travel medications for continuation of care. Patients with chronic medical conditions or the ones diagnosed with some communicable diseases are prescribed the needed treatment.

### SPECIALIST REFERRALS



When health complications are detected that require attention beyond the MHAC's services, patients are referred to government and private partners to get the care they need.

### PRE-DEPARTURE EVALUATION



IOM offers pre-departure travel health services, including presumptive treatment for endemic conditions like malaria, intestinal parasites and diagnostics and treatment for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections. IOM also offers an array of specialized counseling services ensuring the safe and dignified travel of refugees to their destination countries.



IOM doctors conduct health assessments on a daily basis. ©IOM 2023 / Robert Kovacs

## TESTIMONIALS

*“The refugee camp I'm coming from is in Karongi, and I have lived there for 24 years. When we came [to the MHAC], they were so gentle with us. They welcomed us properly and they tended to everyone. What I look forward to in the United States is getting a better education for my children.”*

— ANONYMOUS USRAP BENEFICIARY

*“The way the overall service was organized, I praise it. There's nothing I can tell them to change. What I think will make me happy when I get [to the United States], is that there will be things that that I don't see here, in terms of work and getting access to schools.”*

— ANONYMOUS USRAP BENEFICIARY