



Migration and Health

Not everybody has an equal chance of a healthy life – even in Switzerland. **Many of the migrants living in this country are more exposed to health risks** than the indigenous population. For example, they may lead a less healthy life or have difficulties in understanding the healthcare system or communicating with doctors and other professionals.

Scientific studies show that certain groups of migrants are exposed to **higher risks and burdens**, related to their financial situation, social position, educational level and health status.

Health equity

The National Programme on Migration and Health **supports migrants who are disadvantaged in terms of health.**

The programme promotes:

- the **health literacy** of migrants,
- **equal access** to healthcare,
- **communication** between health professionals and patients who do not speak the local language(s),
- basic and further training for health professionals on **managing diversity**
- **research** on vulnerable groups within the migrant population.

The programme serves as a national umbrella for numerous activities carried out by cantonal authorities and a wide variety of NGOs.

Most of the projects implemented under the programme have been conceived and launched by the Federal Office of Public Health in consultation with stakeholders (State Secretariat for Migration, cantons, umbrella associations and NGOs).

Further information and contact:

Federal Office of Public Health www.miges.admin.ch



Current projects

Major projects implemented under the National Programme on Migration and Health:

- **migesplus.ch website:** Health information for migrants in their native language
- **INTERPRET - Centre of competence for community interpreting:** Quality assurance for the training and deployment of interpreters
- **National Telephone Interpreting Service:** 24/7 service in over fifty languages: 0842 442 442
- "Interaction and Quality" **e-learning** modules for health professionals
- **Swiss Hospitals for Equity Network:** Centres of excellence in healthcare for migrants
- Design of **migrant-friendly prevention** programmes (national and cantonal)
- Development of a network for **prevention of female genital mutilation**
- **Studies** on mother and child health, healthcare for undocumented migrants, patient safety and medical decision-making, and on the impact of interpreting in the health system
- Analysis of data from the two **health monitoring** surveys of the migrant population in Switzerland