



SAVE THE DATE: MANILA, 25 OCTOBER 2008

CHANGING PATTERNS OF MIGRATION ...
Taking the Health of Women and Girl Migrants Forward

“We wanted workers and we got people instead...” – Max Frisch, Switzerland

Sixty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, millions of women around the world are still suffering and dying unnecessarily during pregnancy and delivery; millions more women are being sexually abused and exploited. This global humanitarian problem is especially serious in the context of migration where the rights of women and girls tend to be poorly acknowledged and where opportunities for promoting and protecting their health have to date been largely neglected.

Both forced and voluntary migration is meanwhile growing everywhere and people are moving faster and further than at any other time in history. Rural-urban migration is accelerating and so is movement between countries. The demography of migration is also changing. For the first time in history women migrants now make up almost half of all the world's migrants and their number is growing in concert with changing labor market demands.

Migration is always a complex process and its ramifications for health are many. In the case of women and girls migration can mean serious reproductive health risks and diseases as unrelated as gestational diabetes and HIV tend to be more common among migrant women than among non-migrants ones. When women and girls find themselves in settings that offer limited access to quality health care and social services, as tends to be the case with migrants, the burden of these and other diseases is even greater.

Migration is an integral and key part of development and will continue to grow. The health of women and girls must be protected within that development process, and the time has come to ensure that migration is a healthy and constructive process for all.

ICMHD in collaboration with IDEALS in Manila and The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration in the Netherlands is organizing a workshop on “Taking the Health of Women and Girl Migrants Forward: A 21st Century Challenge.”

The workshop will take place immediately before the Global Forum for Migration and Development, a major intergovernmental and civil society event, schedule for 27-30 October in Manila. Our objective is to provide informed recommendations on the issue of women and girls' migrant health to be presented directly to the Forum and the global process.

Workshop Themes:

The Changing Demography of Migration and Migrant Work

Presentation by a demographer and a migrant worker followed by a plenary discussion.

Changing Patterns of Migration and their Implications for Health

Presentation by a public health specialist and a migrant worker followed by a plenary discussion.

Policies and Actions for the Future

Presentation by a public health policy specialist and a migrant rights expert followed by a plenary discussion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: manila@icmh.ch

24 OCTOBER 2008: Migrant Worker Field Visit (optional)

Please contact: ideals05@yahoo.com for more information
