The social and structural determinants of sexual and reproductive health and rights in migrants and refugees: a systematic review of reviews

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Abstract

Background: The sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of migrants and refugees present important public health challenges. Social and structural determinants affect both the general health and SRHR of migrants, but the drivers of SRHR among migrant and refugee populations remain understudied.

Aims: To identify upstream social and structural determinants of SRHR health of migrants and refugees reported in systematic reviews.

Methods: We conducted a systematic review of reviews. We studied 3 aspects of SRHR: sexually transmitted infections, sexual violence and unintended pregnancy in migrants and refugees. We used an inductive approach to synthesize emerging themes, summarized them in a narrative format and made an adapted version of Dahlgren and Whitehead's social determinants of health (SDH) model.

Results: We included 12 systematic reviews, of which 10 were related to sexually transmitted infections, 4 to sexual violence and 2 to unintended pregnancy. We identified 6 themes that operate at 4 different levels in an adapted version of the Dahlgren and Whitehead SDH model: economic crisis and hostile discourse on migration; limited legal entitlements, rights and administrative barriers; inadequate resources and financial constraints; poor living and working conditions; cultural and linguistic barriers; and stigma and discrimination based on migration status, gender, sex and ethnicity.

Conclusion: This review provides evidence of how upstream social and structural determinants undermine the SRHR of refugees and migrants. Unless these are addressed in policy-making and planning, the health of migrants and refugees is at risk.

Keywords: migrants, refugees, sexual and reproductive health, social and structural determinants of health

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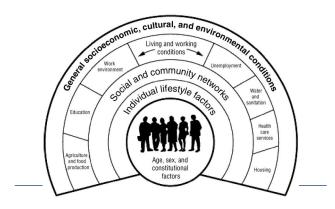
Introduction

The sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of migrants and refugees are important public health issues (1,2). While migration brings opportunities for better lives and prosperity, it also increases risks to health for diverse and heterogeneous groups of people (1). Most migrants are of working age (3), including the peak age groups for sexual activity and have a range of related health problems (4). Today, most of the world's 258 million international migrants live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (1,3), which also experience a high burden of poor SRHR outcomes (5). Due to political upheaval and conflict, the Eastern Mediterranean Region hosts 66% of the world's refugees and 33% of asylum seekers (6). In 2018, a large proportion of asylum seekers arriving in European Union (EU) Member States originated from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (7).

The SRHR of migrants is closely linked to political, environmental and cultural conditions. Migration is recognized as a social determinant of health (SDH) (9) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (8,10) and the World Health Organization (11) because the conditions surrounding migration lead to health inequalities, increased health risks and negative health outcomes (8). The SDH provide a model for understanding the social and structural factors that influence health at different levels according to their causal proximity to a health problem; upstream and distal (such as general socioeconomic and environmental conditions) or downstream and proximal (individual factors) (Figure 1) (12,13). Understanding the underlying causes of poor health is crucial as they are likely to have greater impact on population health than individually targeted approaches (14,15). Population level health can be improved through shifts in public policies and targeting upstream determinants of population health (14).

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Figure 1 The social and structural determinants of health [source: Dahlgren & Whitehead (12)]



Structural and social factors are responsible for a major proportion of health inequalities (16). For disadvantaged populations, these factors relate to higher risks, reduced access to services leading to poorer disease outcomes, and worse economic and social outcomes related to poor health and the costs of treatment (17). In addition, global aspirations for the health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage, cannot be fulfilled without ensuring that all migrants are able to realize their rights, including in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights (18). We conducted a systematic review to identify the structural and social determinants which put migrants and refugees at risk of poor SRHR outcomes, and to locate key policy areas where action can address inequalities in health.

The aim of this review was to identify upstream social and structural determinants of SRHR of migrants and refugees reported in systematic reviews. We addressed 3 aspects of SRHR outcomes: sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including hepatitis B and C and HIV/ AIDS; sexual violence; and unintended pregnancies, along with access to health care for the prevention and treatment of these outcomes. Results related to health in general were included where they also applied to SRHR.

Methods

Design

We conducted a review of systematic reviews following guidance from the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology group (19). We included systematic reviews which provided methods sufficiently detailed to be reproduced by another researcher. The protocol is registered on the electronic PROSPERO (international prospective register of systematic reviews) database (20) (PROSPERO CRD42018086039).

Search strategy

We searched the PubMed/MEDLINE and Web of Science (Science and Social Science Citation Index) electronic databases from 1 January 1980 to 9 February 2018. The

search strategy included terms for the SHRH outcomes and populations of interest. For PubMed/MEDLINE, the terms were combined with a filter for reviews (21); this search strategy is published (20). We restricted our search to reviews published in English or German.

Population of interest

Our population of interest was international migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers. We included systematic reviews that reported results for the population of interest separately. We excluded articles that did not give a definition for the target population that coincided with a definition from the IOM (22) or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (23). In brief, migrants include "all cases where the decision to migrate was taken freely by the individual concerned for reasons of 'personal convenience" (22); refugees include any "person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition" (23) and asylum seekers include any "individual who is seeking international protection ... whose claim has not yet been finally decided on" (22). We included systematic reviews that reported findings for any of these defined populations. We excluded articles that did not give clear definitions of the study populations. We also excluded articles that only included data for (internal) domestic migrants, rural-to-urban migrants and internally displaced individuals.

Social and structural determinants of interest

Our review focussed on the upstream social and structural determinants of health from Dahlgren and Whitehead's SDH model and did not examine individual-level factors (Figure 1) (12).

Review screening, selection, analysis and synthesis

One researcher screened the titles and/or abstracts of retrieved articles, assessed the full text of potentially eligible articles and extracted data about review characteristics and determinants of the SRHR outcomes. A second reviewer checked all full-text inclusion and exclusion decisions and the extracted data. Discrepancies were resolved through discussion. Following an inductive approach, all authors discussed the included reviews and agreed upon emerging themes. We synthesized emerging themes and displayed them in an adapted version of Dahlgren and Whitehead's SDH model. We reported the findings narratively, using terms for SRHR outcomes that the authors of the included systematic reviews used.

Results

Selection

We screened 440 articles and included 11 systematic reviews that fulfilled our selection criteria (24–34) (Figure 2). Twenty-eight articles were excluded because there was no IOM or UNHCR population definition. On re-examination, we included one of these 28 reviews because it identified a new theme (economic crisis) (35). The 12

Search results = 440 PubMed = 184Web of Science = 237 Hand search/Google Scholar = 19 Duplicates removed = 121 Titles and abstracts screened = 319 Excluded = 178 Full text screened = 141 Excluded = 130 None of the health outcomes of interest included = 5 Not a systematic review = 23 Migrants, refugees or asylum seekers not included = 2 Does not include data on structural and/or social Includeda = 11 determinants = 58 Sexually transmitted infections = 9 Does not give a definition for the populations which Sexual violence = 4 coincides with that of the International Organization

Figure 2 Flow chart of identified and selected reviews for inclusion (*included articles can cover more than one health outcome)

reviews included a median of 38 articles (interquartile range 29–45). Table 1 reports the characteristics of the included reviews. Ten of the 12 reviews examined health outcomes related to STIs (24–29,31,33–35), 4 to sexual violence (29–32) and 2 to unintended pregnancies (25,27). Most reviews included studies with both qualitative (10/12) and quantitative (9/12) data. The reviews included migrants and/or refugees originating from sub-Saharan Africa (8/12), Asia (7/12), Latin America (7/12), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (6/12), Europe (6/12), Oceania (2/12) and North America (1/12). All reviews included Europe as a receiving region, whereas Asia, Latin America, MENA, and sub-Saharan Africa were receiving regions in less than half of the included reviews.

Unintended pregnancy = 2

Data synthesis

We identified 6 themes (Table 2) that operate at 4 different levels in our adaptation of the Dahlgren and Whitehead SDH model (Figure 3): prevailing norms and narratives, structural determinants, living and working conditions and social and community factors. The themes are:

• Economic crises and hostile discourse on migration Our findings show that the general tenor of societal discourse on migration and migrants influences the perceptions of host communities and migrants themselves about the acceptability of using resources for SRHR needs of migrants (27,34). Anti-immigrant rhetoric, especially against undocumented migrants, draws attention to economic crises (34); when migration is framed as a threat to the economy and a

burden on health systems, it negatively influences public opinion and constrains migrants' SRHR choices as they fear being perceived as "using too many resources" (27). Influenced by anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, providers may deny needed SRHR services to undocumented migrants, who may feel too threatened to seek care (34). During economic crises in Europe, there is evidence of a disproportionately higher risk of STIs among migrants related to unemployment and poverty, which directly create the conditions for STI transmission and austerity measures and cuts to prevention and treatment programmes (35).

for Migration or the UN High Commissioner for Refugees = 28 Other = 14

Limited legal entitlements, rights and administrative barriers. A comprehensive literature review from the EU found that the right to health, including access to health care, for migrants is influenced by competing policy narratives and frameworks, e.g. rights versus immigration; the latter mostly emphasizing immigration control. In practice, this contradiction can deter migrants from seeking care, especially undocumented ones (27). The review found a general lack of policies, regulations and guidelines on migrant SRHR (27). In the EU, legal entitlements to care varies with the type of migrant and is particularly restrictive for undocumented migrants (27). Most recent policies in the EU focus only on asylum seekers and refugees. In many EU countries, undocumented migrants only have access to emergency services. The definition of "emergency services" varies across countries and is

Author, pages Aline Population No of studies Health supposed by the content of the page and recommendations in the Diplicity of the page and recommendations of the page and resource to the page and recommendations of the page and resource to the page and recommendations of the page and resource to the page and recommendations and resource to the page and recommendations of the page and resource to the page and resource to the page and resource to the page and resource the recommendations of and resource to the page and page and page and page and page and page and resource to the page and resource to the page and resource to a security the page and resource the page and resource to the page and resource the page and page an	Table 1 Review cha	Table 1 Review characteristics of included reviews $(n = 12)$					
To integrate evidence on human trafficking in proper trafficking in grants and defaulting gaps and recommendations for service delivery, research and training, and a control of the property	Author, year	Aim	Population	No. of studies & type	Health outcome	Receiving regions	Origin regions
and facilitations to HIV testing in migrants from low and and facilitations to HIV testing in migrants from low and and facilitations to HIV testing in migrants from low and middle-income countries in high-income settings in To identify the factors influencing the accuracy of infections disease monitoring in migrants in the EU/IEEA To describe evidence on violence exposures among adults seeking againts seeking againt see	Beck, 2016 (29)	To integrate evidence on human trafficking in Ethiopia and identify gaps and recommendations for service delivery, research and training, and policy	People trafficked in, within or out of Ethiopia	39; quantitative, qualitative, literature reviews, dissertations, theses, government reports	STI	Europe MENA Sub-Saharan Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa
si, To identify the factors influencing the accuracy of infectious disease monitoring in migrants in the EU/EEA To describe evidence on violence exposures among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems and other sexually transmitted infections and other sexually transmitted infections and other sexually transmitted infections host concerned accordance in the EU outsing a good SIRH, it is consistent with a rights based apportance, response to sexually various EXH in the EU obsistically and in a migrant communities living in the EU holistically review the literature on health issue of female domestic workers to ascertain the problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications.	Blondell, 2015 (26)	To systematically review the literature on barriers and facilitators to HIV testing in migrants from low- and middle-income countries in high-income settings	Adult migrants from low and middle income countries	31; quantitative, qualitative	STI	Europe Northern America Oceania	Asia Latin America MENA Sub-Saharan Africa
To describe evidence on violence exposures among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems in control of the control of the commendation of the commendation in order to promote SRH is one size and response to sexually transmitted infections and other sexually transmitted infections. To: 1) explore whether the current Europe, focusing principally on HIV, TB, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections and other sexually transmitted infections. To: 1) explore whether the current European policy frame or exates and the current Europes of proach, respecting the right to a right shased approach, respecting the right to health for all, 2) assess if and how this frame creates obstacles, and 4) formulate SRH policy, practices and research recommendations in order to promote SRH in the EU holistically and in a migrant-inclusive manner to examine how legal and policy frameworks and an attainal. European and international levels are national, European and international levels in the EU and an antional, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications.	Giorgi Rossi, 2017 (24)	To identify the factors influencing the accuracy of infectious disease monitoring in migrants in the EU/EEA	Migrants in the EU/EEA	27; quantitative, qualitative, guidelines, policy documents	STI	Europe Northern America Oceania	Asia Europe Latin America MENA Northern America Oceania Sub-Saharan Africa
is, To review the literature on the impact of economic crises on infectious disease risks in migrants in Europe, focusing principally on HIV, TB, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections. To: 1) explore whether the current European policy frame on extra-EU migrants SRH is consistent with a right based approach, respecting the right to health for all, 2) assess if and bow this frame creates obstacles for migrants in the EU to attain a good SRH, 3) examine the current migrant health field suggestions on how to overcome these obstacles, and 4) formulate SRH policy, practices and research recommendations in order to promote SRH in the EU holistically and in a migrant-inclusive manner. To examine how legal and policy frameworks at national, European and international levels condition the prevention of and response to sexual violence affecting vulnerable migrant communities living in the EU. To systematically review the literature on health issues of female domestic workers to ascertain the problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications.	Kalt, 2013 (32)	To describe evidence on violence exposures among adults seeking asylum in high-income host countries and on associated health problems	Asylum seekers	23; quantitative	SV	Asia Europe Northern America Oceania	Asia Europe Latin America MENA
To: 1) explore whether the current European policy frame on extra-EU migrants 'SRH is consistent with a rights based approach, respecting the right to health for all, 2) assess if and how this frame creates obstacles for migrant health field suggestions on how to overcome these obstacles, and 4) formulate SRH policy, practices and research recommendations in order to promote SRH in the EU holistically and in a migrant-inclusive manner. To examine how legal and policy frameworks at national, European and international levels condition the prevention of and response to sexual violence affecting vulnerable migrant communities living in the EU. To systematically review the literature on health issues of female domestic workers to ascertain the problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications	Kentikelenis, 2015 (35)	To review the literature on the impact of economic crises on infectious disease risks in migrants in Europe, focusing principally on HIV, TB, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections	Foreign born migrants	40; quantitative, qualitative, reviews	STI	Europe	Asia Europe Latin America Oceania Sub-Saharan Africa
To examine how legal and policy frameworks at national, European and international levels at national, European and international levels condition the prevention of and response to sexual violence affecting vulnerable migrant communities living in the EU references, qualitative references, qualitative references, qualitative references, qualitative appropriate problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications	Keygnaert, 2014 (27)	To: 1) explore whether the current European policy frame on extra-EU migrants' SRH is consistent with a rights based approach, respecting the right to health for all, 2) assess if and how this frame creates obstacles for migrants in the EU to attain a good SRH, 3) examine the current migrant health field suggestions on how to overcome these obstacles, and 4) formulate SRH policy, practices and research recommendations in order to promote SRH in the EU holistically and in a migrant-inclusive manner	Extra-EU migrants	267; advocacy and legal references, academic articles, qualitative	STI UP	Europe (27 EU member states)	Not reported
To systematically review the literature on health issues of female domestic workers 32; quantitative, qualitative problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications	Keygnaert, 2015 (30)	To examine how legal and policy frameworks at national, European and international levels condition the prevention of and response to sexual violence affecting vulnerable migrant communities living in the EU	Migrant communities living in the EU	267; legal and policy documents, academic references, qualitative	SV	Europe	Not specified
	Malhotra, 2013 (31)	To systematically review the literature on health issues of female domestic workers to ascertain the problems studied, identify limitations, and suggest future research and policy implications	Female domestic workers	32; quantitative, qualitative	STI	Asia Europe MENA Northern America	Asia Europe Latin America MENA Sub-Saharan Africa

	Population No. of studies Health Receiving regions Origin regions & type outcome	Undocumented immigrants 40; quantitative, qualitative, policy analysis Dicy analysis MENA Northern America Oceania Sub-Saharan Africa	Migrants and refugees on Not reported (49 counted by STI Europe Asia arrival and during settlement hand); quantitative, qualitative UP Latin America at points of care NENA Sub-Saharan Africa	Migrant female sex workers 26; quantitative STI Asia Asia Europe Europe Europe Latin America Latin America Oceania MENA Sub-Saharan Africa Sub-Saharan Africa	International migrants, 37; qualitative STI Europe Sub-Saharan Africa including asylum seekers and refugees refugees Not all reported MENA Northern America Oceania Sub-Saharan Africa
Table 1 Review characteristics of included reviews ($n = 12$) (concluded)	Aim	To assess and understand how immigration policies Undoc and laws may affect both access to health services and health outcomes among undocumented immigrants	To review available data about health problems Migra of migrants and refugees during their migration arrival. and in particular on arrival and during their early settlement in temporary camps	To assess the evidence of differences in the risk of Migran HIV, STI and health-related behaviours between migrant and non-migrant female sex workers	To systematically review the literature which has investigated the perceptions and practices of health including care providers in managing care for migrants, as well as the challenges and barriers that health personnel faced
Table 1 Review ch	Author, year	Martinez, 2015 (34)	Pavli, 2017 (25)	Platt, 2013 (28)	Suphanchaimat, 2015 (33)

subject to change, creating uncertainty about entitlement to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care. In the United Kingdom, HIV treatment used to be an emergency service but this was rescinded in 2009, thus ending free HIV treatment for all (27). Many European countries restrict undocumented migrants from accessing treatment for hepatitis C and HIV infections (25). As a result, documented migrants from LMICs in high-income countries (HICs) have comparatively better access to HIV testing than undocumented migrants, whose legal status and fear of deportation act as deterrents to HIV testing (26). The absence of regional guidelines on HIV testing among migrants also poses a barrier to HIV testing in HICs (26). In the EU, few policy documents address both SRHR and migrants (27). The legal provisions on migrant SRHR focus on a narrow understanding of reproductive health, concentrating mainly on pregnant women and neglecting important dimensions (27), e.g. sexual violence in highly vulnerable migrant sub-groups (30). Most policy documents dealing with sexual violence do not consider sexual violence against men, undocumented migrants and sex workers. The effect of structural factors, such as legal status and living conditions, on predilection to sexual violence is also ignored. While sexual violence in the countries of origin (e.g. in war, during trafficking or female genital mutilation) is considered, the potential for sexual violence against vulnerable migrants after arriving in the EU is ignored; the exception is sexual violence in migrant accommodation centres (30). As a result, migrants vulnerable to sexual violence face significant legal obstacles in realizing their rights to SRH services in the EU (30). Fulfilling the administrative requirements needed to access care can be prohibitive for migrants as well as providers. For instance, when requirements such as proof of residence (27), insurance (24,27) or resources (27) are unclear, they create uncertainty about entitlement for both migrants and providers (27). Moreover, differing entitlements for various groups of migrants make it difficult for medical and administrative staff to determine which services can be offered (27). The situation is more complicated for undocumented migrants. Even when legally entitled, de facto access to care can be limited by administrative and financial burdens (33).

• Inadequate resources and financial constraints. The limited finances and resources available for the SRHR of migrants and refugees delay needed diagnosis and treatment. Lack of financial allocation for migrant health, including preventive services, results in subop-

Table 2 Summary of the upstream social and structural determinants of sexual and reproductive health and rights of migrants and refugees

Determinant theme	Reference Nos.	Summary
1. Economic crises and hostile discourse on migration	27, 34, 35	Economic crises, impoverishment, austerity measures, anti-immigrant rhetoric, public opinion and policies puts migrants at risk of sexual ill health and limits access to care
2. Limited legal entitlements, rights and administrative barriers	24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 33	Lack of policies on migrant SRHR, restricted entitlements to SRH services, exclusion of undocumented migrants, narrow policy focus on reproductive health and specific populations, lack of policy focus on migrant populations vulnerable to sexual violence as well as burdensome administrative requirements are barriers to good SRHR
3. Inadequate resources and financial barriers	26, 27, 30, 33, 34	Limited financial and human resources in the health care sector, out-of-pocket expenses and transport and housing costs undermine the SRHR of migrants
4. Poor living and working conditions	26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32	Frequent relocation, living in underserved areas, inaccessible location of health services, legal status of occupations, living in detention/reception centres, poor working conditions and poverty are associated with poor SRH in migrants
5. Cultural and linguistic barriers	24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33	Different languages, communication and cultural norms between health care providers, migrants and the community are barriers to adequate SRH diagnosis and treatment
6. Stigma and discrimination	26, 27, 29, 30, 32	Stigma and discrimination related to migration status, sex, gender, sexual orientation and pregnancy outside marriage negatively impact the SRHR of migrants

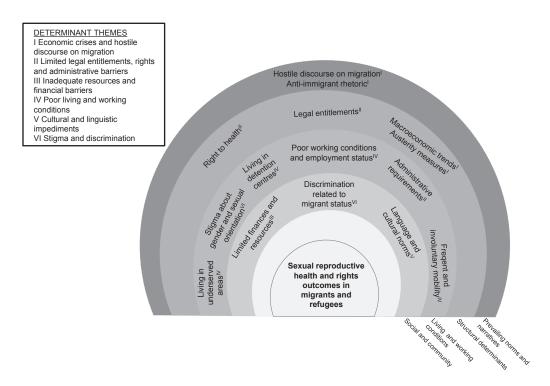
SRH = sexual and reproductive health; SRHR = sexual and reproductive health and rights.

timal levels of HIV testing of migrants from LMICs (26). While accessing care after an AIDS diagnosis, Latino migrants in United States were prevented from accessing care because of bureaucratic requirements and generally poor access to health care (34). Requirements for out-of-pocket payments create direct financial barriers, especially for undocumented migrants, while housing and transport costs are indirect financial constraints (27). Inadequate financial and human resources (e.g. health providers, interpreters) have been identified as barriers to adequate migrant health care by health providers (33), while nongovernmental agencies have raised concerns about limited funding, which negatively affects care for migrants affected by sexual violence (30).

Poor living and working conditions. Migrants move regularly and live in underserved areas, creating barriers to health care access and contributing to poor SRHR (27). Alternatively, offering services in easily accessible places facilitates HIV testing in HICs (26). Legal stipulations about sex work and their own legal status may deter migrant sex workers from seeking care (27). Adverse working conditions, such as confiscation of passports and withholding of food, are associated with abuse at the workplace among female domestic workers (31), which may lead to sexual violence. Living in detention and reception centres is associated with being subjected to violence. In one systematic review, the prevalence of sexual violence in these centres in HICs ranged from 13.6% to 77.8% (32). Poverty has also been associated with human trafficking and subsequent sexual violence (29). Evidence about migrant SRHR in LMICs is more limited. One review found that migrant female sex workers

- in lower income countries were at higher risk of HIV than non-migrant sex workers (28).
- Cultural and linguistic barriers. Communication, language and cultural problems related to the migration process influence access to health services across the EU for arriving migrants and refugees (25). Communication and language problems limit the effectiveness of health promotion activities targeted at migrants (26), make it difficult for migrants to navigate health systems (27), and prevent health workers from providing adequate services to migrants (33). For instance, the inability of migrants to effectively communicate signs and symptoms of illness could decrease the probability of syndromic diagnosis of infections (24), potentially leading to inadequate management of HIV and STIs. Cultural attitudes and beliefs among both migrants and providers can act as barriers to adequate SRH of migrants. For example, suboptimal knowledge, attitudes and practices about SRH puts female domestic workers at higher risk of STIs (31). Health providers consider cultural differences between health providers and migrant patients, professional norms, and poor cultural fit of service provision guidelines as barriers to delivery of quality care (33). The lack of cultural sensitivity of health care providers limits uptake of HIV testing among migrants (26). Sociocultural factors (e.g. early child marriage, lack of access to social services, etc.) leave women and children vulnerable to human trafficking and subsequent sexual violence (29).
- Stigma and discrimination. Discrimination based on migration status, gender, sex and ethnicity impact migrant SRH. Migration status intersects with other factors such as race, ethnicity and gender to exclude

Figure 3 The social and structural determinants of sexual and reproductive health and rights in migrants and refugees (The box lists the six social and structural determinant themes identified in this review. The four levels of the rainbow (social and community; living and working conditions; structural determinants; prevailing norms and narratives) represent the different levels at which these determinants operate. The layers of the rainbow are populated with the main results of this review. The roman numerals indicate the related determinant theme)



migrants, particularly women, from accessing care (27). Gender discriminatory practices were found to be a risk factor for human trafficking in, within and outside of Ethiopia, which results in migrants experiencing poor health outcomes and sexual violence (29). Female asylum seekers have a higher risk of sexual torture compared with males (32). Stigma was reported as a barrier to accessing health care (26,27,29). Perceived and experienced stigma have been reported as significant barriers to HIV testing across migrant groups in HICs (26). Pregnancy outside marriage and the associated stigma were also identified as a factor leaving women vulnerable to trafficking and subsequently poor SRHR outcomes (29). Migrant male sex workers are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence due to stigma associated with migrant status, sex work and homosexuality, yet this vulnerability is not acknowledged in sexual violence policies in Europe (30).

Discussion

Summary of main findings

This review provides evidence about social and structural determinants that preclude migrants and refugees from maintaining good SRH and realizing their right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (36). We identified 6 determinants (Table 2), operating at 4 levels (Figure 3). Our findings align with research on underlying causes of poor migrant health (1,9,10,37). Our review

adds new knowledge about how multiple determinants are harmful to SRHR. Economic crises; hostile environments; and limited legal entitlements, rights and policies exclude migrants from realizing their right to health and health care. Inadequate financial and human resources limit the health care services offered and care-seeking. Poor living and working conditions are associated with poor SRHR. Different languages and cultural norms between health care providers, migrants and the community are barriers to adequate diagnosis and treatment. Stigma and discrimination related to migration status, sex, gender and sexual orientation negatively impact the SRHR of migrants. Furthermore, our adapted model of determinants is relevant beyond the specific findings of this review and links upstream determinants (narratives and values) to health inequalities (Figure 3).

Strengths and limitations

The strengths of this review include the systematic search, the identification of the most consistent upstream determinants of migrant and refugee SRHR, and our adaptation of a widely used SDH framework (12). Our focus on STIs, sexual violence and unintended pregnancies is likely to have narrowed the number of identified determinants. The review of systematic reviews, rather than primary studies, might be seen as a limitation. In a research field as broad as the health of diverse groups of migrants and refugees, however, we were able to take advantage of existing systematic searches to compile

the most relevant literature pertinent to various migrant sub-populations.

Implications for research and policy

Our review identified upstream social and structural determinants that impact migrants' SRHR, but many reviews focused on downstream determinants. Given the politicized debates and growing xenophobic rhetoric and actions targeting migration (38), research about upstream determinants is an important priority. Our review identified findings mainly coming from HICs; research is lacking from the Eastern Mediterranean Region and other regions with larger fluxes of migrants and refugees (39) as are studies on unintended pregnancies and sexual violence in these populations. Research is also needed to connect knowledge of identified determinants and effective policies to mitigate the effect of these structural inequities, including rights-based approaches to improve the SRHR of migrants. Moreover, research into differing norms, power and political prioritization is needed to understand why SRHR among migrants remains a de-prioritized area.

Our review examined determinants of 3 selected SRHR outcomes. The nature of these determinants depends on context and relates to different populations of migrants and refugees – leading to caution in

overt generalizations. Nevertheless, some potential policy implications arising from our review should be highlighted. First, to address key structural barriers to SRHR, sectors beyond health must be engaged. Second, the scope of migrant SRHR policies should be expanded to include areas such as sexual violence. Responses to sexual violence in host countries should be based on the consideration that migrants and refugees are at risk of sexual violence in countries of origin, in transit and in destination countries and need appropriate legal and health system protections. Third, in an era of austerity, preventive and curative SRH services for migrants, including undocumented migrants, and refugees must be adequately resourced in order to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health. Finally, evidence-informed SRHR services should be delivered in culturally sensitive ways to ensure uptake, provide appropriate linguistic support and assure privacy, confidentiality and dignity.

Conclusion

This review provides evidence for how upstream social and structural determinants undermine the SRHR of refugees and migrants. Unless these are addressed in policy-making and planning, the health and rights of migrants and refugees is at risk.

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Competing interests: None declared.

Déterminants sociaux et structurels de la santé sexuelle et reproductive et droits associés chez les migrants et les réfugiés : examen systématique d'analyses Résumé

Contexte : La santé sexuelle et reproductive et les droits associés des migrants et des réfugiés présentent d'importants défis en matière de santé publique. Les déterminants sociaux et structurels ont une incidence à la fois sur la santé générale et sur la santé sexuelle et reproductive et les droits associés des populations de migrants et de réfugiés, mais les facteurs qui influencent ces derniers demeurent sous-étudiés.

Objectifs : Identifier les déterminants sociaux et structurels intervenant en amont de la santé sexuelle et reproductive et des droits associés des migrants et des réfugiés, tels que décrits dans les examens systématiques.

Méthodes: Nous avons procédé à un examen systématique d'analyses. Nous avons étudié trois aspects de la santé sexuelle et reproductive et des droits associés: les infections sexuellement transmissibles, les violences sexuelles et les grossesses non désirées chez les migrants et les réfugiés. Nous avons utilisé une approche inductive pour synthétiser les thèmes émergents, puis les avons résumés dans un format narratif et avons réalisé une version adaptée du modèle de Dahlgren et Whitehead sur les déterminants sociaux de la santé.

Résultats: Nous avons inclus 12 examens systématiques, dont 10 étaient liés aux infections sexuellement transmissibles, quatre aux violences sexuelles et deux aux grossesses non désirées. Nous avons identifié six thèmes qui interviennent à quatre niveaux différents dans une version adaptée du modèle sur les déterminants sociaux de la santé de Dahlgren et Whitehead: la crise économique et les discours hostiles à la migration; les droits légaux limités, les obstacles juridiques et administratifs; les ressources insuffisantes et les contraintes financières; les mauvaises

conditions de vie et de travail ; les barrières culturelles et linguistiques ; et la stigmatisation et la discrimination basées sur le statut migratoire, le genre, le sexe et l'ethnicité.

Conclusion: La présente analyse montre comment les déterminants sociaux et structurels intervenant en amont nuisent à la santé sexuelle et reproductive et aux droits associés des réfugiés et des migrants. Tant que ces éléments ne sont pas pris en compte dans l'élaboration des politiques et la planification, la santé des migrants et des réfugiés est en danger.

المحددات الاجتماعية والهيكلية للصحة الجنسية والإنجابية للمهاجرين واللاجئين والحقوق المتعلقة بها: استعراض منهجي للاستعراضات

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الخلاصة

الخلفية: تُمثل الصحة الجنسية والإنجابية للمهاجرين واللاجئين والحقوق المتعلقة بها تحديات مهمة في مجال الصحة العامة. وتؤثر المحددات الاجتهاعية والهيكلية على كل من الصحة العامة والصحة الجنسية والإنجابية للمهاجرين والحقوق المتعلقة بها، ولكن لا تزال العوامل المؤثرة على الصحة الجنسية والإنجابية والحقوق المتعلقة بها في صفوف المهاجرين واللاجئين غير مدروسة دراسةً وافية.

الأهداف: هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد المحددات الاجتهاعية والهيكلية الأولية للصحة الجنسية والإنجابية للمهاجرين واللاجئين والحقوق المتعلقة على المعالمة المعالمة

طُرق البحث: أجرينا استعراضًا منهجيًا للاستعراضات. ودرسنا ثلاثة جوانب من جوانب الصحة الجنسية والإنجابية والحقوق المتعلقة بها: الأمراض المنقولة جنسيًا، والعنف الجنسي، والحمل غير المقصود لدى المهاجرين واللاجئين. واتبعنا نهجًا استقرائيًا لتوليف المواضيع المستجدة، ولخصناها في شكل سردي، وأعددنا نسخة معدَّلة من نموذج دالجرين ووايتهيد للمحددات الاجتهاعية للصحة.

النتائج: استعرضنا 12 استعراضًا منهجيًا، منها 10 استعراضات تتعلق بالأمراض المنقولة جنسيًا، و4 استعراضات تتعلق بالعنف الجنسي، واستعراضان يتعلقان بالحمل غير المقصود. وحددنا 6 مواضيع في 4 مستويات مختلفة في نسخة معدَّلة من نموذج دالجرين ووايتهيد للمحددات الاجتهاعية للصحة: الأزمة الاقتصادية والخطاب العدائي بشأن الهجرة؛ ومحدودية الاستحقاقات القانونية والحقوق والعوائق الإدارية؛ وعدم كفاية الموارد والقيود المالية؛ وسوء ظروف المعيشة والعمل؛ والحواجز الثقافية واللغوية؛ والوصم والتمييز على أساس وضع الهجرة والنوع الاجتهاعي ونوع المجنس والعرق.

الاستنتاجات: يقدِّم هذا الاستعراض دلائلِ على أثر المحددات الاجتهاعية والهيكلية الأولية في تقويض الصحة الجنسية والإنجابية للمهاجرين واللاجئين ستكون واللاجئين والحقوق المتعلقة بها. وما لم تُعالَج هذه الأمور في إطار عملية رسم السياسات والتخطيط، فإن صحة المهاجرين واللاجئين ستكون عُرضة للخطر.

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