Healthcare for Migrants in the Netherlands: an integrated person centered approach

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Migrants in the Netherlands

- total population: 17 million
- 20% first or second generation migrant
- 11% non-western countries

- 41,000 in asylum seeker centre (3 May 2016)
- 170,000 refugees settled over the last years
- 130,000 ? undocumented migrants
Organisation of healthcare in the Netherlands

- Obligatory health insurance and GP
- General Practice gatekeeper to system
- GGD public community health – youth health

- Asylumseekers separate system

- Settled Refugees same as all Dutch people
Health of migrants in the Netherlands

• Worse health, more chronic diseases
• Worse outcomes perinatal care / Diabetes
• Refugees: limited extra short term risks
  – mental health problems / behaviour problems children
  – pregnancy related problems
  – lack of vaccinations
  – Infections from high endemic countries
• Refugees: long term risks depending of integration
  – Mental health problems: PTSD, behaviour problems
  – Diabetes Mellitus (less physical activity!)
  – Slightly higher incidence TB, Hepatitis BC
Health Policy: integral and personcentered

- Strongest contributing factors to health of migrants:
  - participation – work / housing / insurance
  - proficiency of new language
  - family reunion/ short duration of asylum procedure

THIS ASKS FOR:

- Integral approach: health needs & social needs
  - Primary Health care & Public health & municipalities

- Person centered “plus” - cultural sensitive - care
  - knowledge of etnic and socioeconomic health differences
  - Skills to bridge literacy and linguistic differences

- Involvement of all service users

- Integrated in Regular care, guidelines and quality control
Dutch centre of expertise on health disparities

Mission: Good health and health care for all

• Integrating knowledge of differences in regular care
  Ethnic and socioeconomic differences in guidelines
• Supporting health care users – participatory approach
  • developing health promotion materials
• Training of and support of professionals
  in cultural sensitive care
• Supporting municipalities
  in reducing Health disparities
Website migrant health for GP’s
www.huisarts-migrant.nl

Information on:
- Diseases
  - Hypertension medication
  - Tropical diseases
- Health literacy
- Language barriers
- Refugee health
- Culture
  - Islam and health: Hadj
RIVM, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environment

- part of the Ministry of Health
- produces reports and guidelines with partners
- Centre for Healthy Living: local interventions for the health of migrants and refugees
  https://www.loketgezondleven.nl/gemeente/uitvoeren-en-samenwerken/vluchtelingen-en-gezondheid
- Centre for Infectious Disease control: Monthly ID monitor and research on TB, Sexual health, hepatitis and AMR with migrants / refugees.
4Refugees aims at providing reliable and factual information concerning health questions, background on transmissible diseases and information on the Dutch health system and how it applies to refugees

Developed in co-creation with refugees, Community Health Care, Municipality, Hospital and Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
Challenges

- No reimbursement for interpreters in healthcare
- Lack of data on health and use of healthcare by migrants / refugees -> plans for health monitor