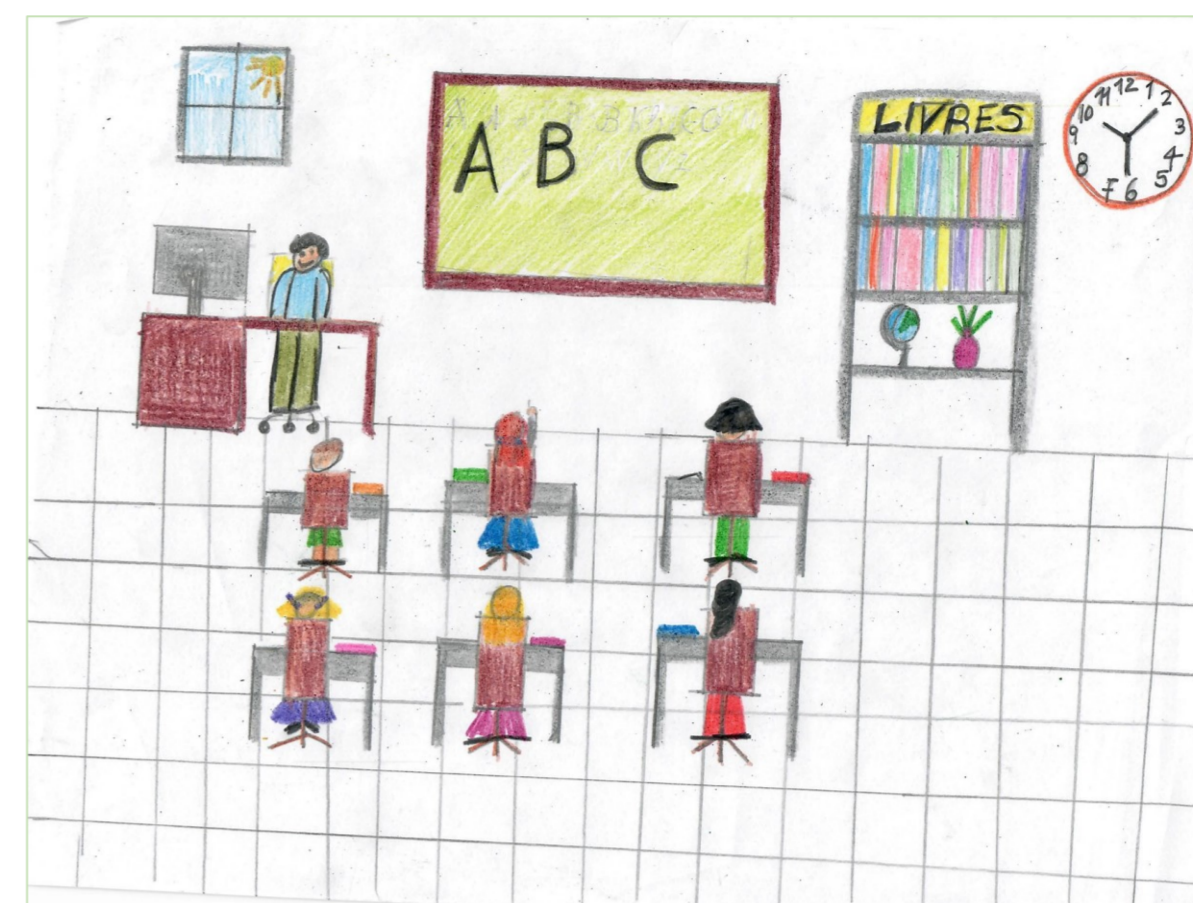


School health services: an integrated model of care for children and adolescents with migrant backgrounds

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School Health Services

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has long emphasized the link between health and education:

- Global School Health Initiative (1995)
- Guidelines on school health services (2021)

Objectives are to :

- strengthen this link
- enable schools to promote students' health
- help countries implementing school health services (SHS) into school settings

SHS vary significantly from one country/region to another in terms of availability, scope, and quality. In some countries, these services are integrated into the national healthcare system and are widely accessible to students.

However, in other countries, SHS may be limited due to financial constraints, inadequate resources, or different political priorities.

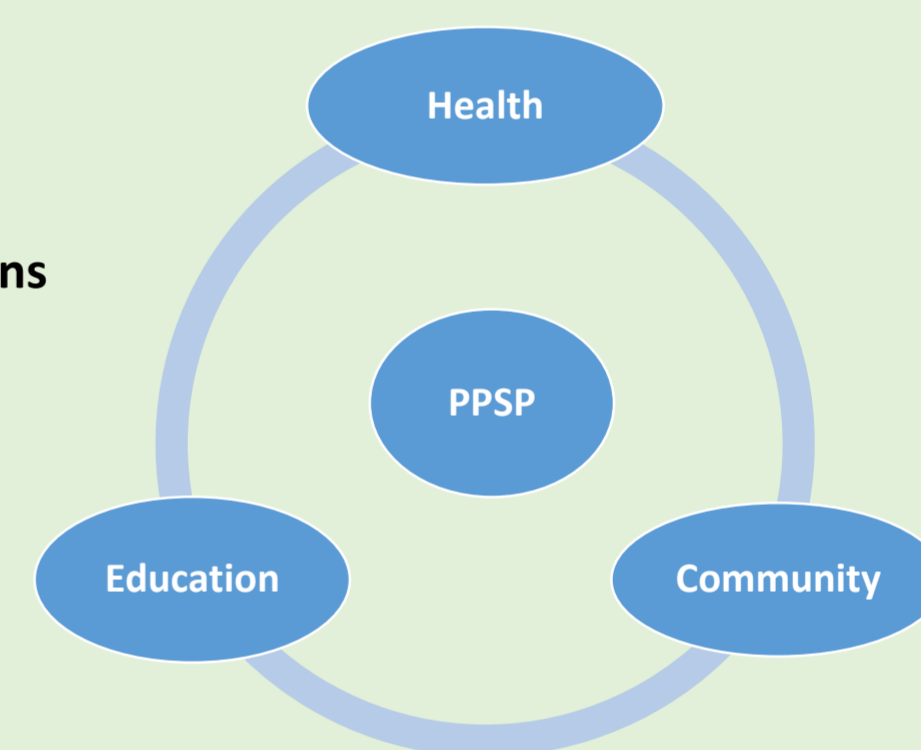
What about SHS in Geneva?

SHS in Geneva are in line with the WHO recommendations. They are integrated into the state education system and are widely accessible to all students.

The Health Promotion & Prevention Pole (PPSP) is part of SHS in Geneva. It constitutes an interdisciplinary group of healthcare providers: nurses, physicians, dentists, dental assistants, dietitians, psychometricians, vision-hearing technicians as well as sexual health educators.

PPSP specific added values/advantages:

- Easy on-site access
- Flexible schedules
- Without cost (except for dental care)
- Free translation services provided by official institutions



PPSP responds to migrant students' healthcare needs

The Canton of Geneva mirrors cultural diversity due to the high percentage of inhabitants originating from other countries, as well as the significant international mobility. Migrant populations, namely the asylum-seekers and the undocumented immigrants, are generally considered as vulnerable.

How does the PPSP accompany migrant students?

Challenges

- Language barriers
- Illiteracy issues
- No knowledge of the local system
- Fear of/mistrust in institutions
- No knowledge of their rights
- Health issues
- Social integration difficulties
- Limited health knowledge

Role of PPSP

- Access to translation services
- Counselling, advice and support
- Explanations and link to healthcare network
- Transcultural approach and background's evaluation
- Information about rights
- Early detection of specific needs and orientation (health visits)
- Socio-emotional empowerment
- Individual/collective health promotion and prevention activities

Conclusion

School health services (SHS) contribute to the achievement of the Universal Health Coverage.

SHS integration within educational institutions offers a privileged position to support students and address their specific health needs.

This role is particularly true for migrant populations. By providing a biopsychosocial approach addressing the unique challenges of their migration experience, SHS contribute to the migrants social integration, their empowerment and the maintenance of their health and global well-being.

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