

**Memorandum of Understanding
for
Collaboration between the
World Health Organization/EURO
and the
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Taking into account the joint letter between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (hereinafter the "International Federation") and the World Health Organization (WHO) at global level signed on 11 May 2005 and within the context of this Letter, the International Federation and WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) hereby join forces to work together, as appropriate, with the Member States of the WHO European Region and through their respective Ministries of Health as well as with other relevant parties to ensure that their health system respond to the needs of the population, particularly the most vulnerable and agree to a process of collaboration.

Whereas the WHO/EURO works with the Ministries of Health of the countries in the European Region, through the WHO/EURO country offices, to improve health in the European Region.

Whereas the International Federation has observer status in the World Health Assembly and Regional Committee for Europe and with its member Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (hereinafter "National Societies"), works to improve the situation of vulnerable people.

Aware of the International Federation's Strategy 2010 and the Global Agenda which establishes health and care in the community as one of its core areas of operation including strong focus on addressing the main health challenges at the community level through the Global Health and Care strategy that allows the International Federation and the National Societies to increase the level of support to communities worldwide

Aware of the WHO/EURO's strategic directions defined by the Country Strategy (EUR/RC50/R5) and the strategic document on the "Future of the WHO Regional Office for Europe" (EUR/RC56/11) which, among others, in the overall context of strengthening health systems, include the promotion of equity of opportunities in achieving a full health potential and working in partnership with other organizations to meet immediate and long-term health needs.

Mindful that the National Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, can play a complementary role to governments by focusing on the household and community factors that are closely related to health outcomes through their unique volunteer network.

Recognizing WHO/EURO's technical expertise and capacity to dialogue with Ministries of Health in the design of policy and in the setting standards and norms for the development of health programs.

Recognizing the interest of the International Federation and its member National Societies in making the most of opportunities offered by developing close multilateral partnerships between them and international organizations.

Mindful of the need for closer and more coordinated response between WHO/EURO and the International Federation in matters concerning health and desirous of further enhancing such cooperation.

Section I: Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MoU") establishes a framework for cooperation between the International Federation and WHO/EURO to develop and implement joint initiatives to support countries of the region in achieving strengthened health systems, a country-tailored approaches and, finally, Health for All through the coordinated efforts of Ministries of Health, National Societies and WHO/EURO offices in the countries.

Section II: Objectives change

The objectives of this MoU are:

- a. To identify areas consistent with the public health agenda of the countries in the region as well as with the International Federation's Strategy 2010 where the International Federation, WHO/EURO and the Ministries of Health can improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, and reduce or eliminate avoidable inequities in health conditions.
- b. To enhance and support cooperation between the Ministries of Health, WHO/EURO and the National Societies.
- c. To serve as the framework agreement for cooperation between the parties in specific areas of activities and collaboration.

Section III: General Principles of Cooperation and Areas of Shared Interest

The parties shall:

- a. Act in close cooperation and consult with each other, not less than once a year, on matters of common interest based on prioritized issues and programs, including joint projects and other activities at the regional, sub-regional, and national levels, in order to coordinate their work and to strengthen cooperation.
- b. Based on the 2005 action plan between the International Federation and WHO/EURO, define and further develop the following areas of collaboration:
 - Scaling-up and improvement of HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, treatment and care, focussing on poor and vulnerable groups;
 - First aid;
 - Public health in emergencies and pandemic preparedness;
 - Health systems interventions for mother and child health;
 - Traditional and emerging health and environmental risks, in particular risks related to change in global health and lifestyle.
 - Improvement, access, equity and quality of service delivery, i.e. blood safety
- c. Identify new areas of collaboration at the time of the annual consultation.

Section IV: Modalities of Cooperation – Operation Aspects

In the framework of this MoU, WHO/EURO and the International Federation, in cooperation with the interested National Societies of the region, will undertake the following responsibilities:

- a. To each appoint an overall focal point to coordinate the implementation of this MoU, monitor progress, and meet once a year to evaluate and identify new opportunities for cooperation. When needed, special technical focal points can be appointed to support and enhance implementation of the specific areas of cooperation called for above.
- b. To endeavor to share information on events and activities that may be of common interest, with all participation to such events being by invitation.
- c. To share information about projects proposed to be financed by each organization and subject to terms of this MoU and each organization's rules regulations and procedures.
- d. To cooperate to develop joint information tools such as publication of appropriate material, posters and audiovisuals as may be considered necessary, to increase access to information and level of public awareness of issues concerning health.
- e. To develop and disseminate strategies, guidelines and methods on health issues of common interest.
- f. To jointly design a mechanism that promotes active community involvement in the implementation of community based health interventions.
- g. To support activities which build national capacity and enable that capacity to play a full part in this cooperation
- h. To consult each other on the design and scientific evaluation of activities carried out under this MoU.
- i. To jointly evaluate progress in the implementation of this MoU during yearly consultation meetings.

Section V: Technical Cooperation and Funding

The parties will consult and agree on how activities are to be jointly undertaken and financed while respecting their respective resources mobilization modalities and their respective rules, regulations and procedures. The implementation of any activity is subject to the availability of sufficient human and financial resources.

The parties, in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, will collaborate with governments and outside parties, including specialized institutions, universities, donors, and the international community at large, and other components of civil society in any activity that they might consider necessary and appropriate.

The parties may, through special arrangements, decide to act jointly in the formulation, resource mobilization and implementation of projects that are of common interest. The

special arrangements shall define the modalities for participation of each party in such projects and shall determine that contributions to be made by each of the parties.

Section VI: Intellectual Property

Operational Research - The parties will collaborate in identifying, designing and implementing operational and applied research on the progress of implementation of universal access at community and facility level.

Joint research results shall as far as possible be published and copyrighted jointly. Where this is not feasible, the parties may agree to permit either organization to publish any of the results on its own or in collaboration with others, giving due recognition to the contribution of the other organization unless that other party does not agree to such recognition. For material published under joint copyright each party shall, subject to prior written consent of the other in each case, have the right to adapt and publish such material for its work in other regions or outside the framework of this MoU under its own copyright but with due recognition of the other party. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section VII: Cooperation with Other International and National Organizations

The parties may consult, separately, or jointly, with international and national organizations, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, in order to achieve the objectives of the joint initiatives, maximize the efficient use of resources or acquire additional funding. These may include both public and private organizations active in the area of social, economic, and health development. The parties should inform each other on their respective contacts in this regard.

- a. The parties may, in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, explore strategic alliances with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to implement appropriate strategies for related activities in the region.

Section VIII: Conflict Resolution

Any differences in the interpretation or application of this MoU shall be resolved by common agreement of the parties. In the absence of such agreement, any differences shall be referred to arbitration at the request of either party. The parties shall each appoint one arbitrator, and the two, so appointed, shall jointly appoint a third who shall be the chairperson. The arbitrators shall decide the procedure of the arbitration and the expenses of arbitration shall be borne by the parties as assessed by the arbitrators. The arbitral award shall contain a statement of the reasons on which it is based and shall be accepted by the parties as the final adjudication of the dispute.

Section IX: Public Representations

- a. No public statement will be issued by either party with respect to this MoU or the projects initiated as a result of this MoU without prior approval by the other party.
- b. The parties maintain sole control over their respective names and emblem. No party

is authorized under this MoU to make use of the other party's name nor emblem, except as separately agreed by the parties.

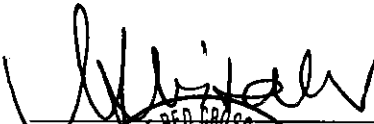
Section X: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or related to this MoU shall be deemed to constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the immunities, privileges, exemptions and facilities enjoyed by either party under international law, international conventions or agreements, or the domestic legislation and laws of their respective Member States.


Section XI: Date of entry into force

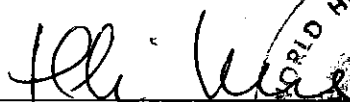
- a. This MoU shall enter into force upon its signature by both parties and its ratification by the Governing Board of the International Federation. The term shall be for an initial period of 3 years, subject to any number of renewals as may be agreed in writing by the parties.
- b. This MoU may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties. Such amendments shall specify the effective date of the modifications.
- c. This MoU may be terminated earlier by either of the parties subject to prior 6 months written notice. However, such termination shall be without prejudice to any commitments made to third parties before the notice of termination was received.
- d. The authentic version of the MoU is the English version. In the event of any inconsistency with translations, the English text will prevail.
- e. In witness whereof, the duly empowered representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Regional Office of WHO/EURO have signed the present MoU in English.

Signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 May 2008



For the International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Mr. Marko Ninkala
Secretary General





For the World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe
Mr. Imre Hollo
Director, Administration and Finance

