

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BENEFIT SOCIETY

HEALTHCARE

Solidarity within the Church !



General Section
Paris

Belgium
Brussels

Central America
Guatemala

West Africa
Abidjan

Democrac
Republic of
Congo
Kinshasa

Central Africa
Yaounde

East Africa
Nairobi

Madagascar
Antananarivo

« I reserve particular greetings for the members of the IMS. Dear friends, I strongly encourage your service in the Congregations and Dioceses to facilitate access by their members to health-care and thus promote their dedication to the mission. »

POPE FRANÇOIS,

Public audience in Rome on 13 May 2015

IMS IS A MATTER FOR EVERYONE !



26 500 BENEFICIARY MEMBERS ON 5 CONTINENTS



780 CONGREGATIONS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES AND DIOCESES IN 141 COUNTRIES



PRESENCE OF EMI at the AGM of the Association of Indigenous Congregations of West French-speaking Africa, Bamako

SISTER ELISABETH AULIAC
of the Chemin Neuf Community,
President of the IMS



International and ecumenical solidarity

The International Missionary Benefit Society (IMS) is an association founded on 30 June 1965, under the auspices of the Conferences of Major Superiors of France.

Mutualist in nature, the IMS wished to be governed by Swiss law to ensure total neutrality. Not-for-profit, non-competitive and with the support and agreement of the Holy See, this organisation wishes to reconcile the two needs of international solidarity and national responsibility.

In the spirit of the Vatican II Council, it aims to enable all missionaries around the world, as well as men and women religious and clergy from young Churches, to benefit from an equal right to healthcare. The IMS is also open to the pastoral agents of other Christian churches.

A mutual assistance association in the spirit of the Gospel, it allows Major Superiors and Bishops to fulfil their canonical responsibility (C.619) in relation to their members, as regards healthcare.

A vibrant associative life

The IMS is characterised by a participatory way of working that allows the member communities to take part in the directions and decisions of the association.

The General Assembly, composed of delegates from the Groups and Sections of the five member continents of the Association, meets every three years.

The Steering Committee is responsible for the general operation of the association. It consists of fourteen members from the various Sections in which the IMS is present and meets once a year.

The Sections are the geographical relays of the IMS. They are responsible for the administrative management of the beneficiary members of the Groups in a geographical area and play a vital local role for the beneficiaries.

The Sections aim to:

- to allow everyone the right to health without discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, place of residence and age
- to allow solidarity between each member of the EMI in the world

The Groups are composed of members of the member communities (institutes, provinces, dioceses, monasteries, etc.). They are free to choose the Section to which they are attached in view of the conditions offered (language, currency, transfer of the treatment forms, etc.).

Each beneficiary member feels responsible, through reasonable use of the healthcare.

A solidarity service

IMS is not an NGO or a charitable society.

It offers a non-commercial and non-insurance approach.

Listening to situations, needs

- **The IMS improves the conditions of the mission** for Christian ecclesial and pastoral agents around the world, working within the framework of Institutes and local Churches.
- **In the event of illness, it undertakes to provide social and economic assistance** to missionaries, men and women religious, members of the diocesan clergy and religious communities of the Christian faith.
- **It seeks the best protection** of the persons depending on the context (standard of living, cost of healthcare, income, etc.).
- **It studies assistance solutions to cover healthcare costs** in parts of the world where financial means are limited and the available healthcare is insufficiently developed.
- **It also offers complementary solutions :**
 - medical evacuation in the event of a serious condition requiring immediate hospitalisation,
 - mutual social fund for occasional excessive healthcare expenditure.



SPECIFIC TERMS

- Contributions and assistance adapted according to needs and countries
- Unconditional membership (age, health)
- Collective and non-individual membership (list drawn up by the Major Superior(s) of the Congregation, the Bishop of the Diocese concerned or the lay group manager)
- The same help for all beneficiaries regardless of age

THE STEERING COMMITTEE November 2024



THE IMS IN A FEW IMPORTANT DATES

1964

First discussions at the European level

1965

Constituent Assembly in Geneva in June

1966

Creation of the General Section and the Belgium Section

1967

Creation of the West Africa Section and Central Africa Section

1973

Creation of the Madagascar Section

1995

Creation of the local option

2007

Creation of the East Africa Section

2010

Creation of the Central America Section

2015

50th anniversary of the IMS in Rome

2022

Partnership with MSH (management, network, etc.)

2024

Creation of the Democratic Republic of Congo Section

2025

60th anniversary of the IMS

IMS IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY





Find the coordinates of your section on
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**The International Missionary Benefit Society
is a member of the Union Saint-Martin.**

UNION SAINT-MARTIN

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POUR LE CLERGE
www.fondationduclerge.com

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