INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BENEFIT SOCIETY

Solidarity within the Church!

General Section Brussels

Central America
Guatemala

West Africa
Abidjan

Central Africa
Yaounde

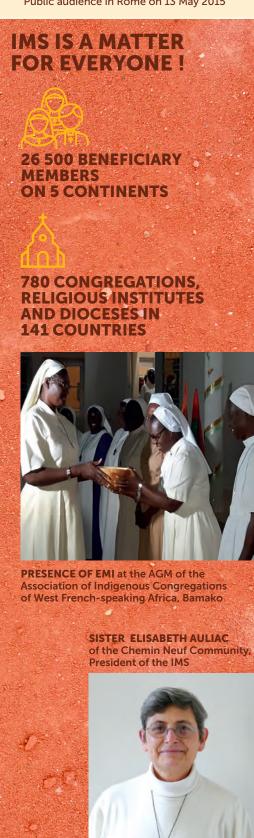
Democrac Republic of Congo Kinshasa

Madagascar Antananarivo

East Africa Nairobi « 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 healthcare and thus promote their dedication to the mission. »

POPE FRANÇOIS,

Public audience in Rome on 13 May 2015



International and ecumenicale 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.

PRESENCE OF IMS

at the General Assembly of the International Union of the Superiors General

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
- 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)
- Unconditional membership (age, health)
- 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

Constituent Assembly in Geneva in June

1966

Creation of the General Section and the Belgium Section

Creation of the West Africa Section and Central Africa Section

Creation of the Madagascar Section

Creation of the local option

Creation of the East Africa Section

Creation of the Central America Section

50th anniversary of he IMS in Rome

Partnership with MSH (management, network, etc.)

Creation of the Democratic Republic of Congo Section

60th anniversary of the IMS

IMS IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY



Sonary Benefit (Sonary Benefit

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











