

International Health Ministries Strategic Plan

Vision Statement:

The vision of International Health Ministries is healthy communities where people's basic needs are met in an environment of security, equality and hope.

Mission Statement:

Grounded in the hope of Jesus Christ, International Health Ministries works with partners around the world to bring health, healing and wholeness to their communities.

Objectives:

Objective 1: International Health Ministries will strengthen the capacity of overseas partner churches and organizations to develop programs that build and support healthy communities.

Objective 2: The International Health Ministries Office will advise and facilitate PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries, validated mission support groups, and the Presbyterian Women in ministries of health and wholeness overseas.

Objective 3: International Health Ministries will provide programmatic support to PC(USA) mission personnel working with health development activities.

Objective 4: The International Health Ministries Office will facilitate programs of overseas partner churches that address the diseases of poverty, particularly malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

“By the 217th General Assembly, the General Assembly Council will seek to achieve these objectives:

- 1. Respond to poverty, disasters and the impact of economic globalization through compassionate ministries, community health initiatives and support for the self-help efforts of people who are poor.”*

General Assembly Council 2005-2006 Mission Work Plan
Justice and Compassion Goal

Objective 1: International Health Ministries will strengthen the capacity of overseas partner churches and organizations to develop programs that build and support healthy communities.

IHMO will facilitate programs that:

- focus on communities.
- promote health and wholeness.
- empower people to address local problems.
- encourage cooperation.
- work through partner churches.
- give preference to long-term solutions.
- build capacity of communities.
- address the spiritual, social, economic, and political factors that impact health.
- favor communities of marginalized, impoverished and oppressed peoples.

Strategies – Objective One

1. IHM will support community health development programs of partner churches that address basic human needs including water supply, nutrition, primary health care, and environmental and sanitary concerns.

"Our renewed call from God is to face the challenges of witnessing and evangelizing worldwide, equipping the church for transforming mission, engaging in ministries of reconciliation, justice, healing and grace, and living the Good News of Jesus Christ in community with people who are poor."

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Characteristics of community health development programs:

- Address the needs of the poorest segments of society.
- Are culturally appropriate and chosen by the community.
- Advocate for equity, justice, and the preservation of human values.
- Support ecumenical cooperation where possible.
- Promote health, healing and wholeness within communities.

- Support may include financial resources, technical assistance, training of nationals, linkages with other organizations and agencies, and/or short or long-term mission personnel assistance.
- Emphasis will be placed on developing the capacity of overseas congregations and communities to effectively recognize and address their own needs.

2. IHM will advocate with the Global Service & Witness Work Area for support of partner church health development activities.

3. IHM will solicit support from and participation of congregations, presbyteries, validated mission groups, and the Presbyterian Women in partner church health development programs.

4. IHM will focus its medical activities in countries where the PC(USA) already has a long-term engagement in hospitals and where the institutions demonstrate the following characteristics:

- are an important ministry of our partner churches.
- are not competing with private or government institutions.
- serve a needy or underserved population.
- are reasonably well governed and managed.
- are moving toward sustainability.
- are an essential part of the national health structures.
- provide a visible Christian witness.

For the next five years IHM will focus medical activities on Haiti, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Malawi. IHM will be proactive in seeking support for programs in these countries and responsive, as it is able, to needs of institutions in other countries.

5. IHM will work with the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the Presbyterian Women, and congregations and presbyteries to support the health programs of partner churches.

6. IHM will recruit and support Regional Health Consultants for designated parts of the world. In other areas IHM will work through Regional Liaisons and Partnership Facilitators to support health development programs.

"Presbyterians have a tradition of valuing ministries of compassion equally with ministries of proclamation, or working to nurture and empower people who are poor, disadvantaged, and oppressed."

Gathering for God's Future

Objective 2: The International Health Ministries Office will advise and facilitate PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries, validated mission support groups, and the Presbyterian Women in ministries of health and wholeness overseas.

Strategies – Objective Two

1. IHM will work with the WMD-related Mission Networks to enhance health programs in which their members are engaged.
2. IHM will be available to counsel and advise congregations and presbyteries as they initiate programs of health development overseas.
3. IHM will facilitate the work of the Medical Benevolence Foundation and the Presbyterian Women in support of health development programs overseas.
4. IHM will develop and maintain a website that will provide resources for groups engaged in or considering participating in overseas health development activities.

“People’s lives are changed by mission experiences in another culture, whether local or international.

Helping people link their reality to that of people throughout the world can deepen faith, shape vocational choices and change society.”

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Objective 3: International Health Ministries will provide programmatic support to PC(USA) mission personnel working with health development activities.

Mission personnel will:

- Increasingly serve as consultants to a range of health and development programs, instead of being assigned primarily to single institutions.
- Be recruited with experience in water source development, sanitation and environmental engineering, and other developmental skills as negotiated with other offices in Ecumenical Partnership and Global Service & Witness.

Strategies – Objective Three

1. IHM will be involved in the recruitment, orientation, and professional support of mission personnel working in selected community health development programs.
2. IHM will assist in linking mission personnel engaged in health development activities with congregations and presbyteries interested in such endeavors.
3. IHM will support MBF in the implementation of the LINKS Program for short-term mission personnel.

"We are sometimes guests, sometimes hosts in the process of sharing people. As we share financial and other resources, we seek mutuality and accountability. The Presbyterian Church (USA) will strengthen its presence with partners as we find ever more creative ways to share people and resources in the future."

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Objective 4: The International Health Ministries Office will facilitate programs of overseas partner churches that address the diseases of poverty; particularly malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

IHMO will resource programs that:

- are a priority of the overseas partner church.
- are able to be governed, managed and staffed by the partner church.
- provide accountability and transparency for funds sent to the partner church.
- are part of an integrated, evangelistic ministry of the partner church.
- enhance ability of communities to address needs of members without creating a dependency for ongoing outside funding.

Strategies – Objective Four:

1. IHM will consult with overseas partner churches to determine the nature and extent of HIV/AIDS activities and the diseases of poverty that they are interested in initiating and capable of sustaining.
2. IHM will recruit and support mission personnel to serve as HIV/AIDS Consultants to regions where partner churches seek continuing support from PC(USA) sources.
3. IHM will seek funds through the Extra Commitment Opportunities program, as well as through MBF and PW Thank Offering grants, to support programs of partner churches that address the diseases of poverty.
4. IHM will develop and maintain a website which educates Presbyterians about HIV/AIDS, informs them of HIV/AIDS programs of partner churches, and invites them to participate in ongoing ministries associated with HIV/AIDS and other diseases of poverty.

“The diseases of poverty, which include AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, threaten the very survival of many international partners. For some PC(USA) partners, these diseases are radically altering their cultures, taking many of their leaders and active church participants. The wealthiest countries, including the U.S., should respond on a scale that would diminish the rate of disease and death.”

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