

About the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA):

Established at the outset of the 15th Hijrah century, December 1981, in Orlando, Florida, USA, where senior leading medical figures representing ten Islamic medical organizations, from various parts of the world, convened and laid down the foundation of the Federation. Subsequently FIMA was incorporated in the State of Illinois as a nonprofit organization, then acquired the special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Since that time, FIMA membership progressively expanded to include 25 full members, 6 associate members, and more than 15 prospective and collaborating organizations from all over the world. Most FIMA activities and achievements are based on the endeavors of its member Islamic Medical Associations, in constructive mutual cooperation, and harmonious understanding.

These activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Cooperation in medical relief work, where and when needed in disaster stricken countries. The last endeavor was the “ Save Vision Campaign in Africa ”, where more than 14,000 cataract and intra-ocular lens surgeries were performed in Darfur-Sudan, Chad, Somalia, Senegal, Niger and Nigeria, by ophthalmology teams volunteering from IMAs from several countries.
2. Scientific, professional and ethical jurisprudence related conferences, seminars and publications.
3. Establishment of the Consortium of Islamic Medical Colleges (CIMCO), to foster cooperation in improvement of curriculum, training, research, administration, and up-bringing of model medical practitioners.
4. Establishment of the Islamic Hospitals Consortium (IHC), to pursue cooperation and coordination among medical professionals and hospital administrators in areas of experience exchange, improvement of health care delivery, ethical, administrative and operational activities, to meet the most advanced international standards, in the context of Islamic principles.
5. Publication of FIMA Year Books, which address biomedical ethical
6. Medical students activities, including conferences, seminars, publications, camps, Umrah and Ziarah programs.
7. Collaboration to extend a helping hand to Muslim medical practitioners in underprivileged countries, to work together and organize professional medical societies.
8. CME programs, and establishment of a Council of highly qualified professionals for development, improvement and supervision of these activities.
9. Recently, FIMA embarked on establishment of Resource Centers, such as the HIV/AIDS Resource Center, Islamic Biomedical Ethics Resource Center, and in the planning, is the Women’s Affairs Resource Center.

Islamic medical activities of FIMA have a holistic nature. Leadership, mutual cooperation and innovation are prerequisites for the welfare of our communities, our Ummah and humanity at large.

Definition of internally displaced persons:

As a backdrop, it is desirable to examine briefly the definition of internally displaced persons, the legal framework involved, as well as the question of who is responsible for providing protection and assistance for the internally displaced. There is no firmly established definition of internally displaced persons, as the causes of displacement and the actual displacement situations are very diverse, such as mass violations of human rights, internal conflicts, break down of law and order, or natural disasters. In an effort to be as conclusive as possible, Francis M. Deng, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for internally displaced persons, defines them as:

Persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular, as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of, armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

UNHCR, on the other hand defines internally displaced persons as persons who, as a result of persecution, armed conflict or violence, have been forced to abandon their homes and leave their usual place of residence, and who remain within the borders of their own country, thereby indicating that these persons, had they crossed an international border, would be refugees. This latter definition also provides a closer tie to UNHCR's mandate, should the agency be or become involved in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons.