

# The Master in International Health of Parma University: a possible model of sanitary cooperation with developing Countries

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## WHY THIS MASTER ?



- The Master course is focused on poverty-related health problems in low- and middle-income Countries.
- The educational objective is to train physicians to match knowledge with multi-sector skills.
- At the end of the course the Doctors should be able to face cases of ordinary and extraordinary emergencies of various entities, in health care centres, hospitals and medical districts, characterized by poor infrastructures and management systems, that are typical in high-poverty areas.

## Target audience



The Master course was developed by the **Parma University Center for International Cooperation** evaluating that many health facilities and hospitals in the developing Countries, especially with regard to the rural areas, are not equipped to face the daily emergencies, neither with respect to the number of doctors, nor from the structural point of view. The severity of these situations is indeed amplified by the distance (in terms of timing and transportation mode) between the first aid structures and the structures that are best equipped, though they are rare and often concentrated in urban areas.



The Master Course is designed for physicians originating from Africa, who are either working in hospitals, health structures, or are involved in International Cooperation, willing to further develop their skills to deal with the many difficulties that district hospitals pose, namely because of lack of resources and equipment.

The Course is also open to Italian and foreign physicians, who wish to extend their personal and professional skills in order to work in resource-constrained settings.



Scholarships

## Technical aspects

The Master course lasts one year and includes lectures, seminars, interactive didactics, videoconferencing, practical training and internship under the supervision of mentors at the University Hospital of Parma and in other structures / laboratories. All these activities are held in English language.



The **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** is funding 12 scholarships that cover all the costs, for the best candidates classified in the final selection rating.

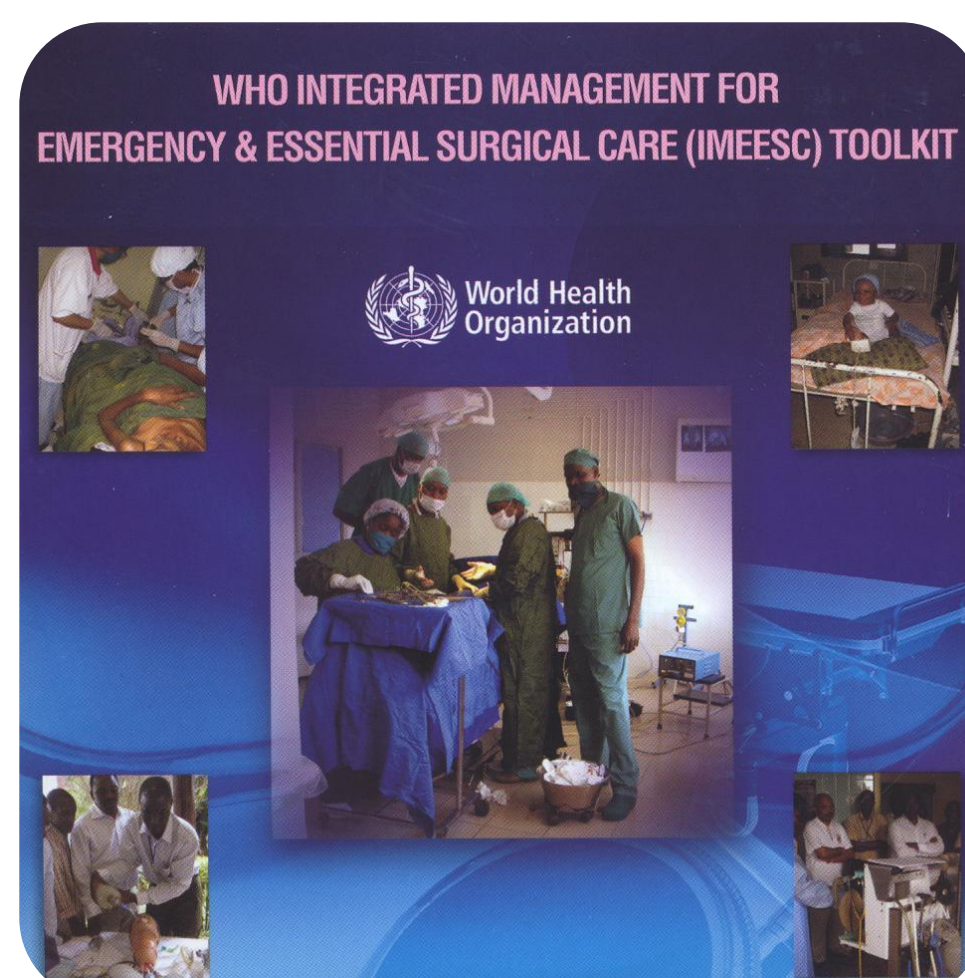


Approach used in the Master course: medical high education and international cooperation, therefore the final work will include a scientific section as well as a project work for future collaboration with the Countries from which the Doctors come from.

Besides the various fields of medicine, other important themes are addressed in the course, like guidelines for hospital managements, health cooperation, development, prevention strategies.

## Why this Master could be a model of sanitary cooperation with developing Countries ?

❖ The **World Health Organization** has given scientific support to the Master's project and is actively involved in the teaching program, delivering the course "Integrated Management for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC)".



❖ The **Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)** is a partner of the Master's program.

GFMER delivers the online course "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research".



❖ The trained Doctors, once back in their Countries, are expected:

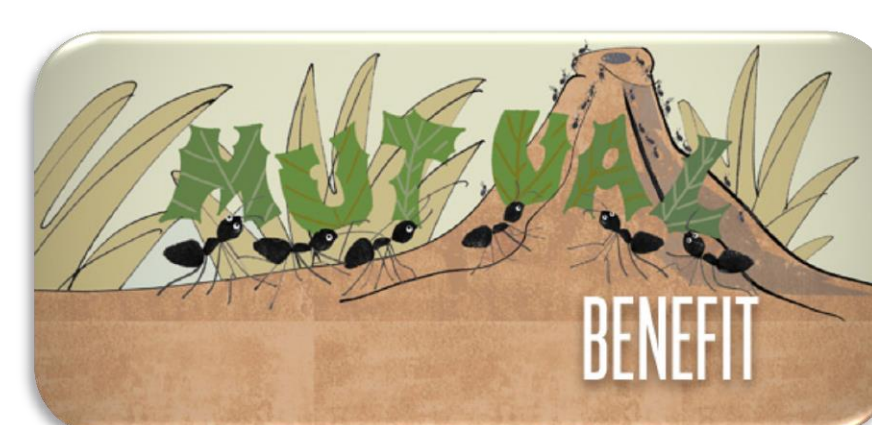
- to train, in turn, the local staff: physicians, nurses and auxiliary personnel;
- to continue collaboration.

In the current 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Master, physicians who are benefiting from the scholarships, come from the following Countries:

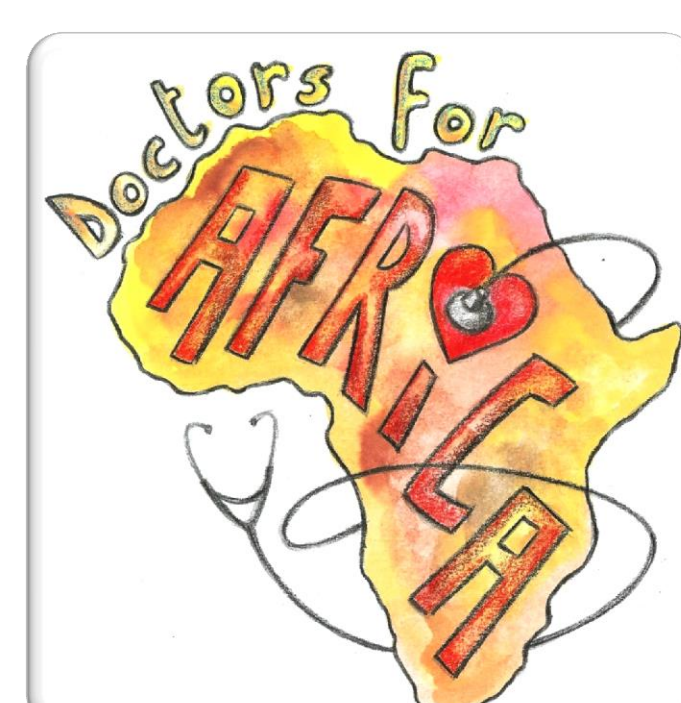
**Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan and South Sudan.**



❖ The project allows strengthening of partnerships with other Universities, Ministries, Associations (local and international ones), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), local authorities and bodies.



❖ The **knowledge and experience** of the physicians coming from several African Countries, can be useful for our community.



## Acknowledgements

- The Project is co-financed by the Directorate General for the Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- The Course is offered in collaboration with the University Hospital of Parma and the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER - Geneva).
- Teachers and Tutors from: University of Parma, University Hospital of Parma, World Health Organization (WHO-Geneva), GFMER (Geneva), University of Verona, Médecins Sans Frontières, Rafiki Pediatricians for Africa Onlus (VE), Amici di Marco Onlus (MI), University of Brescia.