

A vertical pink DNA double helix graphic on the left side of the cover, with the title text integrated into its structure.

INTERNET CENCY GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR MEDICINE DONATIONS

REVISED 2010



Guidelines for Medicine Donations

Revised 2010

World Health Organization (WHO)

Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN)

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International Health Partners

The Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The World Bank

Roll Back Malaria Partnership

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1. Introduction

This 3rd edition of *Guidelines for medicine donations* has been developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with major international agencies active in humanitarian relief and development assistance. The guidelines are intended to improve the quality of medicine donations in international development assistance and emergency aid. Good medicine donation practice is of interest to both donors and recipients.

The 1st edition of the guidelines (then titled *Guidelines for drug donations*) was published in May 1996 and represented the consensus of WHO and a variety of international relief and development agencies. The 1st edition was based on several rounds of consultation with over 100 humanitarian organizations and individual experts. A thorough evaluation of the 1st edition formed the basis of the 2nd edition of the guidelines published in 1999. The 2nd edition received support from an expanded group which included nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in international development, umbrella organizations of the pharmaceutical industry, several United Nations agencies, and the World Bank. The 2nd edition has provided guidance on donation practice for the past 10 years and has been a source for national donation policy-making.

As the 10th anniversary of the 2nd edition approached, it was felt that a revision of the guidelines was needed in view of the changed landscape of medicine donation practices. A consultative process followed in 2009, including calls for comments via E-drug and ReliefWeb, and direct solicitation of comments from individual members of the Interagency Pharmaceutical Coordination (IPC) Group.¹ Comments received were categorized and discussed within a task force set up by WHO and a team of international consultants.² The process resulted in both adjustments to the existing text and addition of further content to cover donation practice in current international development assistance (Box 1).

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