



WHO awards ILS “Official Relations” Status

Media Release

LEUVEN, BE – February 24, 2010 – The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) for its role and expertise in global drowning prevention with the announcement that ILS has been granted “WHO Official Relations” status. The WHO Executive Board confirmed this enhanced relationship on January 23, 2010 after many years of collaborative projects with ILS.

This new recognition will enhance the ability of WHO and ILS to prevent drowning. The 195 WHO member nations and the 100 ILS Member Federations will collaborate to advance the science and implementation of drowning prevention globally.

It is estimated that more than 1 million people die from drowning each year. Many million are directly or indirectly affected by drowning and water related injury. This tragic and preventable burden is disproportionately impacts children in low income nations.

The International Life Saving Federation is the world authority in the global effort to prevent drowning.

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

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<http://www.islf.org>

<http://www.who.int/civilsociety/relations/principles/en/>