

DOCTORS WITH AFRICA CUAMM
CODE OF ETHICS

[approved by the Board of Directors of the Foundation “Opera San Francesco Saverio” in the session of 26/09/2014]

Contents

Page 3 -	Our roots
Page 4 -	Our mission
Page 4 -	Section 1 - Who we are
Page 5 -	Section 2 - The right to health
Page 5 -	Section 3 - Equality
Page 6 -	Section 4 - The central role of the patient
Page 6 -	Section 5 – The patient’s right to self-determination
Page 7 -	Section 6 - Maternity protection
Page 7 -	Section 7 – Caring for the patient
Page 7 -	Section 8 - Caring for children
Page 8 -	Section 9 - Planning and commitment for development
Page 8 -	Section 10 - Education, training and awareness raising
Page 8 -	Section 11 - Discussion and sharing
Page 9 -	Section 12 - CUAMM and its supporters
Page 9 -	Section 13 - Correctness and transparency of accounting records
Page 10 -	Section 14 - Style and behaviour of CUAMM people
Page 11 -	Section 15 - Ethical obligations of all those who work with CUAMM
Page 12 -	Section 16 - Cooperation with Judicial Authorities
Page 13 -	Section 17 - External and internal independence: conflicts of interest
Page 13 -	Section 18 - Recipients of the Code of Ethics and its dissemination



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

Our roots

The Non-Governmental Organisation-NPO Doctors with Africa CUAMM was founded in 1950, through an initiative of Professor Francesco Canova and of the bishop of Padua Girolamo Bortignon. CUAMM started operating with the aim of welcoming and training Italian and foreign medical students who wished to spend a period of their professional career serving in mission hospitals and caring for populations in developing countries with the greatest needs. Between 1954 and 1960 the first 54 doctors left to work in these countries.

CUAMM's mission is to promote the right to health for all, believing that the right to health cannot and must not be considered a commodity, which is purchased or sold, and that the opportunity to receive care and, in general, benefit from health services is not a privilege for the few, but the fundamental right of each human being. For this reason, CUAMM strives to ensure that health services are fair and accessible to all, even to the poorest, and to the weakest and most vulnerable segments of the population, such as mothers and children, to build a more just and fraternal society.

In 1959 CUAMM was established by a decree of the Bishop of Padua, as the religious foundation Opera San Francesco Saverio Cuamm (06/01/1959) and subsequently, in January 1969, it obtained recognition of its legal personality from the Italian Government (18/01/1960) with a decree by the President of the Republic of Italy.

In 1972, after the first Italian law on Cooperation with Developing Countries (Law no. 1222 of 15/12/1971) came into force, CUAMM was the first Non Governmental Organisation to be recognised as eligible, with a decree by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aldo Moro (22/06/1972), to carry out cooperation activities with developing countries under this law. For CUAMM this opened the road to health cooperation not only with dioceses and missionary institutions, but also with governments and public healthcare structures to set up wide-ranging projects aimed at the growth and global development of African populations, valorising local human resources by opening nursing schools and cooperating with local universities.

In 2003, with a resolution passed by the Board of Directors on 17/12/2003, CUAMM changed its name to "Doctors with Africa CUAMM"



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

Our mission

«*Euntes, curate infirmos*» is the Evangelical expression dear to the founder, Francesco Canova, which still today epitomises CUAMM's *mission*.

This vocation is shared by all those who work for CUAMM.

CUAMM's *mission* can be divided into two corollaries:

- improving the conditions of health of African populations, with the conviction that protecting the right to health cannot be a privilege or a commodity, but is a universal human right;
- promoting in the world a positive and fair culture with regard to Africa, developing interest, hope and commitment for the future African continent in institutions and among the general public.

CUAMM does not maintain relationships with parties - whether natural persons or legal entities - whose statements or behaviour are in contrast with its *mission*.

SECTION 1 – Who we are

Today, after more than sixty years of work, with over 215 hospitals served and 1450 people involved in projects, the Non-Governmental, Non-Profit Organisation *Doctors with Africa CUAMM* can boast that it is the first recognised NGO in the field of healthcare in Italy and the largest Italian organisation for promotion and protection of the health of African populations.

This important result, which CUAMM intends to maintain, is the product of years of commitment and dedication for the unconditional affirmation and universal recognition of the fundamental human right to health for all human beings, without frontiers, without limits and without discrimination.

Ever since it was founded, CUAMM has been operating *in the front line* to disseminate - in Italy, in Africa and wherever necessary - scientific and operational research in healthcare cooperation and to guarantee, to the greatest extent possible, the right to health even for the most marginal groups, spreading values of fairness and of cooperation between populations, of justice and of peace both in institutions and among the general public.

With its work, Doctors with Africa CUAMM undertakes to contribute to the development of policies based on valorising the human being, on freeing individuals from all forms of violence, promoting the personal growth of each individual, without distinction of any kind and with the sole intention of seeing their qualities expressed and valorised.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

SECTION 2 – The right to health

CUAMM protects the right to health, as the fundamental right of each person and the primary objective of its action.

For CUAMM the right to health shall not, under any circumstances, be considered a *commodity*, reserved for the elite, for specific territorial areas or for restricted social contexts. On the contrary, the right to health - in its broadest sense - must be granted to each individual as human being, as stated in the constitution of the World Health Organisation of 1948.

Guaranteeing the right to health firstly means ensuring that everyone has access to the best health care available in the field of medicine and science.

All CUAMM's work is inspired by the right to health, as set down by Article 32 of the Italian Constitution, by respect for human life, as indicated in the Charter of Human Rights, in the Recommendations of International Bodies, in national and international medical ethics, in current regulations and, where applicable, in the recommendations of the National Committee for Bioethics.

These fundamental ethical principles must be recognised, shared and applied both within the organisation and in relationships with any party with which, for whatever reason, CUAMM is required to collaborate.

SECTION 3 – Equality

CUAMM rejects all forms of discrimination, both within the Organisation and in external relationships, basing its work on the principle of equality, both in formal and substantive terms.

Within its Organisation, CUAMM promotes harmonious cooperation between individuals. From its very beginnings, CUAMM has recognised and valorised the role of women, whose contribution is fundamental to achieving its objectives.

CUAMM is engaged, both in Italy and abroad, in the fight against discrimination based on personal conditions of physical or mental disability.

CUAMM considers all populations equally free, worthy and characterised by cultural identity that must be protected, with mutual respect. For this reason, CUAMM considers communication between different cultures as a fundamental value for development and a goal to be pursued, always and with perseverance. Therefore, CUAMM promotes and supports discussion, exchange and friendship between populations, social groups and organisations present in the territories, according to the principle of horizontal and vertical subsidiarity. CUAMM works to remove obstacles or various kinds



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

that limit full and equal protection of the individual's right to health; all areas of the planet, including the poorest, must be equally considered and must be able to benefit from medical care that truly guarantees the right to health.

SECTION 4 – The central role of the patient

Caring for people, without distinction, is CUAMM's main objective.

The patient is at the centre of the daily commitment of all those who work for CUAMM, in Italy and throughout the world.

In the healthcare structures in which it operates, CUAMM receives all those who require health care, without distinction of any kind.

In countries in which the right to health is considered and treated as a commodity reserved to the wealthier classes, CUAMM devotes itself in particular to all those who, due to their social and financial conditions, are excluded from this right.

For CUAMM difference in sex, ethnics, race, religion, political opinions or personal and social conditions do not count. Everyone is unconditionally granted the same right to receive the necessary care.

SECTION 5 – The patient's right to self-determination

CUAMM intends to guarantee the patient's freedom of self-determination in relation to choices concerning their health, respecting all wishes and needs related to culture, religion or personal opinions.

In fact, the right to health also means the right to refuse treatment, provided that this does not put the health of others and of the community at risk.

CUAMM undertakes to provide its patients with all the assistance and information required to understand their state of health and complete freedom to decide which treatment to choose.

Although it cannot ignore the resources available to it, CUAMM undertakes to provide all possible clinical alternatives.

In the case of minors and those who are not in full possession of their faculties, as well as in emergencies, in compliance with local laws CUAMM healthcare professionals base their work on the canons of medical ethics to protect, as far as possible, the right to health.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

SECTION 6 – Maternity protection

For African populations giving birth is still today one of the main causes of death. CUAMM devotes particular attention to the conditions of women and to maternity protection. It believes that all women have the inviolable right to serene and assisted maternity. For this reason, CUAMM promotes and carries out specific projects aimed at guaranteeing free access to safe childbirth and neonatal care.

Guaranteeing mothers peace of mind during childbirth and taking care of the newborn is the first essential step towards improving the future of a whole continent and, ultimately, towards building a fairer and more equitable world.

SECTION 7 – Caring for the patient

CUAMM takes care of the poorest, of the weakest and most vulnerable, through the commitment of its doctors, nurses, voluntary workers and collaborators.

The patient has the right to receive assistance and care with consideration, attention and skill, with respect for the individual's dignity, wishes, cultural traditions and religion.

Assistance is also guaranteed through the use of suitable medical equipment and safe medical devices with the most appropriate technology.

To encourage access to care by all, CUAMM promotes awareness campaigns, both in Italy and among local populations, and is engaged in cooperation with the institutions of the countries in which it operates, in particular for the treatment of poverty-related diseases, including the three big killers: Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV.

CUAMM considers global health the primary and fundamental objective of its “mission”.

All voluntary workers, doctors and collaborators with other duties firmly believe in this principle and are committed to its implementation.

SECTION 8 – Caring for children

Caring for and assisting children is an objective with top priority and one of the aspects that best characterises CUAMM's commitment.

CUAMM recognises that the world's future lies in the younger generations and it is for this reason that it dedicates a large part of its energy to defending and caring for them.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

SECTION 9 – Planning and commitment to development

To achieve its objectives, CUAMM promotes the planning and implementation of long-term health cooperation programmes, with a view to development, maintaining this approach even in emergency situations.

It promotes scientific studies, research and dissemination on health problems and fair global development, with particular concern for African countries.

It promotes information activities, awareness building among the general public and developmental education.

It promotes specific information, awareness raising and advocacy by national and international institutions.

It promotes growth of the ethics of socially responsible donation and investment by private citizens and institutions.

SECTION 10 – Education, training and awareness raising

CUAMM recognises the value of education and training as the driving force for development.

For this reason, it promotes and organises, both in Italy and abroad, training and awareness raising projects aimed at professionals in the health sector and students who wish to help others.

CUAMM also considers it important, in order to pursue its objectives, to raise the awareness of all citizens on essential topics, such as the right to health, equality, international health cooperation, Global Health. In this direction, CUAMM promotes active participation in initiatives with institutional partners, universities, student associations and other non-profit organisations with the aim of building awareness among the general public in Italy and Europe, of the value of health as a fundamental human right and essential component for global development.

SECTION 11 – Discussion and sharing

CUAMM recognises the value of discussion and sharing, which it applies in its relations with institutions, international agencies, other international cooperation bodies and local communities.

CUAMM shuns all forms of authoritarian and unilateral performance of its work and considers the involvement of local civil and religious structures essential for the implementation of its mission.

Therefore, CUAMM considers it necessary to establish dialogues with the competent authorities in the countries involved.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

Only with this approach is it possible to collaborate to achieve lasting change, which promotes the growth and development of the African continent, *creating roads where there are currently none*.

All those who work for CUAMM are obliged to base their activity on this common commitment.

SECTION 12 – CUAMM and its supporters

In order to carry out its work, CUAMM benefits from the support of Institutions, Associations, enterprises, bodies, natural persons, both in Italy and abroad.

CUAMM recognises how important it is that all those who intend to support its work, whether natural persons or legal entities, share the values and objectives pursued by CUAMM.

For this reason, CUAMM encourages the growth of the culture of donation and of socially responsible investment within a suitable promotional and ethical framework. CUAMM believes that the assurance of high standards of professionalism, fairness and transparency of its fund-raising activities is an essential factor for the growth and development of conscious donation.

CUAMM uses a precise selection criterion to identify its partners, making sure that they share the same objectives.

CUAMM undertakes to refuse any support from parties considered unworthy (e.g. parties publicly known to belong to mafia-type or criminal organisations, parties involved in policies of exploitation or discrimination of workers and the use of child labour, of distributing products that have been declared harmful for the health of the population, of damaging the environment, of the manufacture, sale or marketing of weapons or their components, of the manufacture, sale or marketing of tobacco and alcohol, of boycotting politics aimed at disseminating the right to health).

SECTION 13 – Correctness and transparency of accounting records

CUAMM recognises that the correctness and transparency of its accounting records is an essential prerequisite for its activity.

CUAMM respects the current laws concerning financial statements and complies with the administrative and accounting obligations established by the rules. Accounting is based on universally recognised accounting principles and regulated by the law.

The information and data regarding the Organisation supplied to third parties and the accounting records of management affairs are true, transparent, clear, accurate and complete. Their effectiveness is confirmed by specific procedures.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

Annual financial statements are subject to certification by an independent auditor appointed for this purpose.

CUAMM draws up the financial statements for lenders exercising care and thoroughness.

SECTION 14 – Style and behaviour of CUAMM people

CUAMM recognises the value of the human and professional contribution of those who operate and work with it, regardless of the type of relationship (e.g. employees, collaborators, consultants, voluntary workers).

CUAMM attaches fundamental importance to the dedication, professionalism and commitment of its collaborators and protects these values, which are essential in order to achieve the purposes and objectives of the Organisation.

Therefore, CUAMM undertakes to develop the professional and relational skills of its operators, to enable them to fully express their potential and find the best possible position within its organisation.

In this context, it recognises the equality of collaborators and is committed to offering the same opportunities for professional growth to all, ensuring that everyone receives fair treatment, based on criteria of merit, without any discrimination based on sex, age, disability, religion, nationality or racial origin, political and trade union opinions.

CUAMM promotes a serene and professional working environment, which facilitates the dissemination and knowledge of all elements that help to achieve the objectives pursued by the Organisation. For this reason, it recommends that its collaborators behave in an open, direct and collaborative manner, regardless of the role covered and responsibilities assigned.

CUAMM adopts all measures to reduce conflicts related to working or cooperation relationships and to resolve any disputes that might occur by mutual consent.

SECTION 15 – Ethical obligations of all those who work with CUAMM

All those who collaborate with CUAMM, in any capacity, are obliged to comply with the principles of this Code.

In particular, it is essential to guarantee the following principles:

I. The principle of legality and compliance with the laws and regulations

Knowledge of and compliance with the current laws in the environment in which one operates, both in Italy and abroad, forms the basis for all behaviour. CUAMM shall not tolerate conduct in violation of the law.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

II. The principle of non-discrimination

In relationships with the parties with which they are required to operate, operators shall avoid all discrimination based on sex, health conditions, age, nationality, political and religious orientation.

III. Protection of safety

All collaborators must think about safety and comply with the procedures and protocols adopted. All acts or omissions that could cause risks for their own health and safety, for that of other operators or of third parties must be avoided.

IV. Prohibition of involvement in military operations and political activities

Those who work for CUAMM must in no way be involved in military operations and political activities in the foreign countries in which the projects are carried out. Moreover, their commitment for CUAMM, or even only the Organisation's image, must not be used to support political parties or movements. Operators holding representational roles who wish to take up a political or institutional office must inform CUAMM in advance, to allow it to evaluate any possible conflicts of interest that would prevent continuation of the relationship.

V. Independence and prohibition from receiving remuneration, benefits or advantages

Those who work for CUAMM must be independent in all respects. Therefore, they are forbidden from receiving or accepting remunerations, gifts or any form of benefits or advantages from natural persons or bodies that could benefit, even only in potential terms, from the work carried out by CUAMM.

VI. Use of CUAMM property

Collaborators are provided with property belonging to CUAMM to perform their professional activities. This property must be cared for diligently and its use must be functional and exclusive to performance of the Organisation's activities and for the purposes authorized by the specific functions.

VII. Prohibition from using psychotropic substances

Operators must never work under the influence of drugs, alcohol, psychotropic substances and, in general, all substances that are illegal in the country in which they operate. None of these substances are permitted in the offices or communal structures of CUAMM.

VIII. Conduct in private life

Personal conduct in life must not be in clear contradiction with the Organisation's aims. Behaviour that is in marked conflict with the principles and objectives pursued by CUAMM, even if not strictly connected to the collaborative relationship, can in fact seriously harm CUAMM's image.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

SECTION 16 – Cooperation with the Judicial Authorities

Where necessary, CUAMM shall cooperate with the maximum transparency and willingness to perform its jurisdictional function.

It shall not tolerate reticent conduct of any kind intended to misrepresent the facts, even if this were to have unfavourable consequences for CUAMM.

SECTION 17 – External and internal independence: conflicts of interest

CUAMM and its operators are autonomous and independent from any form of interest of natural persons or legal entities, both public and private.

For this reason CUAMM and its operators undertake to remove all situations that might constitute or cause a conflict of interest, even potential.

Any personal conflict situations of those who work for CUAMM must be communicated immediately.

In any case, operators are prohibited from making decisions on behalf of CUAMM that may have consequences in terms of benefits, whether financial or non-financial, for themselves, for their relatives or family members, cohabitees, friends, legal entities in which the person making the decisions or those indicated above have an interest.

SECTION 18 – Recipients of the Code of Ethics and its dissemination

The recipients of the Code of Ethics are:

- all CUAMM collaborators, without distinction or exception;
- all those, whether natural persons or legal entities, who collaborate or have relations with CUAMM, without exception and regardless of the nature of the relationship and of its economic content (e.g. suppliers of goods and services, contractors, professionals, beneficiaries of initiatives, international, national or local public administrations);
- donors, financers and any other party that offers voluntary contribution to the support and development of CUAMM.

The Code is brought to the attention of all those with whom CUAMM has relations, by means of appropriate information and contracting tools.

The Code is available through:

- posting on the notice board;
- distribution to operators in paper or electronic format and via a specific link on the home page of the institutional website.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988

Those who hold positions of responsibility in CUAMM have the duty to tangibly apply the principles and contents of this Code, taking responsibility for it both internally and externally and strengthening trust, cohesion and group spirit.

Those who hold positions of responsibility are aware that, with their behaviour, they must set an example for their collaborators and provide them with guidance for compliance with the Code, as well as prompt them to ask questions and make suggestions regarding the individual provisions.



**DOCTORS
WITH AFRICA**
CUAMM

Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova (Italy)
tel. +39 049 8751279
tel.+ 39 049 8751649
fax +39 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Tax Code
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

NPO
NGO recognised as eligible
by Ministerial Decree
no. 1988/12/004187/2D
of 14/09/01988