Delivering nursing knowledge where it is needed
Nurses deliver more than 80% of health care in developing countries. They often work in remote clinics, with poor or no access to current health care information.
Everyday they care for people with diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and treat those suffering from re-emerging ones, including TB and malaria.
Nurses must also respond to the full range of a population’s health care needs – immunization, health promotion, childbirth, care of the injured, the elderly and the dying.
Remote locations, where most primary care is delivered, rarely have access to current health information resources.
In coping with many health challenges, the limited resources available may even be dangerously out of date.
To address this gap between the desperate need for nursing information and its availability, the ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library has been created.

Up-to-date nursing knowledge, housed in a transportable trunk resistant to moisture, insects and hard knocks - and on the move
The libraries are packed with up-to-date information on family and community health, disease prevention, health promotion, and health services management and training.
Each unit contains more than 80 titles, covering topics from surgery and anaesthesia to how to look after a refrigerator and manage a health centre store.
What are the benefits of the ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library?

The libraries...
Provide quick access to critical information
Help patients become partners in their health care
Improve knowledge and training
Strengthen the health of the community
Help nurses to empower others
Assist in sharing and instructing
It Takes a Team

An extraordinary team of industry and nursing partners has mobilized to achieve the ICN vision of a Nursing Mobile Library.

Merck was first on board, providing funding to help turn our dream into reality.

Merck also donated multiple copies of the Merck Manual and the Merck Manual on Geriatric Care for the libraries.
Elsevier contributed invaluable expertise in packing, shipping, transporting and handling the ‘obstacle course’ of customs and international delivery to remote locations.

Elsevier also contributed preferred pricing for books from its list.
Nursing organisations, including schools of nursing, national nursing associations and foundations, donated funds to support the library for their colleagues and profession.

Nurses on the ground in the receiving countries handle distribution, maintenance and training.
Ministries of health and health related NGOs in receiving countries assist in moving the libraries out from the capital to the field sites.
To date

• More than 260 Mobile Libraries are currently located principally in communities in rural Africa, including rural clinics, health centres, refugee camps and hospitals.

• Hundreds of nurses have access to the most recent health and nursing knowledge
Current Mobile Library locations

**English libraries**
- Botswana (8)
- Egypt (1)
- Ethiopia (12)
- Ghana (15)
- India (1)
- Kenya (25)
- Lesotho (6)
- Liberia (1)
- Malawi (11)
- Mauritius (4)
- Mongolia (1)
- Rwanda (1)
- Seychelles (7)
- Somalia (2)
- Sudan (2)
- Swaziland (8)
- Tanzania (41)*
- Uganda (14)
- Zambia (53)**
- Zimbabwe (15)

*37 are located in Ref Camps
**25 are located in Ref Camps

**Portuguese libraries**
- Angola (9)
- Cape Verde (1)
- Mozambique (3)
- Sao Tome Y Principe (3)
- Zambia (4)

**French libraries**
- Congo (1)
- Haiti (9)
- Senegal (3)
- Togo (3)
Recent evaluations revealed that the libraries are a much-appreciated resource in remote areas where materials are scarce.
“It is my pleasure to inform you that the library is of great use and educational benefit to the nurses here.”

Library Coordinator
Isiolo District Hospital
Kenya
“I started using the books in July 2002 and from there I have been grabbing one after another for they are what I need.”

“I had an opportunity to go through this atlas and I saw some skin infections I didn’t even associate with HIV/AIDS infections.”
“We shall indeed be empowered with knowledge and skills because these topics I have seen in these books can really help us to give what is needed to the patients that attend to.”

“They make it easy for me to cope with emergencies and alleviate suffering.”

Mashonaland, Zimbabwe
ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library

Helping to provide quality nursing care for all

See Nursing Mobile Library on the ground, [click here]
Sponsoring a Mobile Library

Sponsoring an ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library will bring precious resources to nurses.

The cost for the information materials, trunk, transport and for providing in country support to assist the association to implement the library project is CHF 3’000.-.