The Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health on August 7 2012 to establish an international centre for disease control in Tripoli, Libya. The activities of the centre will focus on the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The centre will:

promote and undertake research related to noncommunicable diseases and health promotion focusing on the most highly-exposed communities;

collect and distribute information and documentation in order to raise public awareness on major health risks and the measures required to reduce their impact on the health of population;

support the strengthening of disease surveillance as part of health information system in the host country and in the member states;

develop and implement education , training and other capacity building programmes on the above mentioned areas in order in order to support and complement the work of the various divisions of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional office and contribute to the efforts of member states of the region;

support the Regional Office is providing technical support required by related programmes in member states and to promote initiatives that reduce the level of exposure of communities to risk factors;

support the host country health system strengthening through the provision of technical guidance and the required international expertise.

Following the signature of the memorandum of understanding, civil and information technology engineers from the Regional Office conducted a mission in Libya to assess the centres' premises. The official inauguration of the centre is expected to take place in the upcoming four

months.

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