Healthcare Information for All

Review 2016

Working together for a world where every person and every health worker has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others

www.hifa.org
What is HIFA?
HIFA is a dynamic global movement with a shared vision: a world where every person and every health worker has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others.

Why we need to achieve the HIFA vision
Every day, tens of thousands of people - mainly children - die needlessly due to failure to deliver basic, life-saving interventions. These interventions are often locally available but not provided because lack of access to basic healthcare information leads to delays, misdiagnosis and incorrect treatment. For example, 9 in 10 children with diarrhoea in India do not receive basic treatment with fluids, contributing to nearly 1000 deaths every day in India alone. HIFA members report a similar picture across the world, in all areas of health care.

How is HIFA working to end this crisis?
At the heart of HIFA is a virtual ‘think tank’ of health professionals, publishers, librarians, policymakers and researchers - They share expertise and unique experiential knowledge to improve the availability and use of healthcare information.

Can my organisation work with HIFA?
Yes. Nearly 300 health and development organisations, including WHO, collaborate with HIFA in many ways, for example through HIFA Projects (below) and/or sponsorship of in-depth forum discussions. Outputs are integrated into HIFA Voices, a searchable database.

2016: the year in focus
- Membership increased to over 16,000 in 176 countries
- 100s of global health discussions in 3 languages (En,Fr,Pt)
- Launch of new website: www.hifa.org
- Collaboration with WHO to implement HIFA in all UN languages

HIFA Projects
HIFA Projects lead the wider HIFA community in focused discussion, understanding and advocacy. In 2016, we launched 3 new projects, bringing the total number to 7.


NEW Evaluating the Impact of Health Information is working with WHO to help implement the recommendations of an external evaluation of WHO publications. Sponsor: BMA

NEW Health Partnerships presented key findings from a 6-week forum discussion at the 2016 THET Conference, London. Sponsor: THET
Mobile Healthcare Information For All (mHIFA) undertook a study of health video content for citizens in LMICs, followed by a webinar. In September, mHIFA gave a presentation at the Appropriate Health Technologies Conference. Sponsor: HIFA members

Access to Health Research led two 6-week thematic discussions, about the scope for increasing the accessibility of health research, both from and by LMICs. Sponsors: Elsevier and The Lancet

Community Health Workers led a major thematic discussion on CHWs and the outputs were presented at the First International Conference on CHWs, Kampala, in February 2017. Sponsors: The Lancet, Reachout Project/LSTM, World Vision International and USAID Assist Project

Information for Prescribers and Users of Medicines undertook a literature review of the availability and use of reliable information for prescribers and users of medicines in LMICs. Sponsor: BMA

Increasing profile and influence

Our social media profile continued to flourish: Twitter followers increased by 24% to 2100. ‘Likes’ on Facebook increased by 25% to 1366.

HIFA has a dedicated page on the BMA website and we actively promote the BMA Information Fund, which distributes healthcare information to LMICs. In 2016, HIFA and the BMA drafted two Parliamentary Questions which were tabled by Lord Nigel Crisp.

In June the HIFA Coordinator Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh addressed the Evidence Live Conference in Oxford, emphasising the fundamental importance of meeting the basic healthcare information needs of citizens and health workers.

In October HIFA collaborated with Water Aid, International Confederation of Midwives, and Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation to launch the Healthy Start campaign for newborn babies and children.

Priorities for 2017

- Further expansion of all five forums
- Expand collaboration with WHO
- Expand HIFA Voices and Projects
- Increase organisational capacity
Acknowledgements

Supporting Organisations: 29 new HIFA Supporting Organisations, giving a total of 289 organisations worldwide that support the HIFA vision.

HIFA volunteers increased from 180 to 200 (including 144 Country Representatives in 75 countries). Volunteers make a critical difference to our work. Find out how you can get involved: http://www.hifa.org/support/how-you-can-help.

Financial Support: We are grateful to 34 organisations (below) and 6 individuals who provided financial contributions to support our work in 2016, totalling £32,355.

BMA THE LANCET TDR
ELSEVIER

International Child Health Group

Global Health Media

Research Square

PHI

palliativedrugs.com
eancer

AEMRN

Frontline Health Workers

Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance

MEDICC

World Health Organization

WHO Collaborating Center for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity

Africa Health

Wiki Project Med Foundation

HIFA and CHIFA are part of HIFA Global Forums, which also include HIFA-Portuguese and HIFA-French (both in collaboration with WHO) and HIFA-Zambia (with the Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance)

HIFA is administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network, a non-profit organisation registered in the UK.

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