



HIFA Project on Information for Citizens, Parents and Children

Terms of Reference

21 July 2017

1. Purpose

This document describes the terms of reference, membership and methods of communication for the HIFA Project on Citizens, Parents and Children.

The Project website is here:

<http://www.hifa.org/projects/citizens-parents-and-children>

2. Background

HIFA (Healthcare Information For All) is a professional global health network working in collaboration with WHO and currently supported by the BMA (lead funder), WHO, TDR, *The Lancet* and more than 280 other health and development organisations. HIFA brings together more than 16,000 stakeholders representing more than 2500 organisations across 176 countries worldwide, with the common vision of a world where every health professional, citizen, researcher and policymaker has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others. HIFA members represent the full range of stakeholders in global health (health workers, publishers, librarians, researchers, policymakers, social scientists, human rights advocates, citizen representatives, and others). One-third of members are based in Africa, one-third in Europe, and one-third in the rest of the world. HIFA members interact 24/7 on five global discussion forums (HIFA Forums) in three languages (English, French, Portuguese).

Tens of thousands of deaths occur needlessly every day in low- and middle-income countries, simply because of failure to provide life-saving interventions. Very often, these interventions are locally available but are not provided because of lack of basic healthcare knowledge among citizens, parents and children. This leads to failure to recognise serious illness and delays in seeking appropriate health care. In many countries in Africa, for example, more than 80% of child deaths occur in the home or en route to a healthcare facility.

3. Terms of Reference

The HIFA Project for Citizens, Parents and Children:

1. promotes communication, discussion and debate on the HIFA forums, on the health information and learning needs of citizens, parents and children, and how these needs can be more effectively addressed.

2. develops understanding of information needs and how to meet them, and build the relevant parts of the HIFA Voices database

3. leads the HIFA forums in advocacy to improve the availability and use of health information for citizens, parents and children.

The Project was launched in January 2017 and liaises with the Mobile Healthcare Information For All (mHIFA) Project, which specifically promotes mHealth solutions for citizens, parents and children.

The group meets approximately once every 2 months, by skype, and communicates by email in-between. The group will provide a quarterly update for the HIFA Steering Group, which meets every 3 months, usually in London, with teleconferencing for members outside the UK.

Coordination: The group welcomes offers from group members to take on the role of coordination, in line with HIFA steering group recommendations for more HIFA Projects to be led by HIFA members (rather than the HIFA Coordinator).

4. Membership

Membership is open to all HIFA members with an interest.

5. Support

The work of this group is currently unfunded.