



HIFA Working Group on Information for Community Health Workers

Terms of Reference

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1. Purpose

This document describes the terms of reference, membership and methods of communication for the HIFA Working Group on Community Health Workers

2. Background

HIFA is a global campaign to prevent avoidable death and suffering due to lack of availability and use of relevant, reliable healthcare information for healthcare providers in low-income settings. Our vision is: "Every person and every health worker will have access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others" HIFA has more than 16,000 professional members from 2500 organisations in 170 countries worldwide. Members interact via five global email forums in three languages - HIFA, CHIFA, HIFA-Portuguese, HIFA-French, HIFA-Zambia. HIFA-Spanish is in development and will be launched later in 2017.

Community Health Workers are critical in the provision of preventive and curative health care, and it is essential that their basic needs are met in order to empower them to deliver effective care. These needs include their information and learning needs, which are the focus of this group.

3. Terms of Reference

HIFA Working Group on Community Health Workers is an informal voluntary group:

- To raise global awareness of the information and learning needs of CHWs
- To promote discussion on the HIFA forums about the information and learning needs of CHWs, and how to meet them (including debate around basic core curriculum for CHWs)
- To collate the collective understanding of HIFA members about the information and learning needs of CHWs, and how to meet them (identify and integrate relevant HIFA Quotations into the HIFA Voices database)
- To identify areas where more research is needed to understand the information and learning needs of CHWs, and how to meet them

- To attract CHWs, CHW trainers and others with an interest in CHW programmes to join and actively participate on the HIFA forums
- To undertake other activities that are in-line with the group's remit to promote communication, understanding and advocacy around the information and learning needs of CHWs
- To develop an overview of key practical initiatives (run independently by HIFA members and others) that address the information and learning needs of CHWs
- To raise awareness, assist and catalyse new practical initiatives (run independently by HIFA members and others)
- To monitor progress on the above.

The group meets approximately once every 2 months, by skype, and communicates by email in-between. The group provides a quarterly update to the main HIFA Steering Group, which meets every 3 months.

4. Membership

Members and their profiles are available on the HIFA website.

<http://www.hifa.org/projects/community-health-workers>

5. Acknowledgement

The group recently implemented a 6-week discussion on CHWs in the run-up to the Kampala Symposium, March 2017. This work was supported by *The Lancet*, Reachout Project/Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, World Vision International and USAID Assist Project.