



HIFA SURVEY 2018

CONTENTS

[Aims of the Survey](#)

[Survey questions Q1, Q2, Q3](#)

[Survey questions Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8](#)

[Q4 How has your membership of HIFA benefited your work? Please tick all of the following that apply.](#)

[HIFA helps me to understand global health issues](#)

[HIFA helps me to learn about publications, services and organizations](#)

[HIFA has enabled me to make at least one new contact \(with an individual and/or organisation\)](#)

[Other](#)

[Q5 Please describe here any specific examples of how HIFA has benefited your work](#)

[A: Making new contacts, identifying potential external partners, networking etc](#)

[B: Raising awareness of global events, publications, resources, other key developments](#)

[C: Raising awareness of global health policy and issues](#)

[D: Sharing/receiving information, e.g articles, research etc](#)

[E: Enabling HIFA members to put knowledge into practice](#)

[F: Enhancing professional development of members](#)

[Q6 How could HIFA be improved to be more relevant and more useful to you?](#)

[A. Potential areas of focus](#)

[B. Possibilities for future growth](#)

[C. Improving the HIFA forum/website](#)

[D. Improve support for HIFA members](#)

[E. Technical issues](#)

[F. Sustainability](#)

[G. In-person meeting](#)

[H. Language coverage](#)

[I. No changes required](#)

[J. Final thoughts about the future](#)

[Q7 How can HIFA be more effective in promoting the availability and use of healthcare information?](#)

[Q8 What organisations in your country do you think HIFA should work with to help improve access to healthcare information?](#)

[A. Ministries of health, Global agencies, NGOs and related](#)

[B. Health professionals' membership organizations, colleges, medical schools](#)

[C. Nothing to add/not sure](#)

[D. Other](#)

HIFA SURVEY 2018

Aims of the survey

Since it was launched in 2006, HIFA has rapidly evolved to become what it is today: a dynamic global health network of 19,000 members across 180 countries. We could not have achieved this without the energy, passion and dedication of our members and volunteers. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for HIFA.

This survey will help us to improve HIFA so that it benefits you and your organization, and so that we accelerate progress towards our vision of Healthcare Information For All: 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. (Drawn from the original wording circulated to HIFA members).

The survey was coordinated by HIFA Steering Group member Martin Carroll with support from the HIFA Steering Group.

Survey questions Q1, Q2, Q3

Answered: 104, Skipped: 0

Q1, Q2, Q3 were multiple choice closed-ended questions. Respondents were asked to select one of the following responses: **Always, Often, Sometimes, Occasionally, Never.**

Q1 “The messages/discussions on the HIFA forum are relevant to my professional activities/interests”

Always	23%
Often	54%
Sometimes	16%
Occasionally	7%
Never	0%

Q2 “I share messages from the HIFA forum with others”

Always	5%
Often	2%
Sometimes	16%

Occasionally	7%
Never	0%

Q3 “I encourage others to join HIFA”

Always	21%
Often	32%
Sometimes	27%
Occasionally	13%
Never	7%

A supplementary question was included: “In relation to questions 1, 2 and 3, how could HIFA be improved to be more relevant and more useful to you?” A text box was provided for responses. This question received **0** responses.

Survey questions Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8

Q4 How has your membership of HIFA benefited your work? Please tick all of the following that apply.

Answered: 103, Skipped: 1

- A. HIFA helps me to understand global health issues 81%
- B. HIFA helps me to learn about publications, services and organizations 85%
- C. HIFA has enabled me to make at least one new contact (with an individual and/or organisation) 45%
- D. Other 0% (but see below)

A textbox was provided for respondents to give further information about their choice(s). These responses were allocated as follows:

A. HIFA helps me to understand global health issues [YES: 81%]

My main benefit from belonging to HIFA is that it keeps me in touch with a wide range of Global Health issues (**Len Cornish, UK**)

HIFA keeps me up to date with global health issues and allows me to see what others are doing and thinking. (**Fiona Theunissen, Switzerland**)

HIFA e-mail summaries help me to gain a broad update of global public health issues to know which to explore further. (**Khalilu Muhammad, Nigeria**)

Keep me informed and in learning mode about health issues in other countries. (**Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan**)

When I read messages from HIFA members, I get new health information about global health issues and the ways used to deal with them. (**Victor Girukwigize, Burundi**)

My membership of HIFA has helped me to understand global health issues and how people in the health profession are responding to the issues. **(Ngozi Eunice Osadebe, Nigeria)**

I share an interest in Health information and Health literacy, and appreciate the sharing of information and discussions. HIFA has given me a better understanding and perspectives on global Health issues. **(Elin Opheim, Norway)**

I learn more about the global health issues. I downloaded some articles and publications for my organisation & friends. **(Khin Maung Myint, Malaysia)** [+b]

1. It helped me to gain up to date information on HIFA discussion forums and important news regarding health and health related issues. 2. It is my number one source of health information and resource center for teaching my students. I have a folder HIFA in my PC and I collect important documents, and links every time I check my email and refer them as needed. **(Beyene Meressa Adhena, Ethiopia)**

As an academic and practitioner in Global Health, I am continually updated on key issues **(Andrew Tomkins, UK)**

HIFA is an excellent forum for alerting me to current issues in global health I review every update as it always has pertinent information about our projects. **(Susan L Stasi, USA)**

1) I often share information on HIFA with other organizations that I belong to because HIFA content is adjudged by even non HIFA members to be useful and relevant to their practice as health workers irrespective of cadre. 2) I have used information that I got from HIFA in managing my patients clinically. 3) Debate on HIFA has enhanced my understanding of other perspectives on global health including human resource in health matters - e.g. task shifting and mixing in situations where more hands are needed to cope with clinical workload, etc provided the shifting and mixing is structured, delivered and monitored. **(Joseph Ana, Nigeria)**

I have improved my knowledge on health issues since I joined HIFA. I have also met and networked with people through HIFA. These people have added value to my work through their collaboration, recommendations and support. **(Ngozi Osuchukwu, Nigeria) [+c]**

B. HIFA helps me to learn about publications, services and organizations [YES: 85%]

HIFA highlights unconscious biases so that we have been able to target some of those that were present in our journals **(Liz Hoffman, UK)**

As work with different cultures and different nationalities, It helps us understand each others countries needs and activies that may require input to

improve through better communication. (Anon)

New policies and guidelines (Anon)

All the World Health Days placed on the platform help me to organize my Professional Association into carrying out outreaches to the communities in our catchment areas. Also I was physically present at the BMA house in London in 2011 where I met Dr. Joseph Ana of Nigeria and Professor Richard Smith. Then they held a workshop in Abuja Nigeria sometime after that and I attended. When I attended the African Federation of Public Health Conference at Addis Ababa Ethiopia, I helped in creating awareness on HIFA by registering people who attended the conference and showed interest in our organization **(Obiageli Emelumadu, Nigeria)**

C. HIFA has enabled me to make at least one new contact (with an individual and/or organisation) [YES: 45%]

1. I connected with a compatriot who introduced me to AuthorAID. I've since completed courses with AuthorAID, been a volunteer facilitator for their MOOCs and presently running a local course at my institution with their course materials. 2. I've also contacted my country representative and have plans to work on strengthening/ creating quality improvement and patient safety guidelines. **(Zainab Yunusa-Kaltungo, Nigeria)**

As a result of HIFA I have been able to contact people with similar interests. This has been a tremendous help. **(Michele Meltzer, USA)**

I have put out a call for contacts with Speech Therapists and Audiologists working in Africa and was given a contact **(Erika Bostock, South Africa)**

I have expanded my network of professional colleagues, I have converted some analog scientists to digital ones due to their exposure to this site through me. **(Shehu Usman Muhammad, Nigeria)**

The HIFA network has helped us identify people who can provide feedback on our health messages and our new materials **(Clare Hanbury, UK)**

Huib Cornielje and many others working in the area of Disability and Rehabilitation. As a result we have started a Caribbean CBR network (2) Marco Kris of Norway developer of the World Health Card **(Glenville Liburd, St Kitts and Nevis)**

Africa Health journal has featured content generated by people I met on HIFA **(Bryan Pearson, UK)**

Networking, learning and sharing are the most important benefits that I feel HIFA is offering to me **(Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan)**

D. Other [YES/NO: 0%]

Whilst this option was not ticked by any of the respondents, the following comments entered in the textbox have been allocated to it as they address 'other' issues not reflected in options a, b and c.

Information valuable in community and research organisations to which I am attached (**Ejaz Ahmad Vohra, Pakistan**)

I maintain an E-mail distribution list for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in the Pacific Islands and often repost HIFA postings to my list. (**Arlene G Cohen, USA**)

Missing the lack of a Spanish version. I assume it is related to cultural reasons rather lack of expertise (**Luis Ordóñez, Venezuela**)

Systems approach to health issues and context specific experiences shared (Anon)

I am updated in global issues and sharing to overcome some among them. I learn everyday from HIFA (**Andre shongo Diamba, DRC**)

Q5 Please describe here any specific examples of how HIFA has benefited your work:

Answered: 83 Skipped: 21

A text box was included for respondents to give examples. Responses received were grouped under the following provisional subject headings:

- A. Making new contacts, identifying potential external partners, networking etc
- B: Raising awareness of global events, publications, resources, other key developments
- C. Raising awareness of global health policy and issues
- D. Sharing/receiving information, e.g articles, research etc
- E. Enabling HIFA members to put knowledge into practice
- F. Enhancing professional development of members

Where a response appears to also cover issues under other heading(s), the relevant 'letter' is given in brackets, e.g. [B, C]

A: Making new contacts, identifying potential external partners, networking etc

I was able to contact people who have set up visiting professor programs in resource limited areas. I contacted them and they gave me excellent advice on how to do this for my own program. (**Michele Meltzer, USA**)

I think HIFA is a wonderful organisation. It has enabled me to make contact with organizations with which we would never normally had the opportunity to make connections. (Anon)

I joined the CHW working group, and was connected with people working on systematic reviews of CHWs. This greatly helped my own work within my organization, as we are considering what kinds of CHW work to fund. (Anon)

I became aware that some persons that work in the same place as I do are also members of HIFA and serious networking began.. Exposure to the developed world has been the driving force I get from belonging to HIFA
(Obiageli Emelumadu, Nigeria) [B]

B: Raising awareness of global events, publications, resources, other key developments

It provides a channel for publicising IET's AHT events and for learning about other events **(Len Cornish, UK)**

HIFA allows me to share information including events or research that we have been involved in. **(Fiona Theunissen, Switzerland)**

Timely up to to date information on relevant publications especially with The Lancet. (Anon)

Awareness of publications and upcoming funding possibilities
Update me on upcoming health activities globally. **(Lulu Muhe, Switzerland)**

I read news about ebola and I got information about organised webinars.
(Victor Girukwigize, Burundi)

Announcements of trainings or webinars **(Jean Sack, USA)**

Gives information on available grants and conferences. (Anon)

I am made aware of key meetings, such as the recent one on Nutrition Research **(Andrew Tomkins, UK)**

C: Raising awareness of global health policy and issues

HIFA contributes to increase my awareness of major public health issues worldwide. The discussion is also relevant as we can exchange arguments/points of view. **(Armand S. Nkwescheu, Cameroon)**

I am able to know what is happening around the world (Anon)

Really helps me to understand global health issues thereby appreciating the power that we have collectively to make the world a better place; especially the power in networking, collaborations, information dissemination. (Anon)

Information about International health cultures is useful for my work nursing international patients in the UK. **(Alison Nicholls, UK) [E]**

Sharing some of my ideas and concerns on global health; Learn what others have to say on many relevant issues; Access to news, views, publications and citations that would have been impossible to see without HIFA. **(Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan)** [B, D]

D: Sharing/receiving information, e.g articles, research etc

Dissemination of information; increased visibility of other projects covering my interest areas. **(Maria Zolfo, Belgium)**

My access to Policy documents on Primary Care and Health management in General has been enhanced. (Anon)

I recently concluded a postgraduate study in Public Health and HIFA email summaries were the greatest source of up-to-date materials for my thesis. This made it easy for me to research and cite the latest information on my topic of interest, including materials that were as new as few days to my thesis submission. **(Khalilu Muhammad, Nigeria)**

As a retired person I have much less opportunity to review reports from staff and to access literature on relevant issues. HIFA has provided me with opportunity to learn about new developments and access literature that I would have missed otherwise. Learning about the experience of other countries in digital health, elimination of some diseases, Human Resources for health issues and many other reports are most invaluable for me. **(Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan)**

1. I visit HIFA at least once a day and read the news from moderator and members. 2. I download the articles via the link indicated and share to workmates for their consumption in their clinical practice. 3. I establish collaboration or email contact with members. 4. I share recent and important research articles to academic staff and other healthcare providers in our hospital. For example we initiated the process of adding Carbetocin to our hospitals' drug list based on the evidence I got from the HIFA. **(Beyene Meressa Adhena, Ethiopia)** [A, E, F]

HIFA has benefited our staff from a multicultural background in the middle east. (Anon)

E. Putting knowledge into practice

Though an academic librarian, my membership of HIFA has enabled me to supply community health workers in my community with the necessary information they required to carry on with their duties. It should be noted that in third world countries such as Nigeria from where I come from, very few health librarians exist and the few do not function outside the hospital. **(Ngozi Eunice Osadebe, Nigeria)**

Recently we found RH & FP articles, digital health & health systems articles are beneficial to our planning. **(Khin Maung Myint, Malaysia)**

It has made us better able to recruit LMIC researchers and policymakers into the peer review and Editor roles that their high-income country peers expect at the same career stages. That increases LMIC researcher visibility and stresses to the community that we consider them equal in importance and quality of their research. (**Liz Hoffman, UK**)

The topical discussion thread on HIFA on "When will developing countries stop importing knowledge?" has implicitly strengthened the case for the digitization and dissemination of doctoral theses accepted by ARUA universities in sub-Saharan Africa. (Anon)

Information has assisted me in teaching midwifery (**Betty Sakala, Malawi**)

I've used discussions in HIFA to teach students and residents and in community discussions. (**Dan Mayer, USA**)

HIFA has helped me with publications and resources that have fed into specific research projects that informed content development; it has connected me to new networks, it led to a colleague in Zimbabwe gaining a scholarship, it has helped us identify medical experts to advise us, it helps us disseminate our resources to many more people and organizations [A] (Anon)

It is a constant valuable stream of information - real time, relevant and topical. Hugely useful for supporting country health systems and understanding the global health system [B, F] (Anon)

I learned about Internet in a box and it is a key component in our trainings of girls in rural communities. (**Susan L Stasi, USA**)

I shared a thread on HIFA about the lawsuit against ResearchGate for copyright infringement with our researchers who work globally and reminded them to comply with copyright regulations. (Anon)

F. Enhancing professional development of members

The community has definitely helped me see the bigger picture with regards to health literacy. (**Maria Simões, UK**)

Very useful to get a sense of what peoples' concerns are from different perspectives (Anon)

I work in the public health field in Pakistan, it helped me in bringing forth the concept of health information and technology in innovative concepts (**Mariam Zahid Malik, Pakistan**)

I believe in many ways it has expanded my horizons and introduced me to many topics I knew little about. Also the fact that discussion threads appear in my email its difficult not to read them and learn every day a new thing from knowledgeable professionals from different backgrounds and contexts. I think

joining HIFA was and still is an exciting journey of learning and understanding in a respectful and enthusiastic environment, connecting with colleagues and getting updated on issues of global concern and promoted to contribute and participate in important discussions as well as learn about different events and courses. **(Amal Abbas, Sudan)**

My perception and understanding on CHWs expanded tremendously due to long discussion on what it is and how it is viewed globally. **(Shehu Usman Muhammad, Nigeria)**

I am now considered a regional resource and expert on Disability and Rehabilitation issues. I have been able to participate in and supervise research into Disability Issues in my country St. Kitts and Nevis as well as other Caribbean countries **(Glenville Liburd, St Kitts and Nevis)**

Being able to send messages to HIFA and getting feedback makes me feel more confident about the work we are doing **(Clare Hanbury, UK)**

The recent discussions on Community Health Workers (CHW) shaped some of my thinking on this important area of work, especially in Africa and other least developed countries. (Anon)

HIFA helps me keep updated and open-minded. The arguments and free communication of info and opinions provide an excellent chance that I am keen to know and share with colleagues and students. **(Ghaiath MA Hussein, Sudan)**

Reminder of LMIC / GH context and key challenges, lessons and opportunities for improvement. (Anon)

I have been able to share my work with others and receive comments. Also the mediated questions/discussions are very interesting and helpful e.g CHWs and newborn care. (Anon)

I learn more about the pertinent issues in the health sector. I often learn things that are relevant to me personally, i.e. not directly related to my work. **(Elisabeth)**

Awareness of the shared experience and practical problems of working and teaching in Africa. (Anon)

Q6 How could HIFA be improved to be more relevant and more useful to you?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 28

Responses were grouped under the following provisional subject headings:

- A. Potential areas of focus
- B. Possibilities for future growth
- C. Improving the HIFA forum/website
- D. Improve support for HIFA members
- E. Technical issues
- F. Sustainability
- G. In-person meeting
- H. Language coverage
- I. No changes required
- J. Final thoughts about the future

A. Potential areas of focus

Focus on evidence and information dissemination (**Babasaheb Tandale, India**)

Although, I enjoy reading about other areas of interest, it would be helpful if the discussions were grouped, i.e. chronic disease, maternal health, infectious disease, etc. (**Michelle Meltzer, USA**)

HIFA is overwhelmingly medical in nature with very rare references to rehabilitation services. I know these aren't well established in developing countries, but their importance will never be recognised if they are not emphasised as an integral component of healthcare (**Erika Bostock, South Africa**)

HIFA should pay more attention to Equity on health, U.H.C., SDOH, and Sustainable Development 2030. (Anon)

Further encouragement of and participation in Health & Science literacies (Anon)

HIFA should continue to provide summaries of and links to latest cutting-edge publication on health and population health in a timely manner. (**Khalilu Muhammad, Nigeria**)

I am interested in more webinars and information regarding m-Health (**Susan Stasi, USA**)

B. Possibilities for future growth

I hope to see opportunities for members to be able to participate in collaboration research and other mutually beneficial partnership. (**Zainab Yunusa-Kaltungo, Nigeria**)

Having more hubs (regional?) in the global South (**Maria Zolfo, Belgium**)

Themes within HIFA could be helpful. That would allow individuals to subscribe to their areas of interest. (**Joel Francis, USA**)

More lessons learned. More language versions. More involvement by colleagues from LMICs. More engagement of librarians and other information intermediaries. More success stories on knowledge translation (**Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan**)

The establishment of HIFA in several languages to increase access and participation from developing countries. (**Beyene Meressa Adhena, Ethiopia**)

More languages; More countries; More members; Will result in more interactions; More learning. (**Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan**)

C. Improving the HIFA forum/website

HIFA emails could be reformatted to be more effective. I have some ideas and a contact who could assist you with this. (**Fiona Theunissen, Switzerland**)

Summarise the rich discussion and issue bulletins at regular intervals highlighting current knowledge and best practices on the particular subject matter (**Glenville Liburd, St Kitts and Nevis**)

You may consider subdividing the discussions into themes and the subscriber receives his/her themes of preference only. (**Ghaiath MA Hussein, Sudan**)

Sometimes, the back and forth conversations are useful and interesting, and sometimes they are too much. I don't think the current format necessarily encourages responses from a wide spectrum of individuals. There are also so many messages that it is a bit tough to keep up. If we could opt-in for messages with certain tags, it would be more useful to our own professional interests, rather than receiving a plethora of messages for health issues we do not necessarily work on. (Anon)

May be separate out the correspondence - which is of variable value - from the notices of events and information. I like HIFA very much but it is a lot to read. (**Andrew Tomkins, UK**)

Id like to see summaries of the bigger debates on the forum. (**Clare Hanbury, UK**)

Maybe subsections of interest to reduce number of emails. (Anon)

It would be good to be able to tailor the feed so it's more focused on my areas of interest. (Anon)

Good as it is, though the inevitable danger of being too successful and then people might need to choose categories of info to receive (because of an overflow of info) (**Bryan Pearson, UK**)

HIFA may summarize all discussion on one topic and later share with

members if interested (**Chandrakant Revankar, USA**)

I really should like to concentrate on those research areas that are related to my area of research on the platform. (Anon)

Send more published research articles (**Betty Sakala, Malawi**)

D. Improve support for HIFA members

I don't usually know how to participate in discussions and send to the group. Also there sometimes seems to be many topics being discussed and they keep coming randomly thanks to the numbering they can be followed at times. Maybe there is a guide to how to use the discussion forums that I haven't found?! (**Amal Abbas, Sudan**)

There should be monthly or quarterly message on the platform on how members can reply/post information on the forum (Anon).

E. Technical issues

It would be useful if I could receive it reliably (rather than intermittently) on my hotmail email rather than gmail (Anon)

I cannot search the threads so I cannot find useful information at a later date. This can be frustrating. (**Alison Nicholls, UK**)

F. Sustainability

I don't think it can be improved - it operates well as a professional network across many different spheres / locations. My only concern is how it might be sustained into the future. (Anon)

G. In-person meeting

I think funded, regular gathering for all HIFA members in a meeting/workshop or any HIFA specific relevant event will be of a value, to discuss face to face such issues. (Anon)

H. Language coverage

To develop a strong spanish language section (**Luis Ordóñez, Venezuela**)

I'm fine, but I am concerned about potential users who do not have English as their official language. (Anon)

I. No changes required

Very helpful as is. (Anon)

Happy as it is (Anon)

It is doing fine (**Arlene G. Cohen, USA**)

Happy with the present format (Anon)

So far so good (**Armand S. Nkwescheu, Cameroon**)
HIFA is now already relevant to us & useful (**Khin Maung Myint, Malaysia**)
It is great as it is - have no suggestions to add (Anon)
It's fine as it is! (**Priscilla Robinson, Australia**)

I joined HIFA in 2007 while I was still a medical student during a talk of Dr Neil and I was at the UK attending the IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations) and I was in the Egyptian delegation. I joined instantly and I've been a member ever since, now I'm a public health specialist at the Ministry of Health and Population, and surely HIFA has been a window to global views of public health all around (**Noha Salah, Egypt**)

J. Final thoughts about the future

We need to make some noise. (**Sonal Mobar Roy, India**)

The present structure is working well and the various thematic areas too, but both should be given time to consolidate before introducing more changes or themes. (**Joseph Ana, Nigeria**)

I think it is a great network, sometimes too many e-mails, but if it becomes too selective it will lose the breadth which is what makes it useful. (Anon)

Q7 How can HIFA be more effective in promoting the availability and use of healthcare information?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 32

Responses were grouped under the following provisional subject headings:

- A. Happy with current progress
- B. Grow language coverage
- C. Advocacy
- D. The HIFA forum
- E. Annual conference/meeting/seminar
- F. Local engagement
- G. External engagement
- H. Hyperlinks to other key organizations/resources
- I. Increase sharing/availability of information/knowledge
- J. Increase/enable collaboration between members/external partners
- K. Campaign for Open Access
- L. Recognition of member contributions

A. Happy with current progress

I think HIFA is doing just fine. Kudos. (**Zainab Yunusa-Kaltungo, Nigeria**)
I don't have any particular suggestion on this (**Len Cornish, UK**)
Very helpful as is (Anon)

Can't think of any ways! (Anon)

As of now I think the daily updates are really good. As and when I think of something, I will revert to Neil. **(Sonal Mobar Roy, India)**
It is doing fine **(Arlene G Cohen, USA)**

Very effective (Anon)
HIFA is already doing well (Anon).
The current system is fine. **(Betty Sakala, Malawi)**

I think it is quite effective, evident from increasing number of members and active participation. I like the fact that it is very participatory and where ideas and discussions are well respected and are always enriching and enjoyable to follow. **(Amal Abbas, Sudan)**

Maintaining its current broad and inclusive scope. I am full of admiration for Neil and his team for their never failing daily updates. (Anon)

B. Grow language coverage

Another important thing is to integrate french to give an opportunity to french speaking members like me to express themselves. **(Victor Girukwigize, Burundi)**

If there any system for translation (Anon)

C. Advocacy

HIFA should sustain the advocacy for universal open access to health information for all. **(Khalilu Muhammad, Nigeria)**

Let's make it a political issue through encouraging electorate to force politicians to make commitment to promote health care information in every country. It should be a global right that all must kept aside resources to facilitate **(Shehu Usman Muhammad, Nigeria)**

I think that HIFA could take advantage of the current push for UHC and move upstream to ask governments whether they have a National Information Strategy that ensures that Evidence can inform Practice for the benefit of the Economy. Getting those three ducks in a row is one of the essential prerequisites for affordable Universal Health Coverage. (Anon)

D. The HIFA forum

Encourage members to post at least quarterly to a HIFA discussion, share a conference abstract, or give a timely alert to courses **(Jean Sack, USA)**

Reduce the frequency of communications to improve the ability of people to read the information shared (Anon)

There are far too many emails sent. It would be more effective if there was a stronger vetting process for emails submitted and fewer altogether. (Anon)

Maybe by having a 'highlight of the week' to draw attention to an outstanding article or contribution (Anon)

You need to come up with a better archiving system which is searchable. The posts should be findable with Google searches, i.e. also for non-members
(Elisabeth)

E. Annual conference/meeting/seminar

Maybe you could have an annual meeting? Streamed to hubs in other countries? **(Clare Hanbury, UK)**

Maybe a global conference, or a meeting for HIFA at the World Health Assembly and WHO regional meetings **(Noha Salah, Egypt)**

F. Local engagement

Produce handbills and Posters for distribution to local community members and sponsoring members to organize workshops for community health workers **(Ngozi Eunice Osadebe, Nigeria)**

Ways should be looked for to maximize present country Reps to reach more audiences in their countries **(Joseph Ana, Nigeria)**

G. External engagement

Reaching out to relevant institutions to establish certain SOPs based on good practices from countries; Contextualization knowledge by local experts, one size fits all should be totally rejected by HIFA. Presence and active participation in national, regional and international conferences related in information management and health Informatics; Reaching out with good projects to potential donors such as Gates Foundation, DANIDA, CIDA, SIDS, etc, **(Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan)**

Go to public, learn from them, work with them and not for them. (Anon)

Linking up other CoPs **(Maria Zolfo, Belgium)**

Conducting international conference in developing countries creating a network of member organizations and establishing areas of collaboration. Supporting the training of health promotion and education experts and health informaticians in developing countries **(Beyene Meressa Adhena, Ethiopia)**

H. Hyperlinks to other key organizations/resources

It is doing well, but maybe should consider whether it might be able to be the

generator of a series of 'go to' websites for specific groups in specific geographical regions **(Bryan Pearson, UK)**

It would help to have a special section focused on "here are links to useful tools" and maybe to further categorise the items (Anon)

I. Increase sharing/availability of information/knowledge

By sharing evidence and best practices only. No theory. **(Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan)**

Increase access to source documents even those with a fee for access. **(Armand S. Nkwescheu, Cameroon)**

Develop a website so that a range of key issues can be made available for people to read in detail. This would be valuable for themes which have been covered in the recent past. **(Andrew Tomkins, UK)**

J. Increase/enable collaboration between members/external partners

Should provide more opportunities of collaboration **(Mariam Zahid Malik, Pakistan)**

HIFA needs to tap into other mechanisms than the listserv. The website is great, but does HIFA have a Facebook page? Twitter? HIFA can also work to connect individuals better - perhaps by expanding the online directory to make it searchable so we can contact people who would be useful contacts for us. We need to move away from this model that the only connections can happen via listserv & conferences. (Anon)

K. Campaign for Open Access

If weblinks behind paywall, arrange attaching full docs through some/one of the members organize a 'petition-like' request to journals & institutions towards free access (Anon)

L. Recognition of member contributions

Motivating persons who have done some measurable and laudable amount of awareness on the existence of and what HIFA stands for may be a good start. It may also be good to carry this recognition out in Regions (patterned like the WHO Regions). **(Obiageli Emelumadu, Nigeria)**

Q8 What organisations in your country do you think HIFA should work with to help improve access to healthcare information?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 0

Responses were grouped under the following provisional subject headings:

- A. Ministries of health, Global agencies, NGOs and related
- B. Health professionals' membership organizations, colleges, medical schools

A. Ministries of health, Global agencies, NGOs and related

The federal and state ministries of health and relevant NGOs (**Zainab Yunusa-Kaltungo, Nigeria**)

The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Education to work with universities (**Beyene Meressa Adhena, Ethiopia**)

Health Education England (**Maria Simões, UK**)

Ministry of health and public health departments. (**Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan**)

Sudan Health Observatory (established by Federal Ministry of Health as platform for dissemination of published ministry of health information and has an open access website www.sho.gov.sd) The observatory works through a joint network bringing together all departments to improve access to available information and promote knowledge sharing and transfer as well as currently seeking capacity building in health intelligence and generation of evidence from available information and data (**Amal Abbas, Sudan**)

UNICEF, UNFPA And local organization eg. dRPC in Kano Nigeria, Family Health Initiatives in Kaduna Nigeria, Association for Reproductive Health in Ibadan Nigeria and many many more. (**Shehu Usman Muhammad, Nigeria**)

HIFA members, in each country can create a framework that can be used. (**Victor Girukwigize, Burundi**)

HIFA can work with local library associations and interested NGO's to help improve access to health care information. (**Ngozi Eunice Osadebe, Nigeria**)

CDC, USAID, Fogarty, Jhpiego, FHI, URC (**Jean Sack, USA**)

Cameroon Public Health Association (ACASAP/CAMPHA) (**Armand S. Nkwescheu, Cameroon**)

I recommend the Ministry of Health and Population where I work, as it's better to involve the Government to facilitate and officialize your work (**Noha Salah, Egypt**)

Ministry of Health has an Health Information Unit. You can also partner with Red Cross other local NGO's Such as Nevis Renal Society and Pink Lily Cancer Care. My medical practice registered as a company - Eureka Health Services Ltd -would also love to be considered (**Glenville Liburd, St Kitts and Nevis**)

National Ministry of Health Ministry of Higher Education (**Ghaiath Hussein, Sudan**)

We have health literacy promotion unit under the Ministry of health and sport which should be worked with your HIFA. (**Khin Maung Myint, Malaysia**)

B. Health professionals' membership organizations, colleges, medical schools

I have already met with leadership from the American College of Rheumatology but I feel professional organizations would benefit. HIFA again could serve as forum for people with similar interests to meet (**Michele Meltzer, USA**)

Global Alliance of Nurses and Midwives Amnesty International Australian College of Midwives Mission in Health Care and Development (Democratic Republic of Congo) www.mhcdafrica.org (Anon)

Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) (Anon)

South Africa: RuDASA, RuReSA, RuNursa, PACASA, SASLHA, SASP, OTASA (**Erika Bostock, South Africa**)

PIHOA (Pacific Islands Health Officers Association) <http://www.pihoa.org/> (**Arlene G. Cohen, USA**)

East Mediterranean Public Health Association; Jordan Library and Information Association Ministry of Health Nursing Directorate (**Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Jordan**)

IET, THET, IPEM, IMechE (**Len Cornish, UK**)

Any Professional Association (Health Librarians, Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, Society for Public Health Professionals of Nigeria, Nigerian Medical Association.) (**Obiageli Emelumadu, Nigeria**)

Public Health Association Australasia phaa.org.au (**Priscilla Robinson, Australia**)

PHOrg - Public Health organization is well placed to support HIFA sharing in French, disseminate content and also extend English discussion to French. Contact : phorg_healthforall@yahoo.com (**Andre Shongo Diamba, DRC**)

csih [Canadian Society For International Health] ccghr [Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research] cma [Canadian Medical Association] (Anon)