

Healthcare Information for All



Review 2013

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 those for whom they are responsible

www.hifa2015.org

What is HIFA?

HIFA is a global campaign and knowledge network with more than 12,000 members in 170 countries, interacting on 5 discussion forums in 3 different languages. Our common vision is 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 those for whom they are responsible.

Why is HIFA needed?

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 are not delivered when they are needed. A major contributing factor is lack of access to basic information and knowledge. For example, 9 in 10 children with diarrhoea in India do not receive basic treatment with fluids and almost 1000 die every day as a direct result, in India alone.



Highlights of 2013

- The main HIFA forum expanded by 17% to 6682 members, producing over 300 online discussions with more than 3000 contributions, over half of which were from members in low and middle income countries
- The number of messages sent each day has tripled in the past two years.
- The number of HIFA volunteers increased from 120 to 140, including 84 HIFA Country Representatives, whose role is to promote HIFA in their countries
- HIFA was the official platform for stakeholder consultation in the run-up to the 3rd Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, held in Recife, Brazil, in November 2013
- mPowering Frontline Health Workers sponsored a series of discussions on HIFA to explore on the information needs of Community Health Workers
- We published a paper on Traditional Birth Attendants, based on HIFA forum discussions
- We published a paper in *The Lancet Global Health* on health information and human rights
- We launched HIFA-Watch, an initiative to track the actions of governments in relation to their obligations to promote access to health information – see PLoS Medicine editorial
- We continued our collaboration with Photoshare to sponsor the HIFA Photographer of the Year 2013
- *The Lancet* provided start-up funding for the HIFA Voices database, to be launched in 2014



CHILD2015 increased by 10% to more than 2640 members, supported by the International Child Health Group and the International Society for Social Paediatrics and Child Health.

HIFA-Portuguese increased to more than 2000 members in 31 countries including all eight Portuguese-speaking countries, and **HIFA-EVIPNet-French** has grown by 38% to 437 high-level health policymakers and other health professionals from francophone countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Both groups are supported by the World Health Organization.

HIFA-Zambia membership increased by more than 50% to 325 members in 25 countries, with support from the Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance.

In April 2013, we ratified and implemented the **mHIFA goal** - Mobile Healthcare Information For All: "By 2015, at least one telecoms provider, in at least one country, will endorse the vision of Healthcare Information For All, and will provide free access to essential healthcare knowledge in the local language, preloaded on all new mobile phones they may sell and freely downloadable to all those who already have a mobile phone." We conducted and published a baseline survey in collaboration with the San Jose State University, USA.



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Priorities for 2014

- Continued growth
- Transition from HIFA2015 to HIFA.org
- Launch of HIFA Voices
- Information needs of Primary Health Workers
- Access to Research
- 2nd HIFA Conference, Dar es Salaam, 21 October 2014.

Acknowledgements

During 2013, we ratified 26 new **HIFA Supporting Organisations**. By the end of the year, more than 160 organisations worldwide had committed to the HIFA vision:

<http://www.hifa2015.org/how-organisations-support-hifa2015/sos/>

HIFA Country Representatives: HIFA relies on a global network of volunteers, and during 2013 we were delighted to welcome six new HIFA Country Representatives (CRs) in India, Pakistan, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and Palestine. At the end of the year we had 84 CRs in 40 countries:

<http://www.hifa2015.org/how-individuals-support-hifa2015/hifa2015-country-representatives/>

We are grateful to the following 26 organisations (and 7 individuals) who provided financial contributions for our work in 2013 (total = £23,825):



HIFA Global Forums are administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network in collaboration with WHO (HIFA-Portuguese and HIFA-EVIPNet-French), ICHG & ISSOP (CHILD2015), and ZUHWA (HIFA-Zambia). Contact: Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh, HIFA Coordinator: neil@hifa.org

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