

# 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](http://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](http://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 Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice** led two 6-week HIFA discussions on Evidence-informed policymaking (presented in Seoul, October 2016) and Implementation Research (to be presented at the 2017 Global Evidence Summit). *Sponsors: WHO, TDR, The Lancet*

**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 discussion. 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**.



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**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.

Contact: Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh, HIFA Coordinator: [neil@hifa.org](mailto:neil@hifa.org)