

Global Health in the Digital Age: Healthcare Information For All



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“Healthcare Information For All is an ambitious goal but it can be achieved if all stakeholders work together.”

World Health Organization, Geneva

HIFA

HIFA is a global campaign and professional network with more than 17,000 health professionals, librarians, publishers, researchers, policymakers and patients from >2500 organisations in 175 countries. Our shared vision:

A world where every person will have access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others

People are dying for lack of knowledge

Thousands of children and adults die needlessly every day because they do not receive basic life-saving interventions - interventions that are often locally available but are simply not provided due to indecision, delays, misdiagnosis, and incorrect treatment. Many would still be alive today if their mother, caregiver or health worker had access to basic healthcare information. Research indicates that:

- **4 in 10** mothers in India believe they should withhold fluids if their baby develops diarrhoea, thereby tragically increasing their risk of death from dehydration*
- **3 in 4** doctors caring for sick children in Africa and Asia lack basic knowledge of common causes of child death*
- **4 in 10** family doctors in Pakistan use tranquillisers to treat hypertension*
- **7 in 10** women giving birth in health facilities in Africa and South Asia are mismanaged during the 3rd stage of labour, thereby increasing risk of death from postpartum haemorrhage*

Citizens and healthcare providers in low-resource settings do not have access to relevant, reliable healthcare information, contributing to massive unnecessary death and suffering.

*See: www.hifa.org/about-hifa/why-hifa-needed

HIFA Projects

HIFA currently supports 12 projects including: Access to Health Research; Citizens, Parents and Children Community Health Workers; Evidence-Informed Policy & Practice; mHealth (mobile health); Library & Information Services; Family Planning; and Newborn Care.

HIFA Thematic Discussions

HIFA runs in-depth discussions on priority global health issues. Current sponsors include TDR/WHO, K4Health and Every Newborn Action Plan.

HIFA Voices

The HIFA Voices database brings together the experience of HIFA members to advance the HIFA vision.

“HIFA achieves an extraordinary level of activity on minimal resources from which many people around the world benefit”

HIFA External Evaluation Report, 2011



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HIFA Supporting Organisations

More than 300 health and development organisations have officially declared their support for HIFA. The following have also contributed financially (2018):

- **British Medical Association** (main funder)
- **Afro-European Medical & Research Network**
- **Child Family Health International**
- **Commonwealth Nurses & Midwives Federation**
- **Council of International Neonatal Nurses**
- **Enablement**
- **Equal Health**
- **Euclid School of Global Health & Bioethics**
- **Every Newborn Action Plan**
- **Foundation for Mother & Child Health**
- **Global Health Media Project**
- **Hacey Health Initiative (Nigeria)**
- **Haiti Nursing Foundation**
- **Hardie Wren Development Initiatives**
- **Health Enabled**
- **Health Research Advisory Board (Pakistan)**
- **International Child Health Group**
- **International Foundation for Dermatology**
- **International League of Dermatological Societies**
- **International Society for Social Paediatrics and Child Health**
- **IntraHealth International**
- **Joanna Briggs Institute**
- **K4Health**
- **Kaicombey Foundation (Sierra Leone)**
- **LiveWell Initiative (Nigeria)**
- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**
- **Mother & Child Health & Education Trust**
- **Mother & Childhealth Advocacy International**
- **Network for Information & Digital Access**
- **OncArt**
- **Primary Care International**
- **Public Health England**
- **San Jose University School of Information**
- **Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)**
- **The Lancet**
- **World Health Organization**
- **Your MD**
- **Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance**

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HIFA forums are administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network, a non-profit organisation registered in the UK, in collaboration with WHO (HIFA-Portuguese, HIFA-French), ICHG/ISSOP (CHIFA) and ZUKHWA (HIFA-Zambia). HIFA-Spanish coming soon.

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