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Working togaether to achieve HIFA2015: a perspective from two HIFA 2015 supporting organisations

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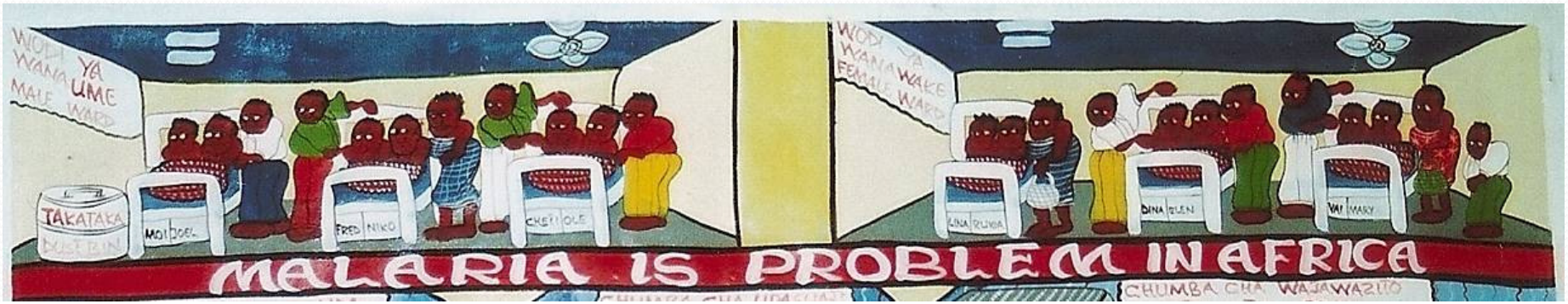
Working together to achieve HIFA2015: a perspective from two HIFA2015 Supporting Organisations

Nasra Gathoni- President, Association of Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA)
Shane Godbolt- Director, Partnerships in Health Information (Phi)

Overview

- HIFA2015 an inspiration
- Why support HIFA2015
- About AHILA
- About Phi
- AHILA/PHI partnership
- Achieving HIFA2015's goals
- Future plans
- Conclusions



HIFA2015 an inspiration

AHILA & Phi proud of being the first two Supporting Organisations!

Advocacy campaign for access to health information inspires and is

- Strategic
- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Networked
- Resourced
- Effective

HIFA2015 an inspiration

By 2015, every person worldwide will have access to an informed healthcare provider

- **Recognised the value** of professional librarians
  - Their skills in managing knowledge
  - Their special role in developing health
- **Aligned with the goals** of both AHILA & Phi
- **Inspired closer partnership** of both to strengthen the framework for **improving the health of the people of Africa through reliable health information**

WHY SUPPORT HIFA2015?

“People are dying for lack of knowledge”

Pascal Mouhouelo, WHO AFRO Library, Brazzaville, Congo

Launch of HIFA2015

AHILA Congress, Mombasa, Kenya, 2006

Reasons:

- Cost of information
- Illiteracy
- Infrastructure
- Need for reliable information (EBM)

AHILA

Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, founded in 1984. Currently 46 country members

Aims:

- Improve provision of up-to-date and relevant health information
- Encourage professional development of health librarians
- Promote resource sharing in Africa and exchange of experiences
- Promote the development and standardisation and exchange of health databases in Africa i.e African Index Medicus

AHILA

Milestones /Achievements

- **1986** to date Biennial Congresses
- **1993** African Index Medicus (AIM)
- **2006** Provided platform for launch of HIFA2015
- **2008** Launched Strategic Planning process
- **2010** launched AHILA strategic plan 2010-2015 at AHILA 12 Congress, Burkina Faso

Achieved through collaborations with local, national and international organisations eg WHO, ITOCA, Phi, HIFA2015, NLM among others

ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES IN AF
10TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS
Sun n Sand Beach Resort, Mombasa 23rd – 27th October, 2006
Theme: Millennium Development Goals and Health Information Provision in Africa
WELCOME! KARIBUNI! BIENVENU!
Commonwealth Foundation
The SMi Group

Partnerships in Health Information

- Registered charity, founded 1992
- Aim to facilitate *north/south* partnerships
- Trustees; health professionals including clinicians, librarians, academics & other NGO colleagues
- Programmes Officer 2006 (full time grant funded post) enabled expansion of activities & alignment with government level emphasis on partnerships

Partnerships in Health Information

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) are redefining the role of librarians and library service development
- Health librarians are crucial to providing access
- Sharing experience mutually beneficial

Partnerships in Health Information

Phi's objectives:

- Networking & collaborating with others to underpin good quality healthcare with reliable health information
- Facilitating health information partnerships & development projects
- Capacity building for health information professionals & librarians

AHILA / Phi Partnership

- Supports HIFA2015 advocacy campaign in practical ways
- Collaboration through sharing knowledge and expertise for mutual benefit
- Communication which is key to successful collaboration & partnership with each other & others

AHILA/ Phi partnership

Has contributed to building capacity for health librarians/health information professionals through

- Exchange visits
- Workshops and development projects supported by Phi
- Training of Trainers workshops on Public Access to Health Information (PAHI)
- Developing a broad portfolio of projects and partnership activities (funded by BMA, INASP, DelPHE, IFLA)

KEN-AHILA members and Public Access to Health Information (PAHI) workshop facilitators. Pilot workshop on PAHI, Kenya, 2009

Delegates attending the Public Access to Health Information Workshop in Mozambique, March 2011

Achieving HIFA2015's Goals

- AHILA has provided a platform for advocacy and campaign for HIFA since 2006
- HIFA coordinators in countries in Africa continue to recruit members and promote HIFA agenda at country level.
- Promoting open access- the case of African Index Medicus (AIM)
- Promoting outreach activities e.g. – blue trunk library, resource centers in community areas, repackaging of information
- Training on effective use of information. Country chapters have rolled out such trainings to healthcare providers- doctors and nurses

Achieving HIFA2015's goals

Role of Health Information Professionals (HIPs)

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) are redefining the role of librarians and library service development
- HIPs are trained in the essential skills of promoting information by its identification, selection, organization and dissemination
- HIPs can put knowledge into practice and respond to the rapid developments[1] (technology, information overload etc)

AHILA and Phi Future Plans

- Promote access to reliable health information for health workers in Africa by developing health library workforce/medical librarians through capacity building
- Continue to identify needs in Africa through AHILA & its local chapters including addressing:
  - Digital divide
  - Support for Open Access
  - Using community strategies to reach ALL (PAHI)

Conclusion

- We urge HIFA supporting organizations to engage actively with HIFA2015
- AHILA & Phi keen to work with others to identify sustainable models for the flow of information in Africa
- and to promote high quality research in Africa =RELEVANT to African context (*RCTs, Systematic Reviews*)

Together we can achieve this worthy cause-Healthcare Information For All by 2015

Availability of, access to and use of Health Information is a basic human right

THANK YOU

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