



Meeting the information needs of healthcare providers in LMICs

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Introduction



Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh
Oxford, UK

NHS/Ecuador/Peru 1983-90

→ Medicine Digest/Wellcome Trust/WHO
1990-95

→ INASP 1995-2004

→ HIFA 2005-present

→ Dgroups Foundation 2013-present

HIFA

Global campaign and knowledge network

>15,000 members, 175 countries, 5 forums, En/Fr/Pt

HIFA vision: "A world where every person and every health worker will have access to the information they need to protect their own health and the health of others."

The HIFA forums are hosted by the
Dgroups Foundation - 700 CoPs



Dgroups Vision: “A world where every person is able to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice.”

www.dgroups.info

Health professionals lack access to health information

“The studies suggest a gross lack of knowledge about the basics on how to diagnose and manage common diseases, going right across the health workforce and often associated with suboptimal, ineffective and dangerous health care practices.”

Pakenham-Walsh N & Bukachi F. Information needs of health care workers in developing countries: a literature review with a focus on Africa. Human Resources for Health 2009, 7:30doi:10.1186/1478-4491-7-30

<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/7/1/30>

Example: hospital care of children

'3 in 4 doctors caring for sick children in Africa and Asia lack basic knowledge of common causes of child death'

Nolan T et al. Quality of hospital care for seriously ill children in less-developed countries. *Lancet* 2001;357(9250):106-10

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(00\)03542-X/fulltext#](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(00)03542-X/fulltext#)

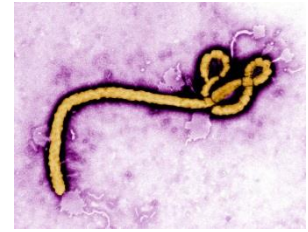
Example: home care of diarrhoea

'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' (India MoH, 2006)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) 2005/6

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADK385.pdf

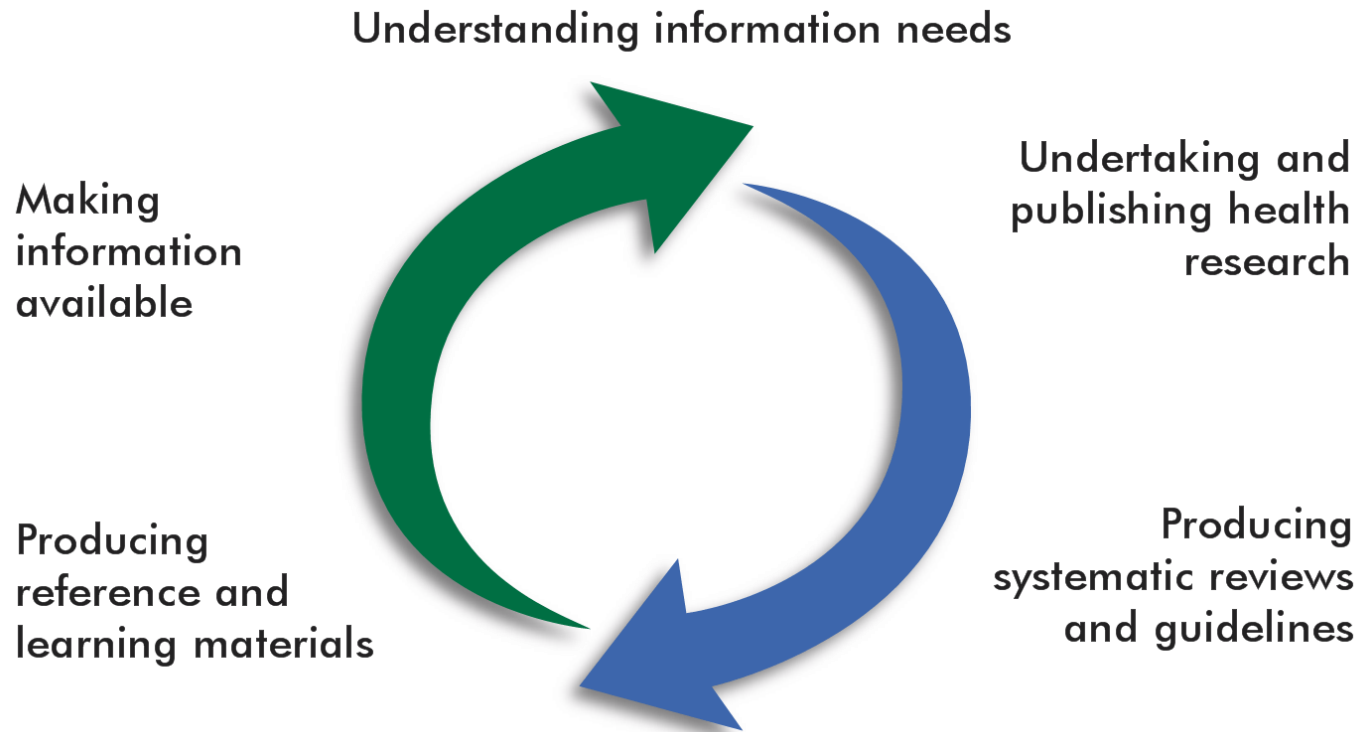
Example: Ebola



“Ebola kills people; but more lives are put at risk because of lack of information or misinformation”

Dr. Guido Borghese, UNICEF Principal Advisor Child Survival and Development for West and Central Africa

The Global Health Information System



Paper: Can we achieve health information for all by 2015?

***The Lancet*, 2004; 364:295-300**

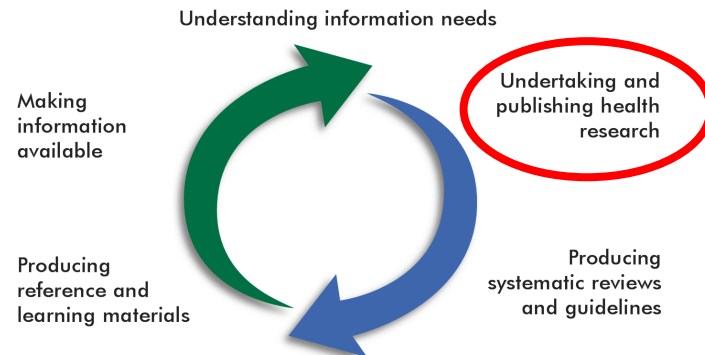
Fiona Godlee, Neil Pakenham-Walsh *et al.*

Doing health research

“Clinical trials should begin and end with systematic reviews of relevant evidence”

Clinical trials should begin and end with systematic reviews of relevant evidence: 12 years and waiting. Mike Clarke, Sally Hopewell, Iain Chalmers. Lancet 2010;376:20-21.

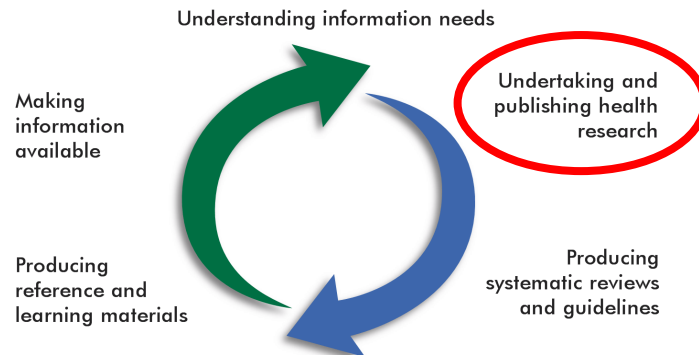
[http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61045-8/fulltext](http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61045-8/fulltext)



Publishing health research

“Abstracts of research should be routinely available in the main language of the country where the research was undertaken”

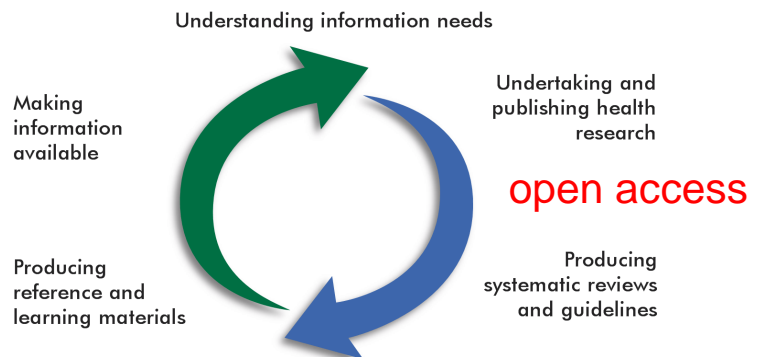
HIFA members (especially those in francophone and lusophone LMICs)



Making research information available

“Open access, open access, open access...”

Openness, transparency and sharing in health research, publishing and information sciences



Making actionable information available

WHO HQ

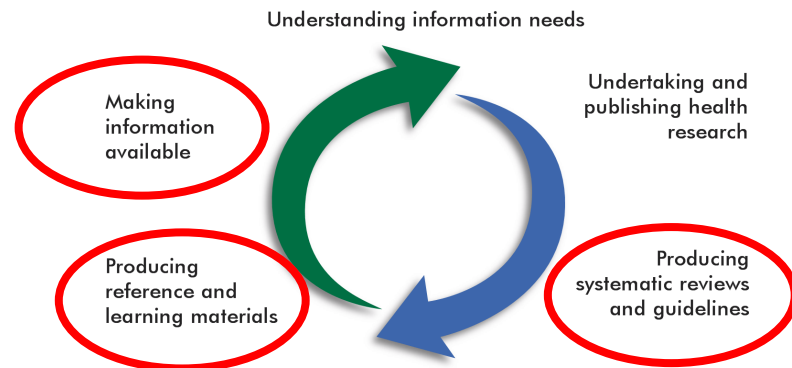
WHO Country Offices

Ministries of Health

Mass media

Publishers

Information services



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BMA

WHO

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- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- Children for Health
- Commonwealth Nurses Federation
- Council of International Neonatal Nurses
- eCancer
- Elsevier
- Friends Of Chitambo
- Global Health Media Project
- Haiti Nursing Foundation
- HealthProm
- Intel Corporation
- 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
- Knowledge Transfer Africa Ltd
- *The Lancet*
- LiveWell Initiative
- mPowering Frontline Health Workers
- Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba
- Network for Information and Digital Access
- Partnerships in Health Information
- Physicians for Haiti
- Public Library of Science (PLOS)
- Quality + Care Solutions
- Royal College of Midwives
- The Test Foundation
- The Mother and Child Health and Education Trust
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation & Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity
- Wiki Project Med Foundation
- Your.MD
- Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance.



1. Contact: Neil Pakenham-Walsh
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2. Continue the discussion on the
HIFA forum: www.hifa.org

Thank you