Welcome to our quarter three progress report. This quarter’s major activity was World Hepatitis Day, and what an incredible day it was. It has been truly inspiring to see the world come together and speak with a united voice to raise awareness of viral hepatitis across the globe. This quarter we also welcomed the five participants of our Find the Missing Millions In-country Programme to the first face-to-face meeting. At the meeting, the participants met with leading experts to identify the advocacy strategies that would overcome the barriers to diagnosis in their countries. This was the first step on an exciting road which will make a real difference on the ground.

This quarter WHA also expanded our work with partners, signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with UNITE, the global network of parliamentarians, and International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the organisers of the Fast Track Cities programme. These exciting partnerships will help us to accelerate action for the elimination of viral hepatitis, and we look forward to reporting about the impact of these partnerships in the future.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has been a key focus of the global health agenda this quarter, and in September the United Nations signed the political declaration on UHC. Advocacy led by WHA ensured that hepatitis was included in the declaration. Over the coming months, WHA will be producing resources for members to use to engage with the UHC agenda. The first of these resources was released accompanied by a Facebook Live webinar about UHC.

I hope you enjoy reading this report about what we have been working on. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any comments or questions about our work.

Cary James, CEO

NOTE FROM THE CEO

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

World Hepatitis Day celebrated globally.

Successfully advocated for inclusion of viral hepatitis in the UN’s UHC political declaration.

Hosted our first Facebook live session on UHC and released an accompanying factsheet.

Welcomed ten new members

NOhep supporters get behind our Google Doodle campaign.

Held the In-Country programme face-to-face meeting.
World Hepatitis Day (WHD), which is one of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) seven officially mandated global public health days, takes place on 28 July each year. In 2019, individuals, organisations and governments around the world celebrated the ninth official WHD.

WHD activity was recorded in 161 countries, with 167 WHA members leading the celebrations across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of people worldwide attended events, with thousands getting vaccinated against hepatitis B and more than 100,000 tested for viral hepatitis B and C. Participants included heads of state, ministers, politicians, celebrities, medical professionals, civil society organisations, private companies, the media and members of the public. Through press and social media, World Hepatitis Day 2019 had a potential reach of more than a billion people with vital, life-saving information about the need to be tested, treatment options, preventative measures, how to raise awareness successfully, and how to help break down stigma and discrimination surrounding viral hepatitis.
WORLD HEPATITIS DAY
SURVEY RESULTS

Following WHD we conducted a survey to help record the many activities that took place worldwide, and to help us understand the impact of the day and how it can be improved. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and indicated that WHD continues to be a vital tool for civil society and the global hepatitis community to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, to increase testing and vaccination, and to hold governments to their commitments to eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

Testing and diagnosis

- 50% delivered more hepatitis tests than usual
- 36% diagnosed more hepatitis infections than usual
- 35% developed organisational policies or practices to encourage testing beyond WHD

Raising awareness

- 87% increased awareness of testing and other hepatitis issues among their clients and local community
- 62% increased awareness of testing and other hepatitis issues among health and other professionals
- 42% raised the profile and support of hepatitis testing by engaging high-level public individuals

Capacity building

- 95% agreed that WHD increases their organisation’s capacity to impact their community/clients
- 92% agreed that WHD increases their organisation’s capacity to reach new people

Working together

- 35% increased commissioning of hepatitis testing services for their local area
- 55% built local alliances with other agencies
ADVOCACY

In July we successfully advocated for the inclusion of viral hepatitis in the UN political declaration on Universal Health Coverage, garnering the voices of a wide group of stakeholders and with the support of the Georgian government, to lobby for its inclusion.

The inclusion of hepatitis within the declaration will become an important tool for civil society to use when advocating for the inclusion of viral hepatitis within countries’ UHC responses.

We attended the UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in New York in September, preceded by co-hosting an interactive roundtable with Unite on ‘Securing political leadership and innovative funding to achieve Universal Health Coverage’, exploring how policymakers, civil society and other agencies can effectively collaborate to ensure health systems secure funding and meet the needs of the people that they are designed for.

WHA also submitted a written statement for inclusion in the official record of the meeting outlining the importance of hepatitis elimination and civil society in achieving UHC.

To support this event, our CEO Cary James conducted a Facebook Live session on Universal Health Coverage, with tips and guidance for members and other stakeholders on how civil society can meaningfully engage with this agenda. We followed this up by issuing a briefing note on Universal Health Coverage. The briefing included key advocacy messages that members can use to advance hepatitis elimination within the UHC framework.

DOWNLOAD THE UHC BRIEFING NOTE HERE

FIND THE MISSING MILLIONS

Worldwide, only 11% of those living with viral hepatitis are aware of their diagnosis. Unless we find the 290 million people - the “missing millions” - that have yet to be diagnosed and link them to care, all other efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis will only have marginal success.

Find the Missing Millions is a multi-year programme aimed at raising awareness, driving policy change and increasing testing at national and global levels. Recognising that barriers to diagnosis must be understood and overcome to reach our objectives, the programme takes a multifaceted approach to the issue: building the evidence base, engaging with a range of stakeholders and helping drive advocacy at a global level and on the ground. We do this by putting the people affected by viral hepatitis at the heart of the solution.

IN-COUNTRY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

Over 18 months, five WHA members are being supported to develop and implement advocacy action plans that aim to increase diagnosis rates. In addition to receiving a small amount of seed funding to help initiate their activities, members are invited to pool expertise and learn from leading experts working within the field.

HIGHLIGHTS

• The first face to face meeting was held in London in July was a success. The purpose of this meeting was to help the programme participants determine the barrier/s to diagnosis that they could have the greatest impact on, and to work with them to start to develop advocacy strategies that address these.

• Feedback from the participants after the meeting highlighted how much they enjoyed it and appreciated the one-on-one time they had with the expert stakeholders present. We brought together a diverse range of experts: Dr Naranbaatar Dashdorj, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board - Onom Foundation, Mongolia; Rachel Halford, Chief Executive Officer of the Hepatitis C Trust, UK; Giten Khwairakpam, Community and Policy Program Manager at amfAR’s TREAT Asia programme, Thailand; Dr John Ward, Director, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, The Task Force for Global Health, USA; and Michael Ninburg, Executive Director of the Hepatitis Education Project and President of the World Hepatitis Alliance, USA.
ADVOCACY RESOURCE

The advocacy resource builds on the findings of our White Paper, giving practical tips on how civil society and the affected community can implement its recommendations.

HIGHLIGHTS

• The advocacy resource has developed since its launch last quarter. It now has over 6,000 views, includes case studies from over 13 countries and members continue to suggest ideas for new content.

• We published a case study from HalifIX Overdose Prevention Society to coincide with INHSU. We will be publishing new case studies to coincide with key dates including global awareness days and international meetings.

HCV TESTING INITIATIVE

As part of the Find the Missing Millions programme we have partnered with InTec Products, an infectious disease diagnostics manufacturer, to distribute 25,000 point-of-care rapid tests for viral hepatitis C (HCV) to five World Hepatitis Alliance member organisations around the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Fundación Mexicana para la Salud Hepática (FundHepa) kick-started World Hepatitis Day with a stand on an iconic avenue in Mexico City called Paseo de la Reforma where the city’s half marathon took place early in the morning. The aim was to perform as many tests as possible.

NOHEP

NOhep is the global movement for the elimination of viral hepatitis. The movement brings together medical professionals, policy makers, the affected community and the general public to ensure that the elimination of viral hepatitis is achieved by 2030.

HIGHLIGHTS

• The NOhep Google Doodle campaign, asking Google to create a Doodle on WHD, received over 720 sign ups with significant social media coverage of the campaign.

• NOhep launched an open letter to the Global Fund to urge them to proactively explore ways in which viral hepatitis elimination services can be incorporated into existing Global Fund Programmes. The letter was instigated by a NOhep member and developed by a broad range of strategic partners. The letter will be signed by individuals and organisations before being sent to the Global Fund on the eve of their replenishment meeting in Lyon 9-10 October.

• Work has begun on a NOhep Medical Visionaries meeting to be held at AASLD. Building on the success of the meeting at EASL we will again be hosting a breakfast for the Visionaries and are currently developing the agenda.
FINANCING FOR HEPATITIS

According to the preliminary review of the Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis, only 124 countries reported in 2019 that they had viral hepatitis plans in place (of which 44 were in draft). 2017 data suggests that only 58% of countries reported dedicated funding for these plans. A lack of financing strategic planning is clearly preventing the implementation of those plans. In the absence of large external donor funding, there is consequently a high risk that the strategies will not be effectively implemented, jeopardising the global goal of elimination of hepatitis B and C by 2030. We are working with the governments of Nigeria, Colombia, India Punjab state and Cambodia, to cost their entire hepatitis C programme in budgetary terms, develop a business case to support the required investment and then produce a range of options for financing the investment.

NIGERIA AND COLOMBIA:
The work in Nigeria is being conducted in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). The work in Colombia is being conducted in partnership with the Center for Disease Analysis Foundation and the Pan American Health Organization.

INDIA PUNJAB STATE AND CAMBODIA: The work in India Punjab State and Cambodia is being conducted in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The costing work in India Punjab State was completed this quarter, with discussions around which costs will be absorbed by other budgets and which need to be accounted for as part of the modelling taking place to ensure the data is as accurate as possible.
- The investment case in India Punjab State is being modelled and a number of different elimination scenarios are being included in this.
- A final draft costing model was completed in Cambodia this month.
- CHAI are working to schedule interviews with the relevant stakeholders in Cambodia to discuss financing options. This will ensure proper input and buy-in with the process.

CHALLENGES

- Due to competing demands within the Ministries of Health in both India Punjab State and Cambodia the completion date for this project has been pushed into quarter 4. This later delivery date will ensure that the project report is able to best capture the entire process.

PARTNERSHIPS

IAPAC

WHOA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC). The new partnership was announced on 9 September, the first day of the Fast-Track Cities 2019 conference in London. The conference convened more than 750 delegates from a network of more than 300 Fast-Track Cities striving to end urban HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis epidemics. The MOU affirms a commitment between IAPAC and the WHA to joint advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building, and other activities in support of the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

UNITE

On 22 September WHO signed an MOU with UNITE, the global parliamentarians network to end HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases. The MOU was signed at a side meeting ahead of the United Nations (UN) High Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The two organisations collaborated with other stakeholders to successfully advocate for the inclusion of viral hepatitis within the UN Political Declaration on UHC which was adopted at the HLM on UHC.

The MOU confirms the organisations’ commitment to working together in joint advocacy, awareness-raising, accountability promotion, political will mobilization and political leadership support to achieve the elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030.

FIND

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding in April, this quarter we participated in the advisory group call alongside FIND, Coalition Plus, Treatment Action Group (TAG) and Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+). This call is a useful opportunity to share updates on our various programmes and explore potential areas of collaboration. Given the synergies between FIND and WHO we used a meeting at the INHSU conference to discuss how we could strengthen our partnership. Moving forward from this meeting we have agreed to work together to develop a number of new tools and case studies for the Find the Missing Millions Advocacy Resource.
WHO SECONDMENTS

AFRO, DR OLOFUNMILAYO LESI

• Key contribution to the development of the African Union (AU) declaration on viral hepatitis, presenting this to the strategic technical committee of the African Union. The declaration has now been endorsed by ministers of health ahead of national presidents in January 2020.
• Provision of field and technical support for hepatitis baseline assessment in Malawi and South Sudan.
• Technical expertise provided to support hepatitis B birthdose training workshop held in South Africa in July.
• Supporting the development of a platform for sharing experiences of participants from hepatitis programs in DR Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria with Pakistan, Australia and Egypt at a meeting organized by the government of Australia and Burnet Institute and COLDA.
• Assisted WHO country team in Egypt’s support for the Egyptian elimination initiative for HCV treatment ahead of its rollout across 18 countries in Africa.

EURO, ANTONS MOZALEVSKIS

Supporting implementation of the regional action plan on viral hepatitis by providing technical assistance to:
• Turkmenistan through leading the technical mission on hepatitis patient registry implementation.
• Kyrgyzstan through co-organising a national conference /workshop on hepatitis elimination.
• Republic of Moldova through leading the first hepatitis assessment mission.
• Montenegro through coordinating the first hepatitis assessment mission.
• Armenia through organising a roundtable for the development of national hepatitis guidelines.

Mobilising political commitment and raise public awareness for response to viral hepatitis by:
• Participating in national hepatitis elimination meeting in Spain, together with MoH and national partners.
• Co-organising and participating in the International Meeting on Hepatitis Elimination in Belarus, together with MoH Belarus, WHO and World Hepatitis Alliance in the national press-conference, dedicated to WHD2019 in Minsk.
• Prepared the progress report for the European Hepatitis Action Plan that was presented to WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September.

Promoting regional partnership and collaboration in viral hepatitis response through:
• Continuation of close collaboration with ECDC and EMCDDA, including preparing a joint publication on HCV amongst prisoners (planned for Q4 to be submitted)
• Continued development of the future work plan of two new WHO collaborating centres on viral hepatitis (Georgia NCDC and Robert Koch Institute, Germany) that should increase and formalise collaboration with these institutions and support implementation of the WHO/Europe work plan on viral hepatitis.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

5TH INTERNATIONAL HIV/VIRAL HEPATITIS CO-INFECTION MEETING, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

WHA participated in the HCV/HIV co-infection pre-conference meeting and presented on the key role of civil society in elimination. WHA also took part in a panel during a session organised by FIND on the future of HCV self-testing and conducted various bilateral meetings with members and other stakeholders.

FIND PRE-WORLD HEPATITIS DAY CONFERENCE, NEW DELHI, INDIA

WHA Board member RP Shanmugam attended this meeting, attended by key personnel in India for the national Viral Hepatitis Control programme, detailing how the vision for hepatitis elimination by 2030 will be reached.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY PRESS CONFERENCE AND NATIONAL MEETING ON HEPATITIS ELIMINATION, MINSK, BELARUS

WHA spoke at the press conference along with representatives of WHO Europe and the Ministry of Health in Belarus, during which Belarus’ commitment to eliminate hepatitis C by 2028 was announced.

At a national meeting to discuss hepatitis C elimination in Belarus WHA emphasised the importance of a multi-stakeholder response and ensuring civil society organisations are at the heart of the response.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY EVENT, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

WHA presented on the role of civil society in elimination at the WHO-sponsored conference on the first day and attended the official launch of Pakistan’s new elimination plan on the following day. WHA also met with local members and key stakeholders while in Pakistan.
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ELIMINATION WORKSHOP, CAIRO, EGYPT

WHA was invited to attend and facilitate a workshop on advocacy and policy, and with representatives in the room from civil society, Ministries of Health and medical professionals, it was a good opportunity to discuss the importance of advocacy if we are to reach elimination. There was also the opportunity to visit El Othmanyia village which was the first village in Egypt to be declared hepatitis-free.

COLDA, CAIRO, EGYPT

WHA attended the second Conference on Liver Disease in Africa (COLDA), designed to empower African healthcare professionals to diagnose, prevent, treat and achieve a cure for liver diseases in Africa. We chaired a panel on civil society’s contribution in Africa, and a symposium panel discussion ‘Economic impact and funding for hepatitis elimination – drawing from Egypt’s success’.

FAST-TRACK CITIES CONFERENCE, LONDON, ENGLAND

WHA attended the inaugural Fast-Track Cities conference with WHA speaking in the opening plenary session as a member of the high-level panel on health inequalities. Later in the conference, WHA presented on our Find the Missing Millions advocacy programme in the session ‘Leveraging Urban HIV Platforms to Achieve Global HCV Elimination Targets in Cities’.

INHSU, MONTREAL CANADA

WHA attended the event and participated in the community roundtable consultation on the future of INHSU and its strategic direction.

ECDC HEP NETWORK MEETING, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

WHA participated in this important bi-annual technical, surveillance and monitoring network meeting.

WHO EURO REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

WHA’s regional board member for EURO attended this meeting, at which WHA submitted a written intervention welcoming WHO’s ‘Implementation of the Action Plan for the Health Sector Response to Viral Hepatitis in the WHO European Region (resolution EUR/RC66/R10)’, which details inclusive good practice of underserved populations in elimination programmes, and has a strong focus on the role of civil society in the development and implementation of countries’ hepatitis responses. Our full intervention can be found at http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/69th-session/statements-from-nsas/world-hepatitis-alliance-Sj.

UHC HLM, NEW YORK, USA

WHA attended the UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in New York in September, preceded by co-hosting an interactive roundtable with Unite on ‘Securing political leadership and innovative funding to achieve Universal Health Coverage’, exploring how policymakers, civil society and other agencies can effectively collaborate to ensure health systems secure funding and meet the needs of the people that they are designed for. WHA also participated in the launch of the Global Action Plan for Health and Well-being for All and various side-events during the UNGA week.

MIDDLE EAST LIVER MEETING, DUBAI, UAE

WHA participated in this annual medical/scientific meeting by representing civil society in both the opening and closing plenary session panels. On the second day, WHA co-facilitated a micro-elimination workshop with the EASL Foundation. Participants were from three countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.
**Membership**
In September we welcomed 10 new members to the organisation as non-voting members. We welcome two new countries, South Africa and Yemen, bringing our total membership to 291 members across 93 countries.

**Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific Ltd (CEVHAP) (Singapore)** conduct advocacy, education, knowledge-building and policy research in the fight against hepatitis.

**Health & Development Initiative (Gambia)** uses SDG 1-6 as its backbone to improve healthcare generally in Gambia, delivering community outreach sensitisation, referral for vaccinations and the commemoration of WHD.

**International Network on Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) (Switzerland)** are a group of clinicians and researchers who conduct educational work into chronic viral hepatitis.

**MED Charitable Trust (India)** deliver awareness-raising, free screening camps and counselling services for patients and their families.

**Zemma Awareness Initiative (Nigeria)** conduct community awareness programmes screening for both HBV and HCV.

**Sufabel Community Development Initiative (Nigeria)** deliver advocacy, training, awareness-raising and capacity-building.

**Croatian Association for HIV and viral Hepatitis (CAHIV) (Croatia)** set up an HCV checkpoint centre in Zagreb offering free and anonymous HIV and HCV testing, and they provide psychosocial support services for people living with viral hepatitis. They also carry out outreach activities covering IDU counselling in drop-in centres and prisons.

**Great Lakes Peace Center (Uganda)** carry out awareness-raising in their local communities, and take part in World Hepatitis Day.

**TB HIV Care (South Africa)** run ongoing programmes for PWID, taking an active role in advocacy for and supporting an improved national response to hepatitis.

**WHF Yemen (Yemen)** have participated in World Hepatitis Day activities over the past three years.

**Staffing**
In July we welcomed Cynthia Pokuah onto the WHA staff team as our new Project Co-ordinator. Cynthia will be supporting delivery of WHA’s programmes, including development of the global advocacy resource, and delivery of the FMM In-country advocacy programme.