NOTE FROM THE CEO

We are pleased to present the Quarter 4 report from the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) covering the period October - December 2018.

During this period we have attended high-level meetings across the world. Excitingly, we were in Nigeria to present work that we, together with partners, have been carrying out with Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Health to create the investment case for hepatitis C elimination and crucially to explore financing options for the country’s elimination plan.

NOhep was in attendance at The Liver Meeting in San Francisco where, together with the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF), we hosted the ‘Hepatitis Elimination Symposium’, bringing together NOhep Medical Visionaries to share best practices in hepatitis elimination.

This quarter we were also delighted to release the World Hepatitis Day (WHD) 2018 Global Summary Report, which features the events and activities undertaken across the world to celebrate the day. The report is a showcase of the hard work undertaken by WHA members to make this important day a success.

As the organisation embarks on the second year of its three-year strategy, we have been busy making exciting plans for the work that will be undertaken in 2019 which we will report on throughout the coming year.

Finally this is the last Quarterly Report reflecting my tenure as CEO. It’s been a wonderful journey and I am so grateful to have witnessed the growth of this strong advocacy movement which we are all part of. I will continue to be involved in the hepatitis cause, taking an advisory role at WHA and supporting the new CEO (currently being recruited), our dedicated team in London and our global board. I look forward to seeing WHA enter a new chapter and ultimately prosper in its elimination vision!

Raquel Peck
CEO

Stay up-to-date with our activities, sign up to hepVoice here

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Published the World Hepatitis Day 2018 Global Summary Report.

Delivered an accredited satellite symposium in partnership with the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) and the Annenberg Center at The Liver Meeting.

Published the Financing report for Nigeria, detailing the outcomes and process used.

Presented at the launch of the Rwandan Viral Hepatitis C Elimination Plan in Kigali.

Delivered presentations and received an award for international advocacy at the 1st Nigeria Hepatitis Summit in Abuja.

Supported the Launch of “Eliminating Viral Hepatitis: the Investment Case” report at the WISH Viral Hepatitis Forum at WISH 2018.

Welcomed 7 new member organisations.

Saw NOhep rank in the top 10 social media influencers at The Liver Meeting in San Francisco.
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 a national and global level. Recognising that barriers to diagnosis must be understood and overcome to reach our objectives, the programme will take a multifaceted approach to the issue. It will build the evidence base, engage with a range of stakeholders and help drive advocacy at a global level and on the ground. We will do this by putting the people affected by viral hepatitis at the heart of the solution.

- This quarter plans were finalised for two exciting new projects which will build on the findings of the White Paper ‘Overcoming the barriers to diagnosis of viral hepatitis: The role of civil society and the affected community in finding the missing millions’. The White Paper itself was promoted through all our social media channels.
- The first of these projects will be an advocacy resource which gives practical tips on how civil society and the affected community can implement the recommendations set out in the White Paper. It will be developed through consultation with a number of partners and will be launched in the first half of 2019.
- The second project is an in-country advocacy project. This project will support 5 World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) members to develop and implement effective action plans which advocate for policy makers within their individual countries to take action to increase diagnosis rates. The project will run to the end of 2020 and will launch with further details in the first quarter of 2019.

PROJECTS

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. In providing these tests to WHA members we are increasing the scope of their screening campaigns and so helping to “Find the Missing Millions”.

HIGHLIGHTS

- After an initial delay in receiving the equipment, both lancets and swabs were received by Fundación Mexicana para la Salud Hepática (FundHepa) and Fundacion Hepatos Alion, AC in Mexico allowing them to commence their screening campaigns.
- Spark of Hope in the Ukraine worked with the Department of Health to develop a road map for testing and began to use the tests in their activities.
- The Hepatitis C Trust in the UK has distributed all but 800 of the 6,000 tests they received. These tests were distributed to a number of different settings throughout the UK and screening activities are ongoing.
- In December United Against Hepatitis in Russia were able to have the tests released from the custom office to their own office. Their screening activities will start in early 2019.

CHALLENGES

- The local distributor in Russia was not able to receive the tests and pass them on to United Against Hepatitis due to Russian laws, and so United Against Hepatitis have been faced with the challenge of determining how they could receive these directly. This was not an easy or quick process, however; they were ultimately successful.
- Due to delays in receiving the tests Fundación Mexicana para la Salud Hepática (FundHepa) were not able to do their planned screening campaign in the university as the timings no longer worked. They instead worked with two hospitals to conduct screening campaigns and are planning a third campaign with the remaining tests to be conducted in 2019.
- Due to the above we have had to extend the project deadlines.
World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28 July to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and influence real change. This year we are using the momentum of WHD to launch the Find the Missing Millions campaign. Under the overarching theme of Eliminate Hepatitis, the campaign aims to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, increase testing both at individual and policy level and support linkage to care.

Once again the world united on 28 July to raise awareness and demand change. The World Hepatitis Day 2018 Global Summary Report was released in December, highlighting the events and activities taking place on the day.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The WHD 2018 Global Summary Report was published featuring details of how WHD was celebrated across the world.
- Promotion of the Report gained social media coverage

NOhep is a global movement aimed at uniting all stakeholders to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. The main objective for Q3 was to expand the NOhep Medical Visionaries programme to Africa making it a truly global initiative, to encourage participation on WHD, to continue to showcase the amazing work of NOhep activists and to increase sign-ups to the NOhep movement.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- NOhep was present at AASLD where we handed out over 200 pins to leading medical professionals as part of the NOhep Visionaries programme.
- We revamped the NOhep monthly newsletter which has resulted in a significant increase in readership.
- NOhep was one of the top 10 social media voices at The Liver Meeting in San Francisco
- We revamped the NOhep website, making it easier to navigate.
- Building on the success of the Guide for NOhep Medical Visionaries, which was launched in June at the Global Hepatitis Summit, we met with a number of NOhep Medical Visionaries at AASLD to discuss how we could best bring the guide to life. This scoping exercise led us to develop an expanded NOhep Medical Visionaries programme that incorporates a combination of practical advice and peer to peer learning. We are planning to launch this in the second quarter of 2019.

**CHALLENGES**

- Despite being the brand for the hepatitis cause, the NOhep movement is still to achieve its goal of reaching high profile supporters and having a wider public appeal, a crucial step for the campaign moving forward.

The World Hepatitis Day 2018 Global Summary report is out now.

The report features details of the activities undertaken across the world which can be used as a source of inspiration when planning your WHD2019 activities.

See the report at www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/whd-2018-global-summary
According to the mid-way review of the Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis, presented at the World Health Assembly in May, only 82 countries reported that they had viral hepatitis plans in place and of these, only 35% reported dedicated funding for such 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. WHA is working with the governments of two pilot countries, Nigeria and Colombia, 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:** The work in Nigeria is being conducted in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

**Highlights**

- The final report setting out the process undertaken in Nigeria and the outcomes was highlighted in December’s edition of hepVoice.
- Four WHA members met with the Ministry of Health to discuss the financing options that were presented on by CHAI and to ensure that the Ministry continues to support and engage with this project.
- The 1st Nigeria Hepatitis Summit was held on the 3-4 December in Abuja and brought together civil society, representatives from State Ministries of Health, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health and medical professionals to discuss the challenges that Nigeria faces in eliminating viral hepatitis and how these could be overcome. This included a focus on financing and enabled us to present on the work done to date in Nigeria.
- There were 150-200 delegates in attendance at the Summit and it was the first time that civil society and representatives from State and Federal Ministries had come together on this scale. Importantly there were over 60 civil society representatives with a number coming from organisations that have only recently included hepatitis in their focus and so this was an opportunity to upskill them and encourage them to join the World Hepatitis Alliance.
- At the conclusion of the Summit WHA met with all civil society attendees to discuss the advocacy work and determine the next steps for this.

**Challenges**

- While attending the Nigeria Hepatitis Summit it became apparent that action is being predominately driven at the State level and so that is where we should target our advocacy efforts. This requires a change in strategy as till now we had focussed our efforts at the Federal government. This change in strategy will mean that we need to revaluate all plans but should result in greater long term impact.

**COLOMBIA:** The work in Colombia is being conducted in partnership with the Center for Disease Analysis Foundation and the Pan American Health Organization.

**Highlights**

- It came to light that there had been some confusion around whether the Colombian Ministry of Health had approved the report for publication and so dissemination has been put on hold while WHA contacts the Ministry for further clarification.

**Challenges**

- While attending the Nigeria Hepatitis Summit it became apparent that action is being predominately driven at the State level and so that is where we should target our advocacy efforts. This requires a change in strategy as till now we had focussed our efforts at the Federal government. This change in strategy will mean that we need to revaluate all plans but should result in greater long term impact.

**Future Countries**

Building on the success of the pilot projects in Nigeria and Colombia we are working in partnership with CHAI to identify 1-2 further countries to conduct this project in. We are looking to confirm the countries and start work on this in the first quarter of 2019.
PARTNERSHIPS

This quarter we continued to actively work together with important partners sharing our commitment to advance the hepatitis response.

GLOBAL TASKFORCE FOR HEP

The Taskforce is planning to provide country-level support to government ministries with the latest guidance and examples of best practice. It is currently fundraising to provide catalyst funding for elimination work, and welcomes community involvement in the process.

MASTERCARD

In conjunction with MasterCard, Gilead and Ferozsons Laboratories Limited, the World Hepatitis Alliance is implementing a pilot project in Pakistan which gives low income patients access to hepatitis C treatment through the use of the MasterCard Aid Network. Working with two WHA members on the ground in Pakistan, the Gujranwala Liver Foundation and The Health Foundation, patients continue to be enrolled in the project and the outcomes to date have been positive. This quarter we strengthened these partnerships with face to face meetings with both Dr Asad Chaudry from the Gujranwala Liver Foundation and MasterCard to discuss the pilot project in further detail and explore the potential for future collaborations.

FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE NEW DIAGNOSTICS (FIND)

This quarter we have continued to discuss partnership opportunities with FIND, and specifically have explored synergies between our Find the Missing Millions programme and their new programme to develop and implement country-specific strategies for demand creation and advocacy activities for hepatitis C diagnosis. FIND are implementing this programme in a number of countries in partnership with Treatment Action Group (TAG) and Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) and how we can all best work together and so avoid duplication has been an important part of these discussions. As a next step WHA and FIND are working towards signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the New Year.

CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE FOUNDATION (CLDF) AND THE ANNENBERG CENTER

Working in partnership with the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) and the Annenberg Center, WHA delivered a CME accredited, satellite symposium on Monday 12 November at the Liver Meeting 2018. This educational symposium featured 5 key note speakers, including WHA Executive Board member Su Wang, all of whom presented on elimination efforts, either globally or at the local level. The session also allowed for table discussions on best practice with moderators from across the globe. The session was well attended with over 350 delegates in attendance and as the session objectives reflected many of the principles of NOhep it gave us the opportunity to inform a wider audience about the movement. Overall over 200 NOhep pin badges were handed out at the symposium and we have had 6 new NOhep Medical Visionaries sign up online following the meeting.

UNITE (PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK TO END HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS AND TUBERCULOSIS)

WHA CEO Raquel Peck met with Unite’s President Ricardo Baptista Leite at WHS and WISH meetings, to discuss closer working together, and to establish plans to bring the NOhep movement into the UNITE organisation of policy-makers. More about UNITE can be found here: http://unitenetwork.org/

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM FOR UHC2030

The aim of this body is to build strong civil society organisations’ voices and contribute significantly to discussions around achieving the Sustainable Goal 3 (which mentions hepatitis) and Universal Health Coverage. WHA is now a member and we met with key actors at the World Health Summit to discuss challenges and ways forward (see Events and Meetings section for details).
World Hepatitis Alliance Quarterly Progress Report: July - September 2018

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

The World Health Summit is a very high level annual conference bringing together heads of state and development agencies, researchers, physicians as well as representatives from industry and NGOs to address the most pressing issues in healthcare. This year’s focus centred on SDG3 and the 2030 agenda.

We attended to gain a better understanding of the SDG3 and 2030 agenda, to establish partnerships with key actors, and to raise the profile of viral hepatitis within the broader health focus.

The launch by WHO of the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (http://www.who.int/sdg/global-action-plan) is the first step to accelerate the response to achieve SDG3. WHO sent out clear messages on Civil Society involvement, requesting organisations to self-organize around the Sustainable Development Goals; to ensure messages are in alignment with the goals; and to strengthen mutual accountability.

Meeting with other Civil Society Engagement Mechanism reps on the inclusion of civil society in developing and implementing the action plan, we raised the challenge of how multi-sector engagement can be achieved, suggesting that using unifying themes such as human rights could be more effective than looking at specific diseases. We received encouraging feedback from WHO that Director General Tedros wants to see his message of the importance of civil society cascading down in developing and implementing the action plan, we raised the challenge of how multi-sector engagement can be achieved, suggesting that using unifying themes such as human rights could be more effective than looking at specific diseases. We received encouraging feedback from WHO that Director General Tedros wants to see his message of the importance of civil society cascading down to address the most pressing issues in healthcare. This year’s focus centred on SDG3 and the 2030 agenda.

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Ongoing collaboration with regional partner organisations through involvement in joint projects, and supporting civil society and patients groups with updates on WHO policy and guidance on viral hepatitis and joint activities at regional and national levels:

- Co-organising and participation in the launch of Ukraine’s strategy in November and Turkmenistan’s strategic plan in December.
- Reviewing the Georgian national response at the HCV TAG meeting in November, and ensuring the participation of representatives from Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.
- Co-organising a viral hepatitis burden estimation workshop in Armenia in November, involving international partners.
- Contributing to the ECDC Monitoring Framework for Hepatitis B and C in EU/EEA MS, launched in December.
- Participating in the high level policy meeting at the European Parliament in December: “How can we support viral hepatitis elimination in line with the WHO GHSS and SDGs?”
- Ensuring hepatitis was well represented at the EECA 2nd Regional Consultation on Expanding Access to Affordable and Quality Assured Medicines and Diagnostic Technologies in November.
- Developing an inter-regional exchange with WHO-EMRO: a study tour for an Afghan delegation to Georgia (planned for January 2019)

EURO

AFRO

- Technical review provided for draft National Strategic Plan for hepatitis & other documents / hepatitis meeting presentations for 3 countries (Namibia, Cameroon, Senegal)
- Technical support to the WHO Country office advancing the hepatitis response within the country.
- Conducted in-country rapid assessment of the epi/programmatic response to viral hepatitis in Mozambique (Oct 13 to Nov 12, 2018).
  a) Provides a situation report of hepatitis national response
  b) Also serves as initial step and evidence-base for the development of the NSP.
- In country technical support provided to Sierra-Leone during the International workshop on hepatitis birth dose (October 9 to 13, 2018)) and also promoting the development of an integrated hepatitis national strategic plan
- Revision of the Hepatitis national Strategic plan in Swaziland, in line with the updated 2018 WHO Hepatitis C treatment Guidelines
- Participated in the event of the Rwanda Hepatitis C elimination Plan Launch Defeating Hepatitis C – this enabled promotion of the WHO Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis and the Global Reporting System for Viral Hepatitis (GRSH)
- Organized and conducted hepatitis surveillance workshop in Rwanda (December 11-14, 2018) – this led to the formal uploading of national hepatitis surveillance data on the WHO Global re-posting System for viral hepatitis

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT: BERLIN, GERMANY: OCTOBER 14-16

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WORLD INNOVATION HEALTH SUMMIT (WISH): DOHA, QATAR: NOVEMBER 13 - 14

WISH is an annual high level meeting sponsored by the Qatar Foundation. This year viral hepatitis was one of their chosen themes, and WHA CEO Raquel Peck was invited since WHA have been contributing to a report making the global investment case for hepatitis, which was launched at this event. Led by Dr Margaret Hellard, the report presents the investment case to empower countries to take practical steps to fund and prioritise activities that tackle the hepatitis epidemic (http://www.wish.org.qa/viral-hepatitis/). Danjuma Adda from WHA member CCT represented Civil Society at the launch.

We used opportunities to network and update with leading individuals in the field, including:
- The Global Taskforce for Hepatitis are keen to include community involvement in their plans to support ministries with guidelines and best practice for elimination.
- The Global Fund advised that CSOs need to lobby the countries on the GF Board in order to extend their involvement to include hepatitis.
- We need to be mindful of the limited resources in the WHO GHP team in our plans and implementation.

THE LIVER MEETING: SAN FRANCISCO, USA: NOVEMBER 9 - 13

The Liver Meeting is an annual meeting which brings together thousands of hepatologists and hepatology health professionals from around the world to discuss the latest research and treatment outcomes. It also brings together a wider range of stakeholders, including civil society organisations. We achieved our key objectives for this year’s meeting:

Representing the patient voice:
- WHA President Michael Ninburg presented on “Can patients change bureaucracy?” at the HCV special interest group.
- WHA Board member Su Wang presented at the WHA/CLDF satellite symposium attended by 350 people, presenting on Providers’ and patients’ views on eliminating viral hepatitis for the Eliminating Viral Hepatitis Policy session.
- Both Michael and Su presented at the AASLD community luncheon, the first ever meeting of AASLD to launch incorporation of patient/community groups into AASLD strategy, attended by 30 community groups.

Meeting members, sponsors and NOhep Medical Visionaries:
- We met with members from Nigeria, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan and USA. Members helped to shape our plans to deliver ‘masterclasses’ in 2019, suggesting their priority topics.
- We met with a number of sponsors to discuss our 2019 programme, and keep up-to-date with their VH-focussed programmes.
- 20 NOhep visionaries attended a special networking event we held, and we signed up 6 new visionaries.
- The NOhep visionaries provided valuable input to development of our forthcoming programme, influencing both the focus and style that we will take.
- WHA was rated as one of the top 10 influencers on social media at the event.

LAUNCH OF THE VIRAL HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION PLAN IN RWANDA: KIGALI, RWANDA: DECEMBER 11

WHA Board member for the Afro region, Kenneth Kabagambe, attended this launch event, to support our members and to show solidarity with the milestone achieved by the country. This is an ambitious plan launched by the government of Rwanda with support from its partners like CHAI.

Officially opened by the Hon Minister of Health Dr Diane Gashumba, presentations were made by Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana from the Rwanda Biomedical Center, Prof Lesi from WHO AFRO, and Kenneth representing WHA on the role of advocacy in elimination of HCV and involving the community in programming for elimination.

As Kenneth says: “It’s encouraging to see African countries prioritising hepatitis elimination and to see African governments willing to work with civil society in creating elimination plans. There is much work to be done in Africa to make the elimination of hepatitis a reality but we are seeing steps in the right direction.”
**ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE**

**MEMBERSHIP**

In December 2018 the Board approved seven new organisations for membership. Of the seven, one was a voting member and three were from countries where WHA previously had no member presence (Tanzania, Georgia and Armenia). The remaining members came from Iran, Nigeria and Ghana. This means we now have 266 members spanning across 89 countries (123 voting members and 143 non-voting members).

- Family Health Association (Iran) – they are a full member of IPPF and also benefit from special consultative status in the UN-ECOSOC. For the past two years they have held hepatitis screenings that are mostly aimed at high risk women in the poorest neighbourhood of Tehran. With the help of donors and medical facilities they also assist in getting them access to treatment.
- Hope For Healthy Life Foundation (Nigeria) - aims to help individuals to access hepatitis services in an easy and affordable manner.
- Drive For Health Foundation (Ghana) - are involved in counselling, advocacy, screenings and vaccinations for hepatitis. They currently provide the Hepatitis B birth dose free of charge to all babies born at the Tamale Teaching Hospital.
- People’s Development Forum (Tanzania) - work to promote improved health services among others. They aim to reduce stigmatisation and are in the process of spearheading movements to fight hepatitis on a national level. The process of this includes the formation of a National Level Task Force.
- Malady Chase Foundation (Georgia) - Awareness, advocacy and free screenings for hepatitis B and C features prominently in their constitution. Their viral hepatitis activities also include referrals, treatment plans and sensitisation in the state and local communities.
- Positive People Armenian Network (Armenia) - aim to improve the quality of life of people living with hepatitis, combatting stigma and discrimination and preventing the spread of the disease. They implemented the first Armenian testing week for hepatitis in 2017, where free and anonymous testing took place in several major cities.
- Hepatitis C Cured Patient Association (Georgia) - headed up entirely by patients their mission is to promote successful implementation of a HCV elimination programme in Georgia, raising awareness on viral hepatitis and reduction of stigma and discrimination related to it.

**OFFICE MOVE**

Whilst the staff team at WHA has expanded over the past few years, the office space to accommodate us has not. So in October 2018, the whole team moved – only 2 doors away – into the ground floor at 27 Crosby Row, formerly occupied by WHA member the Hepatitis C Trust, who are now our upstairs neighbours. We have more space and a meeting room in our new offices, and thanks to our super-organised Office Manager, Ben, it was accomplished with minimal disruption to our work.

**GOVERNANCE**

The call for Regional Board nominations went out 5th November, and members were informed of the 3 SEARO, 1 EURO and 1 PAHO nominations on 20th December, in preparation for voting at the beginning of January.

Nominations for President closed in October. Interviews by the Executive Board will be held in March 2019.

Following the AGM on 21st September, members voted to support governance reform to change the composition of the Executive Board, with the objective of increasing specific areas of expertise and strengthening the response to meet the hepatitis elimination targets. As a result of this, the Executive Board may now be expanded to include up to 5 additional skills-based Board members chosen by the President in consultation with the Executive Board and CEO.

**STAFFING**

WHA’s longstanding CEO and passionate supporter, Raquel Peck, stepped down at the end of December 2018, to take on new roles with both WHA and with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Raquel will be acting as Senior Advisor to Board members and senior managers at WHA on a part-time basis from January 2019.

Whilst we are sad that Raquel will no longer be leading the organisation that she has been so instrumental in shaping over the past 10 years, we feel very fortunate that she will be staying with WHA, and we will continue to benefit from her infectious enthusiasm, encyclopaedic knowledge, and her powerful advocacy for hepatitis patients everywhere.