Welcome to the final quarterly update of 2019. This quarter was the culmination of a busy and impactful year for WHA. We addressed the lack of structural funding for hepatitis elimination by co-ordinating an open letter to the Global Fund calling for the integration of hepatitis into the Global Fund’s existing HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria programmes. There is a real need for hepatitis advocates to speak up about the lack of funding available for hepatitis elimination, despite all the tools being available to prevent, diagnose and treat hepatitis B and C. The letter was signed by more than 1,000 people and organisations and is an important raising the issue globally.

This quarter also saw NOhep at The Liver Meeting in Boston, USA. We were there to sign-up more clinicians to our Medical Visionaries programme, a network of more than 500 leading doctors from around the world. During the meeting we held a forum where leading NOhep Medical Visionaries spoke about how they were overcoming the barriers to elimination. This was followed by a lively debate about a public health approach to hepatitis B treatment. We recorded the event so that you can watch it here.

While in Boston, the NOhep movement also made some noise outside of the convention centre to highlight the need for a renewed focus on hepatitis elimination. At the meeting itself, the leading hepatology societies committed to promoting decentralisation and task-shifting for better hepatitis C prevention and treatment. This is great news for patients as, if implemented correctly, it can result in more efficient health systems. Patients and the affected community have a crucial role in the development and implementation of this new approach and the medical community need to actively engage with patients to ensure health systems meet their needs.

We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Cary James, CEO

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

Sign our open letter urging the Global Fund to join the fight for hepatitis elimination

Over 1,000 people and organisations sign the NOhep letter to the Global Fund.

NOhep activists make some noise at The Liver Meeting.

NOhep Visionaries meet at The Liver Meeting to discuss how to dismantle the barriers to elimination.

WHA launches World Hepatitis Day (WHD) report.

WHA welcomes five new members.

WHA hosts webinar with FIND.
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, WHD 2019 potentially reached 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. Click here to download the WHD 2019 global report.
WHA co-ordinated an international open letter to the Global Fund to encourage them to actively explore the integration of viral hepatitis elimination into existing HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programmes. The letter was sent to the board of the Global Fund on the eve of the replenishment meeting where it raised $14 billion. The letter is the start of WHA’s work to highlight the need to address funding gaps in hepatitis and show the value of integrating hepatitis elimination into existing health programmes.

WHA welcomed the launch of a call to action from the global hepatology societies (AASLD, EASL, ALEH and APASL) which called on their members to actively explore opportunities for decentralisation and task-shifting in the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C to accelerate elimination. You can read our response to the announcement in hepVoice here.

A comment piece written by WHA was released in the Lancet, exploring the important role civil society has in combating liver disease in Asia Pacific. The piece called for the active engagement of civil society in the development and implementation of health programmes and highlighted the impact of stigma and discrimination, including examples from WHA members whose work is helping to overcome the barriers to elimination in the region. Read the full piece here.
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 campaign to raise awareness, drive policy change and increase testing at a national and global level. Recognising that barriers to diagnosis must be understood and overcome to reach our objectives, the campaign takes 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.

**IN-COUNTRY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME**

We were pleased to launch our in-country advocacy programme in February. Over 18 months, WHA is supporting five members from across the globe to take action to break the barriers to diagnosis.

Participants develop 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 pool expertise and learn from leading experts working within the field. The programme includes a number of face to face meetings alongside regular chances to feedback and receive support from fellow members and other stakeholders.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- All participants have successfully started their individual projects and received the first of the seed funding.
- In this quarter, participants were asked to feedback on the programme, from the face-to-face meeting in July the present. Overall, they were all pleased with the communication and support from WHA, which boosted their confidence and helped them feel better equipped to carry out their projects.
- The participants had a call with Andy Dyson who worked for more than 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry in therapeutic areas such as hepatitis, HIV, oncology and immunology. On the call they learned how they could approach pharmaceutical companies for funding and what different models of partnership with them could look like.
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 continues to receive encouraging feedback, with a 90% positive rating.
• During this quarter one new case study has been added to the resource and we are currently working on another five which will be added next year.
• Jessica Hicks, Head of Programmes at World Hepatitis Alliance, delivered a Facebook Live video where she highlighted the features of the advocacy resource and how civil society and the affected community can use it to help shape their advocacy activities. The recording gained a lot of interest and was viewed by over 200 people.
• Sonjelle Shilton, Deputy Head HCV Access at the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), also participated in a Facebook Live where she discussed the algorithm for diagnosing hepatitis C and the test currently in the pipeline. The webinar received very positive feedback and is the first in a series we are doing with FIND that looks at the tests for hepatitis B and C and how to best use these on the ground. The second Facebook Live on how to best implement hepatitis C testing will be delivered in the first quarter of next year.

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

• Participants reported on work done to date.
• Out of the 4,000 tests given, United Against Hepatitis (Russia) have used 2,771 at various events in various locations. They hope to use the remaining tests in St. Petersburg.
• Out of 10,000 tests given, Fundación Mexicana para la Salud Hepática have used 5,390 tests and plan to use the remaining tests at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in January.
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.

The work in Nigeria, Punjab State and Cambodia is being conducted in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- CHAI continues to work with Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Health to re-examine the modelling data and update the costing inputs from the investment case work done there in 2017. The project report will be updated to reflect these new figures once they are available.
- The final report for the project in India Punjab State has been completed and received sign-off from the Ministry of Health. The report will be shared widely in 2020.
- The project report has been drafted for the work undertaken in Cambodia but following this the Ministry of Health requested that the investment case be developed using the updated figures from the costing exercise. While this will delay the publication of the report it will strengthen the findings and ensure that it is a useful resource for both the Ministry of Health and advocates.
- Since the report for the project in India Punjab State was only finalised in December the face-to-face meeting with WHA members has been put on hold until 2020. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the report and highlight ways in which it can be used as an advocacy tool in their own states.
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**

- During The Liver Meeting 2019 in Boston we organised a NOhep Medical Visionaries breakfast meeting. This built on the meeting we held at EASL earlier this year and it brought together NOhep Medical Visionaries to discuss different approaches that are being taken to dismantle the barriers to elimination. We had five NOhep Visionaries each give a presentation on the innovative ways in which they are tackling the barriers to elimination. With over 40 people in the room, the meeting was well attended and showed the importance of meetings such as these, especially at The Liver Meeting where hepatitis was, in large part, left off the agenda. Further details of the meeting including videos of the presentations can be found [here](#).
- NOhep supporters made some noise whilst at The Liver Meeting, holding a flash mob highlighting the need for a renewed focus on hepatitis elimination. The flash mob was filmed for social media and can be seen [here](#).
- NOhep asked supporters to sign an open letter to the Global Fund calling for the integration of viral hepatitis programmes into existing HIV, TB and Malaria programmes. The letter was signed by over 1,000 individuals and organisations from across the world and highlighted how hepatitis service integration could make health systems more efficient and could save lives.

**CATCH UP ON THE NOHEP VISIONARIES MEETING HERE**

**WATCH THE NOHEP FLASHMOB HERE**
WHO SECONDMENTS

AFRO, DR OLOFUNMILAYO LESI

Hepatitis country support for Nigeria and South Africa
- Country preparation and visit to Nigeria for hepatitis surveillance: review of existing national systems, extraction and validation of 2017/2018 data to generate baseline working estimates of the 10 hepatitis core indicators and WHO Global Reporting System of Hepatitis (GRSH) online portal. Training and capacity building of over 80 sub-regional focal points (and civil society) on hepatitis surveillance (Oct 25-Nov 1)
- Baseline assessment of the national viral hepatitis response in South Africa and evaluation of all regions (as part of joint HIV/TB missions of WHO and Partners Nov 17-22, 2019)

Follow-up country support for Cameroon, South Sudan
- Recruited and supervised consultants to provide on-site support for completion of the revised national strategic plan and treatment guidelines in both countries. Both are being primed for official launching before WHD 2020. Also monitoring of the Egypt testing and screening program for hepatitis C in South Sudan.

Advocacy and communications
- Hepatitis presentation (with other partners) at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Seattle, November 11, 2019) to enhance advocacy and communication.
- ICASA- International Conference for AIDS and STI in Africa-Organized and provided technical support for the high-level meeting on viral hepatitis to strengthen advocacy and promote strategic collaboration with HIV programs in the region. (Dec 1-6, 2019)

EURO, ANTONS MOZALEVSKIS

Providing technical assistance to progress implementation of regional action plans on viral hepatitis in Turkmenistan, Montenegro, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. This involved supporting the development of national guidelines, patient registry implementation and input to technical advisory groups and stakeholder roundtables.

Co-ordination and presentation at key meetings to drive political commitment and raises public awareness of viral hepatitis:
- Regional workshop on hepatitis elimination and the role of primary healthcare in countries of Central Asia and South Caucasus (Almaty, Kazakhstan)
- International Meeting on HCV Elimination among People Living with HIV (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- Translation and publication of WHO guidelines in Russian
- Promoting regional partnership and collaboration in viral hepatitis response with ECDC and EMCDDA on their publication on HCV and HBV amongst prisoners and their civil society networks, and workplan development with two new WHO Collaborating Centres on viral hepatitis (Georgia NCDC and Robert Koch Institute, Germany).
PARTNERSHIPS

IAPAC

After signing an MOU with IAPAC in September, this quarter we have begun to develop strategies to ensure that hepatitis is incorporated into the plans of cities that are signed up to the Fast Track Cities Initiative. As part of this we will be looking at setting city level monitoring, surveillance and performance targets for hepatitis B and C. WHA is also going to join the Fast Track Cities conference planning committee for their meeting in Lisbon in September 2020.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

GLOBAL FUND REPLENISHMENT MEETING, LYON, FRANCE

At ICE-HBV’s side meeting to the Global Fund replenishment meeting entitled ‘Universal health Coverage and HIV: The Potential Impact of Collaborative Innovations with Viral Hepatitis Elimination’, we presented to an audience new to hepatitis, and followed this up by developing a two-pager synthesising the key arguments for integration with fellow presenters.

WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT, BERLIN, GERMANY

WHA attend and spoke at the UNITE organised session ‘Securing Political Leadership for Global Health to Accelerate the Elimination of Communicable Diseases’

THE LIVER MEETING, BOSTON USA

WHA brought the patient voice to this major conference, with presentations from both WHA President Michael Ninburg and President Elect Su Wang, and Michael’s participation in a press conference alongside CHAI, John Ward and the Liver Societies

We held a NOhep Medical Visionaries breakfast meeting attended by 40 people to discuss different approaches being taken to dismantle barriers to diagnosis, and signed up 78 new Visionaries during the conference. We had a NOhep flash mob of around 30 people holding placards, raising awareness of viral hepatitis in a public space, making it visible to attendees of the conference and the general public.

We attended a committee meeting for the World Indigenous People’s Conference on Viral Hepatitis, to drive forward preparations for the 2020 conference.
World Hepatitis Alliance
Quarterly Progress Report: October – December 2019

ELPA STAKEHOLDER MEETING, BARCELONA, SPAIN

WHA attended an ELPA stakeholder meeting, where we shared details of our current and planned advocacy activities and programmes. We make contact with a number of members, and discussed our ongoing partnership with ELPA.

ACHIEVE COALITION MEETING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

In December, WHA attended an ACHIEVE Coalition meeting, to identify the specific elements of an EU Action Plan on Communicable Diseases relating to the role of the European Commission, EU Member States and the European parliament can play in the elimination of viral hepatitis.

RECONVENED SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

WHA attended the ‘Reconvened Sixty-second Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs’ at the United Nations centre in Vienna.

THE WHA TEAM AT AASLD, BOSTON, USA
We welcomed five new members this quarter (one voting, four non-voting). We also sadly confirmed the loss of two member organisations which have closed down: Hepatitis C New Zealand and Carrefour Hépatites Aide et Contact (CHAC) from Belgium. This brings our overall figures to 295 members across 94 countries.

**Altruism In Action (AIA), India**

AIA focuses on viral hepatitis elimination in the remote Himalayan region. Their activities are wide and varied and include awareness sessions, testing, education programmes and distribution of medication. There is an incredible amount of documentation and pictures to support their work. [https://altruisminaction.org/about-us/](https://altruisminaction.org/about-us/)

**Association De Lutte Contre Le Sida (ALCS), Morocco**

ALCS have a really extensive background document on their activities since the late 80’s. Their focus is HIV but their work in the field of hepatitis is undeniable. They are a founding member of Coalition PLUS, they are a main partner of the Ministry of Health in Morocco, they helped develop its first NSP for Viral Hepatitis and they carry out a lot of advocacy work for UHC and HCV drugs affordability.

**Cupertino Hep B Free, USA**

This organisation was set up by two high school students and it has now grown to over 40 volunteers in the space of a year. Their goal is to make every resident of Cupertino, California, which has a majority Asian population, aware and tested for HepB. They have organised local outreach activities at schools, city events and fairs and they work with local businesses, Cupertino Public Health Commission and the City Council. [https://www.cupertinohepbfree.org/](https://www.cupertinohepbfree.org/)

**Friends of Humanity (FoH), South Sudan**

FoH specialise in the provision of quality education and healthcare services in deprived areas of South Sudan. They specifically work to improve hygiene and sanitation to prevent the spread of HBV and list minimising the risks of hepatitis as a priority in their mission and vision. Their hepatitis activities are centred on advocating for the introduction of the hepatitis B birth dose vaccine, running awareness campaigns through media platforms, vaccinating health care workers, advocating for viral hepatitis screenings and celebrating WHD.

**Mid Western Regional Hepatitis C Network, Ireland**

This network is a subsidiary of a larger organisation called GOSHH. Reports from WHD activities include championing the Big C across Ireland. Worked with Community Response from Dublin who are already members of ours. There are pictures of their staff and volunteers out on the road with the Big C and also attending hepatitis community summits. They have included in depth reports from meetings where they have discussed hepatitis in collaboration with other organisations and have also included a case study – Developing a participative strategic approach to hepatitis C within the Mid-Western Region. [https://goshh.ie/hepatitis/](https://goshh.ie/hepatitis/)
WHERE WE ARE WORKING

Key

- HCV Testing Initiative
- FMM in-country programme
- Financing for hepatitis