



International Federation of  
Health Information Management Associations

# Strategic Plan and Accomplishments

**2013-2016**

*and*

Preview of 2016-2019  
Strategic Plan

IFHIMA is committed to the advancement of health information management practices and the development of its members for the purpose of improving health data and health outcomes.

## Introduction

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The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Formerly known as the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO), IFHIMA was established in 1968\* as a federation of national member organizations from around the world. The Federation acts as the “global voice” of the health information management profession to support delivery of healthcare services and activities and to share best practices.

Health information management (HIM) includes practices such as data management, clinical coding, patient records management, data security, data analyses, privacy, statistics and tracking and reporting of health status from local, regional and global health communities.

IFHIMA is committed to the advancement of health information management practices and the development of its members for the purpose of improving health data and health outcomes.

This IFHIMA Strategic Plan is published to give an overview of objectives and key accomplishments during the current triennial from 2013-2016, and a preview of the next triennial.

## Vision

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IFHIMA's vision is a world where national HIM associations collaborate on a global level in the development of the HIM workforce and promote the use of enhanced clinical documentation and health information management practices, thereby contributing to better health for human beings worldwide.

## Mission

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IFHIMA's mission is to strengthen the health information management profession globally. This includes sharing the latest news in the field of HIM as well as sharing best practices. Moreover, IFHIMA's mission is to support its member nations and their members in advancing the need for well educated, trained HIM professionals who will ensure high quality documentation along the continuum of care as well as sharing best practices in the field of clinical coding, analytics, research and planning in the field of healthcare. The mission includes assisting developing countries in the establishment of HIM associations, their workforce, as well as nations that have mature, evolving health systems and delivery organizations.

## Goals

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### IFHIMA's goals are to:

- Promote the quality and use of patient records and health information globally.
- Provide best practices in health information management.
- Develop and implement international standards in health information management.
- Advise and assist developing countries with building and enhancing formalized training and education programs.
- Raise the profile of health information management professionals globally.

## Strategic Domains

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IFHIMA vision, mission and goals are driven by three domains:



### Advocacy

Advocacy is a strategic driver of IFHIMA. IFHIMA cooperates with related international associations and federations as well as stakeholders including members and non-members, with the intention of promoting IFHIMA as an organization influencing HIM practices globally.

Through advocacy, IFHIMA continually strengthens and increases its international linkages and partnerships.

IFHIMA is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO).

### **Global Partner**

An IFHIMA representative attends the WHO Family of International Classification (FIC) meetings twice a year with voice and vote on the Education and Implementation Committee (EIC). The committee works on revisions to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), promotion of international training strategies for coders, implementation of and revisions to the International Classification of Functioning and Disability in Health (ICF) and more.

IFHIMA accepted the request of the WHO-FIC EIC in 2015 to manage any international examinations for Morbidity and/or Mortality Coders. IFHIMA serves as the contact for countries wishing to conduct the examination in their countries and provides certificates of completion to successful candidates.

Moreover, IFHIMA also assists with the WHO Family of International Classifications by providing reliable information about the current state of ICD training programs in the IFHIMA member countries, with the aim of raising the quality of the collected data to improve health status and health care worldwide. As an example, in 2014, IFHIMA conducted an international member survey on existing HIM education; the results were reported in a presentation at the WHO Family of International Classifications network Annual Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain in October 2014.

### **IMIA**

IFHIMA also has had a formal close relationship with the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) since 2000 when a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations was signed. For example, representatives of IFHIMA attended IMIA General Assemblies (2013 in Copenhagen, 2014 in Beijing, 2015 in Sao Paolo and 2016 in Munich) and IMIA representatives attended the IFHIMA 2013 Congress in Montreal and are invited to attend IFHIMA 2016 General Assembly in Tokyo.

### **HIM Leadership and Global Profile**

IFHIMA is a virtual organization; therefore the most important communication channels are the IFHIMA website and IFHIMA Global News. In 2014 IFHIMA launched its newly re-designed website and newsletter Global News, containing the latest news and advancements of health information management worldwide.

There has been on-going strong engagement with countries where HIM associations exist but are not currently national members of IFHIMA. As a result, national membership has increased over the last three years to include Barbados (2014), India (2015), Ghana (2015), Tanzania (2015) and Saudi Arabia (2015).

## **Knowledge**

Establishing and enhancing the knowledge and skills of the IFHIMA membership is vital to achieving the goals of advancing clinical documentation and global health. IFHIMA provides a platform to share best practices from HIM Professionals around the globe.

The IFHIMA Global News (eNewsletter) is published three times a year and reaches over 500 readers in 30 countries.

IFHIMA established the Development of International Workforce for Health Information Management (DIWHIM) task force to assist developing countries in implementing core record management systems.

### **Global Curricula**

In 2013, The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) in collaboration with IFHIMA established the Global Health Workforce Council (GHWC). This council consisted of 13 appointed members from 11 different nations with a cross section of expertise from around the globe. This international working group developed a global academic curricula standard to guide educational programming and workforce training in health information management, health informatics (HI), and health information technology. The curricula was completed in July 2015 and is available on the IFHIMA and AHIMA websites. <https://ifhima.org/global-health-information-curricula-competencies/> or <http://www.ahima.org/about/global>

### **Book Donation Project**

IFHIMA and AHIMA joined forces in 2013 to provide textbooks to a number of countries and programs around the world with the aim of advancing the HIM profession through education and collaboration. Through a generous donation of textbooks from AHIMA and with transportation costs jointly funded by AHIMA and IFHIMA, this IFHIMA managed book donation project delivered 36 sets of 5 different titles to 19 different countries during the latter part of 2014.

Additionally, during the IFHIMA Congress Tokyo 2016 donated textbooks from well-established HIM programs of various countries will be offered to developing countries.

### **DIWHIM Task Force**

IFHIMA established the Development of International Workforce for Health Information Management (DIWHIM) task force to assist developing countries in implementing core record management systems, as well as formulating basic health information management educational standards, in accordance with specific country needs and requirements.

### **Educational Modules**

IFHIMA provides educational modules on its website as a resource for individuals or organizations wishing to establish basic learning programs and to foster education and communication among persons working in the field of health records/information management around the world. Adherence to the guidelines and other information contained in the modules is completely voluntary.

### **HIM Workforce**

In an increasingly digital world, healthcare has become more multidisciplinary and health systems much more complex. Health information management professionals face new challenges. In response in 2016, IFHIMA established an Information Governance Work Group to address this emerging area.

### **Ulli Hoffmann Scholarship**

The Ulli Hoffmann Memorial Scholarship was established in 2015 with resources bequeathed by a dedicated IFHIMA member. Ulli was the IFHIMA President from 1992 to 1996, and championed commitment to the HIM profession, particularly in developing countries. These funds will support recipient(s) from developing countries with a portion of their participation costs for the international congresses in the spirit of Ulli's leadership and support to the HIM global community.

During this triennial the number of individual memberships has risen by nearly 50 percent and five health information management associations joined IFHIMA.

## Membership

IFHIMA membership spans every continent, currently having 23 national member organizations, plus individual and corporate members from all regions of the world.

### National Members

Member nations are grouped into the six World Health Organization (WHO) regions according to their geographical location: African Region, Region of The Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, European Region, South-East Asia Region, and the Western Pacific Region.

### Regional Focus

Five national health information management associations joined IFHIMA over the last three years: Barbados (2014), India (2015), Ghana (2015), Tanzania (2015) and Saudi Arabia (2015).

### Associate Membership

Besides national memberships, IFHIMA is open to individuals from any country who wish to be part of IFHIMA as associate members. The number of individual memberships has risen by nearly 50 percent during this triennial.

### Corporate Membership

IFHIMA corporate membership enables companies working in the field of health information management or related fields to join IFHIMA. The newest corporate member is the National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH), based in Sydney Australia, which joined in 2016.

### Honorary Membership

In recognition of their commitment and achievements IFHIMA honors outstanding members. In 2016, Joon Hong from Korea was granted this highest IFHIMA honor.

## IFHIMA Organization

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The Federation acts as the “global voice” of the health information management profession.

### Administration & Finance

IFHIMA is a virtual, all-volunteer organization with financial services and support for membership processing provided by AHIMA under the terms of a formal Service Level Agreement.

IFHIMA's funding is largely dues-based and there is a need to increase membership in each category. Additional funding would allow IFHIMA to increase the range of benefits to members and increase the range of activities in which IFHIMA is involved.

In an increasingly digital world, healthcare has become more multidisciplinary and health systems much more complex.

## **Governance**

IFHIMA is governed by a constitution and the Executive Board is the governing body of the Federation. The Board consists of eight members who are the officers of the Federation i.e., a president, a president elect, six directors, as well as the ex-officio immediate past president and membership chair: one director to have oversight of each of the six regions. The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Federation with the Executive Board conducting business during the time between IFHIMA's triennial congresses.

## **Communications and Networking for Members**

With comprehensive resources available on the IFHIMA website, health information management leadership and policy makers have instant access to an increasingly broad range of relevant information and best practices. As further evidence of its strengthened activities, IFHIMA has rebuilt its website with new and updated global content and a modern design. The IFHIMA Global News (eNewsletter) is published three times a year and reaches over 500 readers in 30 countries. IFHIMA recently launched a closed group on Facebook to facilitate social interaction and information sharing.

## **IFHIMA Congress and Events**

The international IFHIMA Congress is the flagship event in Health Information Management. Since 1968, IFHIMA has delivered 17 international congresses. These congresses have attracted many leaders in health information management from all continents, and continue to provide a unique international platform for engagement, discussion and networking.

From October 12-14, 2016, the 18th international IFHIMA conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan. <http://www.ifhima2016.com/>

## **Strategic Planning Going Forward**

This Strategic Plan is key to advancing our vision and creating IFHIMA's pathway to its 50th anniversary in 2018. The 2016-2019 Board will continue to revise the Strategy and priorities to reflect healthcare industry and workforce changes.

## **Strategic Plan Workgroup**

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Approved by IFHIMA 2013-2016 Board

*\* IFHIMA was originally established on 27 May 1968 as the International Federation of Medical Records Organizations (IFMRO). The organization was renamed the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO) on 15 September 1976 after the change of name was ratified by the Grand Council. At the General Assembly in Milan, Italy, 15 November 2010, the organization was renamed the name it holds today - the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA).*