



IFHIMA
International Federation of
Health Information Management
Associations



REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

November 2019

Name of the Region: Africa

Name of the Regional Director: Babala Garba Nafada

IFHIMA member countries in this region: 5
Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana

Number of Associate Members in this region: 14

Number of Corporate Members in this region: 0

Number of Educational Institution Members in this region: 0

---oo0oo---

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION 2016-2019:

1. Summary of Activities e.g. National/Regional Conferences

In October 2019, a joint HIMAN and AHRPN in Nigeria held its annual conference in Portharcourt, between October 7th – 11th. The presentations bordered on research, education, policy and standardization of HIM practices. Turnout was good and communiques emphasize synergy of the two associations.

From 2016-2019, the African Region witnessed an improvement on the aspects of awareness of IFHIMA as the umbrella body for HIM profession across the globe through our deliberate sensitization effort and since then 5 African Countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana) maintained its membership. The Government of these countries have to some extent recognize the importance of HIM professionals in the health sector.

2. Achievements

The relationship between National Country Directors and their Deputies is waxing stronger owing to the fact that a common forum is created through the assistance of the membership chair in person of Lorraine Nicholson who is very much familiar with African Region. Efforts have been made by IFHIMA member countries of Africa towards educational and carrier improvement in conventional and/or private Universities where B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. HIM programs were established i.e. in Nigeria, Botswana, Kenya and Ghana. Other programs include the establishment of HIM Institutes for specialty in clinical coding i.e. in South Africa,

---oo0oo---

Uganda, and Zanzibar, lead by WHO. In Nigeria, conventional universities (Public) such as Kwara State University, Ilorin, have started graduating students in B.Sc. degree level, with University of Maiduguri almost about to start.

3. Input to IFHIMA's Strategic Initiatives (Advocacy, Knowledge Domain & Membership)

From 2016-2019, we advocated a tour of IFHIMA Regional Directors to the five sub-regions of Africa (Babale Model-2017) but it was put on halt because of its capital intensiveness.

IFHIMA.AFRICA website has been developed for member African countries - which is in line with the objectives of IFHIMA, the umbrella body. The Regional Director for Africa and his Deputy will continue to collaborate with National Directors across the 5 sub-regions of Africa.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019 - 2022

1. Key Priorities

- Advocacy tour to the 5 sub-regions of Africa by IFHIMA Board of Directors to encourage establishment of National HIM associations and gain more members at National, Associate and/or Corporate levels.
- IFHIMA should take advantage of its relationship with WHO to establish and to create more areas of specialties in HIM practices such as clinical coding, database management and computer programming and HIM Innovation
- Establish an official zonal directors' social media and regional directors WhatsApp for each region with Regional Director for each IFHIMA region as its administrator. This will facilitate our IFHIMA global voice and information governance exchange.

2. Challenges

Funding of IFHIMA activities such as advocacy and enrollment of more member countries. Presently, IFHIMA secured only 10% of member countries as registered National Country members in Africa. In fact, this is a big and critical challenge to both IFHIMA and Africa.