

*Building library partnerships for better health across the globe*



# Partnerships in Health Information (Phi)

*Presentation at THET*

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# Overview

- The need for health information
- Partnerships in Health Information
- Case studies
- Conclusion

# The need: people are dying for lack of knowledge

***“Reliable health information is the foundation of good health, which is essential to reduce poverty “***

Jean Shaw, Research Officer, Phi

## **Millennium Development Goals:**

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Health related Goals:

Goal 4. Reduce child deaths worldwide by two-thirds

Goal 5. Reduce maternal deaths worldwide by three-quarters

Goal 6. Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases, and provide universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS.

# Need for reliable and accessible information

- **7 out of 10 children with malaria** treated at home are mismanaged, contributing to 2,000 deaths per day in Africa alone.
- **3 out of 4 hospital doctors** responsible for sick children in district hospitals in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda had poor basic knowledge of common killers such as childhood pneumonia, severe malnutrition, and sepsis.
- **68-99% of women giving birth** in health centres and hospitals in Africa and South Asia were incorrectly managed during the third stage of labour

# The know/do gap

*“Knowledge is the enemy of disease...  
Applying what we know already will have a  
bigger impact on health and disease than any  
drug or technology likely to be introduced in the  
next decade.”*

Pang T et al, Lancet 2006 367:284-6

# About Phi

- Founded 1992
- Trustees; health professionals including librarians, academics & other NGO colleagues
- Programmes Officer 2006; full time grant funded post
- Enabled expansion of activities & alignment with government level emphasis on partnerships
- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) are redefining the role of librarians and library service development

# Phi's objectives

- Capacity building for health information professionals & librarians
- Facilitating health information partnerships & development projects
- Networking & collaborating with others to underpin good quality healthcare with reliable health information

# Track record to date

- Essential need for Phi's activities were promoted in the Crisp Report
- Developed broad portfolio of projects and partnership activities (funded by BMA, INASP, DeLPHE, IFLA & others)
- Substantial experience in working with partners to support library service development in societies where local hierarchy's and high rates of illiteracy are the norm
- Strong working relations with other organisations and groups working in the field of health information

# Where and who we are working with

## Country focus:

- Ethiopia
- Uganda
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Zambia
- Nigeria

## Strategic collaborations:

- THET (MoU)
- INASP
- HIFA2015
- AHILA
- ITOCA
- IFLA
- CILIP esp.HLG & ILIG

# Case Study - Uganda

## **Phi activity:**

- Facilitated Health Library Partnership since 1994
- Working with health library network in Uganda

## **2010 engaging with Gulu Health Link**

- Health Link partners identified need to develop library services at Gulu University
- **July** -UK Link coordinator approached Phi at Wales for Africa meeting
- **July** -Phi supported meeting at University Hospital of South Manchester; discussed library development
- **November** - Librarian in party visiting Gulu University to carry out needs assessment of library services

# Strengthening the health library network in Uganda



Representatives from Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union, African Prisons Project, Mulago General Hospital and Uganda Chapter of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, discussing health information issues in Uganda with Maria Cotera.

# Case Study - Ethiopia

## Phi activity

- Support the development and strengthen activities of health library network in Ethiopia
  - Established strong links with Librarians in Ethiopia
  - Training of Trainers workshop on Health Information Literacy at Jimma University
  - Facilitated continuing professional development programmes for Ethiopian librarians to the UK
- Engaging with Leicester/Gondar Health Link
  - Senior Librarian attend Health Links meeting in Addis 2009
  - Development of a Library Skills module within a new MSc in Advanced Clinical & Laboratory Subjects at Gondar University in, led by the THET supported Leicester /Gondar link.

# Development of a Library Skills module

- Phi facilitated involvement of 2 visiting Ethiopian librarians to the UK in early discussions on module development at Leicester University
- Phi supported the involvement of 2 additional trainers (1 from UK and 1 from Ethiopia) to support Leicester Module lead in curriculum development and training
- Module launched September for 45 students

*'The first module of the new MSc programme in Gondar... was a great success. I have had nothing but praise from all quarters.'* Professor Mike Silverman, October 2010

# Launch of Library Skills Module



# Conclusion

- Phi's early work (pre-2006) successful but agenda narrow
- Phi aims to be part of broader agendas; moved away from parallel working
- Partnership working is more effective and delivers better outcomes
- It's a 'win win' for all partners, especially our developing country partners
- Case study examples; good models which could be spread to other Health Links using Phi's expertise