



Pan African Health Informatics in Africa (HELINA)

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What is HELINA?

The Pan African Health Informatics Association and the African regional body of the International Medical Informatics Association ([IMIA](#))

HELINA exists to;

1. Promote education and research in health informatics in Africa
2. Support responsible and ethical implementation of modern and evidence based health informatics interventions to enhance access to quality and affordable healthcare in Africa
3. “**Professionalise**” health informatics (and digital health) in Africa



Vision and Mission

Vision:

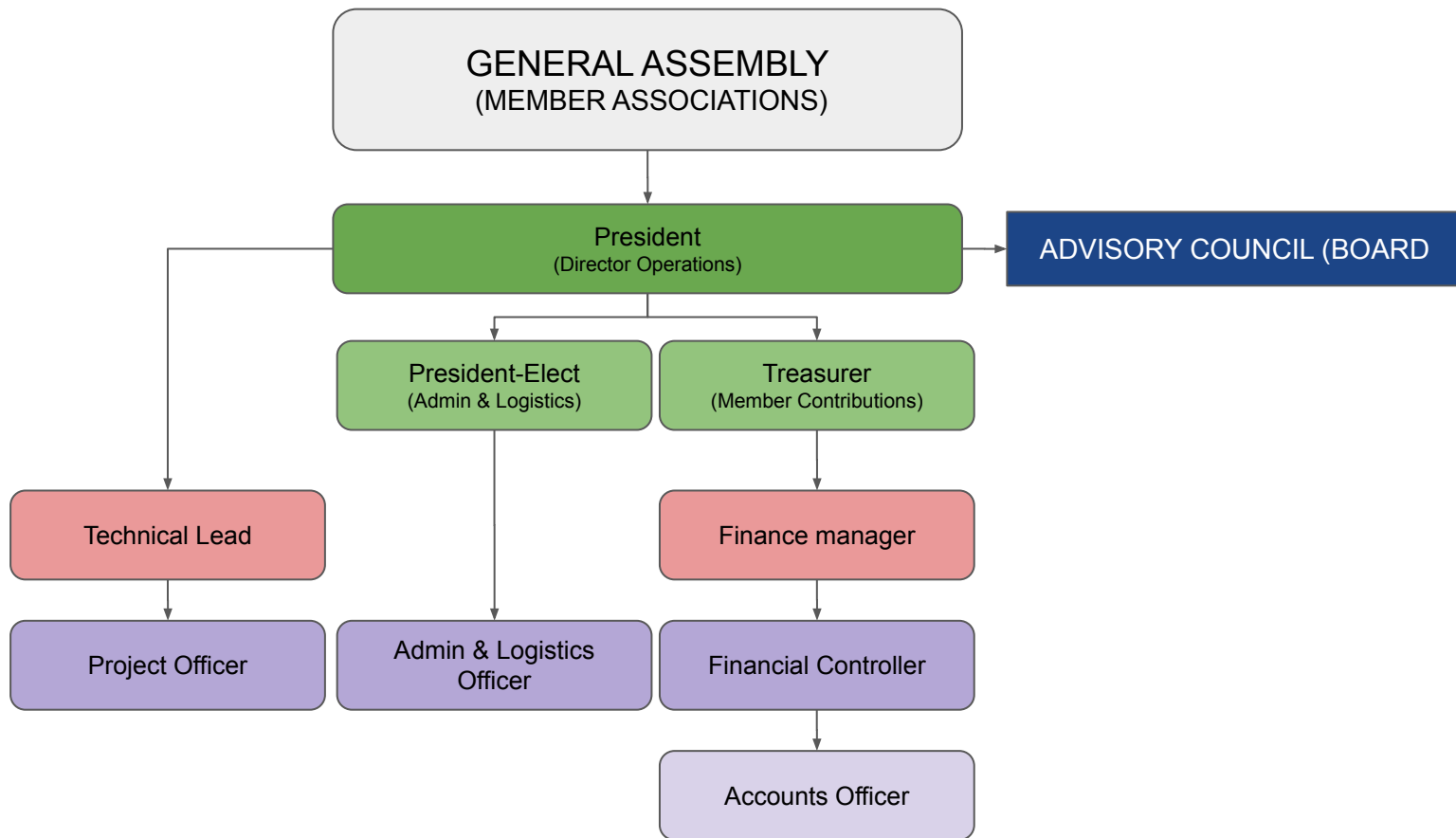
Transforming healthcare in Africa through health informatics research & science, development, implementation and education

Mission

To guide and support national member associations so that they can become the collective voice of health informatics in Africa, providing a meaningful forum for health informatics research, development, implementation, education, standards development and technology adoption for the region.



ORGANOGRAM - HELINA





Full Members

1. Botswana Health Information Management Association
2. Burundi Health Informatics Association
3. Cameroonian Health Informatics Association
4. Ghana Health Informatics Association
5. Ivorian Society of of Biosciences and Health Informatics
6. Kenya Health Informatics Association
7. Rwanda Health Informatics Association
8. Medical Informatics Association of Malawi
9. South African Health Informatics Association
10. Tanzania Health Informatics Association
11. The Mali Society of Biomedical and Health Information
12. Uganda Health Informatics Association

Corresponding Members



ALGERIA, BENIN, DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, GUINEA,

MADAGASCAR, SENEGAL,

TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, AND

ZIMBABWE.



Strategic Objectives

Professionalise
Health Informatics

Generation of context
relevant HI evidence

Effective Implementation of
Health Informatics
Interventions



Priority Areas

1. Relationship with global organisations and formation of partnerships to address key challenges.
2. Development, localization and adoption of health informatics standards relevant to member countries.
3. Health informatics education and capacity building.
4. Research, collaboration and knowledge dissemination and sharing.
5. HELINA membership, leadership structure, governance and funding.
6. Promotion and marketing of HELINA and national member societies.



Key Activities

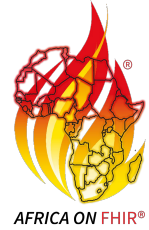
- Journal of Health Informatics in Africa ([JHIA](#))
- Bi-annual scientific health informatics conference
- Partnership with GIZ;
 - Organizational strengthening
 - [OpenIMIS](#) COP
 - Transform Health
 - Several grants development activities under way
- Close relationship with global COPs such as [OpenMRS](#), [OpenHIE](#).
- Formal partnership with HL7 as the Africa Regional Affiliate with current aim to promote adoption and use of FHIR across Africa
- HELINA WGs: Education Working Group (EWG), Standards and Interoperability, Policy and Governance; Data mining and Big data analytics; Nursing Special Interest Group



In Summary...

HELINA is keenly focused on significantly contributing to the following areas of Africa's healthcare;

1. Strengthening and increasing critical professional health informatics workforce
2. Supporting and participating in efforts and activities aimed at generating Africa relevant knowledge and evidence for health informatics to inform practice
3. Supporting responsible and effective adoption and meaningful use of health informatics interventions and solutions in Africa



HELINA and [AfricaCDC](#) partnering to scale up adoption, use and sustainable support of FHIR in Africa



Key Activities

1. Establishment of an appropriate governance structure including a Coordinating and Executive Steering Committees to provide the required coordination and leadership. A Task Force will be set up to support refinement and implementation of the “Africa on FHIR” initiative.
2. Rapid assessment of FHIR adoption, implementation, use and compliance/conformance across AfricaCDC Member States.
3. In person/virtual executive and technical training in FHIR.
4. Member States driven use case based hackathons, bootcamps and connectathons. (*Immunization (L2/L3 in [SMART](#) guidelines) seems to be a relevant and popular use case across Member States and its timely due to current COVID pandemic*)
5. Working closely with organisations such as WHO that want to release normative content in FHIR
6. Coordinating establishment of strategies and infrastructural investment and implementation to support FHIR implementation.
7. Facilitating development of requisite workforce capacity and competency in FHIR



HL7 thro' HELINA can...

1. Support and enable Africa to develop sustainable human capacity (consumers & contributors) particularly critical developer mass
2. Support and enable Africa to establish sustainable FHIR infrastructure - includes reuse of HL7 tools such as those used for Resource development processes, etc
3. **Actively support the Africa on FHIR initiative to scale FHIR (and other applicable HL7 standards), Tools, Implementation Guides, Educational Materials, reduce cost of training & certification, governance, direct funding, etc**

HELINA looks forward to strengthening its partnership with HL7. Please share your comments, questions and suggestions with us;

Steven Wanyee, President-Elect: president-elect@africa.