



## SNAPSHOT: HJN Members at a Glance

Since Internews launched the Health Journalism Network (HJN) in late 2020, the HJN has grown to over 1,000 Members from nearly 85 countries.

HJN Members are a diverse and engaged community of media professionals that includes health journalists, health communicators, media entrepreneurs, investigative reporters, digital health experts, film makers, as well as executives of civil society organizations. What brings them together is a commitment to share accurate information about the COVID-19 global pandemic, while advancing health and human rights. This global and expanding community drives the vision of the HJN by regularly engaging with the HJN leadership and offering feedback on HJN events, resources and opportunities. Apart from regularly featuring our Members on the HJN website, we often receive unsolicited stories on how they are countering misinformation, facilitating vaccine roll outs, and addressing other health topics that impact their communities. HJN also actively encourages and fosters connections between Members who have shared interests, goals, and media projects.

HJN strives to reflect its diverse membership and works to address Members' challenges and needs amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic, while regularly highlighting and supporting their successes. HJN Members have proven themselves to be eager and open to interact with HJN leadership, and with each other. While reporting on COVID-19 and other health priorities, they are also building their own hyperlocal health networks that, in turn, enrich the global network and equip them to cover future health crisis. A fundamental long-term goal of the HJN is to gradually decentralize the network's structure. The global coordination of HJN will eventually rely on regional points of contact as a means of better sharing resources and connecting with regional health experts to address the health information needs of communities.

### Prioritizing Inclusion and Diversity

Many HJN Members come from countries that face great social, economic and civil challenges, including violent conflict. On top of inadequate or poor healthcare systems, Members are working from areas where access to health information is equally poor and the gap between those with and without information, as well as those with and without a voice, continues to grow. To overcome this gap, our membership's scope of impact includes a wide array of marginalized and vulnerable populations including: LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/Aids and other non-communicable diseases, lifestyle diseases, mental illness, survivors of gender-based violence, refugees or displaced persons, and incarcerated individuals. HJN Members work to elevate these voices and further include them in the global health news landscape.

As a trained engineer and journalist, I can leverage technology to share accurate information with journalists and the public. I also believe that translating information into Tamil, my native language, has the potential to help people better understand the science and make informed decisions about their health and wellness.

— Muralik Chinnadurai, India,  
HJN Ambassador



***“The course provides very good information in a very palatable way. I had a notion of some aspects involving vaccines, but this course has brought me a very broad yet deepened understanding of all the processes.”***

– Vinicius de Santana Lopes, Brazil, Cocozap @DataLabe on the Let's Talk Vaccines online course offered through HJN

## HJN Ambassadors

For the HJN to remain sustainable and effective, we launched the HJN Ambassadors' Pilot Program in July of 2021. This program allows us to work with a select cohort of Members who will guide us over the coming months in identifying the needs of health media professionals in their countries and regions of the world. With their input, the HJN will seek ways to support media professionals that continue to report on COVID-19, while addressing the root causes of health inequities and expanding the notion of health beyond a disease-centric model. The global network recognizes its limitations in truly grasping the state of health journalism at the hyper-local level. For this reason, the vision of HJN is in favour of a decentralized approach that is informed and driven by Members themselves. The HJN Ambassadors' pilot aims to embody this vision.

## What Members are saying

HJN Members have responded positively to the network's offerings, including webinars with our Pandemic Media Mentors and other health experts, podcasts, media guides and grant opportunities. Those who are active on social media often share HJN resources, live stream HJN events and amplify health conversations. In May of 2021, in response to the ongoing pandemic and continued need for accurate and balanced health news, Internews launched two free online e-learning courses: **Let's Talk Vaccines** and **Let's Talk COVID-19**. These courses have helped Members improve the quality of their reporting and have led to further opportunities like the Vaccine Stories Production Grants, an exclusive offer to HJN Members who successfully completed the Let's Talk Vaccines course to put into practice what they learned. The Let's Talk Vaccines course currently has over 1000 registrations, and the HJN received nearly 200 applications for the story grants.

***“In Ghana we have the journalists, but we need the tools and resources to empower them to do basic health education and bridge the urban-rural gap that exists when it comes to health information and understanding basic science.”***

– Dr. Charity Binka, PhD., Executive Director of African Media and Malaria Research Network

For more information, please visit: [healthjournalism.internews.org](http://healthjournalism.internews.org)



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