



HJN Members at a Glance

Since Internews launched the Health Journalism Network (HJN) in late 2020, the HJN has grown to over 1500 Members from 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 public health, while advancing equity and inclusion. This global and expanding community drives the vision of HJN by regularly engaging with the HJN leadership and offering feedback on training events, resources, and career opportunities. Apart from regularly featuring our members on the HJN website and social media channels, we often receive unsolicited stories on how Members are countering misinformation, facilitating vaccine distribution, and addressing other health topics that impact their communities. The HJN also actively encourages and facilitates connections between Members who have shared interests, goals, and media projects.

The HJN strives to reflect its diverse membership and works to address Members' reporting challenges and needs amidst global health priorities, while regularly celebrating and supporting their successes. HJN Members are eager and open to interact with HJN leadership, and with each other. While reporting on local and international health priorities, they are also building their own hyperlocal health journalism networks that, in turn, enrich the global network and equip them to cover any public health topic. 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 health-care 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 members often represent marginalized 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 and refugees or displaced persons. HJN Members work to elevate these voices and further include them in the global health news landscape.



"THE HJN SITE IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR JOURNALISTS WHO ARE LOOKING TO UNDERSTAND AND REPORT HEALTH ISSUES AND OTHER INTERSECTING THEMES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT AT A TIME WHEN HEALTH REPORTING IS CRUCIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT BETTER OUTCOMES FOR MINORITIES, UNDERREPORTED GROUPS, COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD AT LARGE."

Babatunde Okunlola, Nigeria





“It is vital for journalists to be connected to experts, especially when we cover complex subjects such as science, health, and the environment. These connections help us avoid oversimplification and enable us to report correctly on these topics.”

– Jhoandry Suárez, journalist based in Colombia and HJN fellow at the 2023 World Conference of Science Journalists.

HJN Ambassadors

In July of 2021 we launched the HJN Ambassador’s program with the aim to make the network more locally relevant and sustainable. This program allows us to work closely with a select cohort of Members for a short period of time, identify trending health topics in their country and/or region, and develop useful media resources. Ambassadors occasionally support Internews health projects. The global network recognizes its limitations in grasping the state of health journalism at the hyperlocal level. The vision of HJN favors a decentralized approach that is informed and driven by Members themselves.

What Members are saying

HJN Members have responded positively to the network’s offerings, which include fellowships, grant opportunities, virtual training sessions with experts, e-learning courses, science media cafes, and guides and toolkits for journalists. Those who are active on social media often share HJN resources, live stream HJN events and engage in trending health conversations.



“Being an HJN Ambassador helped me network with different people and share experiences. I also had the privilege to use the knowledge I gained to impact the health space and grow a health information advocacy platform in my country. As a journalist and an academic, access to resources and mentorship has inspired me to unpack health communication with a new perspective for my journalism students. The One Health reporting concept was by far the most impactful aspect of the trainings I participated in.”

– Andile B. Tshuma, health reporter in Zimbabwe and former HJN Ambassador

For more information, please visit: healthjournalism.internews.org



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