



Health Literacy for All: Development of a Global Vision Document

Elena T. Carbone, DrPH, RD, LDN, FAND

Aim and Scope



GLOBAL HEALTH LITERACY SUMMIT

**CO-CREATING A VISION
ON HEALTH LITERACY
FOR ALL!**

[IHLASUMMIT2021.ORG](https://ihlasummit2021.org)
[I-HLA.ORG](https://i-hla.org)

@THEIHLA



Focus/Methods



DATA COLLECTION

- 11-item, open-ended, online survey
- Available to IHLA members during the Summit (Oct 3-31, 2021)

DATA SYNTHESIS/ANALYSIS

- Data were downloaded to Excel, coded, and emergent themes identified.

Results

1ST ROUND (N= 60)

Regions Represented

- Asia
- Africa
- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Australia

Professions

- Public health
- Academia (faculty/students)
- Health education/advocacy
- Research
- Health communication

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL?

What

- Provide training/education at all levels
- Access to clear information/educational materials
- Change existing health structures, system demands, policies
- Increase awareness
- Prioritize equity and equality
 - *Integrate equity as an inherent part of all health literacy work.*

WHERE CAN HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL BE IMPROVED?



Where

Meet people where they are.

- Everywhere: Every health-to-public interface
- In developing countries
- Through media

WHEN CAN HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL BE IMPROVED?



When

Compassionate awareness ...

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

...now is an incredible time as there is an acute awareness of how our health communication and language has failed.

- As early as possible (life course approach)

WHO SHOULD IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL?



Who

All of us, but primarily institutions. They should drive educational and health equity and the training, structure and support the processes to ensure equitable outcomes.

- Everyone – shared responsibility of all stakeholders, public and private

WHY SHOULD WE IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL?



Why

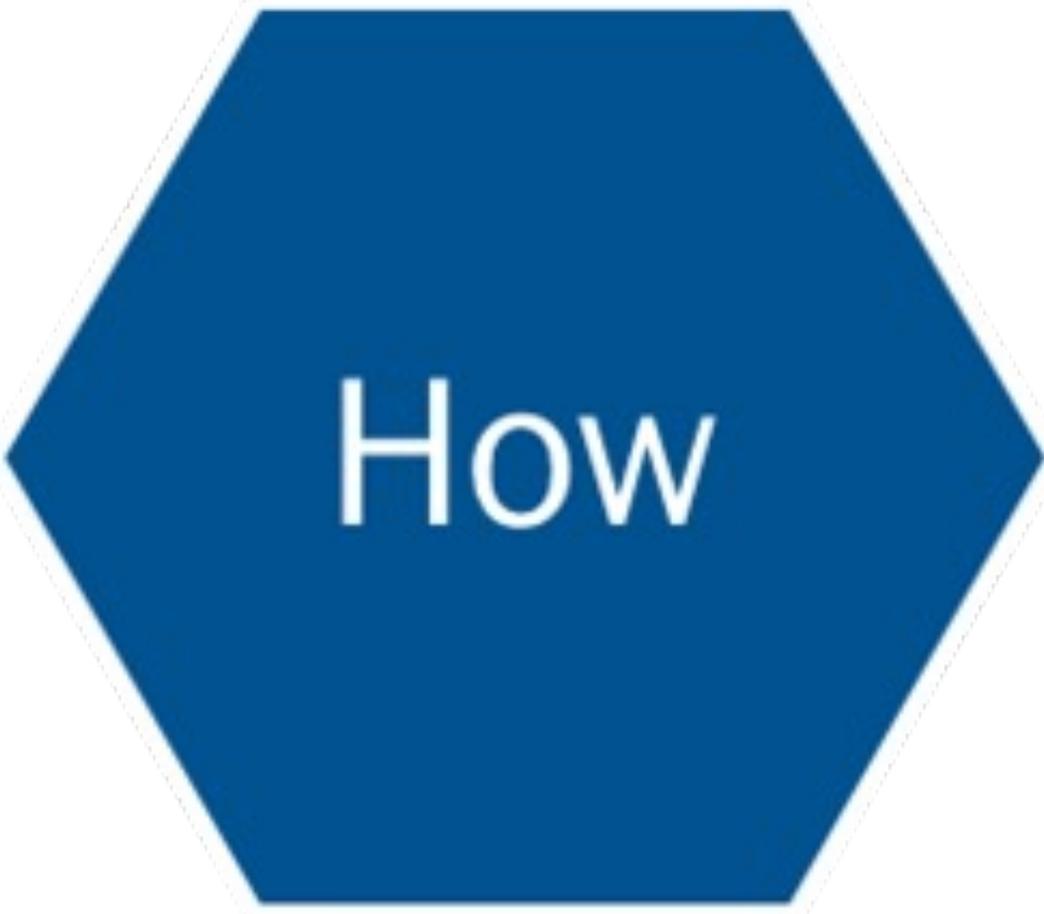
Everyone has a right to make informed decisions about their health.

...health literacy is an instrument of change.

... it's the right thing to do.

- Improve health outcomes and quality of life
- Increase knowledge
- Make public health campaigns more effective
- Overcome inequities/increase empowerment

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL?



How

*By making it every day. Not concepts but actions.
Keep communicating. Ask them.*

Multi-faceted approach:

- Policies and laws, funding, training, accreditation
- Advocacy
- Fundamental shift – entire societal cultural shifts
- Bring diverse constituents together, take long-term view
- Improve health literacy among disenfranchised and marginalized populations

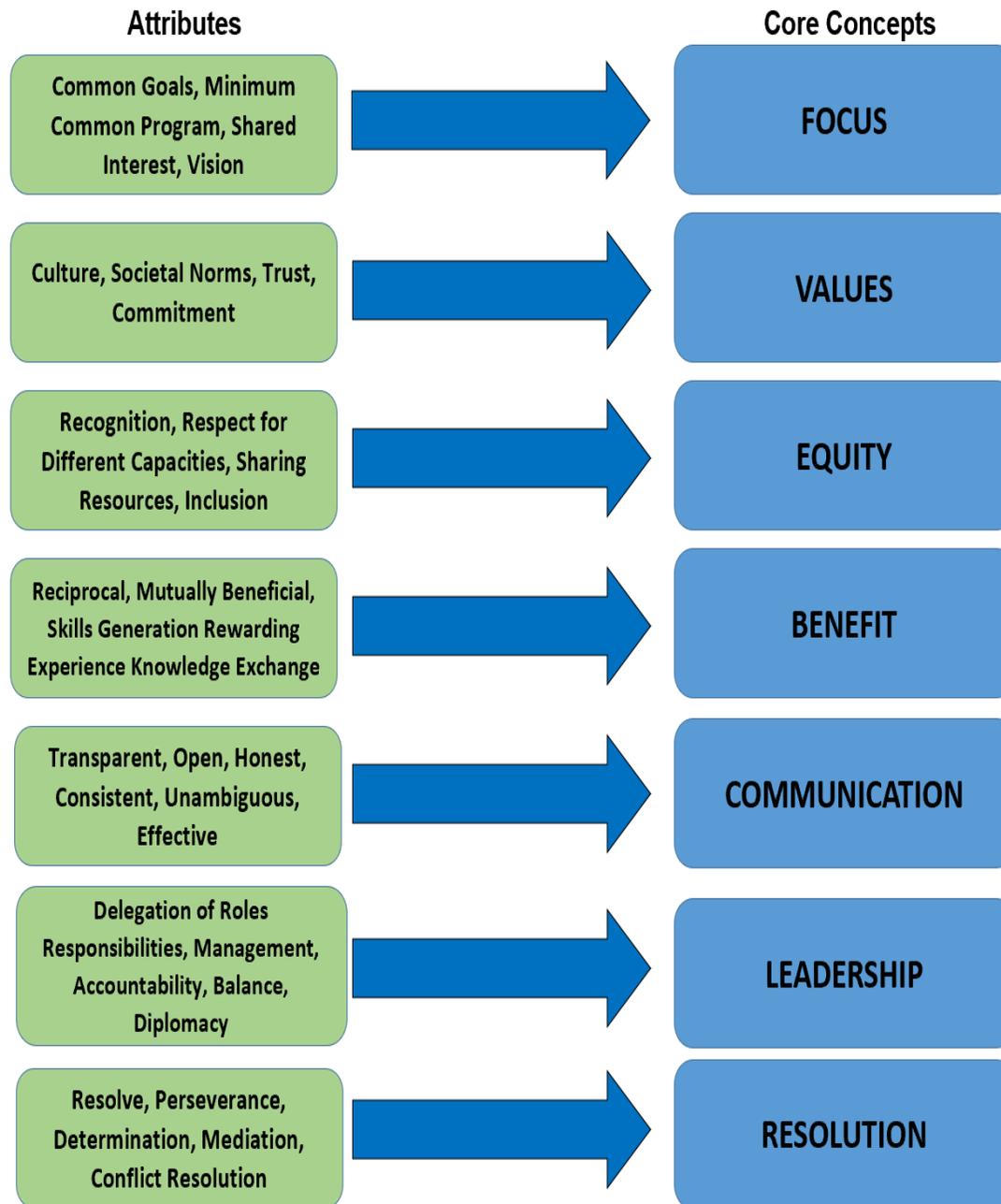
HOW CAN IHLA IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY FOR ALL?



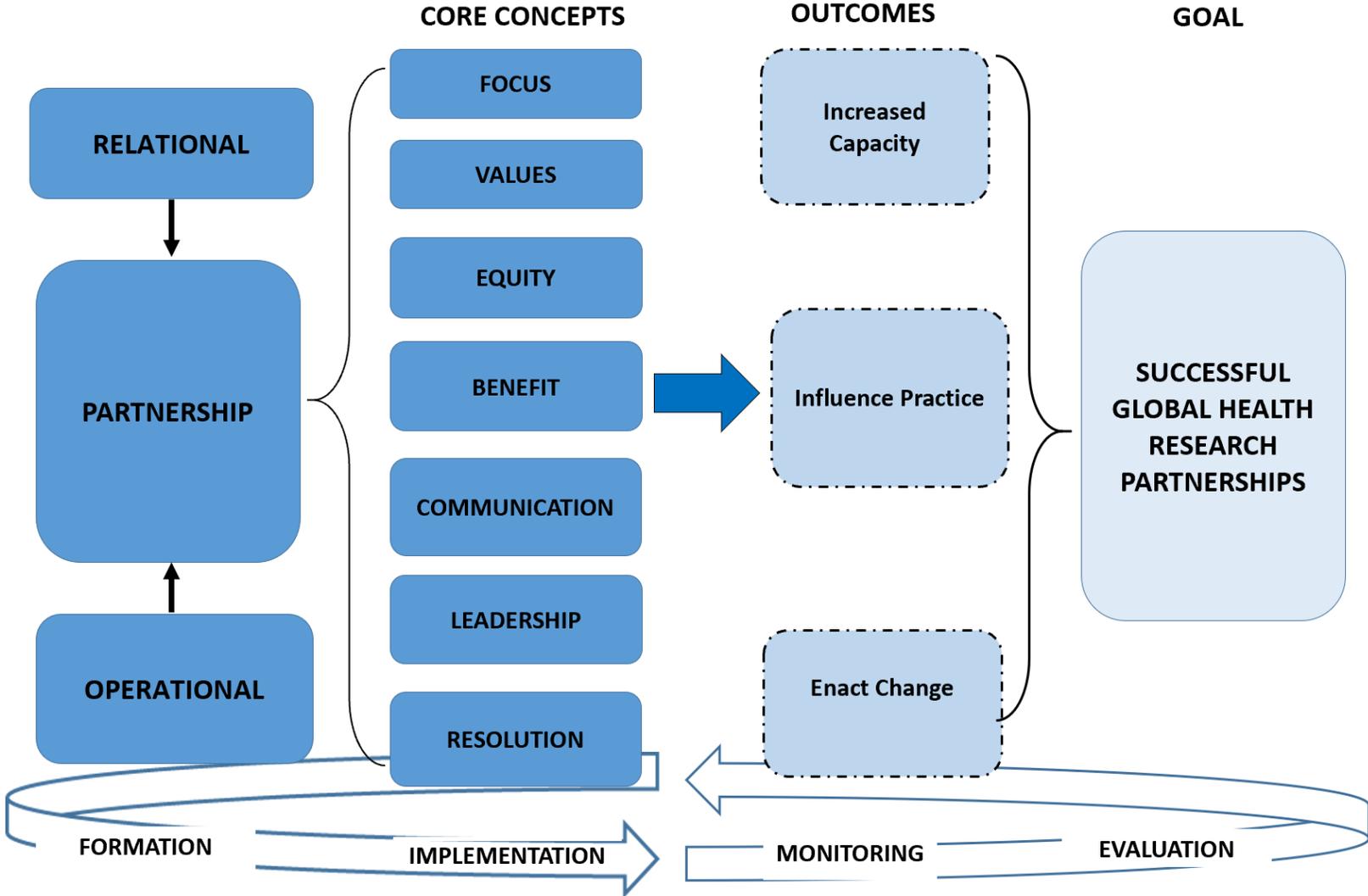
Be a leader and coordinator - a single point of contact for HL information, research, funding and training.

- Diversify membership
- Serve as advocate
- Provide training/professional development
 - *Concrete ideas and tools*
- Serve as forum for open discussions, innovative ideas, best practices
- Support researchers and practitioners
- Invest in equity and inclusion
- Lobby

Figure 1. Attributes and core concepts of successful research partnerships in global health (Larkan et al., 2016).



Framework for successful research partnerships in global health



RELATIONAL

- Focus – identify areas of **focus to align** with partnership opportunities; clarify mutual understanding
- Values – **everyone has the right to make informed health decisions**

PARTNERSHIP

- Equity – must be an **inherent part** of all health literacy work; involve all
- Benefit – **clarify** for early/mid-career professionals to **manage expectations**
- Communication – **ongoing** communication critical; meet people where they are

OPERATIONAL

- Leadership – IHLA can help by being a **leader, coordinator, point of contact**
- Resolution – **by-laws** established for resolution and/or conflict management

OTHER

- Need **funding mechanisms** to keep the work going

Lessons Learned/Practical Applications

- Acknowledge (and embrace) different stages in the development process
- Address limitations/issues of highest concern
- Build in ongoing review (monitoring, evaluation)
- Flexibility, equity, and inclusion are critical

Next Steps

- Use the *Vision for All* to inform:
 - Policy and advocacy efforts
 - Work of IHLA Interest Groups
- Maintain fluid and transparent communications
- Explore creative partnership opportunities
- Expand membership
- Ongoing data collection

Ongoing Data Collection



To access the survey, please visit:

https://ww3.unipark.de/uc/survey_harc_2022/

For more information about IHLA, please visit:

<https://www.i-hla.org/>

Acknowledgements

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- **Dr. Orkan Okan, IHLA Vice President**
- **Dr. Kristine Sorensen, IHLA President**

References

Larkan et al. Globalization and Health (2016) 12:17

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**Thank you for your commitment
to build health literacy for all!**