

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN HEARING AID PURCHASING PROGRAM (IHHAPP)

Past, Present and Future

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VISION

A goal of the WHO is to ensure high quality hearing aids are accessible and affordable to the large population of individuals with hearing loss in developing countries.

- ✧ Approximately 7 million hearing aids in developing countries needed
- ✧ Fewer than 1 million hearing aids have been fitted
- ✧ High cost is a major barrier to access



BACKGROUND

- ✧ 2009 - 2011: Hearing Aid Purchasing Consortium began under the auspices of WW Hearing, an organization created by WHO and CBM. Managed by Ron Brouillette, Ph.D. and Seema Shah, Ph.D.
- ✧ Formulated agreements with hearing aid manufacturers to provide new digital BTE models at discounted prices
- ✧ 2011: WW Hearing withdraws from the purchasing consortium to pursue an alternative distribution model

IHHAPP

- ✧ IHHAPP formed in February 2012 to continue to meet the needs of individuals and humanitarians providing hearing aid services to low resource environments
- ✧ Website and formal application process
- ✧ Sustainable model with a team of 2 otolaryngologists and 2 audiologists, including 1 administrator
- ✧ Administered by Mayflower Medical Outreach (MMO)
- ✧ Supported by the Coalition for Global Hearing Health (CGHH)



IHHAPP

HEARING AIDS

- ❖ New, digital, basic BTE models
- ❖ Appropriate for mild to profound hearing loss
- ❖ Trim pot adjustments control gain, MPO, low and high frequency cuts
- ❖ T-coil available on some models
- ❖ Feedback management
- ❖ Noise reduction
- ❖ Environmental programs
- ❖ Analog volume wheel
- ❖ Batteries size #13 or #675
- ❖ Cost: \$57 to \$80 per unit (volume discount available)
- ❖ 2% FOC in lieu of warranty



APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✧ Available on website; submitted via email or hardcopy
- ✧ Fourteen questions:
 - ✦ Organization and Applicant's credentials?
 - ✦ Distribution location/country?
 - ✦ How is eligibility determined?
 - ✦ Who distributes the HA's? His/Her credentials?
 - ✦ Method for distributing the HA's?
 - ✦ Provisions for supplying batteries?
 - ✦ Other options for residents to obtain HA's?
 - ✦ Frequency of follow up services?
- ✧ Three letters of recommendation (one from in-country)
- ✧ Letter of Agreement (devices are not to be sold for greater than the cost per unit incurred in the operation of a sustainable, not-for-profit business)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✧ Optional Survey Questions:
 - ✦ Diagnostic audiology tests administered?
 - ✦ Types of earmolds used?
 - ✦ Hearing aid verification methods used, if any?
 - ✦ Availability/Access to audiologists, audiology technicians, and medical personnel?
- ✧ Upon acceptance:
 - ✦ Web-based ordering process
 - ✦ Payment to IHHAPP
 - ✦ Orders shipped directly to the client
 - ✦ Support for customs clearance

GOALS

- ✧ Increase the participation of HA manufacturers
 - ✦ Currently one manufacturer
 - ✦ New/untapped markets
- ✧ Increase the reach of IHHAPP clients
 - ✦ Dominican Republic
 - ✦ Nicaragua
 - ✦ Peru
- ✧ Extend the offer to government programs in developing countries

IHHAPP WEBSITE

[HTTP://IHHAPP.ORG](http://ihhapp.org)
(email: information@ihhapp.org)

