



# Report to Stakeholders



hesperian

Publishing for community health and empowerment

## GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL: HESPERIAN IS TAKING ACTION

Since Hesperian first published *Where There Is No Doctor* in 1977, its materials to promote community self-health have been constantly in demand. But in the past 30 years, the challenges for public health systems have increased, HIV/AIDS has worsened the health and economic status of millions and technological advances in medicine remain a luxury for the rich.

With positive and proven solutions literally in hand, Hesperian is now expanding the accessibility, adaptability and application of its materials. With a special focus on water and sanitation as well as maternal, child and neonatal health, Hesperian has launched an initiative to expand the information in *Where There Is No Doctor* and make it available in digital formats.

New commitments from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative are empowering Hesperian to partner with like-minded organizations, peers, and health professionals around the world to put powerful and practical health information directly into the hands of those who need it most.

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SELF-HEALTH

Hesperian's low-literacy approach has proven that community health workers—even if they have no more than a 3rd grade education—can be trained to use books such as *Where There Is No Doctor* to provide 90% of the basic health care that a community needs.

Available in 80+ languages, *Where There Is No Doctor* can be found in 108 countries. Along with Hesperian's other publications, including *A Book for Midwives*, *Where There Is No Dentist*, *Helping Health Workers Learn*, *A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities* and others, WTND is empowering communities to get healthy and stay healthy.

The newly released, *A Community Guide to Environmental Health* is a remarkable toolkit that promotes community-based actions for protecting watersheds, preventing harm from toxic pollution, restoring land, using sustainable farming, and managing solid waste.

### From Humble Beginnings, a World-Changing Health Manual

In 1969, in a rural Mexican village, health activists began writing medical information in a simple spiral notebook. In basic Spanish, they recorded treatment information for ordinary health problems as well as what to do in case of a medical emergency. The handwritten notes became a handbook that put the power to heal directly into the hands of village health workers.

Word got out and people from other villages soon arrived to copy down the pages. By the early 70s, the notebook had acquired the name, "*Donde no hay doctor*" (*Where There Is No Doctor*).

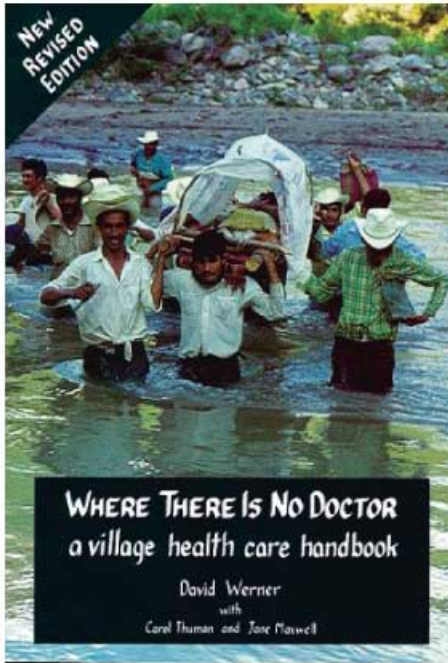
These were the humble beginnings of one of the world's most powerful and respected public health manuals. In 1973, Hesperian was established in California, to publish the first official edition of "*Where There Is No Doctor*" preserving its simple language and adding vital information on how to prevent illness and improve community health.



### HESPERIAN PROMOTES THE USE OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MODEL, WHICH SUPPORTS COMMUNITY "SELF-HEALTH" BY PROMOTING:

- Public education and participation in illness prevention.
- Better food supply and nutrition for everyone.
- Safe water and basic sanitation for everyone.
- Maternal and child health care, including family planning.
- Immunization against major infectious diseases.
- Prevention and control of locally endemic diseases.
- Appropriate and accessible treatment of common diseases and injuries.
- Provision of essential drugs to all.

## FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF HEALTH FOR ALL



In publishing the first edition of *Where There Is No Doctor*, Hesperian introduced new practices to ensure the book's value to poor communities. The content helped establish and advance the Primary Health Care movement hailed as a practical plan to achieve community self-health.

Through its collaborative approach, which calls on health and development workers, medical professionals and community representatives, Hesperian can present complete and accurate medical information in a way that was realistic and locally appropriate to the communities where the books are used most.

All Hesperian publications have an open-copyright policy that encourages individuals and organizations to copy and use its information without fear of copyright infringement.

## HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND YOU CAN DELIVER ON ITS PROMISE

The promise of health for all is within our reach. Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will help Hesperian put *Where There Is No Doctor* into digital formats—but only you can bring this lifesaving information to the people who need it most. Learn, donate, and spread the word. You can put the power to heal directly in the hands of mothers and midwives, health workers and neighbors, community leaders and organizers. Give online at [www.hesperian.org](http://www.hesperian.org) or by mail. Please make your gift today to:

HESPERIAN

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# THANK YOU.



"*Where There Is No Doctor* is arguably the most widely-used public health manual in the world...a text that has meant survival for thousands in the third world since the 1970s." World Health Organization.

"Hesperian produces materials so creative and communicative, and of such quality and precision, that they allow us to respond to the many common problems of communities while recognizing that each case is unique." Feliciano dos Santos, 2008 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner and Director of ESTAMOS in Mozambique.

"We especially use *A Book for Midwives* with midwives who don't know how to read or write...so that all our midwives can provide quality care to the women." Cristina Alonso, midwife, Luna Maya Birth Center in Chiapas, Mexico.

