



IBP Knowledge Gateway Progress Report, 2008

Knowledge networking, sharing and exchange to inform and transform the provision of health care

Continued expansion and scope of the Implementing Best Practice (IBP) Knowledge Gateway (IBP/KG)

The IBP Knowledge Gateway (IBP/KG) is an electronic communication tool that supports virtual knowledge networking, dialogue, the sharing and exchange of knowledge through communities of practice in and among countries. The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research leads the development of the IBP/KG and knowledge management strategies in collaboration with IBP partners. The simplicity, adapted low resolution technology and email capability used by the Knowledge Gateway are proving to be a best practice for supporting virtual networking and communities of practice around the world.

The IBP/KG for reproductive health was launched September 2004 and has grown rapidly. In 2007 it reached over 5000 users and in 2008 the number increased to 11,550 users from 190 countries. In 2007-2008, the IBP partners supported nine global discussion forums on specific family planning interventions including one that asked the community to identify effective practices and challenges in family planning. The evaluation of this discussion forum was used by the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs (JHU/CCP) as a basis for creating an interactive website that identifies and highlights successful family planning practices.

1.1 Support to other organizations to establish communities of practice

Since 2006, the IBP Knowledge Gateway has been accepted as a corporate tool of WHO. In addition, RHR, in collaboration with JHU/CCP and other partners provides support to other organizations and agencies to brand, own, customize, manage and launch their own knowledge networks and independent communities of practice using the IBP/KG electronic platform (see figure 1). This includes training organizations on how to establish manage and facilitate virtual networks.

In 2008, the following new networks were launched through customized country video conferences and global discussion forums on topical issues designed to inform and transform policy and practice:

- Mental Health Community of Practice
- HPV Vaccine Global Community of Practice
- Global Alliance on Health Workforce Migration Network
- ReproductiveAid Network on sector wide approaches and poverty reduction strategies



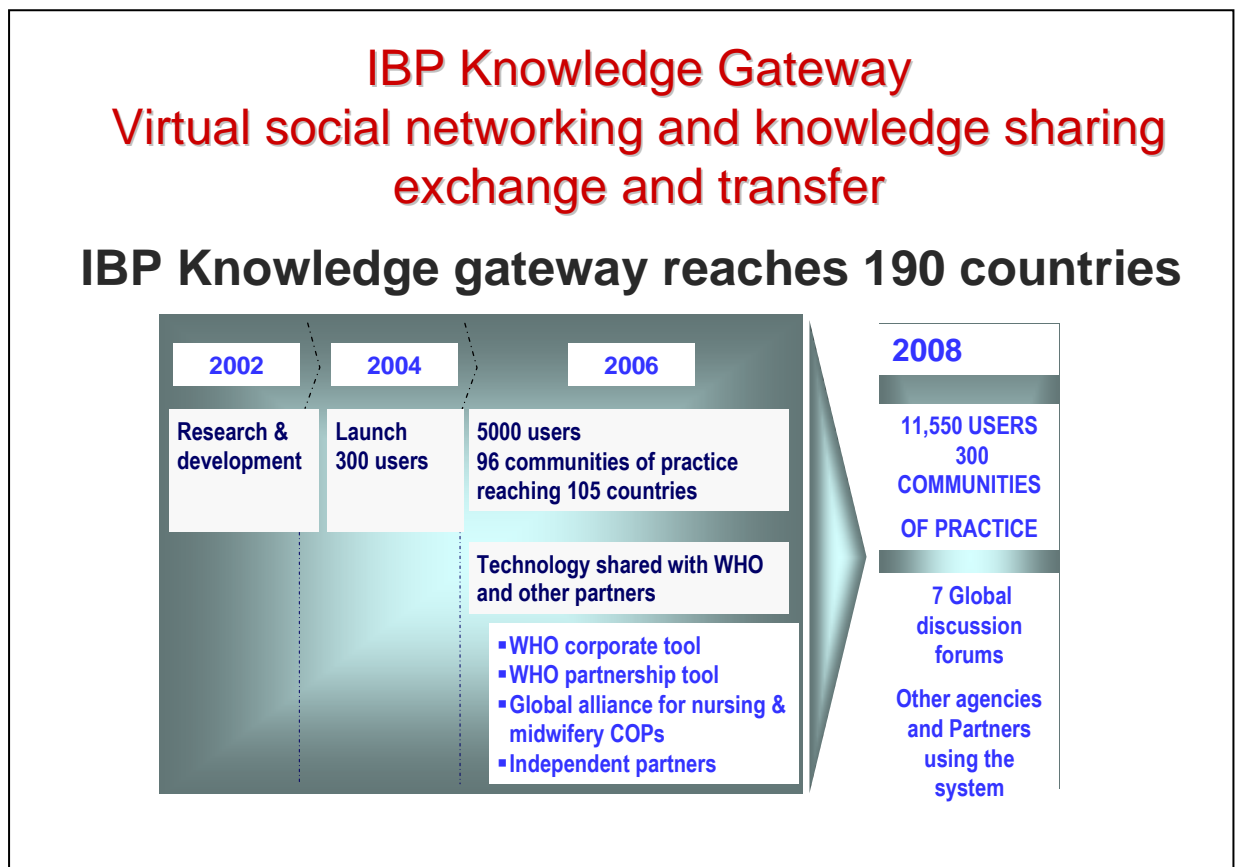
Figure 1: Independent communities using the IBP Knowledge Gateway



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1.2 International Agencies choose the IBP/KG for their organization

In 2006, the Knowledge Gateway became a corporate tool of WHO and is now used across many Departments within WHO under the branding of Ezcollab. In addition other organizations and agencies have requested their own customized and branded communities using the Knowledge Gateway electronic platform. In 2008 six other international organizations including the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy; the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Geneva, Switzerland and John Snow International (JSI) started to use the KG platform for their organizations and are contributing to enhancements to the system. In addition, the IBP Secretariat has been approached by a consortium of 22 international organizations supported by the World Bank operating under the name "D groups" to transfer their communities to the Knowledge Gateway.



1.3 Virtual Discussion Forums reached thousands of public health professionals worldwide and influence policy and programme guidance

The IBP Knowledge Gateway has supported numerous on-line discussion forums on a range of topics. Forums last from one to six weeks and frequently involve experts supporting dialogue and the exchange opinions, experience and challenges with practitioners from around the world. All forums include participant evaluations. Daily and weekly digests of the discussion and evaluation results are made available in



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community libraries and on public parts of the Knowledge Gateway. Three of the discussion forum focused on global issues and the remainder were more focused on specific family planning topics linked to promoting the use of the **Global Handbook on Family Planning**.

- **Health Workforce Migration** - This four week global discussion forum engaged 760 individuals from 124 countries. The outcome has fed into policy discussions at the highest level within WHO. A public hearing on the revised Code of Practice is currently being held on the WHO website.
- **HPVaccineNet** is a network of agencies supported by WHO/RHR working on issues related to cervical cancer prevention. With the support of IBP partners a global discussion forum was launched June 2008 for over 400 participants from 80 countries. Again the outcome of discussions have fed into policy and practice discussions.
- **Bringing New People to Family Planning: The Broader Impact of the Fertility Awareness Approach (October 22 - November 2, 2007)**. In this two-week online discussion, colleagues around the world shared their experiences introducing the Standard Days Method and the Two Day Method in diverse service delivery settings and explored factors that can facilitate or hinder successful integration into programs. 225 people from more than 40 countries participated in the discussion.
<http://my.ibpinitiative.org/public/FAB/>.
- **Strengthening Service Delivery and Counselling for Injectable Contraceptives (November 7 - 20, 2007)**. In this two-week online discussion, health professionals shared their experiences with injectable contraceptives in a range of service delivery settings. The first week of the forum focused on service delivery and the second week focused on counselling issues. 80 people from more than 22 countries participated in the discussion. <http://my.ibpinitiative.org/public/injectables/>
- **Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy (HTSP) (November 26 - December 14, 2007)**. This two-week online forum was launched with a six country videoconference linking WHO in Geneva, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and groups in Jordan and Kenya to highlight some of the research in this area and debate key issues. The purpose was to provide state-of-the-art information on HTSP. **Over 315 people from over 52 countries participated** in this discussion.
<http://my.ibpinitiative.org/public/ppfp/>
- **Elements of Successful Family Planning Programs** (December 10-21, 2007). The forum provided an opportunity to review research findings and reach consensus on the core elements contributing to successful family



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planning programs. Over 225 people from 55 countries took part in the forum. <http://my.ibpinitiative.org/ElementsofFPSuccess/> The outcome of

- this forum will contribute to a publication on the most essential elements of successful programming. This is an example of a community that continues to grow and is linked to the JHU/CPP/INFO website on **Elements of Successful Family Planning Programs**

- **The Global Alliance for Nursing and Midwifery** continues to be an active community and has grown to 1356 members from 123 countries. It supports regular virtual classroom teaching using "Elluminate" and the following sub-communities of practice:
 - Spanish Making Pregnancy Safer
 - Information and Communication Technologies
 - Pandemic Prevention (H5N1: ARDS, SARS)
 - HIV/AIDS

- **Postpartum Family Planning** - JHPIEGO and partners launched this global discussion forum March 2007 and have maintained a series of active discussions at periodic intervals over this year. This is an example of a growing and active community.

1.4 Programme of enhancements

Each year enhancements to the platform are undertaken in response to user feedback. At the request from the Global Alliance of Nurses and Midwives (GANM) and WHO's Regional Office for the Americas, IBP developed a Spanish language facility. This has generated very active Spanish communities. The IBP Secretariat is working with a WHO collaborating centre in Chile to diffuse the use of the Knowledge Gateway to countries in the region.