



**IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES**  
IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**IBP  
Consortium  
and  
Knowledge  
Gateway**

**Annual Report  
2009**

# Highlights - Annual Report

## IBP Initiative 2009

### Key activities undertaken by the IBP Secretariat during 2009

- Supported the dissemination and use of the *Guide to Fostering Change to Strengthen and Scale-up Health Services* in French and English. Collaborated with Management Sciences for Health on the development of a virtual training programme currently being implemented in Francophone West Africa and as follow-up to six countries that attended the ANE Meeting, Bangkok 2007.
- Worked collaboratively with country teams on the development of guidelines to document country experiences and the "practices that make programmes work".
- Continued to manage and expand the use of the IBP Knowledge Gateway through the implementation of global discussion forums and support to establish knowledge networks that improve access to information and promote collaborative learning.
- Shared the electronic platform of the Knowledge Gateway with other organizations and agencies and provided the training to support the establishment of knowledge networks, communities of practice and discussion forums.
- Supported the preparation and implementation of a *Global Consultation of Health Professions to identify their contribution to the global health agenda*, particularly, but not exclusively sexual and reproductive health. Launched the *Health Professions Global Network* as a result of this consultation.
- Worked with K4H to develop a collaborative knowledge management strategy.
- Provided language facilities on the Knowledge Gateway for use by partners and collaborating agencies/organizations, French, Spanish and Portuguese
- Finalized, published and disseminated guidance for sexual and reproductive health programmes to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of persons with disabilities.
- Worked with partners to improve access to reproductive health quality essential medicines and commodities for sexual and reproductive health and collaborated with partners on USAID technical priorities (such as post abortion care, postpartum family planning, community-based distribution of Depo, long-term and permanent methods and Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy) to produce technical briefs and to assist with dissemination and integration into country programmes.
- Supported the planning and preparation of the International Conference on Family Planning: Research and Best Practices due to be held in Kampala, Uganda, November 2009 for 1000 participants. IBP partners will support a 3<sup>rd</sup> Day focused on practical programmatic issues around Knowledge to Action.

### Summary of regional and country activities

- Supported the preparation, implementation and follow-up of Eastern Mediterranean Regional meeting to introduce the steps in the *Fostering Change Guide* to support the preparation of country plans to scale-up family planning services in 18 countries.

- Family Planning Advocacy Tool Kit disseminated to 11 additional West African Nations.
- Consolidated the process of documentation, sharing and scaling-up of local effective practices in specific countries in the African WHO Region.
- Working in collaboration with East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) to introduce the Fostering Change Guide in five of their member states while training ECSA-HC secretariat how to teach and support this process.
- Pursued on-going country activities to support and encourage follow-up of IBP/ANE launch and WHO/UNFPA Strategic Partnership Programme activities and supported five countries to strengthen and scale-up activities to improve community-based reproductive health/family planning services.
- Facilitated/built capacity of partners to support governments to lead scaling-up efforts for sexual and reproductive health/family planning and improved linkages between family planning, maternal and neonatal health care and HIV/AIDS prevention and care.
- IBP in collaboration with WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region supported a meeting to introduce the steps in the fostering change process to take to scale family planning services for representatives from 18 member states including 8 high priority countries. Follow-up activities are under discussion.
- Collaborated with partners to strengthen improved access at country level to sexual and reproductive health essential medicines and commodities.

## Highlights of key issues addressed at the global level

- **Achieving universal access by addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of people with disabilities:** In support of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the IBP secretariat in collaboration with UNFPA has developed guidance for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in sexual and reproductive health activities. The guidance is intended for United Nations agencies as well as IBP and other partners to ensure access of sexual and reproductive health services for people with disabilities. After gaining input and feedback from a wide range of disability and sexual and reproductive health experts worldwide, the final draft document has approved for publication. Additional efforts to educate and inform IBP members and reproductive health organizations are being led by an IBP task team.
- **Broad dissemination of the *Guide to Fostering Change*.** *The Guide to Fostering Change to Scale-up Effective Health Services* is now widely used in English and French and is being integrated into a wide variety of quality improvement efforts in sexual and reproductive health. In addition an e-learning module has been developed and a virtual platform and virtual training programme by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in consultation with the IBP Secretariat. The virtual training programme uses the fostering change framework to work with participants

who have attended regional meetings to support the follow-up country plans to implement and scale up specific interventions. The virtual training programme was initially launched in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2008 as part of a follow-up of the six-country post-abortion care meeting. In May 2009, participants from Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan and Yemen who attended the ANE meeting in Bangkok, September 2007 are now following the virtual fostering change programme. The teams from Jordan presented their results at the September, 2009 FP/IBP meeting held in Amman, Jordan for 18 countries from the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

- **International meeting to discuss the contribution of health professions to primary health care and the global health agenda (25-26 June 2009).** This meeting was undertaken in collaboration with the WHO Department of Human Resources for Health (WHO/HRH) and several partner institutions. Over 60 representatives from a broad spectrum of international health associations and professional bodies and four WHO regional collaborating centres joined the meeting. This meeting provided a forum that enabled a wide range of health professions to network and exchange information on global health challenges, such as reproductive health. The purpose was to identify synergies and work collaboratively across professional boundaries and conventions to support a primary health care approach to reducing health inequities and improving the health of populations. Participants supported the launching on the Knowledge Gateway of a virtual *Health Professionals' Global Network* in order to continue the dialogue started during this global consultation. Discussions on the virtual network are now under-way to define and plan specific activities. Refer to <http://www.hpgn.org>.
  
- **IBP partners delivered skill-building session at the Global Health Council annual conference on Knowledge Management and Networking, May 2009.** This interactive session demonstrated a number of innovative approaches being used by IBP partners to help close the knowledge to practice gap and improve access to and the use of information.

## Highlights of key activities supported by the IBP Knowledge Gateway

- **IBP shares the technological platform of the Knowledge Gateway and their experience.** The technology platform that powers the IBP Knowledge Gateway is being shared with other organizations and agencies who can own, customize, brand, and manage their own global and sub-communities of practice. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Staff College, JSI, Inc, the Interagency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis and Refugee Settings, HUG; University of Geneva, International Confederation of Pharmacists, the International Federation of Dentists are some of the agencies and organizations that have started to use the IBP Knowledge Gateway platform. WHO under the corporate branding of "Ezcollab" continues to expand the use of the IBP Knowledge Gateway across departments within WHO. D'Groups, a consortium of 23 international development organizations supported by World Bank, DFID and CIDA selected the Knowledge Gateway as their virtual networking tool. Over 100,000 users have been migrated to the Knowledge Gateway during the first quarter of 2009 bringing the total number of users up to 170,000 from 199 countries. HIFA 2015 is an example of an active D'Group community on the Knowledge Gateway.

- **RHR and JHU/CCP/K4H** have provided support and training to groups of organizations on how to set up virtual networks, launch and manage knowledge networks and communities of practice using the Knowledge Gateway. This team are working with the WHO Department of Knowledge Management and Strategies( WHO/KMS) to prepare a generic training programme and e-learning modules for use by WHO and other organizations and agencies using the Knowledge Gateway. In addition, the IBP Secretariat has discussed with K4H the development of a collaborative programme of work and the formation of a global think tank to identify and document proven effective practices in our knowledge management strategies.
  
- **IBP Knowledge Gateway support Global Discussion Forums and the formation of Knowledge Networks.** A two week discussion forum supported by 15 partner agencies focused on the topic "*Access to Reproductive Health Essential Medicines: Why is it so difficult to achieve?*". The purpose was to initiate a dialogue to define information needs and challenges in order to develop a resource center for Reproductive Health (RH) Essential Medicines. A total of 391 members from 74 countries signed up for the discussion. Over the course of the two weeks, 101 contributions were received eighty percent of which were submitted from members in developing countries. This discussion forum has been evaluated and written up as a paper. The discussion continues and the community is growing. HPVaccineNet supports a community of over 600 participants and maintains a constant dialogue with participants. A meeting was held with representatives from the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance of Nurses and Midwives to discuss and plan the re-launching of this community. The Post Partum Family Planning Community with over 600 members have been very active and recently held a discussion forum on the use of TCU380A IUDs post partum. Plans are also being implemented in collaboration with a regional collaborating centre to launch a regional knowledge hub in Spanish
  
- **IBP Knowledge Gateway for Reproductive Health** now reaches over 14,550 users from 195 countries and supports over 300 communities of which about 50 per cent are active. The combined membership of the Knowledge Gateway totals over 170,000 from 200 countries and territories. This is a dramatic increase in users and spread of countries over the last two years. It demonstrates the considerable potential of the system to reach out into technically challenged countries. At the request from users the Knowledge Gateway has been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish and Ukrainian. Russian and Chinese facilities are currently under development.
  
- **On-line discussion forums reach thousands of public health professionals worldwide.** The Knowledge Gateway has supported numerous on-line discussion forums on a range of topics supported by a number of different partners and organizations, such as Successful Family Planning Practices. Forums last from 1–4 weeks and frequently involve experts and practitioners. All forums include participant evaluations. Daily and weekly digests of the discussion and evaluation results are made available in community libraries and on public parts of the Knowledge Gateway.

## Highlights of key activities at the regional and country level

- **African country representatives actively engaged in follow-up of Bamako workshop on community-based reproductive health.** Following the June 2007 workshop in Bamako, Mali, for five African countries involved in large-scale community-based sexual and reproductive health programmes, several follow-up activities continue. The Extending Service Delivery Project, which co-organized the Bamako meeting, have produced a paper with the Ethiopian team to compare the effectiveness of the Health Extension Programme in delivering sexual and reproductive health services in two regions. In Mali, the Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) has been working on the scaling-up of the Standard Days Method and, in connection with this effort, the IBP Secretariat along with ExpandNet conducted a scaling up strategy meeting in November, 2008. Finally, the document "**Community Health Workers: What motivates them to provide effective services?**" has been prepared for publication by WHO/IBP. This document is based on key issues raised at the 2007 meeting.
- **Francophone West African countries committed to improving postabortion care services are supported through the virtual fostering change programme.** A seven-country West African Francophone meeting took place in October 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. Countries that were the focus of the assessment conducted by the *Centre Régional de Formation et de Recherche en Santé de la Reproduction* (CEFOREP) (a Dakar-based research and training centre supported by WHO) under contract with the Population Council, met to exchange experiences and plan for the implementation of "best practices" to improve their programmes. Virtual support began in December, 2008 and continues to mentor teams based on the Fostering Change Framework.
- **IBP partners supported the implementation of WHO guidelines and improved access and quality of reproductive health services.** The IBP Secretariat continues to work closely with the WHO/UNFPA Strategic Partnership Programme (SPP) aimed at increasing the use of evidence-based guidelines and tools in family planning, maternal health and STIs towards the goal of universal access. IBP continues to involve partners at the country level to ensure active partner involvement in countries such as Benin, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Specifically, in Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania, Family Health International (FHI) continues to work with the Ministry of Health and WHO to coordinate the dissemination of their family planning job aids. IBP partners have been active in regional SPP meetings, having attended and presented at the July 2008 Zambia meeting for (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia), the South East Asia Meeting in September, 2008 for 10 countries, and the Abuja meeting for an addition 4 countries (Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) at the end of October, 2008.
- **WHO/EMRO holds IBP meeting for all 18 member states including 8 high priority countries: focus on Fostering Change.** This IBP workshop was held in September, 2009 in Amman, Jordan. The workshop provided an opportunity to orient national programme managers to the concepts and principles of implementing best practices in family planning programmes based on WHO guidelines and recommendations. Based on the principles of the fostering change process, each country determined

action-oriented, feasible steps to be undertaken in Member States to improve their family planning programmes and practices. A survey of the participating countries was carried out using the 10 Essential Elements of Family Planning Programmes. IBP partners attended the meeting and will be closely involved in follow-up of several countries.

- **Preparation and planning with IBP partners and the Gates Institute "International Conference on Family Planning, Research and Best Practices, Kampala November 2009.** The secretariat in collaboration with IBP partners is supporting the preparation for this meeting which started in February 2008. Partners have agreed to support a 3<sup>rd</sup> day focused on practical and programmatic implications of "*Taking Knowledge into Action*". This day will start with a motivational plenary session that will lead into two sessions of six simultaneous panel presentations on topical and challenging issues related to taking knowledge into action. This will be followed by round table discussions and a poster exhibition. The afternoon session will offer a choice of 10 short skill building workshops.