The Knowledge Gateway

A Virtual Collaboration and Networking Tool for Health and Development Professionals
The Knowledge Gateway

- An electronic communication platform that connects people around the world through virtual networks and online discussions
- Developed by WHO/RHR and a number of partners in 2004
- Now the most popular electronic communication platform in the health and development sector, with than 300,000+ people using the platform
http://knowledge-gateway.org
What Does the Knowledge Gateway Offer?

- Largest electronic communication platform in the field of health and development
- Low-resolution platform, accessible from technically-challenged settings
- Simple, web-based technology that functions through e-mail
- Tools for planning and coordinating group efforts
- All correspondence and documents are archived in a community's online homepage
- Ability to brand and customize the appearance of online communities
- Real time and virtual support to establish and maintain communities
- Functions on a cost-sharing basis
Supports organizations to establish, launch and manage their own customized virtual communities of practice.
### Figure 1: Growth and Development of the IBP Knowledge Gateway
Reaches 300,000 users from over 200 countries and territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research and development</th>
<th>IBP KG/RH launched: 300 users</th>
<th>IBP KG/RH: 5000 users 105 countries 96 communities</th>
<th>IBP KG/RH: 12,053 users 390+ communities 31 global discussion forums</th>
<th>IBP KG/RH: 21,500+ users 400+ communities 51 global discussion forums</th>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>Platform adopted by WHO as corporate tool</td>
<td>Others outside WHO customize and brand the IBP/KG for their knowledge networks e.g.</td>
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<td>Departments in WHO launch their own knowledge networks (e.g. GANM)</td>
<td>• World Dental Federation</td>
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Total Membership: 250,000+ users
Organizations and agencies own their own communities, e.g.
- Dgroups (100,000+ members)
- E-Portuguese
- HUG
- IDS
- HIFA 2015
- HPGN
- Patient Safety
- INEPA Kenya
- UN Standing Committee on Nutrition

Line represents growth of the IBP Knowledge Gateway for Reproductive Health (IBP KG/RH)
How does the Knowledge Gateway Help IBP Partners in Their Work?

• Convene online discussions on topical areas of interest
  – e.g. RH Essential Medicines

• Pre- or post- conference information gathering/dissemination
  – e.g. Kampala Conversations

• Networking and information sharing
  – RH Global Community reaches 22,000+

• Convert listservs into online communities
  – e.g. FCI/Emergency Contraception Consortium and PAC
Online Global Discussion Forums

- Provide a venue for virtual collaboration among field-based practitioners and program managers
- Facilitate dialogue across professions and countries
- Strengthen exchange of knowledge and resource materials
- Strengthen existing partnerships and encourage new ones
RH Essential Medicines Discussion Forum, June 2009

Provenance of Participants
Discussion Forums, cont...

• Global Health Professions Network (1-12 February 2010)
  - Convened more than 1000 individuals from 100 countries. Over the course of the two weeks, participants from 44 countries submitted 293 contributions, nearly 50% of which were from developing countries.
  - Participants were encouraged to add their voice to policy and practice dialogue by discussing their challenges and their success stories, issues, knowledge, experience and resource materials.
  - “What an informative conversation it was!! I have learned a lot of the experiences of various professionals who contributed in the discussions. The forum showed how the world is interdependent and together we have to work for a healthier planet.” (Amal A. El-Moamly, Egypt)