

# **Knowledge networking through virtual communities in global health**

**The Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Initiative  
and the IBP Knowledge Gateway**

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Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health

# Our challenge

To effectively exchange and transfer knowledge, information, expertise, and experience in order to improve practice



Unlock and share  
our knowledge  
and experience

Overcome the gap in  
transfer and application  
of knowledge



Improve  
practice and  
health



Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health

# What is the IBP Knowledge Gateway?

- An electronic communication platform that connects people around the world through virtual knowledge networks and online discussions
- Research and developed by WHO/RHR and a number of partners 2002 - 2004
- Now the most popular electronic communication platform in the health and development sector, with a total membership of >176,000 from 200 countries/territories



# http://knowledge-gateway.org

## KNOWLEDGE GATEWAY For Reproductive Health

Welcome to the Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Knowledge Gateway a simple and powerful tool for virtual Communities of Practice.



IBP Knowledge Gateway for Reproductive Health is a virtual knowledge network of over 15,000 people from 195 countries supported by the partners of the **Implementing Best Practices (IBP) in Reproductive Health Initiative.**



### Through the IBP Knowledge Gateway for Reproductive Health you can...

#### Connect

to the largest online communication platform in reproductive health

#### Search

for and find the information, resource materials, and tools

#### Network

with colleagues and experts around the world

#### Share and exchange

experiences, best practices and lessons learned

#### Participate

in virtual discussion forums and communities of practice

#### Create

your own community or online discussion to meet your needs

The Knowledge Gateway is an easy to use platform that connects people working around the world in the fields of health and development through virtual knowledge networks and communities of practice. It functions through email linked to virtual workspaces and facilitates the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information and resource materials in and among countries around the world.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



#### REGISTER TO JOIN

Browse the directory and join communities you are interested in

#### LOG IN NOW

Log in to the Knowledge Gateway now if you are already a member



# What Does the IBP Knowledge Gateway Offer?

- **Simple to use**
- **Low-resolution platform, accessible from technically-challenged settings**
- **Simple, web-based technology that functions through e-mail**
- **Tools for planning and coordinating group efforts**

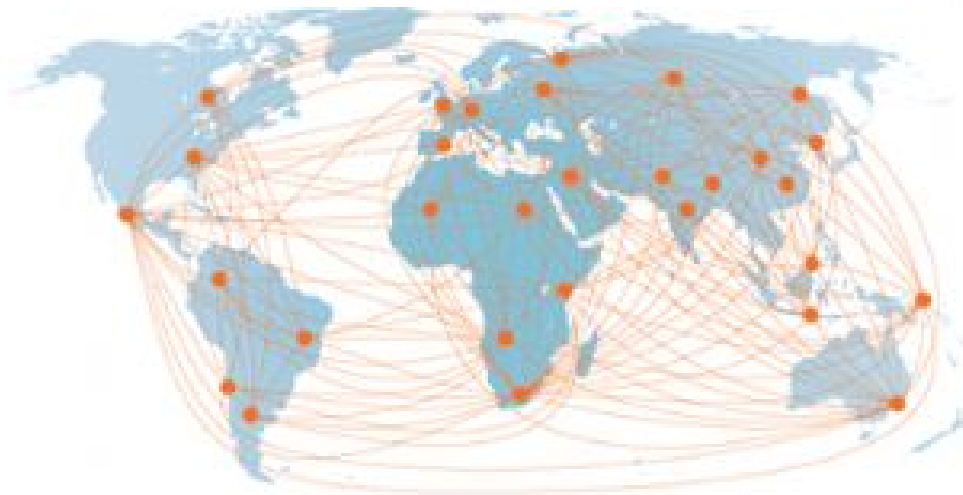


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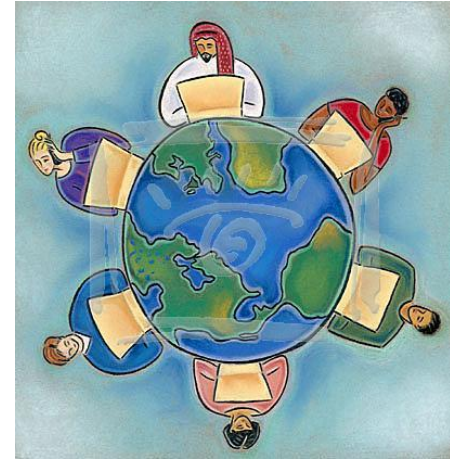
# What Does the IBP Knowledge Gateway Offer?

- All correspondence and documents are archived in a community's workspace
- Ability brand and customize the appearance of online communities
- Capacity to reach 200 countries and territories
- Can function in 6 languages
- Real time and virtual support to establish and maintain communities
- Functions on a cost-sharing basis



# How can the Knowledge Gateway be used?

- **Small working groups**
  - Preparing for a meeting
  - Review of documents
  - Sharing materials and tools
- **Follow-up of conferences and workshops**
- **Large virtual community related to your work:**
  - Sub-communities on specific topic areas
- **Global discussion forums**



www.reproactive.com 005-2377-4646/4647  
computers being used for global communication



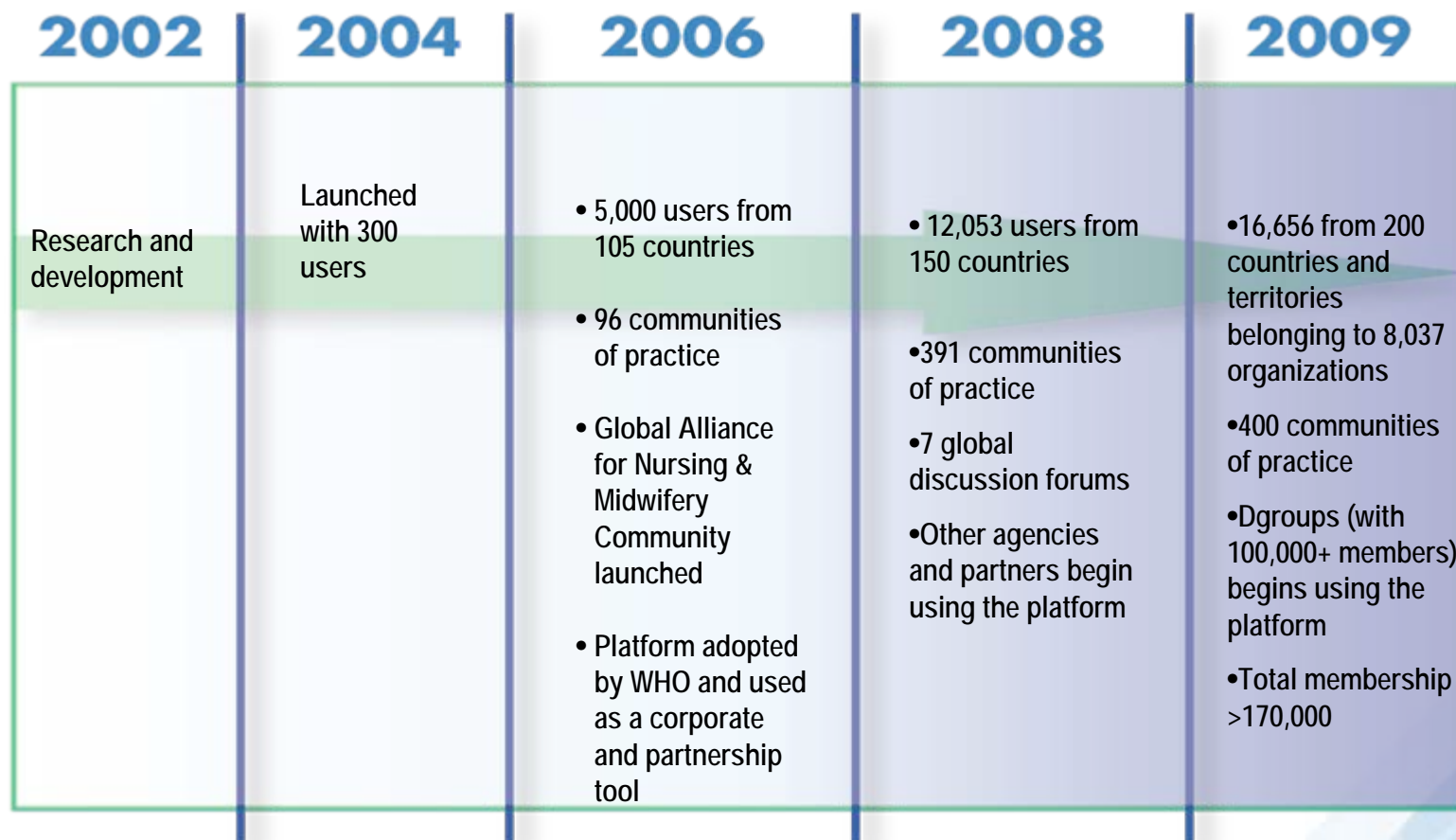
# IBP Knowledge Gateway has many names and uses



The IBP partners supports other organizations and agencies to establish, launch and manage their own customized branded virtual knowledge networks and discussion forums



# IBP Knowledge Gateway: Growth and Development



**2010: IBP Reproductive Health - 473 communities with 17,599 members  
Other organizations and agencies: 176,297 users from more than 35,000 organizations**



**Technology**

**KNOWLEDGE GATEWAY PLATFORM: 175,000 Users in 215 Countries**

Concept by WHO/RHR supported by IBP Partners

Developed in 2003 by WA Research with support from WHO/RHR and WHO/ITT

Available in 6 languages: Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Ukrainian

**IBP/Knowledge Gateway for RH**

[www.ibpinitiative.org](http://www.ibpinitiative.org)

- Launched in 2004
- Supported by IBP Partners
- Reproductive Health focus
- 17,599 members in 2010
- 474 communities

**Technology shared WHO Corporate Tool**

[www.ezcollab.who.int](http://www.ezcollab.who.int)

- Since 2006
- WHO-focus
- Over 5000 members
- Branded as EzCollab
- **Other organizations and agencies start using the Knowledge Gateway and branding their own networks**

**Consortiums D'Groups**

[www.dgroups.org](http://www.dgroups.org)

- Joined the platform in 2009 with 100,000 users

HIFA 2015

**Other Groups and Agencies**

- Includes groups with individually branded communities
- Includes UNHCR, UN Staff College, Health Professionals Network, HUG etc

**Branded and Managed by User Groups**

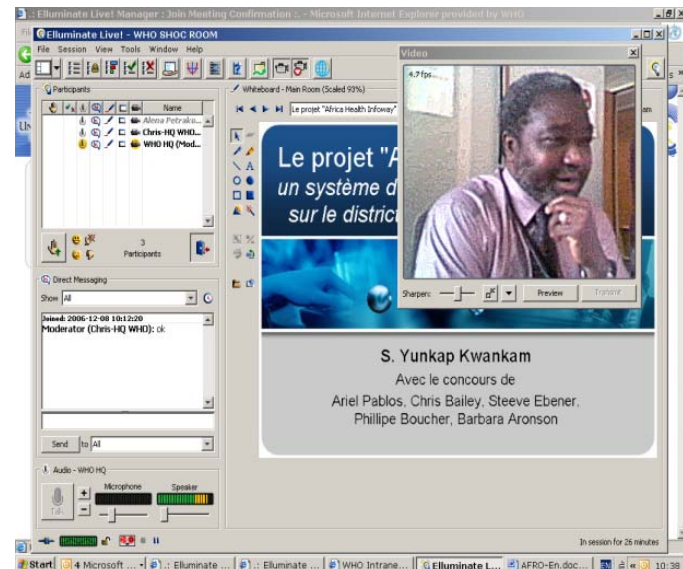
**Linkage**

**Shared Ownership Initiative and Common Entry Portal (Planned for 2010)**



# Forum Structure

- Length varies (1-6 weeks)
- Include daily or bi weekly subtopics/discussion threads
- Daily digest of the discussion
- Include panel of subject matter experts
- Often launched with a videoconference / webcast linking countries from different regions
  - HPVaccineNet webcast accessed 762 times by 147 viewers in 36 countries



# Knowledge networking and Online Global Discussion Forums

**Health Professions Global Network ([www.hpgn.org](http://www.hpgn.org))**

**Follow-up of a WHO Global Consultation with 59 representatives from Health Professional Organizations, June 2009.**

- **Global Discussion Forum 1- 12 February 2010**
- **Growing network: 2,771 members from 143 countries**
- **Video conference March 2010: – 6 sites and 4 telephone lines**
- **Partners to support the on-going management of the community**



# Benefits of Participating in Virtual Forums and Communities

- Network and communicate with other professionals in your field and beyond your field
- Communicate with and learn from experts
- Learn about resource materials and tools, and promising or effective practices used by other organizations and in other countries
- Contribute your voice and your opinion to dialogue on policy and practice
- Share problems and challenges
- Share what you learn with your colleagues who may not be connected to online communities

