

Online Forum on Youth and Reproductive Health

Bill Finger, YouthNet/FHI
Peggy D'Adamo, INFO



Goals of Forum Partners

IBP - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://ibp.wa-research.ch/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FDefault.aspx>

IBP Implementing Best Practices
in reproductive health

Please login

User Name:

Password:

Remember me

Login

[I forgot my password](#)

Use of this site is subject to terms of service. By continuing past this page you agree to abide by these terms.

[Copyright](#) [Privacy](#) [Governance](#)

Together we make good programs even better.

Welcome to the IBP Electronic Communication System.
This System was designed for **YOU!**

The goal of the IBP Initiative, supported by 21 partners, is to identify, adapt and apply Best Practices in the field of Reproductive Health. The IBP Initiative also aims to promote the concept of collaborative learning and knowledge sharing.

The easy-to-use system and its resources can be accessed from anywhere anytime, be it your home, office or an internet cafe. The system promotes the aims of the IBP Initiative by making the access to existing Best Practices in the field of Reproductive Health easier. It also provides you with the opportunity to network with other experts, and share ideas, successes, experiences, and lessons learned.

By sharing our knowledge, we can more easily reach our goal to improve the reproductive health of men, women, and children worldwide.

Features

- Global RH Community
- Technical assistance from RH experts
- RH Resources including Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Tools

- Announcements
- Automatic task reminders
- Calendars
- Chat rooms
- Contact lists
- Discussion forums
- Libraries
- Meeting functions
- Links with partners

INFO and IBP Goals

- Help new networks to share/adapt global and local best practices/experiences
- Use online approach to strengthen South-South, South-North communication
- Serve as model for building ECS community of practice – first forum through ECS

YouthNet Goals

- Focus global community on key issues for youth
- Reach more people in a cost-effective way than in meetings/workshops
- Stimulate dialogue
 - Global leaders on ‘best practices’
 - Participants from developing countries on local experiences

Youth: Pregnancy Prevention in a Time of HIV/AIDS

March 15 – April 15, 2005



Forum Participants & Structure

- 654 participants, 86 countries
- 129 total postings, 87 people (32 countries)
- New topic & expert each week
- 18 daily digests of postings, expert comments
- Weekly introduction, summaries
- Forum evaluation, final summary

Topics and Expert Guest Leaders

Week 1 – Overview: youth needs

(Ward Cates, FHI)

Week 2 – Young women and girls

(Lynn Collins, UNFPA)

Week 3 – Medical barriers/accessibility

(Jim Shelton, USAID)

Week 4 – ABCs of pregnancy and HIV prevention

(invited forum participants)

Roles and Responsibilities

INFO's role

- Enroll new participants in ECS
- Provide user support
- Handle ECS logistics, ECS library, archives
- Conduct forum evaluation & follow up

YouthNet's role

- Select theme & topics
- Identify readings & experts
- Compile digests, guest introductions, summaries
- Post digests on FHI Web site during forum

Forum Evaluation

Methodology

- Questionnaire distributed to participants via e-mail and Zoomerang
 - Conducted during last week of forum
 - 11% response rate (73 people out of 654), 37 countries
- Follow up telephone/e-mail interviews (September 2005)
 - 7 developing country participants
 - Conducted 4 months after forum end
- Web site analysis and document downloads (forum page, FHI site: 2,053 visitors, 4,309 hits)

Evaluation Results

- Virtually all respondents satisfied with content
- 3 of 4 said right amount of discussion
- 1 of 3 said they used information discussed in the forum
- More than half downloaded/read materials
- 6 of 10 forwarded some of the postings
- 8 of 10 preferred the digested e-mail format

Participant Feedback

- “I am working on an ABC program and I gained some new insights in behavior communication strategies.”
- “We have just done the baseline survey for our peer education programme. I used much of the issues raised ... to meaningfully contribute to the interpretation of the baseline findings.”
- “Thank you very much for this forum. It's an eye opener to the many issues we have as service providers.”

Follow-up Interviews

- “Participating in the discussions helped me to continue with my work with renewed energy and enthusiasm – knowing that I am not alone in facing challenges.”
– School Counselor, India
- “The resources and/or practices discussed in the forum have made a real impact on the growth of new initiatives as I continue to develop similar models around my daily work.” – Program Director, Cameroon

Challenges for Future Forums

■ IBP

- ❑ Difficult to sustain a community of people with no prior relationship, experience
- ❑ People need incentive to use online version of the system

■ INFO

- ❑ Logistics required creative thinking
- ❑ Time commitments were greater than expected

■ YouthNet

- ❑ Daily digests were labor-intensive
- ❑ Challenge of addressing diversity of participant requests

Acknowledgements

Project Managers

- Bill Finger, YouthNet/FHI – bfinger@fhi.org
- Peggy D'Adamo, INFO – mdadamo@jhuccp.org

Technical and Editorial Assistance

- Anjali Sanghvi and Chris Davis, INFO
- Tara Kachgal, YouthNet consultant
- Ed Scholl, YouthNet/FHI who also acted as forum moderator

Evaluation Assistance

- Saori Ohkubo and Santosh Vijaykumar INFO Project, Claudia Ruland, YouthNet/FHI

WHO/IBP Liaison

- Lou Compernelle, WHO/KM Division
- IBP Web site: www.ibpinitiative.org

FHI archive of forum and evaluation

- www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/pregprevforum/index.htm

