



YouthNet

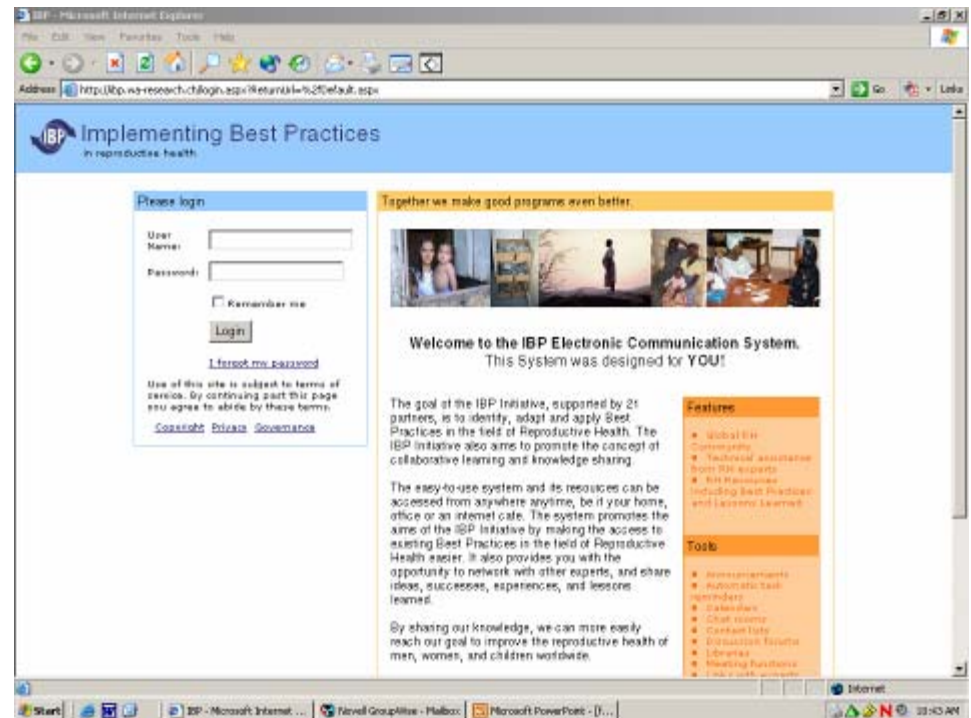
Organizing an Online Forum on Youth and Reproductive Health

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Collaboration is key!





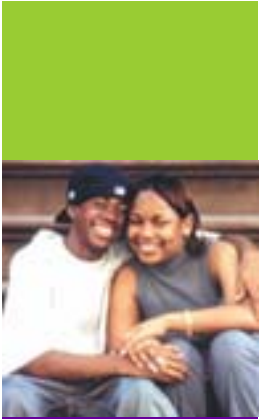
YouthNet Goals

- 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



INFO and IBP Goals

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



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 from 32 countries
- New topic & expert each week
- 18 daily digests of postings, expert comments
- Weekly introduction, summaries
- Forum evaluation, final summary

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



Topics & 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 participants)



Roles and Responsibilities

INFO role

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

YouthNet 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 by email & online:
 - Conducted during last week of forum
 - 11% response rate (73 of 654 people), 37 countries
- Follow up telephone/e-mail interviews (9/2005)
 - Seven developing country participants
 - Conducted four months after forum end
- Web site analysis and document downloads (forum page on 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.”



Challenges for Future Forums

IBP

- Difficult to sustain a community of people with no prior relationship or 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