Virtual Expert Panels: Bridging Communities to Promote Exchange in Global Health Delivery

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Background

- GHDonline's Panels are a convenient, efficient, and low-cost way to share lessons learned and views on a specific topic(s) with experts and colleagues with similar interests and challenges.
- Panels are designed to capture knowledge exchange among multiple disciplines and foster generation of new strategies in delivering health care, in an asynchronous online conference.

Methods

- Panels last between one and two weeks.
- Expert Panelists guide the discussion and share experience, know-how, and reflections throughout. Anyone can be a volunteer panelist. We recruit panelists by working with community members and moderators to identify leaders in the field.
- Users may participate by reading and contributing to discussion, either on the web or via email.
- Given the electronic nature of the conference, GHDonline can track page views, downloads, member contributions, and other statistics.

Findings

- The data and content from all Expert Panels are summarized into a Discussion Brief that provides a quick overview of key points and links to useful background research.
- All Discussion Briefs are available to all GHDonline users at http://www.ghdonline.org/discussionbriefs/.
- More than 20 Panels have been organized so far.
- The goal is to make information collected in these discussions useful, broad, practical, and accessible.

Conclusions

- Expert Panels are an innovative alternative for generating robust discussion, connecting diverse practitioners, and uncovering knowledge from the field.
- The GHDonline Expert Panel model is transforming the availability and depth of exchange among health professionals, especially those working in remote, resource-limited settings.
- Insights, perspectives, and experiences shared among experts, at no cost, contribute significantly to the emerging knowledge base in the field of global health delivery.

Countries represented include:
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Dominica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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