



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

Rebecca Weintraub^{1,2,3}, Sarah Arnquist^{1,2}, Sophie Beauvais^{1,2}, Marie Connelly^{1,2}, Yue Guan^{1,2}, Aaron VanDerlip^{1,2}, Keri Wachter^{1,3}, Aaron Beals^{1,2}
¹The Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard University, Boston, MA, United States; ²Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Global Health Equity, Boston, MA, United States;
³Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Boston, MA, United States

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.

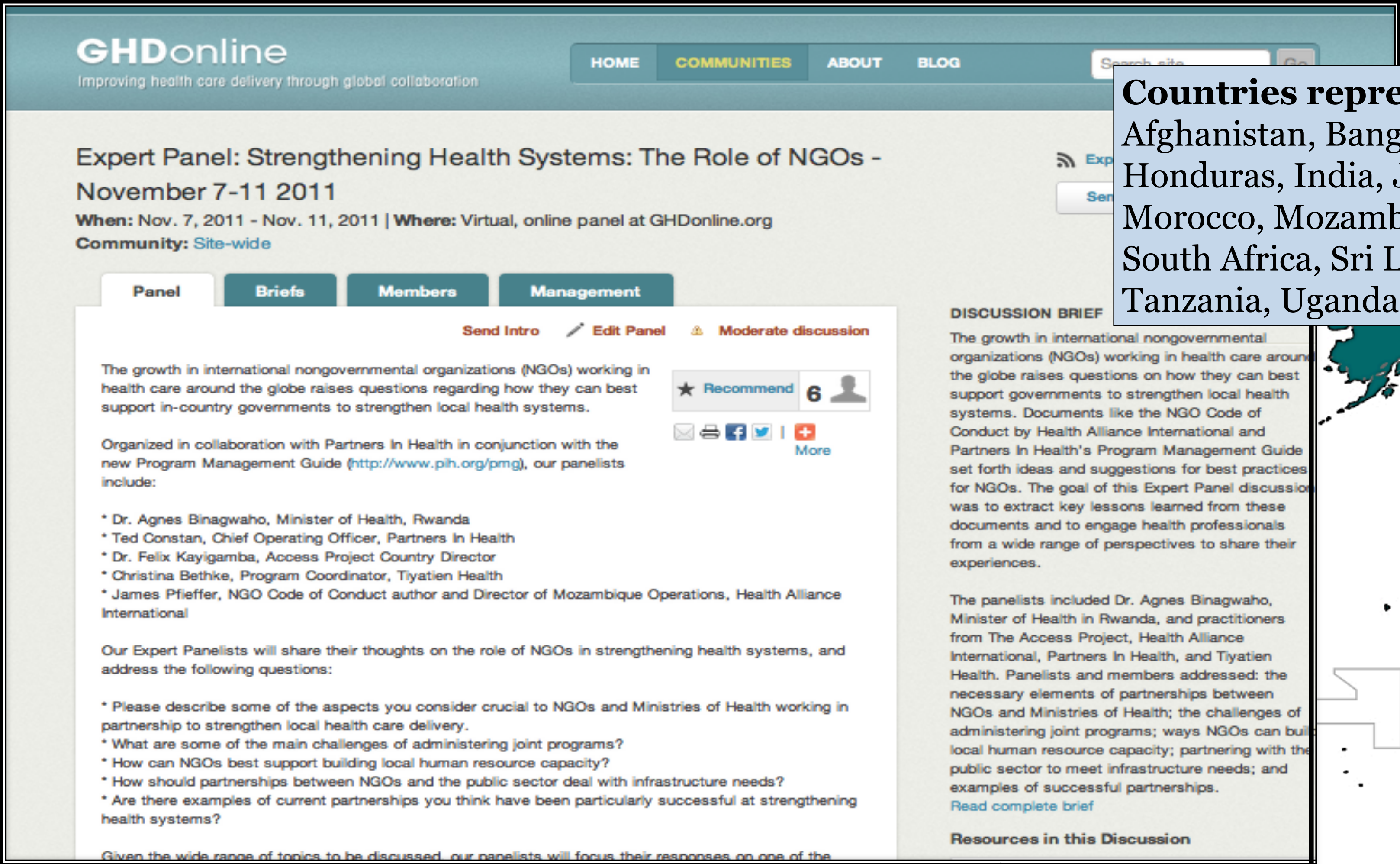


Figure 2: Screenshot of the Expert Panel: Strengthening Health Systems, The Role of NGOs, November 7-11, 2011.



Exhibit 3: Countries represented by participants in the June 2012 Expert Panel on Managing Insecticides for Malaria Control.

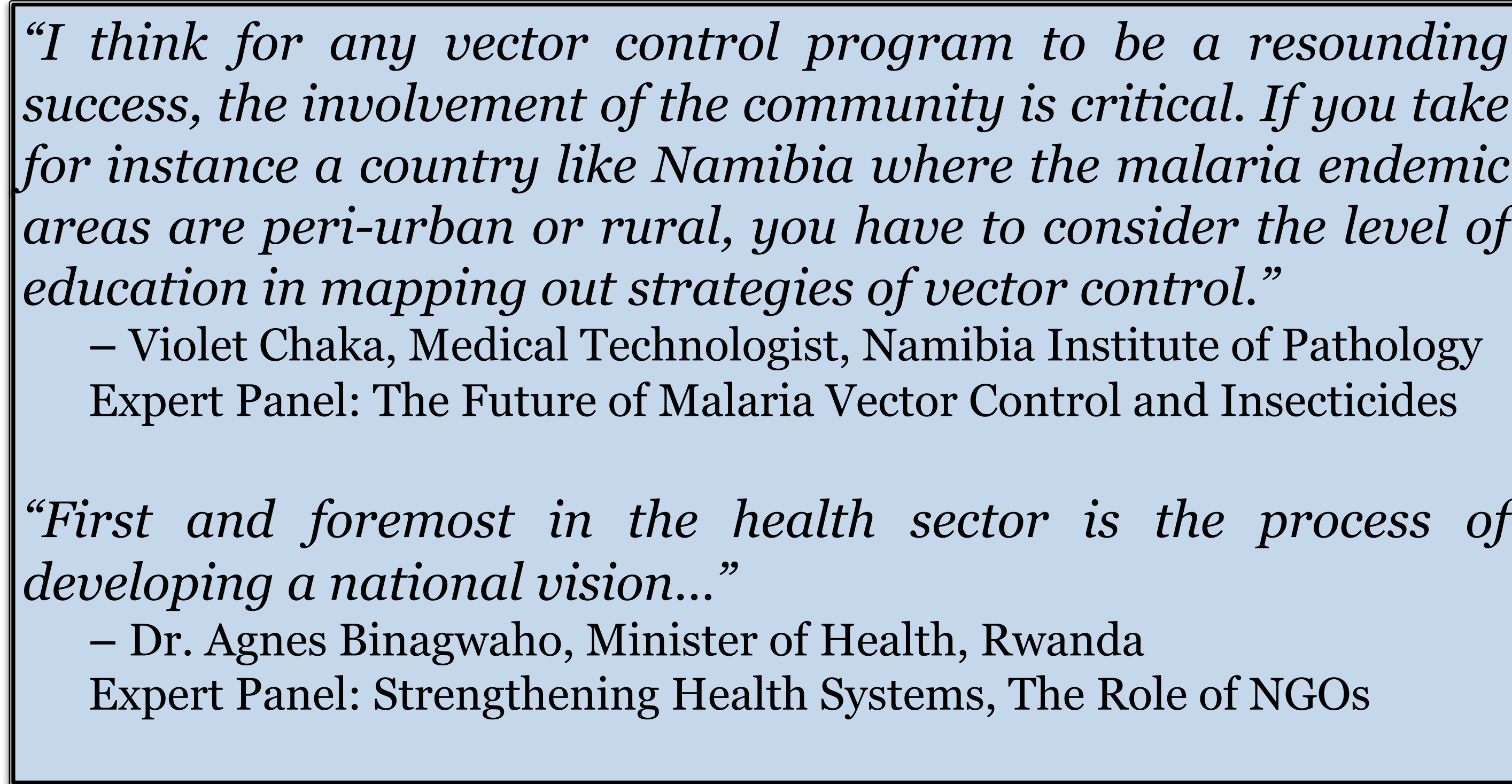


Figure 4: Quotes from two GHDonline members, shared during sample Expert Panels.

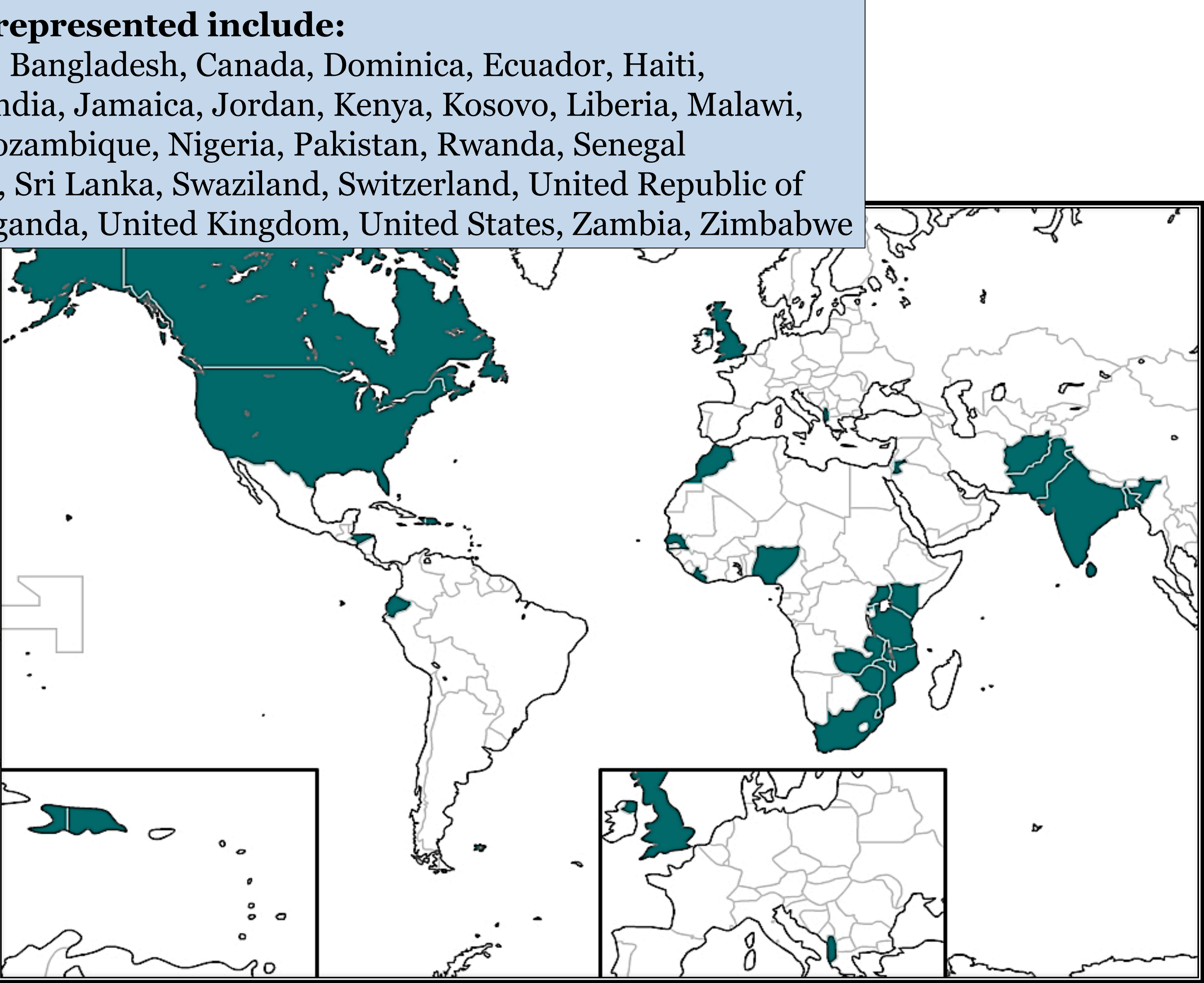


Exhibit 5: Countries represented by participants in the November 2011 Expert Panel on the role of NGOs in Strengthening Health Systems.

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.

Contact

Julie Rosenberg Talbot, MPH
Publications and Curriculum Development Manager
The Global Health Delivery Project
jtalbot@globalhealthdelivery.org

Figure 1: Screenshots of the Expert Panel: The Future of Malaria Vector Control and Insecticides, June 25-29, 2012.