

Maternal Health **Task Force**



BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave a grant to EngenderHealth to create the Maternal Health Task Force.

\$11 MILLION OVER **3 YEARS**

[The maternal health world] **lacks unified international leadership.** We don't have an identified leader. We need a leader or small group to lead...

LAUNCH MEETING FEB 2009

- 62 global experts
- Terms of Reference presented & discussed

MANDATE

The MHTF coordinates, collaborates, catalyzes, and communicates:

- Research & Evidence
- Policy & Advocacy
- Programs & Evaluation

OBJECTIVES

To provide an inclusive, collaborative, and vibrant space for dialogue and consensus building on maternal health agendas.

1

2

To guide identification of critical areas of debate and gaps in the maternal health field, and establish effective mechanisms to address them.

3

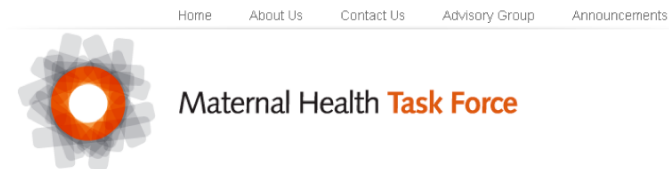
To stimulate new thinking, approaches, and action to improve maternal health.

4

To compile and develop instruments to empower constituents to carry out maternal health agendas.

Year One Nov 08-Nov 09

- MHTF launched
- Team recruited & hired
- Terms of Reference published
- Blogsite launched
- Advisory Group formed
- Fact Sheet produced & distributed
- External relations & constituency building



Guest blogger: Dr. Gwyneth Lewis on the Maternal Mortality Campaign



Posted by
Gwyneth Lewis
on 2009/05/26

Welcome to Dr. Gwyneth Lewis, our first guest blogger, and a member of the MHTF Advisory Group. Click [here](#) for her bio. Thanks for the post, Gwyneth! -The MHTF Team.

I was honoured to represent the MHTF at a meeting held between the Maternal Mortality Campaign, headed by Sarah Brown, and the European Commission in Brussels on the 14th May 2009. Representatives of several key member organisations of the MMC were present, including the MHTF, WHO, UNICEF, WRA, the Gates Foundation, Women Deliver, the ICM and several UK professional organisations. Other key members of the delegation, and a firm and vocal supporter of the campaign, were Ivan Lewis a Government Minister for the UK Department for International Development, and Tore Godal, special advisor to Prime Minister Stoltenberg of Norway.

The purpose of the meeting was advocacy, to share the urgency of the crisis facing the worlds' mothers and newborns with Louis Michel, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, and his colleagues, in order to seek their support for the campaign and to seek any further help they might have been able to provide. The meeting lasted for two hours and enabled a wide-ranging discussion and exchange of views of some of the key issues that will need to be addressed if meeting MDG 5, is in any way to become a reality.

Sarah started by giving another of her excellent summaries of the stark facts and figures, tempered with an understanding of the background health, social and societal determinants for good maternal health. She was then supported in this by many of the MMC members. The Commissioner gave a sympathetic and entirely supportive reply, detailing the support they had provided for women's health before and since the Cairo declaration including women rights to their own reproductive health, access to modern contraceptives and maternity services. He restated it was unacceptable to have so many mothers dying of preventable causes and also assured the MMC that the EC supported gender equity and rights and was actively working against the discrimination of women.

The meeting then held a discussion about how best to pressure the G8 summit in Rome in July and discussed three key areas on which to lobby. These were:

1. Aiming to have an agreed maternal health indicator which should become part of the high level key reportable indicators of existing initiatives at global level. This will promote country ownership and will improve health system support and response.
2. Addressing the health care worker gap to ensure more trained professionals of all cadres, who are competency based trained.
3. Considering advocacy for fund raising for facility based birth kits which could be used by health care professionals for both "normal" and complicated deliveries. There was, however, no clear agreement on this.

The meeting closed with agreement that every possible effort should be made to advocate hard at the G8 summit and dates for further meetings would be circulated shortly.

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Tags: [Add new tag](#), [maternal health](#), [Maternal Mortality Campaign](#), [Sarah Brown](#)

This entry was posted on Tuesday, May 26th, 2009 at 5:09 pm and is filed under [News](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. Responses are currently closed, but you can [trackback](#) from your own site.

COMING SOON

The MHTF's dynamic new website is scheduled to go live in November. The new site will be a cutting-edge, web 2.0 experience with a wide array of interactive functionalities and an exclusive search engine focused on maternal health. Be sure to stay tuned for this exciting new resource.

USERS

Log in
Register

RESOURCES

Young Champions
Factsheet
Terms of Reference

RELATED LINKS

EngenderHealth
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

ARCHIVES

September 2009
August 2009
July 2009
June 2009
May 2009
April 2009
March 2009
February 2009
December 2008

CATEGORIES

Jobs (3)
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EngenderHealth
for a better life

SUB AWARDS

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

- Conducting an e-forum on the maternal health content of the DHS, compiled and submitted by experts - the first MH community input in 5 years
- Analyzing new data demonstrating the impact of use of family planning on the number of maternal deaths
- Mapping maternal health knowledge resources throughout the world, from peer-reviewed to grey literature

SUB AWARDS

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

- Using “crowd sourcing” on a global scale to identify barriers to implementing programs that are proven to work
- Creating a system for updating global evidence-based guidance on maternal health interventions

SUB AWARDS

POLICY & ADVOCACY

- Advocating in support of the Minimal Initial Services Package for Reproductive Health that will reduce maternal mortality resulting from natural disasters
- Convening a series of Maternal Health Technical and Policy Dialogues in conjunction with UNFPA – first topic will be transportation and referral

SUB AWARDS

PROGRAMS & EVALUATION

- Integrating essential maternal health commodities into the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
- Creating The Young Champions for Maternal Health...



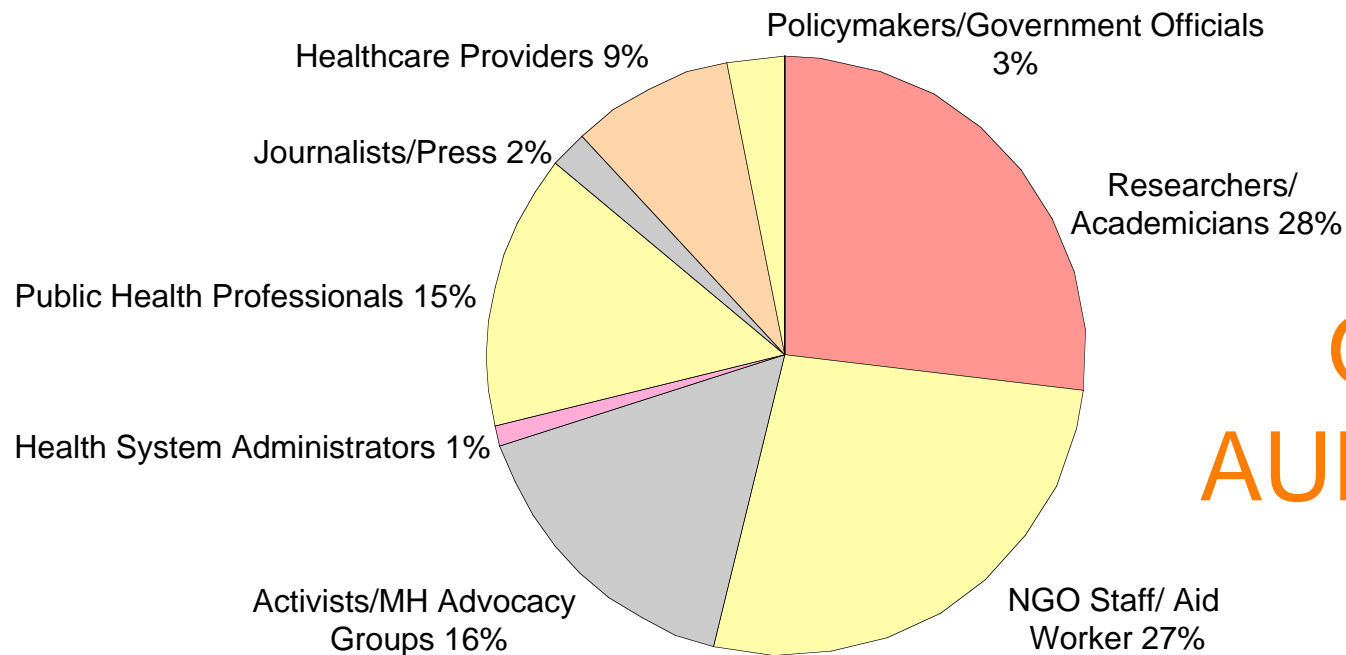
YOUNG CHAMPIONS

- Partnership with Ashoka: Innovators for the Public
- 16 young people selected using Ashoka's online Changemakers competition platform
- Modeled on Ashoka's social entrepreneurial approach to development
- Mentored by Ashoka Fellows based in developing countries
- 9-month work-study programs: 2010-2011
- First-ever internship/fellowship program exclusive to maternal health

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

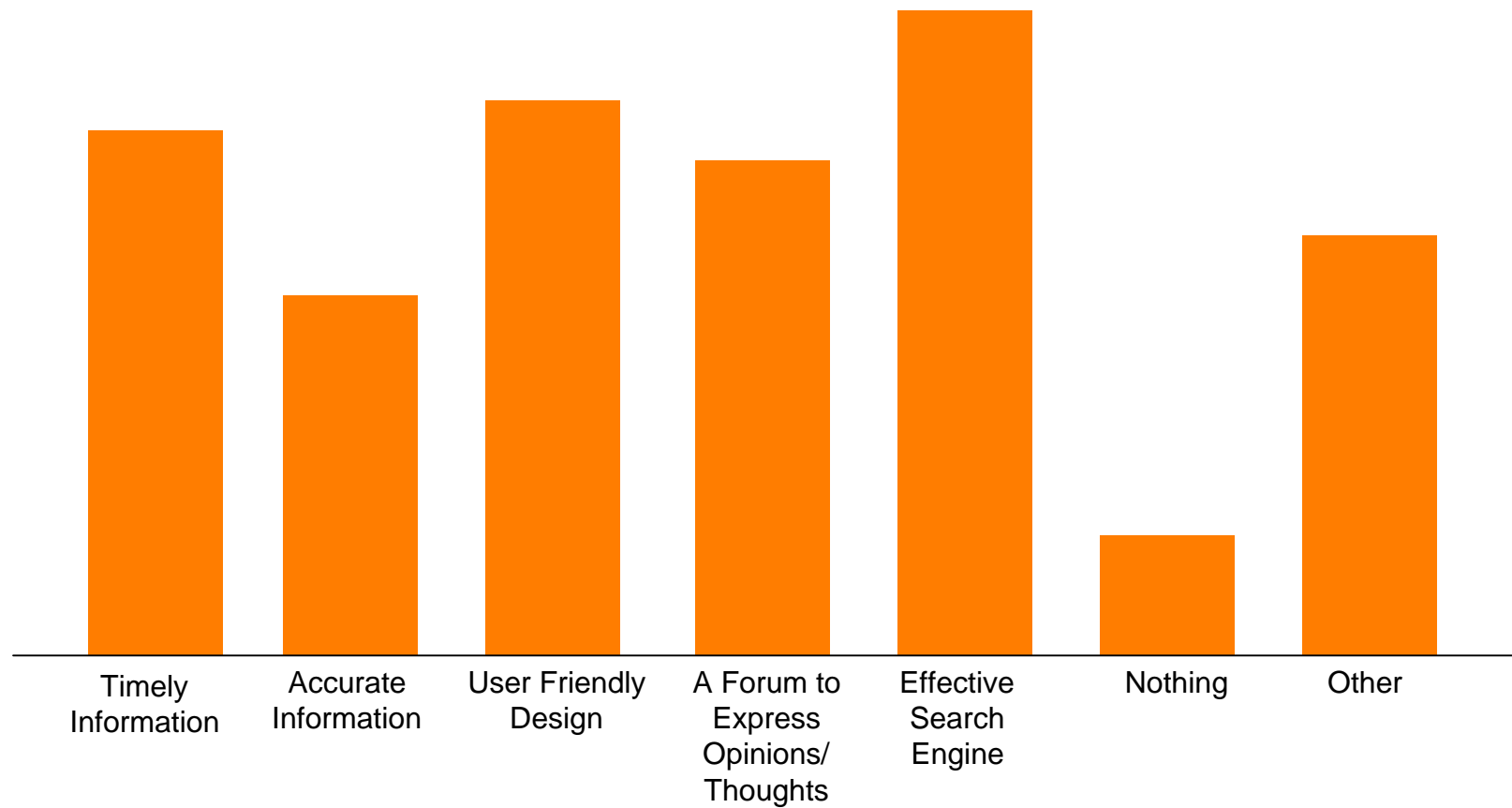
A key goal is to increase knowledge-sharing in the maternal health field.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



OUR
AUDIENCE

What do you think existing health/ maternal health websites lack?




KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- Our strategy is a “user-centered” approach
- Discover, Collaborate, and Discuss

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Maternal Health Task Force Knowledge Management System. At the top right, there are links for 'JOIN' and 'CONTACT'. The main header features the Maternal Health Task Force logo, which is a gear with a white center, and the text 'Maternal Health Task Force'. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'HOME' (highlighted in orange), 'ABOUT', 'DISCOVER', 'DISCUSS', and 'COLLABORATE'. A large white search box is positioned in the center, with 'JOIN' and 'SEARCH' labels to its left. At the bottom, there are three main content blocks: 'DISCOVER' (with sub-items: Data, Information, E-Learning), 'COLLABORATE' (with sub-items: Events, Partnerships, Projects), and 'DISCUSS' (with sub-items: E-Forum, Wikis, Blog). The footer includes the EngenderHealth logo and name.

JOIN CONTACT

 Maternal Health Task Force

HOME ABOUT DISCOVER DISCUSS COLLABORATE


JOIN

SEARCH

DISCOVER
Data
Information
E-Learning

COLLABORATE
Events
Partnerships
Projects

DISCUSS
E-Forum
Wikis
Blog

 EngenderHealth

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

DISCOVER

- amba
- interactive maps
- E-learning

COLLABORATE

- partner channel
- interactive event calendar
- projects

DISCUSS

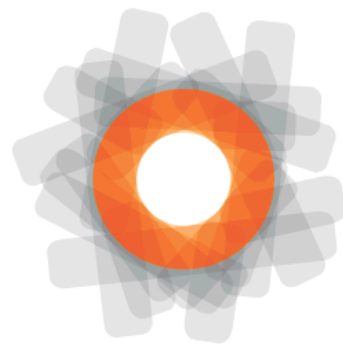
- live chat
- wikis
- polling
- discussion forum

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



WHAT'S NEXT

- Website launch November 2009
- Young Champions competition goes live in December 2009
- Call for proposals from developing country partners
- First MHTF Annual Conference: India: May 2010



Maternal Health **Task Force**

Please register at:
www.maternalhealthtaskforce.org