

September 2023

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Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

Happy Fall! In just a few short weeks, we will join our members in Santa Barbara, California for our annual Education Forum, hosted this year by Direct Relief! The meeting program is coming together, and we look forward to engaging and insightful discussions on many important global health issues, including health system strengthening, climate's impact on human health, supply chain trends and sustainability and resilience. We will also get to introduce our new corporate and NGO member organizations to our amazing network. We look forward to seeing you soon. Members, you can view the latest Education Forum program [here](#).



Also recently, I had the opportunity to attend, with our COO, Gretchen Warwick, the [Concordia Annual Summit](#) in New York City, as well as the UNGA meetings on Pandemic Preparedness and Universal health coverage. For those not familiar, the Concordia Summit convenes the world's most prominent business, government, and nonprofit leaders to foster dialogue and enable effective partnerships for positive social impact. We were able to catch up with many of our members, attend thought-provoking sessions, and meet new partners who share PQMD's vision.

Some of the sessions we attended were Climate Change and Humanitarian Health, sponsored by international Medical Corps; Sustainability and Health Innovation; Face of Change campaign launch hosted by Healthy Futures, a campaign stimulate support for engagement and focus on the intersection of climate and health; a fascinating session on Financing and AI in Development; and a high level meeting hosted by a PQMD partner, Rare Diseases International (RDI) at the UN, "A Blueprint for Leaving No One Behind." All the sessions were inspiring and challenging and it was exciting to see so much participation and thought leadership coming from PQMD members and partners.

Throughout the week in NY, several of our members announced they are launching exciting new initiatives and are already receiving accolades and recognition for the anticipated significant development impact. Please read about some of them below.

Stay healthy and safe.



PQMD Holding Members-Only Education Forum in October

The Education Forum is PQMD's annual members-only networking meeting and serves as an opportunity for members to learn from each other by sharing experiences and insights, working together through challenges, and discovering opportunities for collaboration. The meeting will be composed of compelling panels, working groups, and networking sessions that provide members the opportunity to dive deep into pertinent topics such as climate & health, health system strengthening, supply chain, and resilience in access to medicine.

Registration: Members, if you haven't yet, [register here](#) for PQMD's 2023 Education Forum. You can access the latest schedule and event info on our [online event program \(members only\)](#). *(If you've visited the page before, please be sure to refresh your browser for new updates.)*

If you have any questions about the Education Forum, please contact [Victoria Hammond](#).

As a reminder, PQMD's Education Forum is one of the most valuable benefits of joining the PQMD network. Learn more about [PQMD's Benefits of Membership](#).

PQMD Attends Concordia Annual Summit in New York City

PQMD's Executive Director, Elizabeth Ashbourne, and COO, Gretchen Warwick, had the amazing opportunity to attend [Concordia's Annual Summit](#) in New York City.

As the leading public-private sector forum alongside the UN General Assembly, this year's gathering established market-led solutions to the greatest challenges of today. Concordia's Annual Summit convened the world's most prominent business, government, and nonprofit leaders to foster dialogue and enable effective partnerships for positive social impact.

Elizabeth and Gretchen had an opportunity to meet up with PQMD members, attend thought-provoking sessions, and meet and network with new partners who share PQMD's vision.



PQMD Holds Disaster All-Call to Discuss Response to Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods

On September 12th, PQMD held an emergency member all-call to discuss the responses to the Morocco Earthquake and Libya floods. The purpose of sharing responses is to address any challenges and support disaster response coordination between members.

PQMD members donate and deliver hundreds of millions of dollars of medicines, medical products, and services to help provide short-term emergency assistance to populations affected by disasters (man-made and natural) around the world. [PQMD's Medical Donation Activities in the Disaster Response Cycle](#) resource outlines our members' donation activities throughout the four phases of responding to a sudden-onset disaster.

MEDICAL DONATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DISASTER* RESPONSE CYCLE



**Sudden-onset disasters are triggered by a hazardous event that emerges quickly or unexpectedly. They take many forms, such as earthquakes, tsunamis or hurricanes, and they usually cause loss of life, separate families and devastate communities and local health systems.*

ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

MITIGATION

- Provision of training for local medical personnel
- Programs addressing environment/climate resilience
- Risk mitigation and business continuity planning
- Frequent debriefs and data collection to inform future responses

PREPARATION

- Prepositioning product by establishing or stocking warehouses in disaster-prone areas
- Manufacturing products specifically for donation
- Establishment of logistics and infrastructure for future delivery
- Cash support from corporations and donors

RESPONSE

- Urgent delivery of pre-prepared immediate care products (such as health, medical and hygiene kits)
- Coordination with government officials and partners in the affected area
- Assessments to determine fundraising needs
- Delivery of products and cash to address assessed needs of the affected population

RECOVERY

- Delivery of products and services to address chronic and long-term treatments
- Strategic regular shipments through existing partnerships and programs
- Cash and other support to assist affected population in efforts to build back health systems

PQMD
Partnership for Quality Medical Donations



Save the Date: PQMD 2024 Global Health Policy Forum

Save the date for PQMD's 2024 Global Health Policy Forum being held in New York City, NY from April 30-May 2, 2024. More information coming soon!

Stay Informed!

Be sure to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or one of our other social channels to get the latest, most up-to-date information on our Pillar Talks, courses, events, and resources.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



PQMD Holds Coffee Chat, Humanitarian and Disaster Prediction and Preparedness: What Tools Do You Use?

On September 27th, PQMD held its monthly Coffee Chat, Humanitarian and Disaster Prediction and Preparedness: What Tools Do You Use?

Prediction and preparedness have always been critical elements in successful response efforts to both natural and humanitarian crises. But as crises around the world skyrocket and are less and less tethered to time, region, predictability, and equally surging resources - and with permacrisis becoming our new normal - how do organizations focus emergency preparedness and monitoring efforts?

Bob Kitchen, Vice President of Emergencies and Humanitarian Action from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Tom Cotter, Executive Director of Healthcare Ready, provided practitioners' perspectives into both the use and creation of their preparedness and monitoring tools and resources as well as lead a discussion on the important tools members use to prepare for the startling acceleration of crises worldwide. You can view all the resources and tools discussed during the Coffee Chat on the [CoP](#) (Members Only).

Learn more about Coffee Chats, which are included in [PQMD's Benefits of Membership](#), on the [CoP](#).



Disruptive Disasters Need Disruptive Technology

September 26, 2023 • 11:00 am EST



Phillip Chow
CEO, Humanitas



Jen Cole
Vice President,
Strategy & Impact,
Good Machine



Letícia Cruxen
Partnerships Assistant,
Humanitarian
OpenStreetMap Team
(HOT)



Moderator:
Allison Bradshaw
Population Health Manager,
Virginia Department of
Health; PQMD Technology
Consultant

PQMD Holds Pillar Talk: Disruptive Disasters Need Disruptive Technology

Disasters, man-made and natural, are increasingly disruptive and devastating – impacting more people, locations, and resources. The rate of disasters is increasing during a time of quickened technological innovation across all sectors and systems. While humanitarians increasingly focus on disaster preparedness in addition to response, the technological resources are changing the way people approach solutions, integrate information, analyze data and use insights to improve decision-making, empower communities, improve knowledge and increase awareness and communication.

Can these Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies revolutionize crisis response, disaster risk prevention, reduction and recovery?

PQMD addressed this question and more during PQMD's Pillar Talk: Disruptive Disasters Need Disruptive Technology. We learned from and engaged with leading experts, as they explained 4IR technologies, the opportunities and challenges associated with them, and what the future holds in Artificial Intelligence, Geographic Information Systems and human interfaces.

If you missed this very informative webinar, you can view the recording [here](#).

MEASURING FOR SUCCESS

K&I Committee Holds Open House on the CoP

In collaboration with the Guidelines Committee, the K&I Committee held an Open House on the CoP. Our corporate and NGO members discussed the intricacies of internal product donation policies and the need to customize these policies in certain situations. During this members-only event, the group went beyond the need for alignment with external partners, and explored how these policies are established and executed within organizations. Discussion centered around logistical, operational, regulatory and relational considerations. [PQMD's Donation Guidelines](#) are reviewed and updated by our member organizations annually, we offer the full document as well as a self-guided module to assist all organizations with upholding the highest standards in their work. Additionally, [PQMD's MFS Toolkit](#) offers resources and how to measure and track the results of your donations.



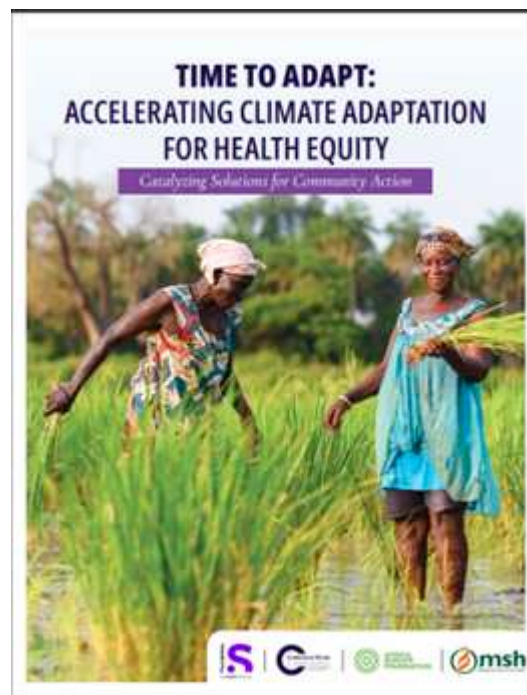
MEMBER NEWS

Sanofi S Releases New Action Report on Adapting to Climate Changes

Sanofi has recently released a new Action Report: "[Time to Adapt: Accelerating Climate Adaptation for Health Equity](#)." Both the report and a [video](#) were launched at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly where, in partnership with Foreign Policy and The Africa-Europe Foundation, they hosted a high-level event entitled, "Time to Adapt: Accelerating Climate Adaptation for Health Equity."

The report calls for urgent action now to help climate impacted countries adapt and become more resilient to the realities of climate change and determines that only working alongside local communities can we help those most at risk to adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change.

To further demonstrate Sanofi's commitment to climate health equity and to communities impacted by climate change, Foundation S is pledging EUR 40 million through 2030 to support locally led adaptation and health resilience programs. This pledge is in addition to Sanofi's commitment to positively impact society by tackling climate change and its consequences for human health with more than EUR 450 million through 2030.





Airlink Nominated for P3 Impact Award for Haiti Humanitarian Air Bridge

Airlink was recently nominated for a P3 Impact Award for their Haiti Humanitarian Air Bridge.

In October 2022, the already dire humanitarian situation in Haiti worsened dramatically following a new cholera outbreak—the first in almost three years. The incidence of cholera in the country quickly spiked, with more than 450 daily cases being recorded by November across most departments in the country. Healthcare systems quickly became overwhelmed, and aid agencies struggled to deliver humanitarian aid to the island because of transport costs and escalating gang violence. The normal sea-focused supply chains for medicines and medical supplies were severely constrained due to the primary seaport's closure, and ongoing gang violence made transit between the ports and program areas difficult; many containers with needed supplies were stuck for months due to the blockades and months-long wait times for customs clearance.

On top of the practical challenges of delivering aid in the country, the only viable option to get aid into Haiti—air transport—was financially out of reach for most NGOs. In the Fall of 2022, air charter prices had increased 160% in comparison to pre-COVID-19 rates (with the offloading cost alone increasing by 600%, numbering in the tens of thousands of dollars per flight); commercial airfreight rates were at an all-time high due to the limited number of carriers serving Port-au-Prince and the risk involved in flying to the country.

To address this growing humanitarian crisis, in which more than 50,000 cases of cholera have been recorded, Airlink joined together with its aviation and logistics partners and USAID/BHA launching a private sector-powered aid bridge that helped overcome supply chain disruptions, deliver sustained assistance to Haiti, and provide resources to local communities in the fight against cholera.

To learn more about Airlink's Haiti air bridge, visit Airlink's website [here](#).



IHP: Disaster Preparedness and Resilience

'It is vital for an organisation like ours to have processes in place before disaster strikes to ensure we are well-co-ordinated and pre-positioned to help those in disaster-affected areas as quickly as we can' says Louise Hart, Programmes Director at International Health Partners (IHP). 'As an organisation which works through partnerships, there are a lot of external factors which play a part in our response to a sudden on-set disaster, and every disaster is different,' she adds.

'One of the main ways we can be prepared for sudden onset disasters, is through the pre-positioning of medical supplies which are particularly useful in disaster settings. Our Essential Health Packs are often our first line of response and contain over 800 lines of treatment from antibiotics to painkillers.'

'However, we have come to recognise that we can be better prepared for disasters in all areas of our business model – from understanding our donors and how they like to support in disasters, to developing relationships with the right logistics carriers where surge capacity may be needed.

Considering these factors before a disaster hits, helps to relieve some of the pressure for our teams and ensure we can get help to people in need quickly.'

'As IHP grows and the frequency of climate-induced disasters increase, we felt it was important to review how we approach disasters. That's why we've recently undergone a consultation process to review and develop a new disaster preparedness framework so that we can work coherently, efficiently and effectively across the organisation when a disaster happens. These more streamlined and collaborative processes have been tested recently with the disasters in Morocco and Libya and have proved invaluable in enabling us to scope our responses effectively. Each team has an individual workflow of their responsibilities and processes to follow during a disaster which will continuously evolve and improve as we take on learnings.'

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB

[**How do cyclones impact human health?**](#)

News-Medical.Net

[**Moroccans sleep in the streets for 3rd night following an earthquake that took more than 2,100 lives**](#)

AP News

[**Here's how to help earthquake-hit Morocco reduce the risk of disease**](#)

Al Jazeera

[**More than 5,000 presumed dead in Libya after catastrophic flooding breaks dams and sweeps away homes**](#)

CNN

[**Punjab: Medicine shortage hits drug-resistant TB patients**](#)

Hindustan Times

[**Latin America's 'silent' killer: How doctors are empowering communities in Bolivia to fight Chagas**](#)

The New Humanitarian

[**Global Health's Dirty Secret: Rich Countries Get Good Medicine, and the Poor Sometimes Get Poison**](#)

The NY Times

[**Climate change undermines nearly all sustainable development goals**](#)

World Meteorological Association

[**Unprecedented focus on global public health at UN General Assembly**](#)

WHO

[**North Darfur malaria cases soar to 13,000 amid medicine shortage**](#)

Sudan Tribune

[**Countries Reaffirm Commitment to 'Global NCD Compact' on Sidelines of UN General Assembly**](#)

Health Policy Watch

Upcoming Events

[Funding low-attention disasters: From preparedness to long-term recovery](#); October 12, 2023; 2pm ET

[PQMD Education Forum](#); October 17-19, 2023; Santa Barbara, CA

[AidEx 2023](#)
October 25-26, 2023;
Geneva, Switzerland

**SAVE THE DATE! PQMD
Global Health Policy
Forum**
April 30-May 2, 2023;
New York City, NY

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Next Month's Theme: Mental Health*