



# NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Disaster Response, Preparedness & Resilience  
Month



Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#) to view in your browser.

## Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

This month, NYC played host to several prominent global health and development events including: UNGA 2024, the Concordia Annual Summit where PQMD and many of our members led panels, roundtables, conversations and high-level dialogues, CGI 2024, Climate Week and more. I was thrilled to have the chance to see so many of our members at our PQMD NY meetup and along with many of them, I had the pleasure of attending and participating in a number of fascinating and future-focused meetings. What a wonderful opportunity it was to engage with our PQMD members, global and community organizations, our partners, and our colleagues to learn and foster collaborative initiatives and consider innovations that can and will drive impactful solutions! You can see some of our event photos and highlights below in the newsletter.

During the Concordia Annual Summit, PQMD was proud to represent our corporate and NGO members at the forefront of addressing global health and development challenges. In collaboration with International Medical Corps, we co-hosted an engaging roundtable titled "Leveraging ESG for Climate & Health Impact at Scale". The discussion addressed the question of whether ESG and its requirements will help drive change at the intersection of climate and health, especially for the beneficiaries of programming. Attended by corporate, agency, NGO and foundation leaders, it was an important conversation allowing us to delve into how we can work together to address localized climate-driven crisis.

Our time in NYC was incredibly inspiring, fueling anticipation for our upcoming Collaboration & Learning Forum in Lindale, Texas, hosted by Mercy Ships in just a couple of weeks! This forum promises to be a fantastic opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. We can't wait to see you there and continue our collective journey toward impactful change in global health! If you're a member and haven't [registered](#) yet, please do so as soon as possible.

## PQMD Holds September Member Meet Ups in Chicago and NYC!



In September, PQMD members had the opportunity to meet up in Chicago and New York City. These informal gatherings were opportunities to unwind, enjoy some refreshments and network with fellow members in relaxed settings.

Keep an eye out for future member meet up events in your region! You don't want to miss these unique opportunities to connect!

*PQMD plans to hold future meet ups in locations across the U.S. If you are interested in future meet ups, please contact [Gretchen Warwick](#).*









## PQMD in New York City

PQMD was thrilled to participate in Concordia's Annual Summit held in New York City last week. Our members were prominently featured throughout the event in insightful sessions on key topics such as:

- Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships for Inclusive Approaches to Forced Displacement and Migration (UNHCR)
- Strengthening Global Health Systems: The Impact of 20+ Years of Public-Private Partnership in Tanzania (Abbott)
- Practicalities of Partnership Building (Merck)
- The Value of Women's Health for Countries and Communities (AstraZeneca)
- Climate Resilience in Polio Eradication: Integrating Environmental and Gender Strategies to End a Deadly Disease (UNICEF USA)
- Global Strategies for Cardiovascular Health: Enhancing Action Plans and Partnerships (Merck)
- A Blueprint for Sustainable Access to Surgical Care (Operation Smile)
- Strong Women, Strong World, Beyond Access: Accelerating Progress (World Vision USA)
- Partnering to Build a Health Workforce for the Future: A Fireside Chat (Abbott)
- The Amgen Prize - MIT Solve Pitch Competition (Amgen)
- The 2024 Concordia Leadership Award recognizing global leaders who inspire others through their ability to turn vision into impact was awarded to Pfizer's CEO

Many members also hosted important, intimate roundtable discussions on topics such as:

- Strengthening Health Systems in the Developing World with Community Health Workers (World Vision)
- Collaborating to Reduce Malnutrition: Building Capacity at the Community Level (Abbott and Children International)
- Leveraging ESG for Climate and Health Impact at Scale (International Medical Corps & PQMD)

Over the three days, PQMD engaged with members to discuss critical global health issues and strategize on improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Overall, it was a fantastic week of connecting with our members, hearing about the impactful work in global health, reaffirming our shared commitment to advancing health equity and improving access to care worldwide. Check out our [LinkedIn feed](#) for key takeaways from our leadership team.

---



### **PQMD Collaboration and Learning Forum Just Weeks Away!**

The Collaboration and Learning Forum (CLF - formerly the Education Forum) is designed to spotlight our members' unique achievements, inspire collective inquiry and fuel collaborative action through PQMD member expertise, challenges, and achievements.

This year's agenda challenges our membership to focus on what is working and understand what drives success within the changing face of health development. The sessions are built for maximum exchange with presentations, roundtables and working groups focused on timely cross-cutting topics including collaborative funding, growing frequency of disasters and crises, supply chain shortages, escalating demands for services, and rising operational costs. This year's format will enable participants to customize their meeting experience while focusing on topics of interest, such as maternal and child health, internally displaced populations and refugees, health workforce trends, healthcare facilities, regional partnerships, climate action, freight logistics, and mental health for emergency responders

We are just a few weeks away and are excited to see many of you soon! You can learn more about logistics, register and view a preliminary agenda on the [CoP](#).

This year's CLF will be hosted by Mercy Ships, and will be held in Lindale, Texas, October 22-24.

**Learn More & Register Now!**



## 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



## Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans

September 5, 2024 • 11:00 am EST



**Dr. Eric Rasmussen**  
CEO, Infinitum Humanitarian Systems

### **PQMD Pillar Talk - Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans- Recording and Resources Now Available**

On September 5th, PQMD held a Pillar Talk: Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans featuring a lecture by renowned international disaster response expert Eric Rasmussen, MD, MDM, FACP. Dr. Rasmussen shared best practices on aligning disaster response with national resilience plans.

Participants learned:

- The direct and indirect effects of multiple disaster scenarios
- Resources available for disaster response
- Frequent causes of morbidity and mortality in disaster-affected populations
- Impact of disaster management on supply chains and climate change
- Strategies for transitioning from disaster to recovery
- Trends, pressure points, and engagement opportunities in disaster response

Dr. Rasmussen offered an engaging overview, blending deep insights with personal

Dr. Robinson shared an engaging overview, sharing deep insights and personal anecdotes. He provided a glimpse into the content of his module from PQMD's Global Health and Development Essentials (GHDE) course, focusing on emergency response and disaster relief.

You can view the recording and resources on PQMD's [Community of Practice](#).

## View the Recording and Resources

---

### **PQMD Holds Coffee Chat: Disaster Dispatches: Field Staff Insights and Needs in Crisis Zones**

On September 17th, PQMD held an engaging Coffee Chat facilitated by Jodi Allison, Chief Partnership and Innovation Officer of MAP International, where field staff from PQMD member organizations operating in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East shared their firsthand experiences and insights. This one-hour informal discussion focused on the essential needs of these vulnerable communities, and the specific challenges members encounter in working in these complex environments.

Participants were able to hear directly from field staff about their current on-the-ground needs, logistical hurdles, and the impact these challenges have on their operations.

***PQMD members can stay abreast of future Coffee Chats on the members only [CoP](#).***

---

**Members, save the date for the next PQMD Coffee Chat!  
Protecting the Next Generation from Protracted Crisis:  
A Look at Humanitarian Responses Through a Child/Youth Lens**

Tuesday, October 15th; 11am EST

The building blocks of a safe and healthy childhood are well known. However, for the hundreds of millions of children around the globe, who are impacted by climate and natural disasters, disease outbreaks, economic shocks and food insecurity, social and political instability, and an increasingly violent world, they are being denied these cornerstones of childhood.

Many PQMD members are mission driven to provide life-saving and future protecting services to these vulnerable children in some of the most complex and insecure protracted crises around the world. But with almost 300 million people in need of humanitarian assistance this year, including a generation of children – where, how, when, and for how long do you decide to engage?

Please join our Coffee Chat on Tuesday, October 15 at 11AM ET, where Sarah Harris, World Vision US Senior Technical Advisor for Protection, as well as other child/youth-centered PQMD members will share their organizational approaches and lead a discussion on child/youth-centered responses to protracted crises, exploring: How organizations decide to stay? Or when they first respond, should they strategize about the longevity of their response? What would it look like to start a response at the protracted stage? Please bring your thoughts and questions to this important discussion.

***PQMD members can stay abreast of future Coffee Chats on the members only [CoP](#).***



MEMBER NEWS



**Direct Relief Makes Available  
\$74 Million in Medicines,  
Supplies to Health Organizations  
Impacted by Hurricane Helene**

Hurricane Helene has made landfall, bringing heavy rains, dangerous winds, and widespread flooding leaving millions without power across several states. In response, Direct Relief has made available its full inventory of medical resources to health centers and clinics in the storm's path. With more than \$74 million worth of medicines and medical supplies available, Direct Relief aims to support healthcare providers in addressing the urgent needs of the affected communities.

The storm made landfall in the Big Bend region of Florida, hitting nearly the same region devastated by Hurricane Idalia just last year, compounding the challenges for many communities still struggling to recover from the previous disaster. The ongoing rebuilding efforts have left many without adequate healthcare access, making the need for immediate medical assistance even more urgent as Hurricane Helene brings renewed destruction.

*Read the article on Direct Relief's website [here](#).*



**UNICEF signs mpox vaccine deal  
at lowest market price for 77  
low-and lower-middle-income  
countries**

UNICEF has signed an agreement that secures supply of the MVA-BN mpox vaccine at the lowest market price and ensures access to the vaccine for 77 low- and lower-middle-income countries.

This marks a major milestone in efforts to meet the demand for more affordable vaccines as part of an integrated response to the rising mpox crisis, while also paving the way for sustained vaccine access in 2025.

The agreement is an outcome of the emergency tender issued by UNICEF on 29 August and follows the World Health Organization (WHO)'s prequalification of the MVA-BN mpox vaccine on 13 September. The tender was launched two weeks after mpox was declared a public health emergency on 14 August, in collaboration with Africa CDC, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO, the Pan American Health Organization, and other partners.

*Read more on UNICEF's [website](#).*

---

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB



**[Poor sanitation and supply shortages fuel child mpox deaths in DRC](#)**

The Telegraph

---

**[This ancient disease still kills 1 million people every year](#)**

Vox

---

**[Mpox patients lack medicine, food, in east DR Congo hospital](#)**

Reuters

---

**[Estimating Trauma Rehabilitation Needs in Gaza using Injury Data from Emergency Medical Teams](#)**

World Health Organization

---

**[Early Warning Systems Vital for Climate Risk Preparedness in Kenya](#)**

Global Health Now

---

**[Why global health organizations are hiring chief AI officers](#)**

PATH

---

**[Chronic Illness and Quality of Life 5 Years after Displacement Among Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh](#)**

JAMA Network

---

**[From dodgy deterrence deals to drug carters: Aid barriers in the Darien](#)**

The New Humanitarian

## Upcoming Events

**ABC Webinar:**  
**"Breaking Down**  
**Barriers: Enhancing**  
**Cancer Access In Low-**  
**and Middle- Income**  
**Countries**

October 2, 2024; 11:30  
am EDT

**Elevating Mental**  
**Health on the**  
**Frontlines: A Call to**  
**Support the Global**  
**Health Workforce**

October 9, 2024; 9-10am  
EDT

**NetHope Global**  
**Summit 2024**

October 21-24, 2024;  
Washington D.C.

**PQMD Collaboration &**  
**Learning Collaborative**

October 22-24, 2024;  
Lindale, Texas

**Devex World**

October 24, 2024;  
Washington D.C.

Meetings [2024 World](#)  
[Bank Group/International](#)  
[Monetary Fund Spring](#)

October 25-27, 2024;  
Washington D.C.

**2024 UN Climate**  
**Change Conference**

November 11-22, 2024;  
Azerbaijan



This message was sent to you by the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations.  
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

---

*Does your organization have news to share?  
Contact [Beth Haynes](#) for placement in future newsletters.*

***Next Month's Theme: Mental Health***