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Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

As 2024 comes to a close, PQMD is preparing for an exciting and transformative year ahead. With a host of new projects and innovative initiatives on the horizon, 2025 promises to be a year of significant growth and positive change.

First, we are thrilled to begin the implementation of our refreshed strategic vision which includes key structural changes designed to maximize the impact of our work and ensure that we are engaging and supporting our members in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Over the next five years, we aim to be truly member-driven, focusing on flexible and targeted approaches to engagement and rolling out a streamlined portfolio of strategic initiatives. First up will be the launch of our highly anticipated working groups and special interest groups, and I look forward to providing more information to you as they roll out in Q1 of 2025.

On the programming front, we're introducing several exciting new initiatives. PQMD Connect, a powerful information platform, will allow members to easily browse and filter by fellow members' data to enhance collaboration opportunities within the network. PQMD is also launching the Pilot phase of the Aligned Metrics Initiative (AMI), which is designed to standardize metrics for assessing success in global health. This initiative is focused not only on analysis of the current landscape, but also on identification of new, emerging opportunities for showcasing measurable outcomes for medical donations.

Looking a little further into the new year, we will soon open registration for our 2025 Global Health Policy Forum (GHPF), set to take place in London, England, from April 29 to May 1! The event agenda is already shaping up, and I encourage you to save the dates to join us for what promises to be an extraordinary event! More details coming soon!

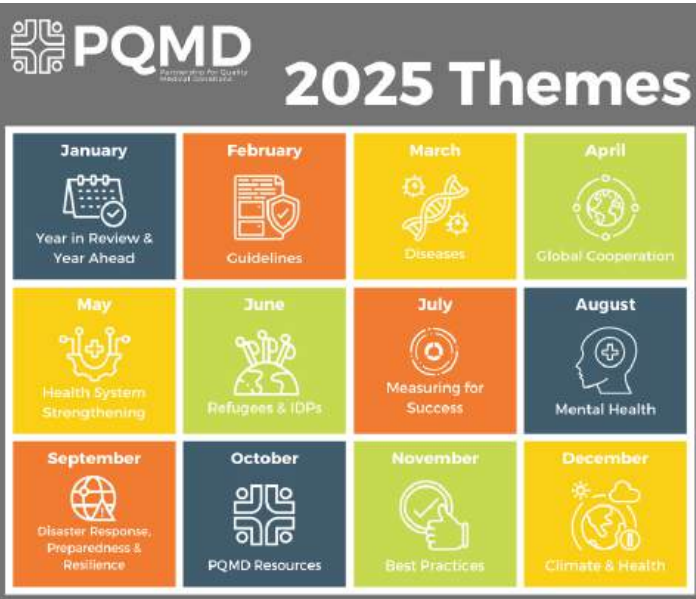
On behalf of the entire PQMD team, I wish you a joyful holiday season filled with time well-spent with loved ones. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!



Happy Holidays from PQMD!

Wishing you peace, joy, and good health this holiday season. May the coming year bring renewed hope and opportunities for meaningful impact as we continue our work together to improve health and well-being around the world.

PQMD NEWS



PQMD Releases Monthly Themes for 2025

PQMD's 2025 monthly themes serve as a foundation for our programming and communication efforts throughout the year. These themes offer opportunities for members to highlight programs and initiatives that align with the topics of focus. If you'd like to submit an article to be featured in any of our upcoming newsletters, please reach out to [Beth Haynes](#). We look forward to helping share your work!

PQMD Partnership Pulse: *Bridging Health & Access*

A monthly blog series exploring bold insights and fresh perspectives in global health and access to medicines.

Catch up on posts at pqmd.org!



'Tis the Season to be like Taylor

We have released the latest [PQMD Partnership Pulse: Bridging Health & Access](#) blog entry, *'Tis the season to be like Taylor: Improving health outcomes with the power of connection*. In her final post of the year, EJ Ashbourne reflects on Taylor Swift's global success, which goes beyond music to foster a community built on authenticity, kindness, and collective action. Referencing the "Taylor Effect," she highlights the powerful link between altruism and well-being. As we enter the holiday season, EJ encourages us to take inspiration from Swift's example and make caring contagious in our global health work, promoting a sense of belonging and kindness in everything we do. *You can read the full blog [here](#).*



SAVE THE DATES!

April 29-May 1, 2025
London, England



PQMD's Global Health & Development Essentials Course Spring 2025 Registration Now Open!

PQMD is excited to announce that registration is now open for the upcoming [Global Health & Development Essentials course](#), an 8-week executive survey course running from **April 16-June 11, 2025** (*skipping April 30th*). This course is designed for professionals and students in the global health space, offering a comprehensive introduction to international development policies and practices.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the global health policy environment in low- and lower-middle-income countries, learn about the key players providing humanitarian assistance, and explore the complexities of disaster response and medical product donation programs within these contexts.

We just wrapped up our Fall 2024 course, and we'd like to extend congratulations to all the participants for completing the program! We're happy to report that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with great reviews about the course content and the learning experience.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to deepen your understanding of global health and development. [Learn more and register today](#) to secure your spot in the Spring 2025 course!



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 January Pillar Talk- AI & Global Health:
How to Revolutionize Without Overstepping**

Save Your Spot! Register Today!

On January 30th at 11am ET, PQMD is hosting a can't-miss Pillar Talk with Hannah Cooper Klein, Co-founder and CEO of Cooper/Smith, and an advisor to PQMD, who will walk us through the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in global health – and the ethical challenges that come with it.

AI is poised to be a game-changer, especially in low- and middle-income countries. From leapfrogging existing medical infrastructures to accelerating vaccine development, the opportunities are immense. But with great power comes great responsibility: privacy, ethics, and data security concerns are just the tip of the iceberg.

In this session, we'll provide an "AI in Global Health 101", showcase practical examples, and dive into the considerations that need to be top of mind when deploying AI in the global health space.

Hannah has spent over 20 years advising governments, the UN, and global health organizations on using data and technology to improve lives. She's worked at the World Bank, led teams at PEPFAR, and is passionate about advising African governments on managing healthcare programs with limited resources. Having raised over \$30M to support global health initiatives, she's a leader in both the tech and global health sectors.

Save Your Spot [here!](#)

We look forward to seeing you there for this exciting session on how we can harness AI's power for good – while navigating the complex ethical landscape. Don't miss out!

Register Now!



PQMD Holds Coffee Chat for Members to Share Open Resources

On December 10th, PQMD held a Coffee Chat providing a unique opportunity for members to share any open resources their organizations offer with the PQMD network. This informal session provided a platform for organizations to present their tools, services, or insights and foster wider awareness and utilization of these resources. It was a great chance to showcase resources that can benefit fellow members and support the vital work being done across our network. *To access the resources discussed during the chat, visit the [members-only CoP.](#)*

PQMD members can learn more about upcoming Coffee Chats on the [CoP.](#)

PQMD's DHRC Hosts Final 2024 Member All-Call

On December 13, PQMD's Disaster & Humanitarian Response Committee (DHRC) hosted their final 2024 Quarterly Humanitarian Assistance Member All-Call. The discussion, themed, "Processes for Response: Corporate & NGO," explored strategies for enhancing disaster preparedness and response. Panelists shared insights into effective collaboration, proactive planning, and resource mobilization to meet urgent humanitarian needs. The call highlighted PQMD's commitment to fostering innovative and scalable solutions for global crises.

PQMD members can learn more and watch the recording on the [members-only CoP.](#)

MEMBER NEWS



Flooding and Humanitarian Needs Surge in South Sudan

International Medical Corps provides lifesaving services to flood-affected communities

By Elizabeth Austin Levoy, Senior Communications Specialist, International Medical Corps

Since September, climate change-fueled flooding in South Sudan has affected approximately 1.4 million people and forcibly displaced more than 379,000. The escalating crisis has led to increased rates of malnutrition, diarrhea and malaria among children and women. International Medical Corps, which has been providing vital services in South Sudan for nearly 30 years, quickly responded to the crisis.

“When people are displaced by conflict or natural disaster, the chaos and trauma that ensues can immediately affect their health,” says Dr. Stephen Yor, International Medical Corps’ Field Site Manager in Malakal, South Sudan. “In addition, when people drink unclean floodwater and use it to clean, cook and wash their clothes, infectious diseases spread rapidly. If those diseases—such as diarrhea and respiratory tract infections—are not treated, they can lead to severe acute malnutrition and even death.”

International Medical Corps’ health workers are traveling across Fashoda, Panyikang and Pigi counties—the areas hit hardest by the flooding—to provide healthcare consultations and medicines, screen for malnutrition, address mental health needs and much more.



Project Hope highlighted in Devex article on humanitarian crisis in Gaza

A recent Devex article highlighted organizations on the front lines of the Gaza humanitarian crisis to learn more about their staffing leads. Devex interviewed Chessa Latifi, an emergency coordinator at [Project HOPE](#),

Project Hope didn’t have a presence in Gaza or the occupied Palestinian territories prior to the current crisis. From Israel, and with support from Egypt, where it has had a presence for decades, the organization’s response began with medical supplies and commodities before moving into primary health care centers, Latifi explained.

“We are scaling up our existing primary health care work — mobile medical units, static health care points — and then we also have some sexual and reproductive health care clinics,” said Latifi. The organization’s staff include social workers and mental health and psychosocial officers, among other profiles.

While Project HOPE isn’t hiring directly for clinical roles, one of its partner organizations does recruit for emergency medical teams and has a team of Jordanian physicians and nurses on rotation as surge staff in Al Aqsa Hospital. These staffers tend to have combat experience or have responded previously in the occupied Palestinian territories or Syria, said Latifi.

Opportunities for international staff to support Project HOPE’s response primarily focus on country directors and deputy country director roles, as well as technical leads. And, while fluency in Arabic is an important skill to have, it’s not a deal

In the wake of a recent storm, International Medical Corps deployed an emergency response team to flood-affected villages in Panyikang county, where our team provides medical services—including nutrition screening, using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements to help determine whether someone is malnourished.

Many residents of Dolieb village in Panyikang county have already been displaced. Nyanthon Monybul, 57, was forced to leave her flooded home in Dolieb. She now lives in an abandoned school nearby that was closed due to the flooding. “My crops were destroyed by water,” Monybul explains. “I do not know when I will have to move again.”

Mabek Chol, 58, was also forced to abandon his home due to flooding. “I now stay at my brother’s home nearby,” says Chol. “But that has almost been taken by the floodwater.”

International Medical Corps is addressing the effects of the climate crisis head-on and helping communities prepare for the next emergency. [See how we’re making a difference](#) by meeting the health impacts of climate change, and [learn more about our work](#).

important skill to have, it’s not a deal breaker for someone who is otherwise the right candidate, said Latifi, adding that technical leads in water and sanitation, protection, and health have been tough openings to fill.

Read the full article on the [Devex website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB

'World on fire': UN aid agency warns of tough choices as funding falls

Al Jazeera

Gaza Bombardment Worsens Superbug Outbreaks

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism

Africa CDC Launches Continental Blueprint To Combat Endemic, Neglected Tropical Diseases

Capital News

The global health and economic burden of chikungunya from 2011 to 2020: a model-driven analysis on the impact of an emerging vector-borne disease

BMJ Journals

Early Warning Systems Vital for Climate Risk Preparedness in Kenya

Global Health Now

Safety Concerns Plague Humanitarian Aid Work

ThinkGlobalHealth

Malaria cases rise for fifth year as disasters and resistance hamper control efforts

The Guardian

Data shows global conflict surged in 2024

Washington Post

Gazans injured in war live with disabilities but little medical support

ABC News

Northeast Syria: Displacement Worsens aid crisis

Human Rights Watch

Upcoming Events

CUGH 2025

February 20-23, 2025;
Atlanta, Georgia

World Sustainable Development Summit 2025

March 5-7, 2025; New
Dehli, India

PQMD Global Health Policy Forum

April 29- May 1, 2025;
London, England

World Health Assembly 78th Session

May 19-27, 2025;
Geneva, Switzerland

Social Innovation Summit

June 3-4, 2025; San
Francisco, California

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

June 18-20, 2025;
Geneva, Switzerland

AI for Good Global Summit

June 8-11, 2025; Geneva,
Switzerland

UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

June 14-23, 2025; NYC,
New York

UNGA 80

September 9-23, 2025;
NYC, New York

2025 Concordia Annual Summit

September 22-24, 2025;
NYC, New York

World Health Summit

October 12-14, 2025;
Berlin, Germany & Digital

COP 30

November 10-21, 2025;
Belem, Brazil

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Next Month's Theme: Year in Review & Year Ahead