



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Disaster Response, Preparedness & Resilience Month



A Note from Elizabeth Ashbourne, Our Executive Director

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of fall! September has been an especially energizing month for PQMD, with our community connecting through our own programming and across the many global health conversations taking place in New York around the UN General Assembly.

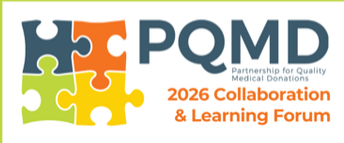
Being in New York during UNGA week offered a valuable opportunity to connect with members, partners, and colleagues across the global health community. The conversations covered everything from humanitarian response and resilient health systems to climate, workforce, and financing, but one word seemed to surface everywhere I went: TRUST. Whether we are preparing for crises, strengthening local capacity, or building partnerships that last, progress depends on trusted relationships - and on the transparency, consistency, and investment over time that make them possible.

These ideas also resonated strongly with the conversations we've been having within PQMD. September was our Disaster Response, Preparedness & Resilience Month, and our programming looked at both the realities responders are navigating today and how we prepare for what comes next. One of our most highly attended Pillar Talks to date, [When Crises Converge](#), brought member experts together to explore the growing complexity of responding when natural disasters, conflict, and disease outbreaks overlap. If you couldn't join, I encourage you to [watch the recording](#). Our [members-only Coffee Chat](#) carried that conversation even further, and focused on the significant challenges of operating in Sudan and the DRC.

There is much more ahead in October. On Monday, October 12 in Berlin, PQMD, in partnership with FINN Partners and the Anadach Group, will host [Business Vision for Reimagining Global Health](#), an independent event taking place alongside the World Health Summit. This small, *cocktails and conversation* gathering will bring together leaders from across sectors to explore new models for sustainable private-public partnerships, including evolving NGO-industry relationships, and approaches that can deliver health and social impact while creating sustainable economic value. Let us know that you will be in Berlin, and [register for this exciting dialogue here](#).

And just a week later, we'll gather in Virginia Beach for our [2026 Collaboration & Learning Forum](#) (CLF), October 20–22. I'm especially excited to bring our members together around this year's theme, *Adapting for Impact*. The CLF has always been a place where members can move beyond the big-picture questions to share what they are seeing, testing, and learning in practice - and after the conversations of the past several weeks at UNGA, CGI, Devex and others, this year's Forum feels particularly timely.

September was a great reminder that while the challenges facing global health are significant, there is tremendous value in bringing people together around practical solutions - whether in New York, through a PQMD discussion, or soon in Berlin and Virginia Beach. Thank you, as always, for the expertise, experience, and energy you bring to this community. I'm looking forward to continuing these conversations and hopefully seeing many of you in October!



OCTOBER 20-22, 2026
OPERATION SMILE | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

ADAPTING FOR IMPACT

Hosted at  Sponsored by 

2026 Collaboration & Learning Forum Agenda COMING NEXT WEEK!

PQMD members will gather together from October 20–22 for our 25th anniversary Collaboration & Learning Forum. Through peer exchange and member initiatives, we'll take on big questions about deepening capacity, sophisticated partnerships, continuity of care, readiness, resilience, strategy and investing in what comes next. It's our members' only meeting and we look forward to discussing shared challenges, aligning around opportunities, and building connections across the network. Beyond the sessions, we have social events - including trivia and mini-golf. Thank you to our host, Operation Smile and this year's sponsor, Johnson and Johnson. The event site goes live next week! [Visit the members-only CoP to learn more and register today!](#)



**When Crises Converge:
Responding to Natural
Disasters, Conflict &
Disease Outbreaks**

September 10, 2026 • 11:00 am ET

Panelists:
Pamela Bergman
Prakash Bhatia
Julia Henry-Klee
Ariel Truitt
Michelle Williams

2026 Pillar Talk Series Presented by 

 #PQMDPillarTalks

September Pillar Talk: Recording Now Available

Our September Pillar Talk, *When Crises Converge: Responding to Natural Disasters, Conflict, and Disease Outbreaks*, brought together one of our largest audiences yet for a timely conversation on the growing complexity of humanitarian response. PQMD member experts shared lessons on navigating overlapping emergencies, coordinating across sectors, and sustaining operations when recovery from one crisis is interrupted by the next. [Watch the recording to catch the full discussion.](#)



Welcome to PQMD, CARE!

We are delighted to officially welcome **CARE** to the PQMD community! Working in 121 countries and reaching 58.7 million people in 2025, CARE brings decades of experience spanning humanitarian response, health, and long-term development, and valuable perspectives that complement the expertise across our membership. [Read our full announcement.](#)



Join Us in Berlin: Business Vision for Reimagining Global Health

Will you be in Berlin for the World Health Summit? On October 12, PQMD, FINN Partners, and the Anadach Group will host an independent *cocktails and conversation* gathering bringing together leaders from across sectors for an open dialogue on what sustainable public-private partnership can look like in today's global health environment. We'll explore evolving NGO-industry relationships, new approaches to partnership, and models that can deliver meaningful health and social impact while creating sustainable economic value. **If you'll be in Berlin, we'd love to see you there.** [Learn more and register to join the conversation.](#)



Boston Member Meet-Up

PQMD members in the **Boston area** are invited to join us for an informal Member Meet-Up on **Wednesday, November 4 at 12:00 PM**. Come connect with fellow members over lunch and conversation! Keep an eye out for a calendar invitation with additional details soon - or **RSVP now with Jill at jpall@pqmd.org.**



Coffee Chat Recap: Operating in Complex Emergencies

PQMD members came together for an informal, peer-driven conversation on the realities of operating in Sudan and the DRC, exchanging practical lessons around conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks, access constraints, and rapidly changing conditions. The discussion once again highlighted the value of Coffee Chats as a trusted space for members to exchange experiences, challenges, and practical insights with peers.



Disaster Month: 25 Years of Learning & What Comes Next

Throughout September, PQMD marked *Disaster Response, Preparedness & Resilience Month* with a 4-part LinkedIn series exploring how disaster response has evolved, and what increasingly complex and overlapping crises will require next. [Catch up on the full series on PQMD's LinkedIn page and follow #PQMDResponds.](#)



From Response to Readiness: How Partnership Strengthens Disaster Response

What does preparedness look like in practice? In this special Disaster Month contribution, PQMD member **International Health Partners (IHP)** shares how pre-positioned medicines, trusted partnerships and strong coordination help move essential healthcare products where they're needed when crises strike. [Read the full member story on the CoP.](#)

Congratulations to Our Members Recognized Among the 100 Best Corporate Citizens!

We're proud to see so many PQMD members recognized in 3BL's **2026 100 Best Corporate Citizens** industry rankings, celebrating companies for their performance and transparency across key areas of corporate responsibility. Congratulations to our members represented across the **Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences; Health Care**

Equipment & Services; and Transportation listings! [Explore the full 2026 rankings by industry and see all of this year's honorees.](#)



Member Update: Islamic Relief USA is Now IDEA

PQMD member Islamic Relief USA has changed its name to Islamic Development & Empowerment in America (IDEA), reflecting the organization's broader focus on sustainable development and long-term pathways to resilience. While the name has changed, the organization has shared that its operating entity and structure remain unchanged. [Learn more about IDEA and its next chapter.](#)

PQMD ENGAGEMENT CORNER



UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM ACROSS PQMD'S COLLABORATIVE GROUPS



Working Groups



Member
Interest Groups



Committees



MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

Artificial Intelligence: This month, the group explored how members are experimenting with and applying AI - including questions around supplementation, regulation, and risk - and identified priority topics to carry into future discussions. *Next meeting date: November TBA.*

Spotlight on Hygiene Kits: This month, the group brought members together for an open exchange on successes, challenges, and practical lessons from their hygiene kit programs, creating an opportunity to troubleshoot and learn from one another. *Next meeting date: TBA.*



WORKING GROUPS

Climate & Health: PQMD is forming a new Climate & Health Working Group to help shape and advance this growing pillar. Interested members can contact Rylee at rshear@pqmd.org to get involved.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

- [Stay up to date and explore all the ways to engage here!](#)
- [Sign up here](#) to join upcoming group discussions and engagement opportunities.
- Curious what other groups are meeting or interested in connecting around a new topic? [Explore existing groups or start your own here.](#)

Next Month's Theme:

PQMD RESOURCES

Stay Informed!

We encourage you to [follow us on LinkedIn](#) for the latest updates on
PQMD programs, products and resources.



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