Primero "debut" at the World Humanitarian Summit
June 7, 2016

Celine Calve the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) Inter-agency Coordinator and Robert MacTavish, Primero project lead with UNICEF were at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on May 22 and 23. Celine and Robert demonstrated Primero as a new system for the safe management and sharing of protection-related incident and case data, at the WHS Innovation Marketplace.

Primero was selected over thousands of other projects to be featured at the marketplace that gathered humanitarians, influencers and innovators.

To keep needs of GBV survivors at the center of humanitarian action, service providers require information management systems that enable the safe and ethical collection, storage, management and sharing of incident data to continuously assess, and analyze GBV trends and patterns within the affected population. Since 2008, UNFPA coordinates with partners (UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, IRC, and IMC) the implementation of the GBVIMS, in 25 countries varying from conflict to post-conflict and natural disaster settings. Governed at the global level by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from these 6 organizations, the GBVIMS system allows for the low-cost, continuous collection of trends in reported GBV, which is used to inform programmatic decision making.

Primero is the latest addition to the GBVIMS, it is an open-source software application that helps GBV service providers securely collect, store, manage, and share data for protection-related incident monitoring and case management. Since 2013 the UNICEF Child Protection Section at Headquarters is leading the Primero initiative, on behalf of an inter-agency group composed of various international NGOs and UN entities, including members of the GBVIMS Steering Committee who are actively contributing in the Primero initiative. This innovation also includes partnership with the private sector.

The WHS marked a rare opportunity to share an Innovation Product "Primero" and present it as a strengthened information management tool to deliver effective humanitarian action, share GBVIMS Steering Committee and Primero best practices on secure and ethical information sharing, as well as lead and participate in collective action and partnership on the use of new technologies in humanitarian action, as well as connecting with various stakeholders including the technology community to help increase our agency's digital literacy, growth and outreach potential.
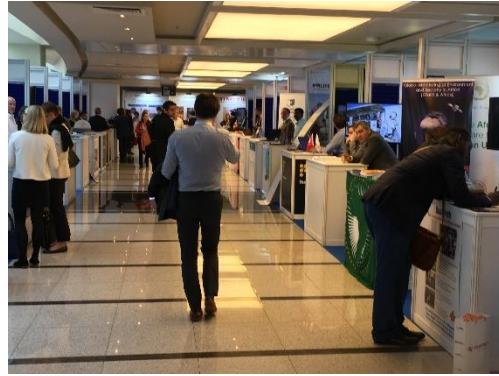
At the Innovation Market place, Celine and Robert met and interacted with delegates and representatives from governments, colleagues from non-governmental organizations such as Terre des Hommes Suisse, and UN agencies (OCHA, UNPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, OHCHR, the Peace Building Support Office, and the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants). They offered demos on how Primero works including the use of tablets for the collection of data.

Terre des Hommes Suisse that was presenting their e-health system, expressed interest in collaborating with Primero team in the implementation of the Child Protection Primero module, while OHCHR was curious to hear more about how Primero can support information sharing and intersections with human right monitoring tools, and how Primero can support their work in the field.

At the Innovation Market place, they also met with Kobo tool project lead from Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Kobo offers a free and open source tool of choice for tens of thousands of humanitarians, development practitioners, global health workers, and researchers around the world. Since in some contexts where the GBVIMS is rolled out, users have manifested interest or have moved forward with the use the Kobo tool to collect incident data on their Android smartphones instead of a paper-form, WHS was an opportunity for Celine and Robert to learn more about how the Kobo tools can work together with Primero, and establish communication with Kobo project team.

Besides these critical networking opportunities, other ground breaking innovations were introduced at the market place such as the team of Field Ready that was presenting how they are sending volunteers with technical knowledge to areas of need to use advanced manufacturing technologies, such as 3D printers, to meet needs. The NGO Ayzh presented its first product launched in 2012, the Janma birth kit which provides women all the components recommended by the World Health Organization for a safe and hygienic birth, using environmentally friendly and culturally appealing materials. Facebook booth was presenting several new features of the application including how funds were mobilized through crowdfunding after the Nepal earthquake in April 2015, as well as how virtual reality can support awareness raising, with the example of the life in Zaatari Syria refugees camps in Jordan. The booth also included a "Facebook Live studio" that was also used for key speakers to address messages and commitments made at the WHS. Other tech companies presented tools to support new approach in the delivery of humanitarian assistance (such as the use of credit card for cash transfer), as well as resources supporting the community of humanitarian actors with knowledge sharing or, support tools for data visualization and analysis.

We were honored to participate in the WHS with these people and inspiring innovations. We hope our work and the dedication of the broader humanitarian community will drive results to deliver better for people across the globe.

Learn more at: www.gbvims.com and www.primero.org