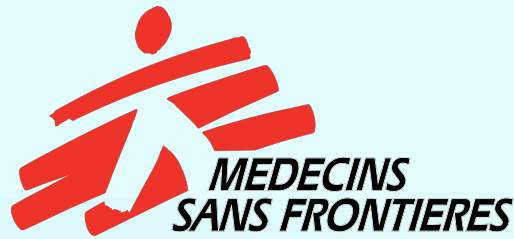




THE 21ST CENTURY'S DECISION-MAKING PLATFORM
Distributed Power. Intelligent Participation. Smarter Organizations



Case Study | Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders Canada

Inclusive digital motion development and debate process for AGAs

HOLD A MORE DIGITALLY-FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE, AND EFFICIENT MOTION DEBATE LEADING UP TO AND DURING AN ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Organization Médecins Sans
Frontiers / Doctors
Without Borders
Canada

“Médecins Sans Frontiers/Doctors Without Borders is a medical humanitarian organization that provides medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. MSF teams are made of health professionals, logistics, and administrative staff.”

Use Case Inclusive Digital Motion
Development and Debate
for Annual General
Assembly

Location Global

Industry International NGO

Segment Governance

Website doctorswithoutborders.ca

**Customer
Since** 2019

**Org Sample
Size** 5000

**Total Active
Users** 200

Duration 8 Weeks

PROBLEM

MSF's system for passing new motions was laborious and exclusive



Médecins Sans Frontiers/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) traditionally had an exclusive and laborious system for passing motions at their Annual General Assemblies, one likely familiar to many readers. Open debate on a motion occurred during the three hour period set aside for passing new motions and in order to participate in the conversation and vote on motions, members had to be in the room. Because the meetings are always held in Toronto or Montreal, many members were traditionally excluded from participating and ***“the people who are working for us [in the field] are less able to voice their opinions on key issues that impact the organization that they're a part of,”*** said board member, Anne Connelly. This system also excluded those who could not travel to the AGA because of finances, distance, commitments at work, children, etc., over-representing a specific geographical and privileged group in the motion process. The system was laborious because it required that a small committee of four worked with each motion author to improve and clarify the motions prior to the official proposal, debate, and voting session at the AGA. ***“It requires a lot of additional***



effort from me to do because I'm personally editing all of these motions and recommendations," said one committee member. Even if members could attend the AGA, there was consistently not enough time for proper discussion on motions.

"THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING FOR US [IN THE FIELD] RIGHT NOW HAVE NO SAY IN THE ORGANIZATION THAT THEY'RE A PART OF"

ANNE CONNELLY
BOARD MEMBER
MSF CANADA



PROCESS OF COLLABORATION

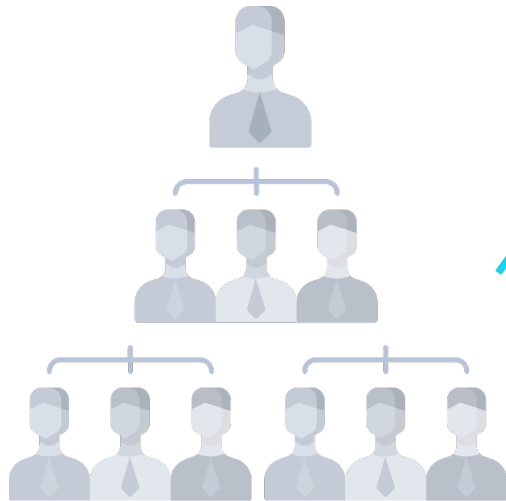
Swae offered an inclusive environment through which members could collaborate on the proposals from anywhere with an internet connection and distributed the labor of revising submissions.

With Swae, motions were submitted by members a few weeks in advance of the AGA just like the original process, but instead of being first revised by the small committee, they were immediately accessible to all members via Swae's online environment. **The small committee was no longer solely responsible for helping the authors strengthen their motions - the global community was contributing and their contribution "did result in improved motions, especially notable around ... one that was utterly changed,"** said one board member.



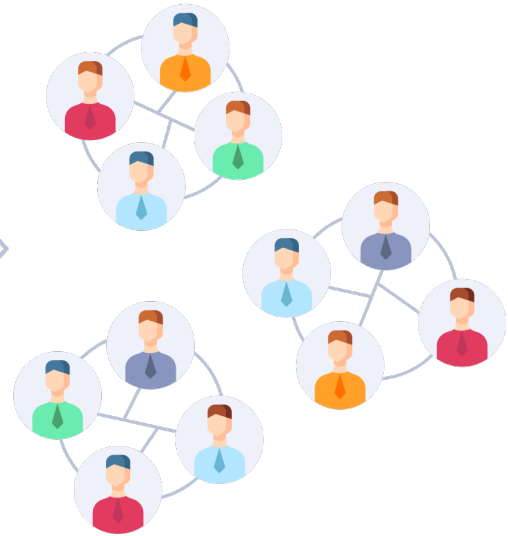


BEFORE SWAE



VS

AFTER SWAE



 swae >

- Proposal revision done by small 4-person committee
- Debate on all proposed motions took place in a three hour time slot during AGA, with 5-10 proposals to address, this meant very little time per proposal
- Debate on motions happened only among those present at the AGA in Toronto or Montreal

- Proposals revised and strengthened collaboratively by **all members** of the organization
- Members debated and collaborated on proposals for up to **3 weeks prior to the AGA**, depending on when each proposal was posted
- Debate on motions was possible for anyone with an internet connection globally - leading up to the AGA, **62% of the activity in the Swae environment was from outside Quebec**, and **on the day of the motion session, 32% of activity was from outside Quebec**

RESULTS

The system proved to be more efficient and inclusive and according to association members, the use of Swae genuinely impacted their experience and members were able to contribute to the motion debate from around the world.



% survey respondents who believe the Swae will help make recommendations more accessible to the whole organization



% survey respondents who believed Swae increased the transparency of the motion process



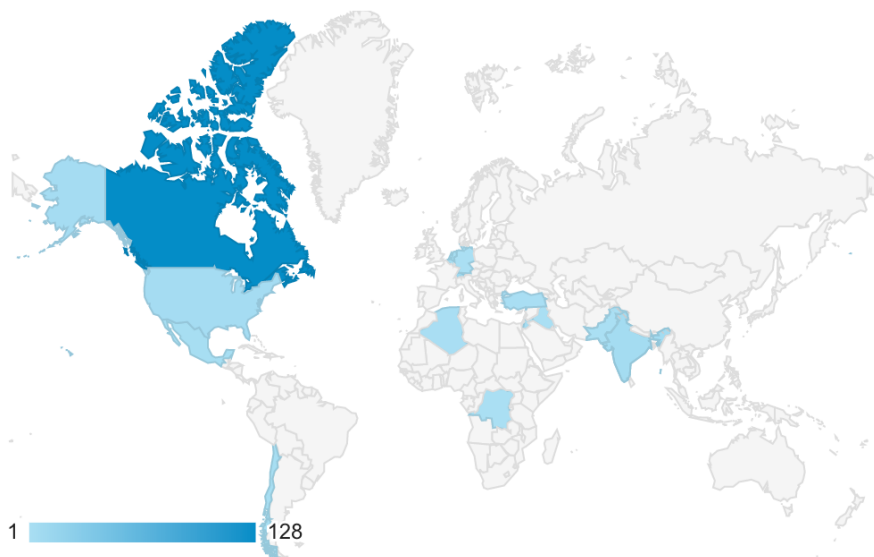
% survey respondents who felt that Swae made it easier to have their voice heard as an association member



“IT HAS IMPROVED THE MOTION PROCESS TREMENDOUSLY

“GREAT IDEA IMPLEMENTING SOMETHING LIKE THIS. THIS MAKES THE AGA MORE EFFICIENT AND LEADS TO BETTER MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BECAUSE PEOPLE ACTUALLY HAVE THE TIME TO CONSIDER THEM AND WORK ON THEM”

PILOT CONTRIBUTORS AND SURVEY RESPONDENTS,
MSF CANADA



MSF Users accessed the system from 15* countries in the 3 weeks leading up to the motion period. (*Access from India was from Swae teams)



WE'RE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING

From While the Swae environment encouraged collaboration, voting remained exclusive; the next step to using the software for a fully inclusive motion process is to allow members to submit digital votes. This particular challenge is one of policy in that while technically feasible to vote on a proposal using the platform, MSF's regulations specifying that members must be in the room to vote will need to change to allow digital voting.

Some MSF members had recommendations for the UI that would have made their experience more intuitive and enjoyable. We've listened and we're happy to report that MSF helped us create a better platform, in particular, the next UI will have more intuitive formatting for proposal text.



Transform the process of passing new motions at your AGA **into an inclusive, efficient, and transparent process**. With Swae, members from anywhere with an internet connection can collaborate on proposed motions, all motions are kept in a centralized location, and the process of updating and accepting motions is transparent to members.

Try Swae today: www.swae.io