

News from the Project RMA

Best Practices and Partnerships on Advocacy and Research on Reproductive Health

Project RMA partners [Population Action International \(PAI\)](#), the [German Foundation for World Population \(DSW\)](#), and the [International Planned Parenthood Federation \(IPPF\)](#) held a meeting on 'Sexual Reproductive Health Advocacy & Research: Best Practices and Partnerships' as part of the International Conference on Family Planning in Kampala on November 19th 2009. The forty-five researchers and advocates attending the meeting discussed how to work better together in advancing reproductive health services and supplies access. Participants learned how to engage in 'policy-informed research and evidence-based advocacy', as well as how to reach key audiences and impact policies.

For more information about the meeting, please contact [Mercedes Mas de Xaxas](#).

Contraceptive Choice Increases in Ghana

[The Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana \(PPAG\)](#) has announced that their efforts to increase the range of contraceptives on the Ghana Essential Medicines List 2009 have been successful. Eight new contraceptives have been added to the Essential Medicines List (EML), bringing the total up to nine.

PPAG and partners have been liaising with the Ministry of Health and the National Drugs Programme since late 2008 to request that they increase the quantity and method mix of contraceptives on the list. Only contraceptives included on the EML are eligible for procurement and distribution free of charge at Ghana Health Service outlets. The 2004 edition only contained one injectable. Emergency Contraception was not included. This meant that women and men who are dependent on the Ghana Health Service had no choice of contraceptive method.

PPAG's National Advocacy Officer and Project RMA Coordinator, Nana Amma Oforiwa Sam said 'This is a victory for sexual and reproductive rights. Now the women and men of Ghana can choose from a wide range of short term or longer term methods, including male and female condoms, oral contraceptives, injectables, implants and IUDs. For the first time Emergency Contraception is also on the list.' She also commended the Ministry of Health's willingness to openly collaborate with civil society.

For further information please contact [Nana Amma Oforiwa Sam](#) at PPAG or [Sarah Shaw](#) at IPPF.



Supplies news

Reducing Maternal Deaths

Doubling investments in family planning and pregnancy-related care could reduce maternal deaths in developing countries by 70%. Newborn deaths could be cut nearly in half.

These numbers are stated in the report, '[Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health](#)', which has been published by the [Guttmacher Institute](#) and the [United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA). \$1.5 billion could be saved by investing in both family planning and maternal and newborn services compared to investing in maternal and newborn health services alone. The deaths of nearly 400,000 women and 1.6 million infants would be prevented, unintended pregnancies would decline by more than two-thirds, and unsafe abortions and resulting complications both drop by about 75%.

For more information, please visit the [Access 2 RHSupplies blog](#).

New RHI Feature

The [Reproductive Health Interchange](#) (RHI) has added a new attractive feature. The feature provides information about shipments of contraceptive supplies to selected countries using a world map. The feature is a beta version and the RHI is asking for your feedback.

To use the new feature:

- Go to the [RHI-Website](#)
- In the top left hand box, select the 'Geographic Summary' report,
- Click Go
- Make your refinements by funding source, start and end date, methods. (You must select one or more countries)
- Click Go
- In the middle of the page, click on the hyperlink 'Show Map'

- Don't forget to send your comments to [Mimi Whitehouse](#). For more information, please contact [Mimi Whitehouse](#) at RHI.

Addressing Maternal Health Supplies

[Population Action International](#) (PAI) is implementing an 18-month project on maternal health supplies in partnership with the [Maternal Health Task Force](#) of EngenderHealth. Goal of the project is to integrate maternal health groups into the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#). Lessons learned from the Coalition and Project RMA will be shared with advocates from the maternal health community. The long-term goal of the project is to enable maternal health advocates to ensure that adequate supplies are consistently available for the achievement of MDG 5.

For further information on this initiative, please contact [Jennifer Bergeson-Lockwood](#) at PAI.



IPPF Fact Sheets

[The International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF) has released two 'From advocacy to access' fact sheets.

- [From advocacy to access: Uganda, The power of networks, how do you mobilize funds for RH supplies?](#)
- [From advocacy to access: Bangladesh, 360 Degrees advocacy, how do you strengthen a weak contraceptive supply chain.](#)

The first fact sheet explains how [Reproductive Health Uganda](#) (RHU) coordinated civil society and mobilized advocates and champions to increase the availability of reproductive health supplies and family planning services.

The second fact sheet informs how the [Family Planning Association of Bangladesh](#) (FPAB) worked successfully with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to improve the dysfunctional supply chain in the country.

For more information, please contact [Sarah Shaw](#) at IPPF.

Pacific Women's Sexual and Reproductive Risk

[Family Planning International](#) (FPI) has launched a new resource: [A measure of the future - a Pacific women's sexual and reproductive risk index](#).

The resource provides Pacific policy makers and sexual and reproductive rights advocates with a powerful tool for understanding and overcoming the barriers to

good health that Pacific Island women continue to face. The resource was launched on November 24th 2009 at the UNFPA Regional Symposium on Population and Development in Suva, Fiji. It was produced in collaboration with the Secretariat of the [Pacific Community](#) and [Population Action International](#).

For more details, please visit the [FPI website](#).



Sexual and Reproductive Health in Distress

A workshop entitled 'Sexual and Reproductive Health in Distress' was held in Stockholm by two [Countdown2015](#) member organisations, the [Swedish Association for Sexuality Education](#) (RFSU) and [Marie Stopes International](#) (MSI). The workshop was held to create an opportunity to network and discuss the needs of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and access to reproductive health (RH) supplies in humanitarian situations.

The workshop provided the 65 participants, including representatives from European Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the [European Commission](#), [Sida](#), [UNFPA](#), [WHO](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNHCR](#), [MSI](#), [IRC](#), [MSF](#), as well as NGOs, with information on SRHR in emergency settings and on how to include comprehensive SRH care and RH supplies in humanitarian interventions. The participants agreed on a [joint statement](#) on the need for SRHR in emergencies and concrete action. Furthermore, during the workshop, WHO and UNFPA launched the [Granada Consensus](#). In the consensus the following priorities for action are stated:

- Mainstream sexual and reproductive health in all health policies;
- Achieve sustainable consolidation and expansion of sexual and reproductive health services in protracted crises and recovery;
- Secure the commitment of humanitarian and development actors to bridge the current service delivery and funding gaps;
- Recognize and support the leadership role of national and local authorities, communities and beneficiaries in ensuring sexual and reproductive health.

For more information, please see the [full report](#) and the [Granada Consensus](#).

Countdown 2015 Factsheet on Sexual and Reproductive Health

[Countdown 2015 Europe](#) released a [fact sheet](#) 'The Role of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Strengthening Health Systems: Recommendations for European Institutions and Donors' .

For more information on RH supplies' role in strengthening health systems, please see the [full report](#).

Euromapping

Throughout October, [Euromapping](#) findings on donor funding for population assistance were brought to decision makers in Hungary, Italy, Latvia, and the Netherlands. Euromapping is a joint project by the [German Foundation for World Population](#) (DSW) and [the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development](#) (EPF). Monitoring the level and composition of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for population assistance helps to verify whether governments are living up to their political and policy commitments. The study has been presented to journalists, development NGOs, national and European parliamentarians across the European Union to advance peer pressure for improved global sexual and reproductive health.

An 'Addendum' [fact sheet](#) includes a survey on the inclusion of SRHR in the work of European development NGOs and some recent information on European philanthropic giving.

The Euromapping 2009 resources can be downloaded from the [Euromapping website](#).



Family Planning and HIV Service Integration

A supplement to the journal '[Aids](#)' addresses critical gaps in the evidence base on family planning and HIV service integration and presents research that has been conducted in the following areas:

- Behavioral research examining contraceptive practices and fertility desires of HIV-positive women and couples;
- Biomedical research addressing the safety and effectiveness of contraceptive methods for HIV-positive women;
- Programmatic research evaluating service delivery approaches to integrating family planning and HIV services;

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The studies published in the supplement expand the evidence base regarding how the family planning and HIV fields are related- and how they can be better integrated in practice.

To access the supplement's table of contents visit [the Aids journal's website](#).

Report on Satellite Session at Global NGO Forum

A [report](#) on the satellite session 'Population Dynamics, SRHR and Climate Change: Why Do Linkages Matter?', which took place during the Global NGO Forum on September 1st in Berlin, is now available.

To get the report, please visit [the Global NGO Forum website](#).



USAID Funds new 'Knowledge for Health' Web Portal

The new '[Knowledge for Health](#)' [web portal](#) provides news, links to databases, gateways as well as publications and websites related to global health, including family planning, reproductive health, and HIV/Aids.

Furthermore, toolkits on family planning and RH Supplies, e.g. a [toolkit on injectables](#), as well as [one on Intrauterine Devices](#) are available.

To visit the web portal please click [here](#).

34 Million Dollars to Help Prevent HIV

Germany has provided 23 million euros (34 million dollars) to help prevent HIV in Central Africa. The aid was given to the Organisation for the Coordination of the Struggle Against Epidemics in Central Africa ([OCEAC](#)) and follows a first grant of 10 million euros made in 2007.

The German-backed project has three objectives:

- To ensure that male and female condoms are available throughout the region;
- To raise awareness on risky behaviour patterns;

- To reduce the harm caused by the stigma and the discrimination practised against people living with HIV.

To get more information on OCEAC's work, please visit [their website](#).

Focus on ...

High-level Meeting on Maternal Health and Parliamentarians Conference in Addis Ababa

During the 'Fourth Global Parliamentarians Conference on Population and Development', which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on October 27th to 28th, 400 legislators and ministers unanimously adopted the Addis Adaba Statement of Commitment. Key commitments include:

- Increase budget allocations to at least 10 per cent of national budgets and development assistance budgets for population assistance, and ensure the target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product for official development assistance is met;
- Review all laws and practices that still restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services and;
- Strengthen parliamentary capacity for oversight and budget analysis, particularly gender budgeting, to increase accountability and achieve the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) goals and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The event was organized by the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development ([FAAPPD](#)), [UNFPA](#), and parliamentarian groups.

Prior to the Conference on Population and Development, a high-level meeting on Maternal Health (MDG 5) was held on October 25th. Ministers, parliamentarians, and representatives of regional intergovernmental organizations, youth groups, private sector and civil society from around the world participated in the meeting. The 150 delegates met to push maternal health higher up on the political agenda, to increase political and financial commitment for improving maternal health at the country level, and concluded with the '[Addis Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health](#)'.

The [Addis Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health](#) recommends specific steps to reach the goal by 2015, including the following:

- Prioritize family planning, one of the most cost-effective development investments;
- Make adolescents a priority by investing in their health, education and livelihoods;
- Strengthen health systems with sexual and reproductive health as a priority.

Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, presented the meeting's outcome at the opening of the Fourth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

For more information, please contact [Omar Gharzeddine](#) at UNFPA.

Resource Mobilisation for Maternal Health at Beijing Conference

A Satellite Meeting entitled 'Resource mobilisation for maternal health in the Asia and the Pacific - Donor roundtable at the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Beijing, China' was held during the [5th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights \(APCRSHR\)](#) in Beijing on October 18th 2009.

Panelists included Jose G. Rimon from the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro from [the David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#) and Dr Akiko Hagiwara from JICA. The session was moderated by Suzanne Ehlers from [Population Action International](#).

The panelists provoked a rich discussion and questions from the audience. The donor roundtable made clear that the unmet need for family planning reproductive health remains urgent in Asia and the Pacific.

The session was co-hosted by the [Japan International Cooperation Agency](#) (JICA) and the [Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA) for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Youth Issues

At the same conference, the Asia Pacific Alliance also created a 'Leadership Youth Commitment Desk' and held a skills building advocacy workshop. The youth commitment desk presented an innovative advocacy concept and opportunity to further expand youth participation at the conference. It also placed a spotlight on youth issues in the region, encouraging adult participants at the conference to make concrete Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) commitments to young people. A wide range of participants stopped by the desk, including government officials, parliamentarians, community leaders, policy makers and donors. Furthermore, the active involvement of young people was acknowledged and mentioned in several formal sessions, including the closing session of the Conference.

For more information, please [visit the APA Website](#).



Look out for French Version of 'Leading Voices in Securing Reproductive Health Supplies'

A French version of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition advocacy toolkit and guide '[Leading Voices in Securing Reproductive Health Supplies](#)' will be launched in

Project Resource Mobilisation and Awareness (RMA)

January 2010. The guide and toolkit is a practical, evidence based tool, designed to raise awareness and foster policy change for increased commitment to reproductive health supplies.

For more information, please contact [Martin Kuehn](#) at DSW.



The SupplyNews is produced by DSW www.dsw-online.de as part of its resource mobilisation and awareness raising activities in Project RMA. The content does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Project RMA, the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC), or any of its individual members. Third-party documents and their links to external sites are provided as a service to subscribers to the SupplyNews. Their inclusion implies no endorsement of their content by the Project RMA or any of its' individual partners.

Project RMA is a joint effort of Population Action International (PAI), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) to increase political and financial support for reproductive health supplies at the global, regional and national levels. Project RMA works closely with the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and its' Resource Mobilization and Awareness Working Group.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the editors [Sabine Weber](#) and [Martin Kuehn](#) at DSW.