

## News from the Project RMA Introducing the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

On January 8th 2010, Project RMA hosted a reception subsequent to the West African regional [AHEAD workshop](#) and introduced the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and its working groups, as well as the opportunities and advantages of membership of the Coalition.

Moreover, resources that the Coalition offers on its website were presented to the 20 speakers and participants from NGOs, UNFPA, the World Bank etc. Among those resources, Project RMA introduced the recently launched French version of the [Advocacy Guide and Toolkit](#) 'Make a Case for Supplies: Leading Voices in Securing Reproductive Health Supplies.' The advocacy toolkit and guide 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 [Sabine Weber at DSW](#).

## Local Condom Production in Bangladesh

The [Family Planning Association of Bangladesh](#) (FPAB) and civil society partners have been working closely with the government to encourage local condom production. In January 2010, the government announced that it would start producing condoms with immediate effect.

The issue was first raised at a seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 2009. FPAB launched the research findings on the economic and human impact of stockouts. A series of recommendations were made to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, one of which was to increase local production of contraceptives to increase stocks and reduce shortages.

FPAB and their partners used their access to government and relevant committee meetings, including the recently reformed Logistical Coordination Forum to raise the issue. This increased support and in January 2010 the Ministry announced production would begin and distribution will begin in June 2010.

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



## Capacity-Building for NGOs in Africa and Asia

In partnership with [Equilibres et Populations](#) (E&P), the [German Foundation for World Population](#) (DSW) conducted its last of four capacity-building regional workshops of the AHEAD project in Burkina Faso in January. The four AHEAD workshops aimed at increasing the capacity of more than 50 civil society organizations in four regions in Africa and Asia to advocate effectively for greater national support to reproductive health in the new aid architecture. The main outcomes of the workshops are the country based advocacy action plans that the participants from each country developed and will implement from 2010 onwards.

At the West African workshop in January, DSW trained 16 participants from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, and Niger on how to affect the policy and budgeting processes of their national governments to increase funding for reproductive health. Speakers included representatives of the AAFPPD (Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development), the World Bank, and UNFPA.

For more information on the AHEAD project, please visit [DSW's website](#).



## Free Female Condoms in Rwanda

The Rwandan government aims to significantly increase the use of male and female condoms. As part of a campaign, launched in December 2009, the government is distributing female condoms for free. A pack of three male condoms will be available for the subsidized price of US\$0.17. The three-month campaign focuses on high-risk groups and aims to change attitudes to the use of condoms and to reduce HIV infections among youth by at least 50 percent. It is estimated that the average number of condom use per year in Rwanda by sexually active people is three.

Source: IRIN Plus News January 12th 2010

## New Emergency Contraceptive Pill

According to [The Lancet](#), the new emergency contraceptive pill 'ellaOne' is effective in preventing pregnancies for up to five days after unprotected sex. This is longer than any protection against pregnancy developed so far. The pill may prevent up to two-thirds of unwanted pregnancies if it is taken within 72 hours, and 50 percent if taken within five days.

Get the full article from [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com).

## 'Plan B' available at Hospitals and Health Clinics

In February 2010, the [U.S. Department of Defense](#) decided to make the morning-after pill 'Plan B' available at all of its hospitals and health clinics around the world. The decision resulted from a recommendation by the [Pentagon's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee](#) to include 'Plan B' and the generic 'Next Choice' on the list of drugs all military facilities should stock. Women's health advocates had long been pushing the Obama administration to allow the sale of the morning-after pill at military facilities. Taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex, it has been shown to be highly effective at preventing pregnancy.

Source: Washington Post, February 5th 2010

## IPPF Fact Charts

The [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF) released two new 'From advocacy to access' fact charts. The first chart shows how advocacy by IPPF Member Association, UMATI led to a \$ 4.5 million increase to the national governments funding for family planning supplies and that four out of five targeted districts committed to create budget lines and increasing funding for family planning: [A voice united: How do you create political priority for family planning?](#)

The second fact chart explains how advocacy by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) increased the number of contraceptives on Ghana's National Essential Medicines list. Now, Ghana Health Service is able to provide oral contraceptives, IUDs, male and female condoms and emergency contraception: [Partnerships for choice: How do you increase contraceptive choice through strategic networking?](#)

For more information, please visit [IPPF's website](#).



## Meeting on Female Condoms

At a meeting, which was part of the international advocacy component of the '[Universal Access to Female Condoms](#)' (UAFC) Joint Programme, over 40 participants discussed female condom programming and advocacy on October 6th and 7th 2009 in Amsterdam. Participants represented civil society organizations, national governments, donor agencies and UN organizations. The purpose of the Platform Meeting was to broaden and strengthen the support base for the female condom, to share knowledge and expertise and to solicit explicit commitment of stakeholders.

Get the report from the [UAFC website](#).



## Youth InfoNet: Resources

The december issue of the Youth Info Net newsletter provides a set of resources related to Reproductive Health Supplies, including the following:

- [Adolescent reproductive health in Indonesia: contested values and policy inaction](#)
- [Condom brands, perceptions of condom efficacy and HIV prevention among university students in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa](#)
- [Factors affecting awareness of emergency contraception among college students in Kathmandu, Nepal](#)
- [Young clients of hotel-based sex workers in Bangladesh: vulnerability to HIV, risk perceptions, and expressed needs for interventions](#)
- [Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings](#)
- [Gender Norms and Family Planning Decision-Making in Tanzania: A Qualitative Study](#)

To see the full list of resources, please visit [their website](#).

## Reproductive Health Bill in the Philippines

In the Philippines, the debate about the Reproductive Health Bill intensifies as elections come closer. The bill, which includes the creation of a national policy on reproductive Health, has been signed by President Aquino. The action makes him an easy target of the Catholic Church, which is opposing the bill. Some of the bill's sponsors and supporters are distancing themselves while other supporters remain steadfast in their position.

Source: AFPPD News Service.

## Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education

The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO) recently released the 'International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education: An evidence-informed approach for schools, teachers and health educators'. The Guide was developed in partnership with the [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) (UNAIDS), [the United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA), [the United Nations Children Fund](#) (UNICEF), and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO). Volume I outlines the rationale for comprehensive sexuality education, while Volume II focuses on topics and learning objectives. The guide provides learning objectives on sexuality education for each grade level.

Get the Guide at [UNESCO's website](#).

## Happy, Healthy and Hot

The [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF) released a guide for young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) to help them understand their sexual rights, and live

healthy, fun, happy and sexually fulfilling lives. The guide 'Happy, Healthy and Hot' aims to give information on how YPLHIV can increase sexual pleasure, take care of their health, practice safer sex, have children, develop strong intimate relationships and access support.

To view the full document online, please visit the [IPPF website](#).

## **Focus on ... Reproductive Health Supplies in Haiti**

Clinics in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince, run by [PROFAMIL](#), the Haitian member organisation of the [International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region](#) (IPPF/WHR), have been seriously damaged by the earthquakes in January. The damaged clinics are not accessible anymore. PROFAMIL has created a task force to determine the duration and intensity of needs over the short term. Staff and community health promoters in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince organize mobile health units to bring primary health care, obstetric care, family planning, and HIV prevention to tent cities and other temporary shelters that were established in and around the cities. PROFAMIL is collecting money to mobilize human resources and purchase supplies, including first aid and medicines. The [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) has made a \$500,000 emergency grant to IPPF/WHR to provide reproductive and basic primary health care to Haitians.

For more information, please visit the [IPPF/WHR website](#).

## **Call for Free RH Supplies for Haiti**

The [Reproductive Health Response in Conflict](#) (RHRC) Consortium calls humanitarian actors to provide reproductive health supplies and services for women affected by the earthquakes in Haiti. RHSC asks for the delivery of clean delivery kits to all visibly pregnant women. According to the consortium, 7,000 of 63,000 pregnant women will deliver in the the coming month and 15 percent of pregnant women will require care for life threatening pregnancy complications. Furthermore, the consortium asks for the distribution of condoms at no cost to prevent spread of HIV and easy access to free contraceptives as women are unable to access their usual methods of contraception.

For more information, please visit the [RHRC website](#).

## **Delivering Emergency Reproductive Health Kits**

The [United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA) is delivering emergency reproductive health kits which contain crucial drugs, equipment, and other lifesaving supplies for pregnant women. UNFPA is prioritizing assistance to pregnant women in areas affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Even before the earthquake Haiti had the highest rate of maternal death in the region with 670 deaths per 100,000 live

births. According to UNFPA, one quarter of the impacted population are women of childbearing age, including thousands of pregnant women.

Source: Xinhua General News Service, January 14th 2010.



## Look out for 10th Asia Pacific Alliance APA Conference

The registration process for attending the 10th [Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA) Conference is now open. The Conference will take place on of May, 17th and 18th 2010, at Millennium Hilton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

While international leaders have committed to end poverty, many countries in the Asia and the Pacific are lagging far behind in work to achieve the MDGs. With only five years left to achieve the MDGs, time is fast running out. Advocacy to ensure decision-makers increase and maintain commitments to sexual and reproductive health remains critical. The 10th APA Conference will focus on action and bring together representatives from NGOs, youth organisations, governments and donor agencies active in Asia and the Pacific.

The [form](#) is designed to help organizers prepare a useful conference programme, and ensure there is space at the conference for participants to share skills and experiences in their advocacy work. If you wish to attend, please complete [the registration form](#) and return it by email to [conference@asiapacificalliance.org](mailto:conference@asiapacificalliance.org). In order to arrange a room at the hotel and/or to apply for a funded place at the conference, you must return this form before March 15th 2010.



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# Project Resource Mobilisation and Awareness (RMA)



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.