

News from the Project RMA

Ghana invests in contraceptives

In February 2010, the Government of Ghana released \$800,000, the first tranche of funding of contraceptives for 2009. \$1.8 million were allocated for contraceptives in the 2009 budget, but the funds were not released. As a result, Ghana was dependent on \$5.14 million donor funding, leaving a funding gap of \$4.34 million for 2009.

The Interagency Coordination Committee for Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS) has coordinated the repeated calls to the government to invest more resources in family planning. The ICC-CS is comprised of [Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana](#) (PPAG), government Ministries and Divisions including the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, bilateral donors, including the Netherlands and the UK, and technical agencies such as [DELIVER](#). They have been incredibly pro-active in working with the government to ensure that commitments are kept and funding is released. In 2009, the ICC-CS amplified their advocacy by endorsing a communications strategy developed by PPAG and partners.

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

Supplies news

42 Million Condoms for South Africa

The British government announced that it would be sending 42 million condoms to South Africa in response to a request for an extra billion as part of an HIV prevention drive before the 2010 Soccer World Cup. During his recent visit to the UK, President Jacob Zuma requested help in stockpiling sufficient condoms for the expected influx of thousands of football supporters.

The South African government estimates that up to half a million visitors could travel to the country, raising fears of a rise in prostitution and sex trafficking from neighbouring countries and eastern Europe, and creating a potential HIV time bomb.

Source: The Guardian (UK), March 9th 2010

Contraceptive Shortage in Uganda

The Lira Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda has faced a contraceptive shortage for the last 10 months. The only available method is pills, while injectables and implants, the most preferred methods of family planning, are not available. Injectables and implants are preferred because they are discreet methods and can be used for longer periods. According to the hospital's senior principal nursing officer, most of the women in the district had between five and ten children as a result of lack of family planning methods.

Get the full article from the [All Africa website](#).

RHI Training

In February, the RHI held two training sessions on the use of [RHInterchange](#) (RHI) data and tools. 18 participants worked with the data, generated reports and discussed examples where RHI data was helpful to support contraceptive security efforts, including advocacy. Further discussions included how the RHI could be incorporated into the work of program managers and technical assistance providers and how it could enhance their efforts at resource mobilization, donor coordination, budgeting, shipment monitoring, and supplies and financial planning. The RHI plans to repeat the sessions at both their Boston and Washington, DC (Arlington, Virginia) offices.

For more information, please contact [Joy Kamunyori](#).

RHInterchange

Capacity Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Integration

A workshop entitled 'Momentum for Integration in South Asia: A Knowledge Sharing Conversation' was held by [Population Action International](#) (PAI) in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop focused on increasing regional capacity on sexual and reproductive health and HIV integration within the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). The workshop was attended by member associations of the [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF) and government and private sector representatives of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. During the workshop, PAI, with assistance from partner organizations [Friends of the Global Fund Africa](#) (Nigeria) and the [Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights](#) (Ghana), shared best practices and lessons learned from the Mobilizing for RH/HIV Integration Initiative.

Read the full report on the [PAI website](#).



Toolkit on Family Planning and HIV Services Integration

[K4Health](#) released a new [toolkit](#) on Family Planning and HIV Services Integration. The toolkit provides evidence-based knowledge and promising practices to support the successful integration of family planning (FP) and HIV services. It summarizes the latest evidence and provides links to guidelines and tools to help to plan, manage, deliver, evaluate, and support integrated services. K4Health invites you to contribute by suggesting resources to include in the toolkit and by posting comments and

feedback on the [discussion board](#). K4Health expects that the toolkit will evolve over time to meet the needs of health policy makers, program managers, and service providers.

Get the toolkit from the [K4Health website](#).

Male Condom Distribution in the Philippines

In spite of conservative opposition, especially from the Catholic Church, the Philippines' Department of Health (DoH) continues to give away condoms, or prophylactics to 'people who need them' to help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The DoH also educated the youth, workers, Filipinos overseas, as well as tourists and transients who visit the country. The DoH taps into stand-by funds provided by international agencies, as in the 2010 DOH budget no funds were appropriated by Congress for the procurement of condoms.

Read the full article at the [Philippine News' website](#).

Female Condom Distribution in the Philippines

The [Philippine's Department of Labor and Employment](#) (DOLE) plans to distribute female condoms in workplaces nationwide to protect women workers from HIV/AIDS infection. Female condoms are not available on the local market in the Philippines and various DOLE agencies are looking for ways to implement a program to provide free condoms for women workers, who are often forced into sex by their husbands. The DOLE will also order all commercial establishments to strictly implement anti-AIDS programs.

Read the full article at [The Philippine Star's website](#).

Briefing on Female Condoms

[Countdown 2015 Europe](#) released a briefing on Female condoms. The briefing entitled '[Female Condoms now!](#)' is about how European governments can help to increase access to female condoms for women in developing countries. It provides a brief description of the history of the Female condom, introduces four case studies on Female condom distribution in Malawi and recommends actions that European governments should take.

[Get the factsheet](#).

Improving Local Access to Family Planning in Uganda

In Uganda, community health workers may soon be allowed to administer injectable contraceptives as part of a strategy geared towards meeting family planning needs. The same plan has so far been rejected by Kenya's medical establishment. In both Kenya and Uganda, thousands of trained nurses are either unemployed, or are working in sectors not related to their profession. Kenyan government records show the country has more than 8,000 unemployed nurses. At the same time the public health system reports a shortfall of 44,000 nurses.

Source: [Inter Press Service](#)

Latin America Launches New Supply Initiative

In February, during a meeting in Panama City, more than 25 stakeholders of the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#) (RHSC) from across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) agreed to form a new regional initiative to ensure reproductive health commodity security (RHCS). The new initiative will form an integral part of the Coalition.

For more information on the new initiative, please contact [Hugo Gonzalez](#) or [Gloria Castany](#).

PAI Shares Findings on Maternal Health Supplies

Population Action International (PAI) has concluded initial research in Bangladesh for its maternal health (MH) supplies research project supported by the [Maternal Health Task Force](#). The researchers met with 21 organizations and six public and private facilities with the aim of determining why oxytocin, magnesium sulfate, misoprostol, and manual vacuum aspirators are often unavailable to those that need them. Their findings point to inadequate donor funding for MH supplies; the need to pay out of pocket for essential medicines; poorly coordinated systems for forecasting, delivering, and tracking of maternal health supplies; and interrelated weaknesses in human resources and health systems. Additional research is now underway in Uganda.

For more information, please contact [Jennifer Bergeson-Lockwood](#) or [Elizabeth Leahy Madsen](#).

Source: The [SupplyInsider February 2010](#).

Contraceptive Security and Meeting Reproductive Health Needs in Southeast Asia

A new synthesis report, commissioned by the Asia Pacific Alliance (APA), reviews the provision of contraceptive services and commodities in Southeast Asia. The report also assesses progress in achieving contraceptive security and meeting reproductive health needs in countries of the region.

[Download the report from the APA website.](#)



Female Condoms in Washington D.C.

In March, health officials announced that they will promote the use of and distribution of Female condoms in Washington DC. As HIV rates in the area are high, the [MAC AIDS Fund](#) donated \$500,000 to provide the female condoms in a public private partnership. The partnership consists of the Fund, the [District of Columbia](#), the [CVS Drugstores](#), which are distributing the female condoms, and the [Female Health Company](#), the manufacturer of the Female condom.

Read the full article at [Newsweek.com](#).

Focus on ...

Family Planning Excluded from Canada's G8 Initiative

According to Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon Canada will launch an initiative on maternal and child health care but will exclude family planning programs and contraception. According to Cannon, the Canadian initiative will 'not address family planning in any way shape or form' on the erroneous grounds that family planning is not needed to save lives.

Concerned about Cannon's statements, [the German Foundation for World Population](#) (DSW) drafted a letter to the Canadian Prime Minister, signed by nine German organisations, including [Amnesty](#), [Action for Global Health](#), [World Vision](#), and [Save the Children](#) to urge him not to back track on previous commitments. A copy of the letter was sent to the German Chancellor, the Foreign Affairs Minister, the Development Minister and the G8/G20 Sherpa, referencing the G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Quebec on March 29th and 30th.

In parallel DSW's all Party Parliamentary Group sent a similar letter to Harper. They received an email response from the Prime Minister's office, acknowledging receipt of their email, and assuring her that their comments had been carefully noted. The Prime Minister's office also forwarded the letter to Foreign Affairs Minister Cannon, who would give the letter's concerns 'every consideration.' The letter was used as a template for an Italian coalition of organisations and the GCAP group recommended that other members follow suit. Get the [open letter from DSW's website](#).

[Action Canada for Population and Development](#) (ACPD) has a comprehensive section and a call to action on their web site on the G8 Initiative.

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



German Foundation
for World Population
(DSW)

Look out for Global Maternal Health Conference 2010

From August 30th till September 1st, the Global Maternal Health Conference 2010 will take place in New Delhi, India. Organized by The [Maternal Health Task Force](#) (MHTF) and the [Public Health Foundation of India](#) (PHFI), 500 maternal health experts and their allies are expected to gather in the global technical and programmatic meeting focused solely on maternal health.

For more information, please visit the [Maternal Health Task Force website](#).



Maternal Health Task Force

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.