



News from the Project RMA

What is Project RMA?

The Project Resource Mobilization and Awareness (RMA) is a joint effort to increase political and financial support for reproductive health (RH) supplies at the global, regional and national levels. We work through a targeted set of advocacy and awareness-raising actions including the provision of financial and technical support to advocacy efforts of NGOs and NGO networks.

The idea behind Project RMA's strategy is that if we can all come together at different levels with our varied voices, strengths and approaches to achieving our shared advocacy goals, our collective impact and influence will be stronger. Project partners are Population Action International (PAI), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). For more details on the Project, please visit the [web site](#) and contact [Jess Bernstein](#), Project Manager, PAI.

First round of small grants

Following an exciting first year of planning, laying foundations and in-depth research, the Project is now moving into project activities. We were pleased to begin the New Year by awarding a round of small grants to NGO Networks throughout the world to engage in RH supplies advocacy efforts. Supported efforts include monitoring the impact of Global Fund grants to strengthen RH supplies, youth advocacy efforts to increase financial commitments and support for RH supplies, regional targeted advocacy efforts, and advocacy for universal access to a comprehensive response to HIV.

Grantees include: Asia Pacific Alliance, African Youth Parliament, Global AIDS Alliance, East African Reproductive Health Network, the Youth Coalition, ASTRA and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations. Click [here](#) for more details.

East African RH network highlights supplies

The first in five Project RMA sub-regional meetings to promote RH commodity security, engage regional bodies, and facilitate knowledge-sharing was held on 2-5 December, 2007 in Kampala, Uganda. Convened as a strategic planning meeting for the East African Reproductive Health Network (EARHN), the workshop provided an opportunity for Project RMA to ensure that commodity security was included in a multi-year planning document prepared by government representatives from five East African countries.

For more details, [click here](#).

Focus countries

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At the country level Project RMA has identified the countries, which will form the national level element of Project RMA. The following countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, Uganda Tanzania, Mexico and Nicaragua have been selected and once approved by the IPPF Member Associations, preparatory activities for targeted advocacy for increased resources and supportive policies for RH supplies to national level, will begin.

For this purpose, Project RMA will consolidate civil society's response to the RH supplies situation at national level, through a national level network, uniting stakeholders in one voice and one message. If you would like to find out more information about the national level activities, or are a stakeholder or member of civil society and are interested in contributing to this campaign, please contact [Sarah Shaw](#), Resource Mobilization and Awareness Officer, IPPF for more information.

In brief

The Project RMA conducted in-depth research in Tanzania and Uganda, exploring a broad range of factors, which determine the status of RH supplies in-country. Research findings will be available shortly.

Supplies news

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition launches revamped web site

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) now has an attractive, user-friendly web site at <http://www.rhsupplies.org>. Designed to emphasize the Coalition's added-value, the site opens up supply security to a broader audience. Quick links and an eye-catching banner lead readers to the [Reproductive Health Interchange](#) (RHInterchange) and the Countries at Risk group. In addition, it enables readers to register for membership online and access the latest news and events. Last but not least the site provides a home for Project RMA and the RMA Working Group.

Source: Catherine Potter, [RHSC](#).

European journalists to learn more on supply shortage

The Countdown 2015 Europe project is taking seven European journalists to various locations within Tanzania to give them a first hand impression on what reproductive health supplies shortage really means. Visiting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) projects in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Moshi, etc., the reporters will see for themselves how the gap e.g. between demand and supply for contraceptive implants affects the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The trip will take place from 16-23 February.

[Countdown 2015 Europe](#) campaigns for universal access to and increased donor support for RH supplies. For more details on the trip, please contact [Maike Schliebs](#), Advocacy Officer, DSW.

Source: Maike Schliebs, [DSW](#).

Reproductive health commodity security workshop in Bangkok

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In December 2007, UNFPA together with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) held a workshop in Bangkok on Strengthening National Capacity for Achieving Reproductive Health Commodity Security. The workshop brought together a unique gathering of members of parliament, senior government officials, media representatives and UNFPA officials from the East and South East Asian Region. Following awareness raising on country challenges, the focus shifted towards what actions can be taken in a number of advocacy skill-building sessions. Participants also agreed on an Appeal, which outlined their commitment to improving RHCS and the key actions, which they would be urging their national, state and local governments to take.

AFPPD will now work with its National Committees to place supply in their agendas and will try and organize a small follow-up meeting at the end of 2008 to review progress at country level. For more details, please [click here](#).

Source: Shiv Khare, [AFFPD](#).

Parliamentary study tour to world's poorest country

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and Equilibres & Populations (E&P) are co-organising a week-long study tour for six French-speaking Parliamentarians to Niamey in Niger on 5-11 February 2008. The high-level delegation, which includes a British Lord, two German MPs, a French MEP and a Belgian and French member of the respective national Foreign Affairs Committees, will get the chance to visit various local NGOs and projects dealing with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues and maternal mortality. Further, the delegation will gain insight into Niger's policies on SRH, including access to essential commodities and supplies, and the impact of supply shortage on the country's population growth. This study tour is hosted by UNFPA Country Office and the Nigerian Parliamentary Network on Population and Development. For more details please contact [Silvia Theodoridis](#), Advocacy Officer, EPF and [Aurelie Gal](#), Advocacy Officer, E&P.

Source: Neill Datta, [IEPPFD](#)

Gaborone declaration on RHCS

Following a five day Advocacy Capacity Building Workshop for Parliamentarians and Senior Government Officials on Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS), organised by UNFPA, together with South African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum and the Parliament of Botswana, the participants issued a declaration. In the Gaborone Declaration on RHCS, the parliamentarians and senior officials from 16 countries from Southern and Western Africa reaffirm their commitment to "advocating for increased national resources in support of SRH and RHCS." Further the participants commit to ensure the implementation of a set of six recommendations for RHCS, which include the establishment of a dedicated budget line for RHCS and joint procurement and manufacturing of RH commodities. For more details, and to download the Gaborone Declaration, please [click here](#).

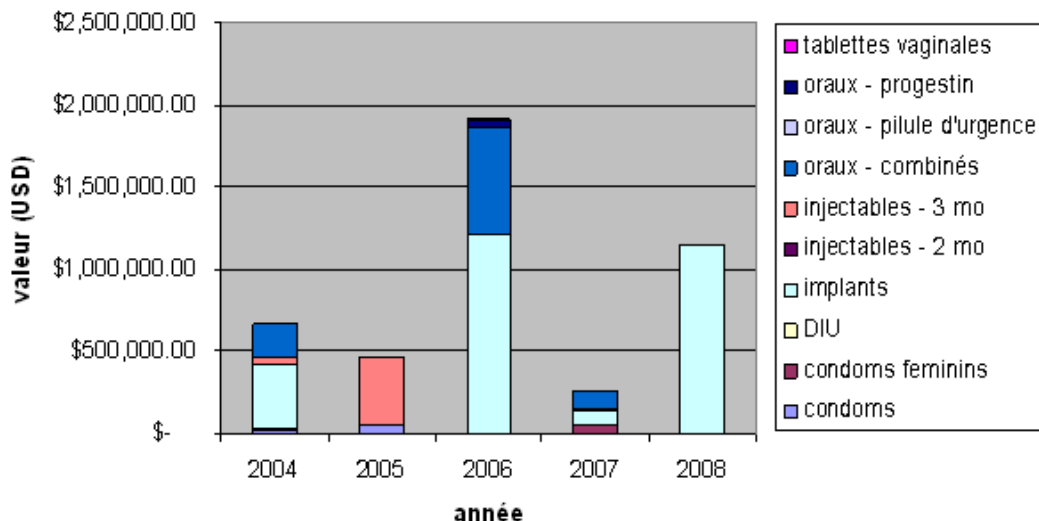
Focus on ...

A tool for RH supplies advocacy: the RHInterchange

The [Reproductive Health Interchange](#) (RHI) is an innovative web site that allows users to track reproductive health supplies shipments to any country in the world in real time - an extremely useful tool for any advocate for these supplies. With the RHI you can identify donor funding patterns, highlight funding preferences for specific supplies and review allocation of resources by recipient country. This in turn can help support your efforts to implement a compelling and effective advocacy strategy for increased and improved funding for RH supplies.

Here's how it works: When you prepare to meet with policymakers on issues surrounding reproductive health supplies, you can check online for current figures on contraceptive donations to help support your point. For example, if you know the policymaker is interested in a particular method, (such as female condoms) or a specific country, (such as Tanzania)go to rhi.rhsupplies.org and review the reports regarding how many female condoms were supplied to Tanzania in a given year. This can give you a great hook for example to approach a policy maker and support your case by saying for example that women in Tanzania need access to female-controlled HIV protection. The example graph above that was taken from the RHI shows you a funding pattern for a sub-Saharan country.

The RHI is a work in progress and upcoming features include more sources of funding such as Canadian Development Agency, DFID, Global Fund, Ministry of Health and the World Bank. If you need assistance with information or graphs, feel free to contact the project team, [Mimi Whitehouse](#), Project Manager, JSI or [Jane Feinberg](#), JSI.



Look out for ...

Barriers to Condom Access: Setting an advocacy agenda (2007)

This Advocacy Briefing entitled "Barriers to Condom Access: Setting an advocacy agenda" (2007) provides an analysis of some of the barriers to condom access based on the findings from 'frontline' community research supported by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO).

http://www.icaso.org/publications/condom_access2007_eng.pdf



AIDS Advocacy Alert: High level meeting on HIV/AIDS

Find out how your organization can get involved in the High Level Meeting on AIDS, which is to be held during the UN General Assembly in New York on 10-11 June, 2008. The deadline for accreditation of civil society organizations is 22nd February, 2008.

For more details, visit [ICASO's web site](#).

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 [Caroline Jane Kent](#).