

News from the Project RMA Advocacy Training on August 6th-7th 2009

[Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA), its member organization [Family Planning International](#) (FPI) New Zealand and the [German Foundation for World Population](#) (DSW) will conduct an advocacy training entitled 'HIV Prevention, Reproductive Health Supplies, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Asia and Pacific Regions' on August 6th-7th 2009 in Bali, Indonesia.

The training will be held to strengthen capacity of civil society on reproductive health (RH) supplies advocacy in the Asia and Pacific Regions, ahead of the International Congress on AIDS in the Asia and Pacific Regions 2009 (9th ICAAP, August 9-13 2009, Nusa Dua, Bali).

This meeting aims to contribute to a supportive political and financial environment for access to RH supplies in the Asia and Pacific Regions by promoting and fostering NGO leadership and strengthening the advocacy capacity of NGOs on the issue. The training will be held prior to ICAAP and aims to address the linkages between HIV prevention and SRHR programs and the major role RH supplies play in this context.

The main objectives are:

Increase understanding of the situation, needs and diversity of reproductive health supply challenges in the Asia and Pacific Regions; Improve understanding of the linkages between RH supplies and internationally agreed development goals, such as the MDGs, and the role of RH supplies in preventing HIV; Strengthen advocacy skills and develop key messages to be used during the 9th ICAAP on meeting the RH targets of the ICPD Programme of Action and the MDGs; Provide advocacy tools to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to advocate for increased support for RH supplies; Ensure RH supplies solutions are included in the closing summaries of the 9th ICAAP. Please send an email to [Sabine Weber](#) to receive an application questionnaire, and a criteria list including logistical information. Deadline for Application is May 1st 2009).



Meeting with G8 Health Experts Group

Project RMA, represented by Ms. Hoehn ([DSW](#)), joined 14 other civil society leaders invited to provide official recommendations to the G8 at their 2nd 2009 Health Experts Meeting in Venice, Italy on March 27th.

DSW urged the G8 to specify concrete actions and a timeline to implement its commitments in support of the health MDGs, especially MDG5. Ms. Hoehn, DSW's Vice Executive Director, emphasized the need for G8 and partner country governments to have a fully funded budget line for provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, services and supplies in developing countries; for health system strengthening initiatives to build efficient and sustainable supply chains for procurement and distribution of reproductive health (RH) supplies and to assure that the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) (GFATM) produces accountable results for integration of RH with HIV and AIDS and malaria programming.

For more information please contact [Caroline Jane Kent](#) at DSW.

Project RMA in the Headlines

Project RMA and its partners are receiving impressive press coverage in both Ghana and Uganda. [Sarah Shaw](#) of IPPF has forwarded to the Secretariat a set of six articles, all of which can be accessed on the Project RMA country level advocacy [homepage](#). The articles cover a wide range of supply-related issues, including the impact of RH supplies shortages in Uganda, the involvement of Ghana's first lady in promoting the inclusion of family planning on Ghana's National Health Insurance scheme, and supply-related advocacy at the district level in Ghana.

Source: [SupplyInsider March 2009](#)

Supplies news Low Accessibility of Female Condom 2

The [Female Condom 2](#) costs one-third less than its predecessor FC1 but is still 15 times more expensive than male condoms. The [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) approval in March 2009 gives [USAID](#) the possibility to distribute FC2 overseas. This may help to raise numbers of female condoms distributed globally and thereby drop prices for public-sector distributors for each FC2 as low as 25 cents. Its commercial price in the U.S. generally has been more than US\$ 2.

While in the U.S there has been a strong bias against FC2, resistance is less of a problem in some developing countries. The [U.N. Population Fund](#) (UNFPA), government agencies and nonprofits are aggressively promoting female condoms in places such as Brazil, Ghana Zimbabwe and South Africa. Demand for female condoms has been raised but cannot be met because accessibility is still low.

To change the situation [Female Health Company](#), Developer and Manufacturer of FC and FC2 Female Condom, is seeking a corporate partner to help market the FC2.

Source: [AP](#)

Reproductive Health-Care Provision in Emergencies

The article '[Reproductive health-care provision in emergencies: preventing needless suffering](#)' by Maaïke van Min of [MSI](#) published on [Forced Migration review](#) informs about unnecessary deaths of women and babies resulting from inadequate logistics of emergency supplies. According to van Min, a reason for inadequate logistics is that comprehensive reproductive health services and supplies are not generally prioritised at the level of other key emergency medical interventions. Three reasons that cause women to die in pregnancy are

- 1) the delay in time until the family recognizes the need for medical intervention,
- 2) the delay in getting to the health facility and
- 3) the delay in getting appropriate care in the facility itself.

The challenges of getting RH supplies to emergency settings might be reached by

- raising awareness within the humanitarian community,
- broaden governmental and WHO support,
- coordinating with logistics actors,
- engaging with donors and,
- expanding current efforts to provide RH care

Read the [full article](#) on [Forced Migration review](#).

New Study Highlights the Benefits of Improving Contraceptive Services in the Philippines

Low levels of contraceptive use in the Philippines result in high rates of unintended pregnancy and a broad range of negative consequences for women, their families and the national health care system. '[Meeting Women's Contraceptive Needs in the Philippines](#)' a new report from the Guttmacher Institute and the University of the Philippines Population Institute, documents the considerable social and financial benefits that would accrue from investing in contraceptive services to enable women to avoid unintended pregnancies.

Source: [Guttmacher Institute](#)



Ministry of Health Supply Chain Analysis in Guatemala

[USAID DELIVER PROJECT](#) and the LAC Regional CS Initiative analyzed the [Ministry of Health](#) Supply Chain in Guatemala. The main objective of this supply chain modelling and simulation activity was to analyze the characteristics of the integrated logistics system in three departments in Guatemala: Solola, Totonicapan and Jutiapa.

Through the use of supply chain simulation and optimization modelling software and geographic information system tools the study presented system related solutions that could enhance the performance of the overall Ministry of Health (MOH) integrated supply chain in three areas:

- 1) optimization of supply chain warehousing and distribution operations based on consumption of all products expressed in volume (volumetrics analysis) rather than on quantities in order to guarantee full supply;
- 2) minimization of the effects of the variability in actual demand, which often results in increased overstocks, understocks, and stockouts, through continual monitoring of consumption patterns;
- 3) adaptation of contraceptive distribution modes and routes based on specific criteria and in coordination with regions and community-based staff, rather than development of a national policy for distribution of contraceptives to NGOs and community centers.

To [view the Spanish presentation](#) and to get more information visit the [DELIVER Website](#).

Report on European Parliamentary Forum SRHR Study Tour to Burkina Faso

A report on the [European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development \(EPF\)](#) SRHR Study tour on Reproductive Health Supplies to Burkina Faso announced in SupplyNews #10 will be published in May. The report informs about visits including a rural maternity and a hospital as well as meetings with political actors, ministries, embassies, and international cooperation agencies.

A summary is available on the [EPF website](#). The full report and follow-up activities will be attached to the website soon.



Responding to Critics of Family Planning Programs

Responding to critics on family planning programs, Population Council's John Bongaarts and Steven W. Sinding published a comment in 'International Perspectives

on Sexual and Reproductive Health' aiming to urge that family planning will become a higher priority on the international development agenda.

The authors state that family planning programs provide a win-win solution because the welfare of individual women and children is improved and the national economy and environment benefit.

They limit myths regarding family planning by presenting facts.

To read the comment visit the [Population Council website](#).

Source: [Population Council](#)



Focus on ...

RH Supplies Featured in the Final Resolution of CPD's 42nd Session

Project RMA's advocacy efforts led to RH Supplies being featured multiple times in the [final resolution of the Forty-second Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#).

As the initial draft did not contain reference to RH Supplies, Project RMA sent suggested language to key contacts, which then became included in the initial draft sent to governments.

Project RMA was also instrumental in coordinating the SRHR community through strategy calls leading up to CPD, co-hosting an initial strategy session for NGOs prior to the CPD and convening NGOs every morning of the week of negotiations to strategize and share information.

Project RMA delivered a [strong oral statement](#) in support of RH Supplies to the Commission, which some RMA WG members endorsed as well as members of the broader NGO community focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Below is a brief summary of the specific language to RH Supplies in the resolution:

OP6 calls further upon Governments to keep commodities and supplies in mind as they formulate and implement national development plans, budgets and poverty eradication strategies.

OP13 Reiterates the need for Governments to ensure that all women and men and young people have information about and access to family planning, with specific mention of requisite supplies.

OP15 Recognizes that the largest generation of adolescents ever in history is now entering sexual and reproductive life and that among their needs are access to commodities, including male and female condoms.

OP21 Recognizes the dire need to increase financial resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

Development, by (among other things) ensuring that funding lines for family planning programmes and commodities are included national budgets.

These successes led to new advocacy entry points for RH Supplies advocates. Though the final resolution is non-binding, national governments have signed on to and committed to it. Advocates can use this governmental commitment to advocate for increased access to RH Supplies throughout the world. Efforts have also been successful in getting RH Supplies higher on the agenda. With significant attention devoted to RH Supplies in a global forum, it becomes elevated on the overall agenda. Finally, RH Supplies was a thread of unity in a broad agenda. Though many of the SRH NGOs present were advocating for a broad agenda, we were able to ensure that supplies were a targeted part of the overall agenda of the SRH NGO community - from individual organizations to civil society networks.

For more information please contact [Suzanne Ehlers at PAI](#).

Look out for Project RMA Blog and Twitter

We like to inform you about our new [blog entitled 'Access 2 RH Supplies'](#) we recently set up. This blog informs interested individuals and organisations about Project RMA's activities and other relevant RH Supplies advocacy news.

Furthermore we set up a twitter account. To follow Project RMA on twitter click [here](#).

Additionally we would like to invite you to become a fan of [Access 2 RH Supplies on facebook](#) and also to promote this to your partners and facebook friends.

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

Youth and SRHR in Africa and Latin America

The Spanish Federation of Family Planning, the Spanish Interparliamentary Group on Development and Reproductive Health, and the Spanish Parliament organize the International conference 'Youth and SRHR in Africa and Latin America.' The conference will take place April 29th and 30th 2009 at the Spanish Parliament in Madrid.

For registration please visit the [FPFE website](#). For further information contact [Patricia Huerto Acedo](#).

GTZ Newsletter on Health, Education and Social Protection

The bi-weekly newsletter entitled 'Health, Education, Social Protection News & Notes' supported by [Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit](#) (GTZ) provides links to several online documents concerning HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health and malaria.

To access the newsletter please [click here](#).

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 [Caroline Jane Kent](#) and [Martin Kuehn](#) at DSW.