

## News from the Project RMA Major Breakthrough in RH Supplies Security

UMATI, the International Planned Parenthood Federation's Member Association in Tanzania, successfully collaborated with partners within PRMA to work with key decision makers for increased funding for reproductive health supplies in Tanzania. Advocacy efforts focused on the Ministries of Health and Finance, parliamentarians, and the media.

This hard work has paid off. The government of Tanzania has decided to increase funding for family planning supplies from US \$2.65 million to US \$7.26 million for 2009-10. The newly budgeted amount is the amount recommended by the contraceptive security committee as the minimum amount needed for procurement of contraceptives for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Details are still to be finalized, but this development represents a major breakthrough in RH supplies security in Tanzania.

More details on the work of UMATI, Project RMA, and partners can be found in the [report](#) written by Arthur Jason, UMATI Project RMA Advocacy Officer.



## Strengthening Advocacy Capacity and Leadership

Nineteen participants from twelve different countries in the Asia and the Pacific (Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Philippines, India, Nepal, China, Malaysia and Pakistan) gathered on August 6th and 7th in Bali, Indonesia to take part in a two day workshop to strengthen their capacity in advocacy and leadership on Reproductive Health (RH) Supplies prior to the [9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Indonesia](#) (ICAAP) in August 2009.

Organized by the [Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA) for ICPD, [Family Planning International](#), and the [German Foundation for World Population](#) (DSW) under Project RMA, the workshop was designed to contribute to efforts to strengthen the political and financial environment for access to RH Supplies in the Asia and Pacific Regions by supporting and fostering NGO leadership and strengthening NGO advocacy capacity for the 9th ICAAP. Other organizations, such as [IPPF South Asia](#) and [Population Action International](#) also provided technical assistance.

Through discussions and interactive role play, participants learned about the situation, needs and diversity of RH supply challenges in the Asia and Pacific Regions, improved their understanding of the linkages between reproductive health supplies and internationally agreed development goals, such as the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and the role of RH supplies in achieving goals. Furthermore, participants strengthened their advocacy skills and developed key messages on meeting the reproductive health targets of the [ICPD Programme of Action](#) and the MDGs. Participants were also

provided with advocacy tools to strengthen their capacity to advocate for increased support for RH supplies, specific to the Asia and Pacific regions. Two days after the workshop the participants applied their new skills and knowledge during the ICAAP.



## Human Impact of Stock-Outs

The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) and the Human Development Research Centre hosted a dissemination seminar for the study 'Human and Economic Impact of Reproductive Health Supplies Shortages and Stock-outs in Bangladesh.' This pioneering research, supported by Project RMA, is the first study to quantify the cost of stock-outs in economic terms at country level. The study estimates that due to stock-outs between March 2008 and February 2009, an extra 47,000 children were born.

The research quantifies the cost of shortages, stock outs and irregular supply of condoms, pills and injectables in terms of the cost to households and the national economy.

According to the study

- the national economy lost 4,306 million hours of labour time between November 2007 and October 2008, which is equivalent to \$876 million,
- the medical cost at national level was \$8.84 million, and
- \$15 was the average net income loss at household level (50% of the sample group had household incomes of \$726 per year or less).

The study provides a solid evidence base for supporting efforts to address commodity security and offers a path forward for greater collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and civil society partners. Study recommendations are currently being finalized and will be posted on the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's website](#) once available. A number of news articles covering the dissemination seminar are available [here](#). For more information, contact [Sarah Shaw](#) or [Steve Kinzett](#).

Source: [SupplyInsider July 2009](#).

## Supplies news

### Kenya Contraceptive Shortages

Kenya is faced with a shortage of contraceptives due to over reliance on donors, according to Family Health Options, the government agency that deals with family planning.

Director of Programs Muraguri Muchira said that this constant commodity insecurity where the family planning methods are not readily available had led to 25 percent of Kenyan women lacking the service.

'The biggest challenge we have as a country is the sourcing of contraceptives. Kenya depends highly on development partners and each one of them brings their supplies in their own different channels. So it's very difficult to know how much is being brought in the country at any one time. And as far as I know nobody has come up with a solution', he said.

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

### ICAAP: Donors Discuss HIV and SRHR Linkages

Participants at a satellite meeting during the [9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific](#) (ICAAP) agreed that programs, policies and funding for HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights are disconnected, and discussed practical ways to integrate services and maximize limited resources.

The meeting featured a panel of representatives from donors and NGOs, who spoke on effective ways to link sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV. A key message from the session was that sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The meeting was hosted by the [Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA) and [UNFPA](#). Moderated by Elisha Dunn-Georgiou from [Population Action International](#), the meeting was well-attended with more than 120 civil society representatives taking part in a dialogue with key donors working in Asia and the Pacific, including [the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#) (GFATM), [the David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#), [the Australian Government Aid Agency](#) (AusAID), [the UN Population Fund](#) (UNFPA) and [the Sweden's International Development Agency](#) (SIDA).

To read the full report [visit the APA website](#).



### Briefs on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies

Members of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) Caucus on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies developed a series of briefs on underused reproductive health technologies. The briefs include a description of each technology and describe its efficacy, current program/sector use, manufacturer/supplier, registration status, and public-sector price agreements. Visit the [PATH website](#), to read the briefs.

For more information on the Caucus please visit the [RHSC website](#).

### **The Fourth Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights**

Registration for [the fourth Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights](#), taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from February 8th to 12th 2010, has opened.

The conference will focus on critical documents that have been developed to promote comprehensive sexual health and rights in Africa, including the Maputo Plan of Action and the ICPD. It is part of a long-term process of building and fostering regional dialogue on sexual rights and health that leads to concrete action to influence policy particularly that of the African Union and its bodies.

The conference is hosted by the [International Planned Parenthood Federation - Africa Regional Office](#) in collaboration with [Action Health Incorporated](#) (AHI), Nigeria and convened under the auspices of the [Africa Federation for Sexual Health and Rights](#), the regional representative body of the [World Association for Sexual Health](#).

Registration is open and abstracts will be accepted until September 30th, 2009. To submit an abstract visit the [abstract submission page](#).

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

### **Young Political Leaders Visit Uganda**

A delegation of nine European Young Decision Makers from Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Russia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom in leadership positions within various youth political parties and representing politically active young Europeans participated in a study tour to Uganda August 1st to 8th 2009. The aim of the trip was to study the unmet needs in reproductive health supplies and services in Uganda and the impact it has on people living in Uganda. The delegation visited a hospital, reproductive health clinics and AIDS projects and met and discussed SRHR issues with districts health officers, representatives of the Uganda AIDS Commission, Members of the Parliament, young politicians from Uganda, as well as with UN Agencies, European donors, NGOs operating in the country and finally the Minister of Health.

The tour was organised by the [Danish Family Planning Association, Sex & Samfund](#), and the [European Parliamentary Forum on Population and](#)

[Development](#) (EPF), within the framework of the [Countdown 2015](#).

Read the full report at the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalitions website](#).



### **Contraception in the Philippines**

A report about sexual and reproductive health and rights and access to reproductive health supplies in the Philippines has been published on the [Gender Across borders blog](#). The article describes the situation in Manila, where contraception has been banned since 2000 and points out that 'poor and marginalized women are disproportionately affected by the contraception ban.'

To read the article visit the [Gender Across Borders blog](#).

### **High Cost and Scarcity of Female Condoms in Rwanda**

According to [Population Service International](#) (PSI) cost and scarcity are still the obstacles regarding the availability of female condoms in Rwanda. One female condom is available for the same price of a box of male condoms, if it is available, PSI's quality manager Bernadette Ruhunga stated this during a sensitisation session for the employees of the [Social Security Fund of Rwanda](#) (SSFR).

For more information read the whole article at [The New Times website](#).



### **Molecular Anti-AIDS Condom**

Scientists in Utah have developed a 'molecular condom', made up of long-chain polymers.

The gel 'turns semisolid in the presence of semen, trapping AIDS virus particles in a microscopic mesh.' It was developed to enable women to protect themselves against HIV even without their partner's approval. To negotiate the use of protection with their partners is often difficult for women due to cultural and socioeconomic factors.

Source: [The Register](#).

### **Contraceptives at a Crossroads**

The [International Planned Parenthood Federation \(IPPF\)](#) recently launched a report entitled 'Contraceptives at a Crossroads'. The report states that because of stalling on political and financial commitments hard won gains regarding contraceptive security in many parts of the world are at risk of being lost. The authors furthermore point out that the increasing demand for contraceptives, especially in developing countries, will not be met as long as the problems that prevent reproductive health supplies from being funded, developed, manufactured, and delivered to those who need them, are not understood. The aim of the report is 'to synthesize the vast array of issues, structures, players and processes that impact whether women and men can access the reproductive health services that they need and want, when and where they need them, and to provide recommendations on moving forward'.

A [pdf-version of the report](#) can be found on [IPPF's website](#).



### **South Africa: Condom Stockouts Threaten Prevention Efforts**

AIDS activists have reported that public health facilities in South Africa's Free State Province are experiencing serious shortages of condoms, with some clinics reporting complete stockouts.

[Treatment Action Campaign \(TAC\)](#), an AIDS lobby group, contacted 41 clinics in the province: four reported shortages of condoms and 11 said they had none at all. One clinic in the provincial capital, Bloemfontein, said the depot that normally supplied them with condoms had run out.

Although no official explanation has been given for the condom supply problem, the national department of health blamed a countrywide shortage in December 2008 on a delay in awarding a new tender. According to Rebecca Hodes of the TAC 'this is not particular to the Free State, there are stockouts in all six provinces where we have branches.' She also blamed a severe shortage of human resources, weak distribution networks and budget shortages.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi announced in his budget speech to parliament that the department intended increasing its national distribution of male condoms from 283 million to 450 million in the 2009/10 financial year. The quantity of more expensive female condoms would increase by half a million to five million.

Source: [PlusNews](#).

### **Adolescents' Contraceptive Use and Discontinuation in Developing Countries**

A Guttmacher study entitled '[Patterns and Trends in Adolescents' Contraceptive Use and Discontinuation in Developing Countries and Comparisons with Adult Women](#)' analyzed nationally representative surveys conducted between 1986 and 2006

for more than 40 developing countries and states that the percentage of 15- to 19-year-olds using contraception has increased substantially in many developing nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America since 1986. While an increasing number of girls in developing countries uses various birth control methods they are less consistent with it and have higher rates of unplanned pregnancy than adults.

The study's authors believe that compared with adult women, adolescent women face more obstacles to consistent contraceptive use - including feeling embarrassed about seeking out contraceptives, not being able to afford them and not knowing how to use them correctly.

To read the study, please visit the [Guttmacher website](#).



### **Female Condom Advocacy Workshop**

25 Ugandan NGOs, academic institutions and donor organizations attended an Advocacy workshop which was facilitated by the Global Campaign for Microbicides and the Center for Health and Gender Equity in Kampala, Uganda.

The workshop was held in Uganda because the government decided to re-launch a government sponsored Female Condom in autumn and civil society leaders want to take an active role in the re-launch by calling for increased investment in public education and promotional efforts needed to introduce the FC to their constituencies correctly.

To read the complete report please visit the [GC News-Archive](#).

### **Regional Networks Submit Panama Declaration**

As an outcome of a meeting of regional networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Panama on August 3rd to 5th 2009 a declaration has been published. The declaration states that 15 years after the Cairo Program of Action, Latin America and the Caribbean still is 'the region with the greatest socio-economic inequality in the world' and criticizes a lack of political will needed to meet the commitments governments made under the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The authors call upon the states and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to:

- Recognize, implement, and reinforce their commitments made in 1994 and 1999, which they reaffirmed in 2004 and 2009.

- Assume responsibility of sustaining and deepening the quality of the democratic system and destine all human, economic and technical resources necessary in order to narrow the present gaps.
- Strengthen and promote collaboration between governments, agencies, international cooperation organisms, and civil society organizations.

Related to sexual rights and reproductive rights the declaration asks governments, besides further demands,

- to promote comprehensive policies that reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, within a human rights framework, and
- to guarantee adolescents and young people's access to opportunities that allow them to make free, informed, and responsible choices in all areas that affect their lives,
- for universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

To read the full declaration please visit the [NGOs for ICPD at 15 website](#).

## Focus on ...

### 9th ICAAP Calls for Stronger Commitment to Universal Access

More than 3000 delegates took part in the 9th International Congress on AIDS in the Asia and Pacific which was held from August 9th - 13th 2009 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. The theme of this year's ICAAP was 'Empowering People, Strengthening Networks.'

The opening included calls for a strengthened commitment to achieving Universal Access and providing prevention, care, support and treatment for those who need it most. During the following days 150 presentations in five plenary sessions, three keynote speeches, 24 symposiums, and 31 skill buildings took place. Furthermore 339 oral presentations were held and 1122 posters presented.

15 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet Nam) took part in the Asia Pacific Village. The Asia Pacific Village was open to the public to draw public attention through interactive discussions, media campaigns, and art and cultural performances.

Indonesian First Lady and AIDS Ambassador, Her Excellency Hj. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, and other AIDS Ambassadors urged nations to work towards implementing the Declaration of Commitment adopted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS in 2001 and the Political Declaration of 2006, despite the pressures of the global economic crisis.

For more information on highlights, speeches, press releases, community forum voices, media resources and official photos of ICAAP, please visit the 9th [ICAAP Virtual Media Center](#).

Source: ICAAP press releases.

## Look out for

### Make the Case for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia and the Pacific at Global NGO Forum in Berlin

A Satellite session entitled '[Advocacy for Resource Mobilisation in Asia and the Pacific, the Unmet Need for SRHR](#)' will be held on September 1st 2009 from 2.00 to 3.30pm, as part of '[Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development](#)' in Berlin.

The session will look at innovative ways to engage donors, and present evidence of significant unmet need, high maternal mortality and poor access to reproductive health supplies in several Asia-Pacific countries.

The session will be moderated by Dr Gill Greer, Director-General of the [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#), with speakers Sumie Ishii ([Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning](#)), Sivananthi Thanenthiran (ARROW), Atashendartini Habsjah (Women's Health Foundation, Indonesia), Jo Spratt ([Family Planning International, NZ](#)) and Jane Singleton ([Australian Reproductive Health Alliance](#)).

The meeting is co-hosted by [Asia Pacific Alliance](#) (APA) and [The Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women](#) (ARROW)

For more info, please contact [Rose Koenders at APA](#).



### Global NGO Forum Satellite Session on Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Change

As part of the [Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development](#) in Berlin, a satellite session entitled '[Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Change: Why Do Linkages Matter?](#)', will take place on September 1st 2009, from 6 to 7.30pm.

The session aims to provide a general overview of the current discussion on the complex relationship between population dynamics and climate change. Participants will discuss a number of findings on the relevance of population dynamics, SRHR and climate change for civil society.

The session is hosted by the German Theme Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - of the [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ), [Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer technische Zusammenarbeit](#) (GTZ)

, [Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau \(KfW\)](#), [German Foundation for World Population \(DSW\)](#), [InWent](#), and [German Development Service \(DED\)](#).

For more information, please visit [the Global NGO Forum website](#).

### **Female Condom Advocacy and Programming Session at Global NGO Forum**

A further side event taking place on September 1st, 6 to 7.30 pm, at the [Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development](#) is entitled '[Female Condom Advocacy and Programming: Breaking down the barriers!](#)'.

At this session, panelists and participants will discuss the following questions: What is the current state of affairs of the female condom? What are the barriers for universal access? What are examples of successful female condom programming, policy advocacy and network-building? What can we do as NGO participants to make a difference?

The event is hosted by [the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and [the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#). The event is open to participants outside the NGO Forum and participation is limited to 120 guests.

For more info contact [Ilse Smit at WPF](#).

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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.