



News from the Project RMA

Advocacy at country level

The nationally-driven advocacy campaigns of Project RMA are currently centred on seeking partner input and getting started with activities, such as building a Secretariat and national networks to advocate for increased financial and political commitment to RH supplies.

The Secretariats of the national networks will be based in International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Member Associations in six countries: Bangladesh, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda. Already, the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh is in the process of consulting partner NGOs, government officials and other stakeholders to explore the scale and scope of the activities planned for the future.

Recent publicity about the national-level activities and the national networks has generated a flurry of interest from stakeholders wishing to get involved in national-level activities in various countries. If your organisation wants to become a part of one of the national campaigns, please contact [Sarah Shaw](#).

Supplies news

Supporting RH/HIV proposals to the Global Fund

Population Action International (PAI), and IPPF, together with Friends of the Global Fund Africa, the Global AIDS Alliance, Interact Worldwide, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and IPPF African Regional Office, have launched an effort to assist and support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the development and submission of proposals to the Global Fund that include RH as a critical component of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.

Technical assistance will be provided to teams from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in proposal development, organizational capacity building, and advocacy. The call for Round 8 proposals will be issued on March 1st 2008.

For more details on the Initiative, please [click here](#) and contact Project Manager [Lisa Schectman](#).

Source: [PAI](#).

European journalists learn about supply shortage in Tanzania

As part of the Countdown 2015 Europe project, DSW accompanied seven European journalists and one photographer to various locations within Tanzania to give them a first hand impression on what reproductive health supplies shortage really means. Visiting SRH projects in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Moshi, etc., the reporters saw for

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themselves how the gap between demand and supply for contraceptive implants affects the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

To get a better understanding of the gaps between the availability and demand for supplies, the journalists met with experts from the [USAID DELIVER project](#) and visited the Population Services International (PSI) warehouse in Dar es Salaam. This warehouse in Tanzania's major city, was well stocked with male and female condoms, malaria medicines and contraceptive pills. However, a later visit to the rural Msumbe village in the Morogoro region made the participants acutely aware of the fact that too many people simply live too far away from health facilities and cannot access the RH supplies they need.

The trip took place from February 16th to 23rd.

Read the [full article on the trip here](#).

[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](#). The picture was taken in the PSI Warehouse.
Copyright: Andrea Kuenzig/DSW.



Countdown 2015 Europe plans Nordic SRHR conference

Vaestoliitto, the Family Federation of Finland, on behalf of Countdown 2015 Europe, is organizing a Conference, entitled Increasing Europe-wide Support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - Towards the UN Special Assembly on HIV and AIDS 2008, for Nordic and Baltic policy-makers and civil society in Tallinn from March 31st to April 1st 2008.

The Conference will bring together approximately 60 participants - parliamentarians, government officials and CSO representatives - from Nordic and Baltic countries. The aim is to strengthen support towards global SRHR issues within the EU, discuss the role of policy-makers in high-level meetings and share best practices and lessons learnt in addressing SRHR issues. An entire session will be devoted towards new Prevention Technologies and Reproductive Health Supplies. The Conference is linked to the forthcoming UNGASS meeting drawing from national experiences in integrating sexual health and rights into HIV prevention and international development. For more details, please contact [Mirkka Mattila](#).

Source: Mirkka Mattila, [Vaestoliitto](#).

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The SupplyInsider □ the Coalition□s monthly newsletter

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition has a monthly newsletter that provides up-to-date information on the activities of the Coalition, its Secretariat, Working Groups, partners and members. With a fresh makeover and now called "[SupplyInsider](#)", the newsletter is an essential tool to ensure strategic knowledge sharing among Coalition members. Even if you are not a member, you can subscribe to the newsletter.

For more information and requests to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Coalition Communications Officer, [Catherine Potter](#).

Source: Catherine Potter, [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#).

European Parliamentarians visit Niger

European Parliamentarians have recently returned from a study tour to Niger held from February 5th to 11th 2008, co-organized by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and Equilibres & Populations (E&P). This week-long study tour offered the high-level delegation deep insight into Niger's policies on sexual and reproductive health, including access to essential commodities and supplies, and the impact of supply shortage on the country's population growth.

The French-speaking study tour was hosted by the UNFPA Country Office and the Nigerian Parliamentary Network on Population and Development and composed of a high-level delegation, including Hon. Dr Karl Addicks, German Liberal MP (FDP) member of the DSW Parliamentary Advisory Committee, Hon. Françoise Castex, French socialist MEP member of the Committee on Development in the European Parliament, Lord Lea of Crondall, Labour, member of the UK House of Lords and of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and RH, Hon. Michel Terrot, French Conservative MP member of the French Foreign Affairs Committee and Hon. Hilde Vautmans, Flemish Liberal MP, member of EPF Executive Committee and Chair of the Belgian Foreign Affairs Committee in the Chamber of Deputies, also member of the EPF member group, the Belgian Parliamentary Group on the MDGs.

Read the full article on this trip [here](#).

For more details please contact [Silvia Theodoridis](#), Advocacy Officer, EPF and [Aurelie Gal](#), Advocacy Officer, E&P.

Source: [EFP](#) via World Pop list.



Focus on ... **Prequalification**

Many essential RH medicines and devices are off-patent and are manufactured by suppliers throughout the world. These suppliers, including manufacturers of lower-priced generic versions of originator brand medicines, have an important role to play in meeting the need for RH supplies. Low- and middle-income (LMI) countries that procure RH supplies, particularly within their public sector programmes, also assume responsibility for ensuring product quality, even in the absence of robust regulatory authorities.

A Prequalification Programme was set up in 2001 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to facilitate access to medicines (for HIV, AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis) that meet unified standards of quality, safety, and efficacy. The project contributes to the United Nations (UN) priority goal of addressing widespread diseases in countries with limited access to quality medicines. The list of so-called pre-qualified products is used primarily by UN agencies to guide their procurement decisions. However, the list has become a vital tool for any agency or organization involved in bulk purchasing of medicines at the country or global level.

WHO's Prequalification Programme supports the improvement in manufacturing capacity by prequalifying products that have been assessed, inspected, and controlled to meet international norms and standards for quality, efficacy, and safety; by giving assurance that international norms and standards are applied to all the steps of the prequalification and to the process itself; and by enabling access to good quality medicines.

The WHO Programme, together with UNFPA, has recently begun to prequalify contraceptive products and is expanding into other medicines for RH. The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and its partners support the WHO programme and were involved in the formulation of the Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health (2006), the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, and the Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health: Guiding Principles for their Inclusion on National Medicines Lists. Inclusion of a medicine on these lists is a prerequisite to review under the WHO prequalification process.

For more information on WHO's Prequalification Programme visit the [Coalition site](#) and [WHO Prequalification portal](#).

Look out for ... **Social Marketing Conference**

The Private Sector Partnerships One project (PSP-One) and the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Population and Reproductive Health are hosting an on-line social marketing conference from March 10th to 17th.

Share ideas, results and lessons learned with social marketing professionals. Listen to or read presentations on Behaviour Change Communications approaches, what's New in Social Marketing, and Building Effective Public Private Partnerships. The conference is free of charge and open to everyone from across the globe 24 hours a day, Internet connectivity is required to participate.

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You can register for the conference entitled "Social Marketing for Health in the Developing World: What Have We Accomplished and What Does the Future Hold?" [here](#). For more details, please [contact the organisers](#).

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](#).