

News from the Project RMA

European Advocacy Highlight at Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Meeting

Approximately a hundred people from NGOs, technical agencies and private sector representatives took part in the ninth reproductive health supplies coalition membership meeting, which took place in Brussels, Belgium on May 22nd and 23rd 2008.

Hosted by the European Commission, one of the meeting's topics was European advocacy and resource mobilisation and awareness for reproductive health (RH) supplies.

Following four remarkable presentations on the ins and outs of working with the various European Institutions ([European Council](#), [European ODA](#), [European Parliament](#), [European Commission](#)) the Countdown 2015 Europe project demonstrated how coalition members can work with European governments. An Huybrechts, Countdown 2015 Europe; and Felicity Daly, Interact Worldwide highlighted results from Countdown 2015 Europe's recent [research on funding for RH supplies](#), which includes an [analysis of RH funding trends by European donors](#). The Project RMA provided an update on its work, in collaboration with the Resource Mobilization and Awareness Working Group in the plenary session too.

All presentations are available on the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition web site](#).

Linking Civil Society Networks in Knowledge and Action

Project RMA held its first Reproductive Health (RH) Supplies advocacy meeting, entitled "Linking civil society networks in knowledge and action", from April 24th to 25th in Kampala, Uganda. Participants from Africa Youth Parliament, USAID DELIVER, MSI Uganda, the Ugandan Ministry of Health, and many more civil society networks, Project RMA sub-grantees and partners, as well as representatives from UNFPA followed the invitation to take part in this forum for action-oriented coordination. The participants of the meeting exchanged experiences from advocacy strategies undertaken in the area of RH Supplies at the global, regional, and national levels and discussed how to develop linkages between them, so that efforts mutually reinforce each other.

Additional goals of the meeting included giving organisations newer to the RH Supplies issue insight into how to effectively address it within their membership. The meeting concluded with a short site visit, which allowed participants to discuss with Ugandan government officials specific advocacy activities to be undertaken in partnership to avoid condom stock-outs in the country in 2008.

For more information, contact [Mercedes Mas de Xaxas](#), Consultant for PAI.



Employees of National Medical Stores prepare orders of medicines and health commodities to be shipped to districts throughout Uganda.



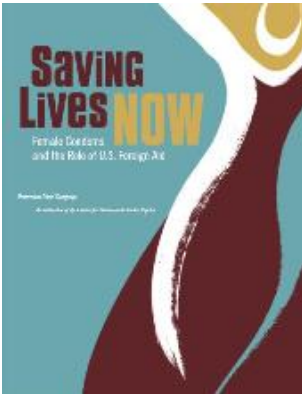
Supplies news **Female Condoms: Saving Lives Now**

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) recently published the report Saving Lives Now: Female Condoms and the Role of U.S. Foreign Aid.

The report relies on peer reviewed literature and interviews with reproductive health commodities programming and policy experts to outline the importance of female condoms as part of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention programs. Saving Lives Now presents an in-depth overview of the female condom, the only available HIV prevention method designed for women to initiate and control. The report explains the products, their many benefits and proven acceptability among women and men, and the challenges to making female condoms accessible to women and men.

The report also describes the U.S. role in the procurement, distribution and programming of female condoms, and identifies policy and financial barriers within the U.S. government that inhibit successful integration of female condoms into reproductive health and HIV prevention interventions. In conclusion, the report offers policy and program recommendations aimed at improving U.S. support for increased global access to female condoms.

Saving Lives Now was developed and published by CHANGE for Prevention Now!, a global campaign to expand access to female condoms and other woman-initiated prevention methods. To download or purchase bound copies of the report, please visit the campaign's website at www.preventionnow.net.



Campaign Calls for 15 Per Cent for Health

African governments have been called upon to allocate fifteen per cent of their national budgets to addressing health issues in their respective countries. The call was made end of April by over 140 African and global organisations, led by the African Public Health Alliance (APHA) 15 per cent Now Campaign. The health coalition warns that African Heads of State and Government must not revise or further delay implementation of the African Union Abuja 15 per cent Health Commitment pledge of April 2001.

Led by Nobel Prize Winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the 15 per cent Now Campaign urges African leaders and Finance Ministers to restate their fifteen per cent pledge at the next Africa Union Summit on June 24th in Egypt.

The Campaign Coordinator Rotimi Sankore stresses that poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is at the core of Africa's high disease burden, and that HIV is primarily an SRH issue, which costs Africa 1.6 million lives every year.

The 15 per cent Now Campaign calls on fellow members of African Civil Society, the health and medical community, other sectors of society and global partners to join it in building the biggest continental, sub-regional, national and community based movement possible for ensuring that health development, financing and budgeting on a needs based basis and the 15% commitment is implemented as Africa's top social and economic development priority.

For more information, visit the Campaign's web site www.africa15percentcampaign.org/.

Source: IPPF News www.ippf.org and AllAfrica allafrica.com/stories/200804300307.html

Strategic Options for Greater European Investments in Reproductive Health Supplies

The publication by Countdown 2015 Europe, which is referred to in the first article above, entitled 'Strategic Options for Greater European Investment in Reproductive

Health Supplies', is the inception publication of the Countdown 2015 Europe campaign and lays out the current best estimates for achieving universal access to reproductive health and comprehensive HIV and AIDS services (although it should be noted that the costings exclude the cost of AntiRetroviral Treatment (ART)).

The report finds that US\$29.8bn will be needed by 2010 rising to US\$35.8bn by 2015. Given the limits on funding for health responses in developing countries, international donors should be responsible for providing a third of these funds or US\$9.9bn by 2010 and US\$11.9bn by 2015. It also lays out ten recommendations for consideration by European donors, other policy makers and colleagues in development to achieve this target and to address the wider issues around ensuring universal access to reproductive health supplies.

The report is available on [Countdown 2015 Europe's web site](#).

Focus on ...

Total Market Approaches

A large proportion of services and commodities in low and middle income countries are only available on a paid for (out of pocket) basis. As a result, poor and marginalised populations do not have equal access to the services and supplies they need.

One approach to ensure greater equity in access to reproductive health supplies and services is the total market approach. The total market approach, as the name suggests, takes a look at the entire market, dividing it into three tiers. A particular focus is placed upon the development of second tier markets, which provide a bridge between the commercial market, i.e. fully branded, for profit- priced products, on the one hand (first tier) and the heavily subsidized or free products which are provided by the public or social market sector (third tier) on the other.

The second tier market provides affordable commercial products, often generic, to those people in low and middle income countries that may not be able to afford the high-priced commodities but are not dependant on free of charge supplies either.

By assessing and adapting markets for commodities in low and middle income countries, and slowly moving consumers with sufficient purchasing power away from the for free market towards the second tier market, there is a great potential to free up the limited resources from the public, NGO and social marketing sector for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition [Market Development Working Group](#) focuses on the total market approach and has developed a [market development approaches guide](#).

Look out for ...

Global Fund e-forum

Every two years the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) holds an e-forum and Partnership Forum aimed at seeking feedback from various stakeholders on the Global Fund's overall strategy.

One of the themes for this year's Partnership e-forum and Forum was gender. The next theme, demand, will continue until 16th June. According to organisers, participation in the discussions will directly impact the development of strategies and will help to inform the Global Fund Board's work in this important area.

To register, please visit: www.myglobalfund.org.

Reproductive Health in Emergencies Conference in Uganda (June 18-20)

The Reproductive Health in Emergencies Conference 2008 at the Speke Conference Centre in Kampala, Uganda, represents an important event for comprehensive reproductive health care, especially for people in conflict areas. The conference offers an opportunity for reproductive health advocates to affect real change for displaced people in emergency situations all over the world, and will help to ensure that displaced populations have access to life-saving RH services and supplies. Project RMA will be on the panel of experts.

Applications are accepted until June 18th. To learn more about the conference and to register, please visit www.RHinEmergenciesConference.org.

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 [Sabine Weber](#) at DSW.