

News from the Project RMA

Advocacy Guide and Toolkit on Reproductive Health Supplies

The interactive advocacy toolkit and guide 'Leading Voices in Securing Reproductive Health Supplies' is now available on the [website](#). It is a practical, evidence-based tool, designed to raise awareness and foster policy change for increased commitment to reproductive health supplies.

This valuable resource draws upon successful advocacy initiatives and lessons learned in contraceptive security. It provides an essential guide to advocacy communications and messages, a range of five global supply shortage scenarios, adaptable to your country's own needs and a set of tools, including policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations and advocacy planning guides. For more details on the advocacy toolkit and guide contact [Caroline Jane Kent](#) at Project RMA.



Small Grants Draft

At the Global level, Project RMA is in the process of drafting an request for proposals for the Project's second tranche of small grants, which will be issued to NGO networks at the regional or global levels who are either engaged in or interested in becoming engaged in reproductive health supplies advocacy.

If you are an NGO network that is interested in receiving our request for proposals in the coming weeks, please email [Jessica Bernstein](#) at Population Action International.

Advocacy Campaign Preparation in Mexico

The Mexican family planning organisation Mexfam convened a breakfast meeting with key civil society partners to build momentum and support for an advocacy campaign for increased financial and political commitment for reproductive health supplies.

The meeting was attended by representatives of some of Mexico's leading advocacy and reproductive health groups: CONSORCIO, SIPAM, IPAS, CCC, FUNDAR, and UNFPA. Civil society partners were welcomed by Mexfam's initiative and leadership on the issue and committed to participating in a campaign and supporting Mexfams

advocacy with their skills, knowledge and access to government at Federal and district levels.

Partners decided not to form a new network for the campaign but form a thematic task group, and to 'use' existing local and national level networks to share project process and results.

For more information on Mexfam in spanish, please visit their [website](#) or in English on the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) [website](#) on Mexico.

IPPF Member Associations Planning Retreat in Nicaragua

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Member Associations have begun the process of holding planning retreats to develop campaign strategies in all six of the Project RMA focus countries.

Profamilia, Nicaragua held its first Project RMA network strategy meeting in June 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the problems facing reproductive health supplies and develop an advocacy plan to address them. Although contraceptive prevalence in Nicaragua is high (66 percent), poor and marginalized groups experience severe obstacles to accessing contraception. There is concern that the proposed USAID phase-out will create a massive supply gap, especially if the Government does not increase its current allocation of approximately 190,000 US-Dollar to supplies.

A mapping exercise carried out as part of the Profamilia meeting provided an overview of the availability and accessibility of contraceptives by method; the political, legal, and budget decision-making processes involved in supply chain management; and an overview of Nicaragua's key supply donors. The results informed a series of brainstorming and information gathering exercises to develop a strategy for the campaign.

For Information on other country planning retreats, contact [Sarah Shaw](#) and view the Country Level Advocacy [website](#).

SRARHCS Meeting

The African Youth Parliament conducted a regional workshop on 3rd - 4th July in Nairobi, Kenya on Strategic Pathway to Reproductive Health Commodity Security (SPARHCS). The participants came from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Moreover, the Assistant Minister for Medical Services and the Assistant Minister for State and Youth affairs (Kenya) joined the official opening of the workshop wherein the minister for medical Services delivered the keynote address. Dr. Pamella Gordia formerly Deputy Director of the Department of Reproductive Health Kenya coordinated the facilitators during the workshop.

To receive a copy of the report on the workshop that will be compiled soon, please contact the [African Youth Parliament](#).

Supplies news

EAC and UNFPA Organise Workshop in Tanzania

The East Africa Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Health Population and Development (EA-IPF-HPD) was inaugurated at the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, Tanzania, in September 2007. The forum aims to conduct advocacy on legal, legislative, human rights, social and resource mobilization in support of population, health and development within the sub-region.

In this regard, the EAC Secretariat scheduled a three-day regional training workshop on reproductive health and health-related Millennium Development Goals for 27 members of the EAC-IPF-HPD from June 2-4 2008 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together members from the five EAC countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) and support them in developing advocacy action plans in the area of population and development aimed at helping them carry out advocacy efforts within their countries in 2008/2009.

For more information, please contact [Dr Kechi Ogbuagu](#) at UNFPA .

Sharing Lessons Learnt on Reproductive Health Integration

On July 16th, RMA working group members Population Action International (PAI), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) participated, together with other partners in the 'Mobilizing for RH/HIV integration' initiative, in a meeting conveyed by UNAIDS and attended as well by WHO, Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and The Open Society Institute representatives.

The purpose of the gathering was to share lessons learned in GFATM proposal development on RH/HIV integration and gender issues in Round 8 to inform the nature of technical assistance required for (1) proposal development in Round 9 and (2) grant implementation of successful Round 8 proposals. In addition, the meeting addressed country-level bottlenecks, such as meaningful civil society participation on Country Coordinating Mechanisms.

Participants in the meeting agreed on a series of next steps to improve coordination and enhance the effectiveness of technical support and advocacy efforts. For more information, please contact [Mercedes Mas de Xaxas](#) at PAI.

Study Tour on Sexual and Reproductive Health Supplies

In the framework of Countdown 2015, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and the Vaeostoeliitto (Family Federation of Finland) will accompany a 10 member Parliamentary Delegation to participate in

the XVII International AIDS Conference 2008, including a mini study tour on sexual and reproductive health supplies to take place from 2-9 August 2008 in Mexico City, Mexico.

The Delegation includes Parliamentarians from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK. The study tour to Mexico and throughout the region will raise awareness amongst European Parliamentarians of the unmet sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs of Mexicans. It will enable participating Parliamentarians to gain first-hand experience of the reality of the SRHR and HIV/AIDS situation in Mexico and to see what and where the needs are.

The host organisation will be the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (Mexfam). The field visits will take place in Mexico City and its surroundings during and following the XVII International Aids Conference from 2 to 9 August 2008. The study tour will be hosted by the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (Mexfam).

For more information, please contact [Ms Silvia Theodoridis](#) at the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development or [Ms Hilikka Vuorenmaa](#) at Vaeestoeliitto.

Focus on ... New Supplies Information Database (SID)

This month, the new [Supplies Information Database \(SID\)](#) debuted on the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition website. SID is an online reference library with over 6,000 records on the status of reproductive health supplies at country level. The library includes studies, assessments, and other publications dating back to 1986, many of which are no longer available even in their country of origin. SID's user-friendly search and feedback features allow users to locate, download, and print materials. Documents can be searched by keyword, country, date, subject area, and even type of publication.

Continuously updated, SID offers users exclusive access to the latest supply information for more than 230 countries and territories worldwide.

Contact Coalition Communications Officer, [Catherine Potter](#), for more information on SID or the Coalition website.



Look out for ...

African Grassroots NGO Capacity Building Seminar in Ghana in September

Friends Africa and AfriCASO are partnering on this Grassroots NGO Capacity Building Seminar to increase the planning, evaluation and fundraising capacity of 60 African community-level organizations. The seminar, which will be followed by a 6-month support period, will take place September 15th-17th 2008 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra-Ghana, West Africa.

His Excellency, President John Kufuor of Ghana will officially declare the seminar open. The UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa and Global Fund Vice Chair Elizabeth Mataka is playing a lead role in the seminar: The Global Fund recognizes the importance of community-level organizations such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) as strategic on the ground resources for delivering key services.

Interested grassroots organizations that meet the [criteria](#) are to complete the [form](#) and return by [email](#).

7th edition of 'Tips and Tricks'

The 7th European edition of Tips and Tricks has been published by DSW. The publication provides NGOs worldwide with comprehensive information on how to draw on European Commission resources, available for Civil Society Organizations. Under the new, restructured external assistance instruments, funding possibilities have increased, and so has competition.

Tips and Tricks 'European Edition' reflects changes in the European Commission's external aid and provides an overview of new programmes, selection criteria, application procedures and contact information.

Besides the European edition, you can also download the Ethiopian, Kenyan, Tanzanian and Ugandan versions of Tips and Tricks, focusing on the respective local funding environments.

Please click [here](#) to access Tips and Tricks.

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.