

# The Innovation Fund

Translating promising ideas into action



Reproductive Health  
**SUPPLIES COALITION**

AVAILABILITY



Photo: Wendy Stone

## Authoritative analysis to strengthen African supply chains

### STUDY TO INFORM POLICY DIALOGUE

The Innovation Fund has committed to moving forward a crucial phase in an ambitious World Bank effort to shape more functional, modern, and sustainable supply systems in Africa. Funding will support a pioneering retrospective study of supply chains, the results of which will be disseminated widely to inspire critical policy change.

### SUPPLY CHAIN PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The availability of reproductive health commodities is critical in ensuring that men and women have the products they desire or need to meet their reproductive intentions. One major impediment to product availability is poorly functioning supply chains coupled with lingering uncertainty over the reasons for poor performance. The present assessment will form part of a larger three-phased process—1) supply chain mapping and methodology validation, 2) supply chain performance analysis, 3) and dissemination, policy dialogue, and study extension. The Innovation Fund grant will support Phase Two, thereby leveraging an initial investment by the Results Based Financing Trust Fund of approximately \$150,000 to undertake the initial mapping exercise.

### OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

The outputs of this research will include a series of case studies, a retrospective review of supply chain performance, and a set of recommendations to improve supply systems. Through widespread dissemination of findings, policy dialogue, and study extensions, these materials will play a critical role in engaging high-level stakeholders in a dialogue around improving supply chain performance.

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## World Bank

The World Bank is a founding member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and until 2012 was a member of the Executive Committee. One of the advisory ways in which the Bank provides knowledge to client countries is through its economic and sector work—offering support to developing countries through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance.

## Award

**Recipient: World Bank**

**Amount: US\$198,136**

**Date: June 2014 – November 2014**

### What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund was established in 2008, through a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Managed by the Coalition Secretariat, the Innovation Fund has to date made available more than US\$2.2M in small grants (maximum US\$200,000 per grant) to Coalition partners. The grants – more than 20 altogether – have yielded new tools, supported advocacy and research, leveraged millions of dollars in subsequent program funding, and launched a host of new initiatives across the Global South.

Traditionally, the Coalition has defined the concept of “innovation” broadly to include any promising new idea with the potential to bring about positive change. Innovation needn’t mean a radical departure from previous practice. It could also include new approaches to existing processes or the implementation of an existing strategy in a new context, especially if this adaptation leads to replication or scaling-up at country level.

### Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

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