



Supplies message makes waves at Women Deliver

Nearly 50 young people from around the world came together in a surprise, unannounced dance routine at the recent Women Deliver 2016 in Copenhagen, wearing yellow T-shirts that demanded: “Which part of My Right to Contraception do you not understand?” Hundreds watched the [flashmob](#)—part of the Coalition’s larger strategy to engage young people in discussions on reproductive health supplies and increase their access to contraception. Hundreds more visited the Coalition’s campaign booth in the exhibition hall to take a quiz about stockouts and learn more about [Take Stock](#).

Photo: [WomenDeliver](#)

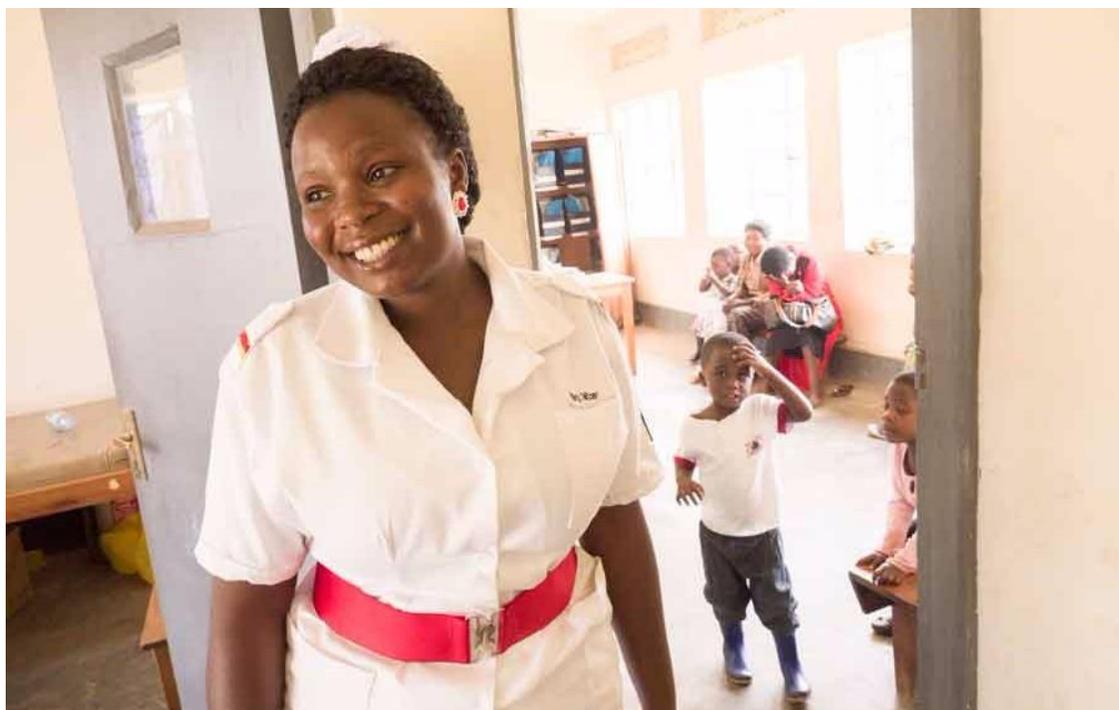
Women Deliver panel shines light behind the empty shelf

Women Deliver 2016 also opened many eyes to the multitude of factors preventing RH products from reaching those who need them. At a Coalition-sponsored panel, “Stockouts: What Lies Behind the Empty Shelf”, Dr. Ian Salas of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health joined four panelists to take a look at supply-related barriers to contraceptive access. Thirteen million young women undergo abortions in China every year, said Lily Liu Liqing, country director of Marie Stopes International, China, because unmarried women lack access to, and education about, different

contraception methods. Marie Stopes International Niger's Aissa Laouan Wanderarama observed that in her country it is a taboo for young people to be sexually active: "Full shelves are invisible to young women," she remarked. Priya Agrawal from MSD for Mothers described how outsourcing the stocking of health facilities to private companies reduced stockouts and worked out to be a cheaper option and Denis Kibira from HEPS Uganda said local action on the ground was the most powerful way to address chronic stockouts in which choice was severely compromised.

New tool offers visibility on National Essential Medicines Lists (EMLs)

A country's Essential Medicines List (EML) is an important policy document that often dictates what the public sector will procure for use in the health system. The inclusion of essential reproductive and maternal health supplies in national EMLs is critical to ensure their availability at every level of a country's health care system. [EML Search](#) is a database, developed with support from the Coalition's Innovation Fund, that provides information on which EMLs include the 13 reproductive (and maternal) health products addressed by the [NURHT Caucus](#). The database can be searched by country or by product. Check out [a recent webinar](#) on EML Search for more information.



Coalition's Lucian Alexe wins photo award

In May, the [11th Annual Photoshare contest](#) announced its winners, including a photograph taken by the Coalition's Communications Associate, Lucian Alexe. The image of a young nurse from Ndejja, Uganda, received an honorable mention in the contest's main section. Lucian remembers the day well. "I was documenting our [Take Stock](#) project in Uganda with our partners, [HEPS](#)," he says. "We stopped at the Ndejja Health Center to talk with the health workers, heard their struggles around providing supplies, and told them about our campaign to end stockouts. Monic, the nurse in the picture, was a dynamic presence, talking with so much dedication and about the importance of having the right RH supplies at the right time. I'm grateful to her for letting us take her picture". This year's contest received a record number of submissions: 1,500 photographs from 83 countries. [Photoshare](#) is a free photography collection database, developed exclusively for educational and non-profit purposes and can be accessed through this [link](#).

Pregnancy tests increase access to family planning

A new [video](#) highlights the important role that simple, inexpensive pregnancy tests can play in increasing access to same-day provision of family planning services. The results of a recent Innovation Fund project completed by FHI 360 and Marie Stopes International in Kenya, Mali and Malawi are highlighted in this resource, and were also presented during a [webinar](#) held earlier this year. Both explore how pregnancy tests complement the [Pregnancy Checklist](#), a tool developed by FHI 360 that has been endorsed by the WHO and USAID, and adopted by more than a dozen countries. The video was a collaborative effort between K4Health and USAID's Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact.

New name, business as usual

AccessRH, the procurement service developed under the Coalition's Systems Strengthening Working Group and integrated into UNFPA operations in 2013, has transitioned to the new name of [UNFPA Procurement Services](#), with the same information, tools and catalogue as the old site. This new-look site is also navigable from the Coalition [homepage](#) which currently links to 10 key sites: Activities & Resources à Tools à UNFPA Procurement Services.

Ensuring access to safe menstrual products: new webinar gives hope

Nine out of ten women in India do not use sanitary napkins. But young women worldwide lack accurate information about menarche and/or the products available to manage it. Youth Consultations held by the Coalition in Kampala (December 2015) and Bali (January 2016) shone the spotlight on the urgent need for girls to have access to safe menstrual supplies. Five experts came together in a recent [Coalition-hosted webinar](#) to share groundbreaking examples of how product design can serve young people better, and how access can be improved dramatically.

Webinar: Cope for CS yields remarkable results in Malawi

Following the application of EngenderHealth's [COPE for CS](#), health facility staff from across Malawi saw emergency orders of supplies drop from 60 to 42 percent. Supported by the Innovation Fund, this nine-month intervention also resulted in improved team work, better adherence to storage guidelines and ordering schedules, and enhanced coordination. On a visit to the project, Malawi's Health Minister, Dr. Peter Kumpalume, described contraceptive security as "an essential component of a comprehensive family planning programme". A recently posted [webinar](#) walks you through the COPE for CS methodology and describes the results of the effort to introduce the methodology to 60 facilities across 10 districts in Malawi.

Coalition membership reaches 376 with 9 new members

- [Simavi](#) joins us from the Netherlands where it works to improve the health conditions of marginalized people in Asia and Africa
- Based in the US, the [International Youth Alliance for Family Planning](#) empowers young people to lead decisions on sexual and reproductive health and rights
- The [Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs](#) designs communications to solve public health issues in more than 30 countries including the US where it is based
- [Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy](#) in Uganda harnesses innovations to help save lives of women and children
- Netherlands-based wholesaler of pharmaceuticals and medical items [IMRES](#) works for relief agencies in developing countries, with a focus on reproductive health items
- [Servicio Educación Sexualidad y Salud](#), A.C. is a civil society organization supporting the sexual and reproductive health of young people in Mexico
- [Médecins du Monde Belgique](#) is a group of medical practitioners committed to the health of women and children, with a focus on refugee communities and emergency situations

- UK-based software and services organization [Greenmash Ltd](#) designs and uses mobile technologies to improve supply chains
- [Public Health Ambassadors Uganda](#) is a youth-led NGO using music, drama and danced to get across lifesaving messages about sexual and reproductive health

In the calendar

- 18-22 July** [International Aids Conference](#), Durban, South Africa
- 4-5 Oct** [The 2016 EuroNGOs Conferece](#), Paris, France
- 10-14 Oct** [17th General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#), Seattle, USA
- 10-12 Nov** [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Conference](#), Wellington, New Zealand

Copyright © **Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition**, All rights reserved.
Rue Marie-Thérèse 21, 1000 Brussels, Belgium | Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22

[Unsubscribe from this list](#) | [Subscribe to this list](#)