

# SUPPLYINSIDER

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## Goodbye to Jagdish Upadhyay, supply champion and visionary

In June this year, Jagdish Upadhyay, the longest-standing member of the Coalition's Executive Committee, retired after more than 20 years of service at UNFPA. Jagdish was a founder member of the Coalition, and head of the committee responsible for nominating candidates for the post of Coalition Chair. At UNFPA, Jagdish led UNFPA Supplies, which was amongst the first groups to adopt the Coalition's new harmonized suite of stockout indicators. It is for this work that he and his team were nominated for—and won—the [Take Stock Champion Award](#) last year at the Coalition's General Membership Meeting in Oslo. Jagdish began his career in social marketing in Nepal, where he travelled between rural communities, working to increase contraceptive access. His passion for reproductive health work is infectious and he has inspired countless colleagues. "He has been a true mentor, always full of wisdom and practical advice," says Coalition Director John Skibiak. The Coalition wishes Jagdish a happy and fulfilling retirement; we will miss his guidance and vision.

## A strategic move in August

Since its inception more than 12 years ago, the Coalition has played an increasingly critical role in furthering global goals, supporting its partners, and leading the movement to increase access to reproductive health supplies. Last year saw the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and this year, Zika has brought a grim and urgent reminder that contraception, now more than ever, has the power to prevent needless death. The Coalition has forged new partnerships, has reiterated its support to FP2020, and will continue to play its role as umbrella organization for the [CARhs](#) and the [Coordinated Supply Planning](#) groups.

The Coalition's ever-growing responsibilities and commitments have called for its Director to play an increasingly visible public role in communication, representation, and outreach. To allow for timelier decision-making, and a more sustained engagement with a broader range of key partners, Director John Skibiak will make a strategic move to join the Coalition's team in Washington, DC, this August, relocating from the Brussels office, where he has served for more than a decade. A more senior presence in Washington will allow the Coalition to engage more actively with many of the key players shaping the new RH landscape. John's email address will remain [jskibiak@rhsupplies.org](mailto:jskibiak@rhsupplies.org).

### **Private sector makes significant contribution to LAC Summit**

Preparations are underway for a Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Summit aimed at reducing inequities in sexual and reproductive health. The event will take place in Cartagena, Colombia, 6-8 September, and is organized by ForoLAC, Profamilia-Colombia and key regional partners. Thus far, the Coalition has leveraged on behalf of the Summit a total of US\$377,000 from national and international NGOs, pharmaceuticals and other donors. Of this amount, pharma alone has contributed US\$80,000, which will bring together about 200 participants, including ministries of health, from 21 countries across the region. For more information, please contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at [mdinev@rhsupplies.org](mailto:mdinev@rhsupplies.org).

### **New report links staff motivation and stockouts**

A crucial, seldom-considered building block in optimizing health care logistics is the human factor: the degree to which staff are motivated and feel responsible for delivering high quality services and meeting customer's needs and expectations. Supported by the Coalition's Innovation Fund, the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) explored how—and to what extent—the motivation of providers can be optimized to reduce the frequency of stockouts. This research, which took place in 15 primary health care facilities in Maputo Province, Mozambique, tested different interventions; evaluated their effect on motivation; and measured their impact on good supply management. The report of the project is available [here](#), and a policy brief based on the findings is situated [here](#).

### **Senegal survey seeks to assess youth behaviour**

SECONAF and PATH recently launched a nationwide survey in Senegal using mobile health technology in the country's 14 regions to assess the RH behaviors and supplies needs of young people. The findings will inform the agenda of a new youth discussion

group within SECONAF, and help focus SECONAF's efforts to more effectively engage young people. For more information, please contact Regional Advisor Aminatou Sar at [asar@rhsupplies.org](mailto:asar@rhsupplies.org).

## Concept Foundation subsidiary receives WHO prequalification

[Health Concepts International \(HCI\) Services](#) has been prequalified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a quality control laboratory. A subsidiary of the Concept Foundation—a Coalition member since 2007—HCI Services is based in Thailand and tests the content of hormonal contraceptives (DMPA, levonorgestrel, estradiol cypionate, ethinyl estradiol) and maternal health drugs (misoprostol, mifepristone), according to the United States, European, and International Pharmacopoeias. HCI and its staff are also certified under ISO 17025, the main ISO standard used by testing and calibration laboratories.

## 38th webinar online analyzes stockout prevalence in four countries

Our online webinar hub has a new addition: a Coalition-hosted [webinar](#) in Spanish that maps contraceptive stockouts in four countries, Nicaragua, Haiti, Ecuador and Honduras, in order to identify potential solutions. The webinar is based on a study conducted by the UNFPA regional office in Panama to analyse the prevalence of contraceptive stockouts and supply chain bottlenecks in Latin America.

## In the calendar

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|------------------|--|
| <b>6-8 Sep</b>   | <a href="#">LAC Conference on SRH Inequities</a> , Cartagena de Indias, Colombia                               |
| <b>4-5 Oct</b>   | <a href="#">The 2016 EuroNGOs Conference</a> , Paris, France   |
| <b>10-14 Oct</b> | <a href="#">17th General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition</a> , Seattle, USA   |
| <b>10-12 Nov</b> | <a href="#">Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Conference</a> , Wellington, New Zealand                 |
| <b>16-18 Nov</b> | <a href="#">9th Global Health Supply Chain Summit</a> , Dar es Salaam, Tanzania                                |
| <b>27-30 Nov</b> | <a href="#">9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights</a> , Da Nang, Vietnam    |
| <b>28-29 Nov</b> | <a href="#">13th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on Population and Development</a> , Dakar, Senegal |

29 Oct-  
4 Nov 2017

[28th International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population](#), Cape Town, South Africa

## TAKE STOCK | UPDATES

### Advocacy Kit now in three languages

Take Stock's recently-published [advocacy kit](#) is now also available online in [French](#) and [Spanish](#). The guide provides tools for reaching out to in-country stakeholders, increasing the use of common indicators, and persuading decision-makers to make commitments to address reproductive health stockouts. JSI's Technical Advisor Suzy Sacher [blogs](#) on the indicators: "For the first time, the global reproductive health community has developed a harmonized suite of indicators to measure stockouts and contraceptive availability in a clear, consistent, and more meaningful way."

### Take Stock partner focus: MSH

In a recent Devex [interview](#), Management Sciences for Health's (MSH) Douglas Keene spoke about helping countries get the data and information they need to detect potential stockouts. MSH is a dedicated Take Stock partner, having committed to adopting common indicators, promoting data availability, and raising campaign awareness. The commitments of the campaign's 48 partners can be found [here](#).

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