

Date set for 16th membership meeting

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's 16th General Membership Meeting will take place 5-9 October 2015 in Oslo. It will be co-hosted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Norad, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Norway is the most recent of the Coalition's five core donors, and has been a key player in both the implant price reductions and the new Global Financing Facility. Watch this space for more details.

Photo: Bengt-re/flickr.com/CC BY 2.0

Voices unite on Global Financing Facility

December was a busy month for the Global Financing Facility, and for those engaging the family planning community in its development. The Coalition's Advocacy and Accountability working group put together a [position paper](#) that was enthusiastically adopted. The paper prompted extensive feedback, thereby assuring that our voice figured prominently in the final PMNCH consultation report. IPPF, together with the Coalition, has consolidated SRHR highlights from the [report](#). The Coalition will also be working to ensure that the voice of civil society is heard in upcoming country consultations, the first of which will take place in Kenya 21-22 January, followed by a high-level policy forum on 23 January. The Coalition's GFF Advisory Group continues to meet weekly to share intelligence, strategize, and keep the community abreast of latest developments with an e-blast initiative called "[Connecting the Dots](#)". To receive these mailings, please contact Helen Clodong at hclodong@rhsupplies.org.

Former Coalition Chair to head Population Council

The Population Council announced last month that Julia Bunting OBE, former Coalition Chair and member of the Executive Committee, would take on the post of Council President, effective March. We congratulate Julia and our colleagues at the Council and note with gratitude the staunch support Julia has afforded the Coalition over the years. We wish her every success as she "crosses the pond".

CARhs study shows benefits of contributing to PPMR

[Ouagadougou Partnership](#) countries that report regularly into the Procurement Planning and Monitoring Reports ([PPMR](#)) have reduced the number of stock issues requiring intervention by the Coordinated Assistance for RH Supplies ([CARhs](#)). This was the key finding to emerge from a recent study of supply data carried out by the CARhs. The study also highlighted the shift by OP countries toward more proactive management of stock levels. The [CARhs report](#) was launched in Paris at the December annual meeting of the OP, where SECONAF also presented its work on total market approaches.

New maternal health resources available on SID

More than 15 new resources have recently been added to the Coalition's [Supplies Information Database](#) (SID), including [The State of the World's Midwifery 2014](#) which presents findings on midwifery from 73 low and middle-income countries. The report, produced by UNFPA, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others, focuses on the urgent need to improve the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of midwifery services. SID is an online library housing more than 2,000 supplies-related publications dating back to 1986.

SSWG publication becomes educational resource

The Systems Strengthening Working Group (SSWG) publication, *A Business Approach to Transforming Public Health Supply Systems*, has been selected for presentation at the Global Health Mini-University to be held in Washington, DC on March 2, 2015. This interactive session will be led by two of the paper's four authors, Carolyn Hart of JSI and Alan Bornbusch of USAID. The paper calls on government decision makers to rethink the way public health systems are managed and to ask themselves, "Is what we have today working as well as it needs to, and will it work for tomorrow?" The full paper can be found [online](#).

Concept Foundation funded to pursue crucial QuRHM work

The [Concept Foundation](#) has received a substantial grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to pursue efforts initiated under the QuRHM Project to expand access to quality-assured injectable contraceptives. Concept has also received support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation to assess the feasibility of a direct purchasing portal for reproductive health medicines. By raising consumer awareness of the importance of quality and by expanding access to quality supplies themselves, these activities represent critical pathways within the “quality pillar” of the Coalition’s new 10-year strategy.

Coalition membership reaches 324 with 8 new members

- [Family Care International](#) (FCI) is a US-based NGO in the United States which works to ensure universal access to reproductive health care and information, and to empower women, young people, and communities.
- [SERAC--Bangladesh](#) is a gender-advocacy-based law and development NGO working for sustainable development among disadvantaged youth, women and children.
- Simli AID is a Ghana-based NGO that works to reduce poverty in the country’s rural northern regions through sustainable environmental conservation and management practices.
- The [Centre for the Study of Adolescence](#) is a Kenyan NGO that seeks to improve the health and well-being of young people through research, programming, capacity building, and policy development.
- [Allied Youth Initiative - Uganda](#) is an NGO established by young professionals raised in poverty who use the arts and entrepreneurial opportunities to engage youth to face their challenges.
- [China Pharmaceutical University Pharmaceutical Company](#) is a pharmaceutical manufacturer founded in 1958.
- [Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine](#) is a leading US school of public health with field-based family planning programs currently underway in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- [Yantai Family Planning Medicine & Apparatus Co., Ltd](#) is a Chinese government-designated manufacturer of intrauterine devices.

21-22 January	Global Financing Facility Kenya Consultation, Nairobi, Kenya
12-21 February	1st Meeting of the Fertility Control Club (FCC)- Hormonal contraception methods: From basic research to clinical practice , Barcelona, Spain
4-6 March	Global Financing Facility Ethiopia Consultation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
16-17 April	International Parliamentarians’ Conference on Population and Development, Berlin, Germany
27 - 29 April	Reproductive Health Medicines Program - Hormonal Contraception and Essential Medicines meeting, New York, USA
11-15 May	RHSC Executive Committee Meeting, Beijing, China
5-9 October	RHSC 16th General Membership Meeting, Oslo, Norway
18-21 October	Global Maternal Health Conference , Mexico City, Mexico
4-9 October	21st FIGO World Congress , Vancouver, Canada

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

Rue Marie-Thérèse 21 · 1000 Brussels, Belgium · Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22 · Fax: +32 (0)2 219.33.63

www.rhsupplies.org · communications@rhsupplies.org

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please click [here](#) and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.