

## **Systems Strengthening Working Group** Workplan: May 2010 thru November 2012

### **SSWG Objectives:**

The objectives of the Systems Strengthening Working Group (SSWG) are to:

1. Improve joint efforts for timely access to and use of standardized information to align financing and reproductive health (RH) product flows to meet country requirements.
2. Develop solutions to drive increased reliability, predictability, and efficiency of public financing for RH supply needs, especially for poor and vulnerable populations.
3. Identify and support supply chain improvements for effective and efficient delivery of quality assured RH supplies.

The working group's focus is to strengthen systems for standardized information access and use, for sustainable financing and its effective use, and for delivery of quality assured RH products. These systems need to be better aligned, more data-driven, and more coordinated to improve the reliability and predictability of RH products to and within countries. While SSWG activities span global, regional, and country levels, all are aimed at **joint** efforts to strengthen the ability of **countries** to meet their needs for a range of quality assured and affordable products. The SSWG will focus on the allocation and use of financial resources from the public sector – whether originated from country or donor budgets – to ensure that the needs of those in need of public subsidies for RH supplies are met.

The SSWG contributes to all three overall goals of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC). It has most direct responsibility to help “strengthen capacity of health systems to deliver RH supplies in a sustainable manner” but also contributes majorly to the “increase availability, predictability, and sustainability of financing for RH supplies” The SSWG links with and complements other working groups to achieve RHSC goals:

- The SSWG can identify effective and efficient uses of resources that can be incentives for new ones. This supports efforts by the Resource Mobilization and Awareness working group to mobilize new and additional resources for RH commodity security.
- The SSWG focuses on the best use of public resources. The Market Development Approach Working Group (MDAWG) focuses on mobilizing private sector resources by expanding commercial markets for clients who are able to pay for their RH products.
- Quality assurance is a concern for both the SSWG and MDAWG. In the case of prequalification, this is to increase RH supply options for the public sector as well as to broaden the range of producers of RH products participating in commercial markets.

**SSWG Process:**

The SSWG will:

- consist of a core group of members who are responsible for setting priorities and developing a balanced and feasible work plan and budget – from activities requiring multiple partner participation to activities of a more strategic nature.
- meet at least two times a year and organize teleconferences as needed.
- expect from its members a commitment to contribute to the required activities as agreed in the work plan in order to achieve the objectives of the working group and goals of the RHSC.
- have a coordinator to manage the working group, share information with members, organize meetings and teleconferences, communicate with the RHSC Secretariat and serve on the Executive Committee, help coordinate with other working groups, and coordinate research and analysis when required.<sup>1</sup>
- prepare an estimate of the costs for achieving identified milestones.
- review its role and terms of reference at regular intervals and submit any recommendations in adapting its structure, and priority activities of the work plan and budget to the Executive Committee for annual approval.

**SSWG Membership:**

Membership is open to RHSC members interested in working to achieve SSWG objectives. Current active members include UNFPA, WHO, USAID, World Bank, KfW, Gates Foundation, DFID, IPPF-ICON, DELIVER, Crown Agents, MSI and JSI. Visiting participants also participate in SSWG activities to advance specific issues. The SSWG strongly encourages the participation of other RHSC members, including developing country representatives, other bilateral funding agencies, and relevant technical organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information about working group coordinator responsibilities is in the “Organizational Principles and Structural/Governance Terms of Reference for the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.”

**Objective 1:** Improve joint efforts for timely access to and use of standardized information to align financing and reproductive health (RH) product flows to meet country requirements.

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	10	11	12	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Reproductive Health Interchange (RHI)								
Continue to use one's network to promote the use of data for decision-making.	Lead: Mimi Whitehouse	Transition the operations of the RHI to UNFPA	X			BMGF and USAID	\$2.5m (2010 and 2011)	Deliverable: RHI promoted by Secretariat to their contacts, and by SSWG within their institutions; RHI used by stakeholders (donors, in-country managers, etc.).  RHSC Focus Area 1A Mobilize additional new resources  RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems  RHSC Focus Area 3A Foster greater harmonization among stakeholders at global and country level  RHSC Focus Area 3C Frame global efforts to achieve supply security

**Objective 2:** Develop solutions to drive increased reliability, predictability, and efficiency of public financing for RH supply needs, especially for poor and vulnerable populations.

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	10	11	12	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
AccessRH								
<p>Implement and operationalise AccessRH, which is a procurement mechanism that aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve access by a range of customers to quality, affordable contraceptives with favorable delivery terms</li> <li>- enhance supply chain visibility, and</li> <li>- support country ownership.</li> </ul> <p>In the future, WG members will be requested to use their networks to spread the word about AccessRH to potential clients and/or other stakeholders.</p>	<p>David Smith (UNFPA) And AccessRH Advisory Group</p>	Coalition	X	X	X	<p>EU BMZ USAID  UNFPA</p>	<p>Approx \$4.7 m USD (does not include funding for start-up inventory)</p>	<p>Deliverables: Operational mechanism in place offering a range of standard products, showing an increased number of orders for a range of clients</p> <p>Initiative promoted by Secretariat to its contacts and by SSWG members within their institutions</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 3A Foster greater harmonization among stakeholders at global and country level</p>

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	10	11	12	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Regional Pooled Procurement Mechanism								
Development of Regional Financing mechanism through WAHO	Wolfgang Bichmann, Wolfgang Theis (KfW) and technical support from Alan Bornbusch (USAID)	WAHO	X	X	X	KfW	€10m	Creation of a mechanism for “pooled procurement” in the West African Region Strengthened systems for procurement and supply chain management  RHSC Focus Area 1A Mobilize additional new resources
Pledge Guarantee for Health Commodities Mechanism								
Development and implementation of “Pledge Guarantee for Health Commodities” mechanism	Kevin Starace (UNF)  Morten Sorensen (UNFPA)		X	X	X	Gates	\$10m	Deliverables: Operational mechanism in place working with at least 3 countries  RHSC Focus Area 1A Mobilize additional new resources
Coordinated Action for Reproductive Health Supplies (CARhs Group)								
Continue Coordinated Action for Reproductive Health Supplies (CARhs – formerly Countries at Risk Group) to monitor and address country emergency supply needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organize monthly conference calls of CAR members.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ Manage electronic work processes of CAR</li> <li>▪ Maintain CAR notes and database</li> <li>▪ Monitor, evaluate and report on CAR activities, results, and effectiveness to RHSC.</li> </ul>	Kevin Pilz (USAID) -convening representatives of UNFPA, USAID, KfW, World Bank, RHI, MSI, and DELIVER	In country reporting by DELIVER, MSI, Management Sciences for Health, and UNFPA to report stock status	Monthly X	Monthly X	Monthly X	In-kind contributions from members	\$75,000 per year not including commodity donations in support of CAR work	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monthly updates to tracking matrix</li> <li>▪ List of indicators for reporting to RHSC</li> <li>▪ Reports to RHSC</li> </ul> RHSC Focus Area 2B To avert RH supply disruptions at national level – to help when systems break down

<sup>2</sup> Where “organize” means to notify participants of upcoming meetings, lead the development of joint agendas, document and disseminate points discussed.

**Objective 3:** Establish supply chain mechanisms to support effective and efficient delivery of quality assured RH supplies.

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	10	11	12	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Quality Medicines for Reproductive Health								
<p>Monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ partner sign-on to interagency list.</li> <li>▪ use of list to guide procurement and supply by partners and countries.</li> <li>▪ use of list (and joint PATH/WHO guideline) by countries to include RH essential medicines on national lists of essential medicines.</li> <li>▪ use of list to update/revise standard treatment guidelines (STGs) and establish STGs for new RH products as required.</li> </ul> <p>Provide technical support for recommending new RH products for the model list.</p>	<p>Morten Sorensen (UNFPA) Helene Moller (UNICEF) Jane Hutchings (PATH)</p>	<p>Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)  WHO/ Reproductive Health and Research</p>	X			Gates Fdn.	N/A	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interagency List endorsed by IPPF, JSI, PATH, PSI, UNFPA, WB, WHO</li> <li>▪ Updated national lists of essential medicines with RH products</li> <li>▪ Updated STGs</li> </ul> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems</p>
Quality Testing of RH commodities								
<p>Compile a database of testing facilities, tests and testing equipment for RH commodities (particularly generics) for those commodities/brands not part of the WHO pre-qualified lists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activities TBD</li> </ul> <p>[This workstream yet to be fully conceptualized and developed]</p>	<p>Helene Moller (UNICEF) Jane Hutchings (PATH) Tracey Brett (MSI)</p>	<p>PSI, DKT Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)</p>	X			TBD	N/A	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Database (or mapping sheet) of equipment, places and types of testing for use at the country or global level</li> </ul> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems</p>

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	10	11	12	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Prequalification								
<p>Monitor and provide technical advice to partner activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ standardize RH supply prequalification procedures.</li> <li>▪ develop a business plan for long-term sustainability of RH supply prequalification activities.</li> <li>▪ develop a framework for monitoring prequalification activities.</li> </ul> <p>Support and monitor demand by procurers and suppliers for products prequalified according to international standards.</p>	David Smith, Morten Sorensen (UNFPA); Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)	WHO	X	X	X	Gates Fdn.  None	N/A  \$400K	<p>Deliverables: Increasing number of companies/commodities prequalified by WHO/UNFPA</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems</p>
Professional Development of Supply Chain Managers								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define qualifications needed/certification requirements for public health supply chain managers.</li> <li>• Create a clearinghouse for information on relevant courses, trainings, and certifications (e.g., existing procurement certifications).</li> <li>• Sensitize donors, technical agencies and governments to the need for professionalization and harmonize approaches within and beyond the RHSC through regional consultations, a global positioning meeting, and technical working group meetings.</li> <li>• Develop formal links between the International Association for Public Health Logisticians and the RHSC</li> </ul>	Kevin Pilz (USAID); Tracey Brett (MSI)	IAPHL Bioforce, Optimize, UNICEF	X	X	X	RHSC Innovation Fund; USAID; possibly WHO	\$200K	<p>Deliverables: Quality RHCS-relevant trainings and courses posted on RHSC website; Required qualifications/critical skills for public health logisticians described; Global harmonization meeting on professionalization held; Formal links between RHSC and the IAPHL established.</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2A Strengthen existing systems</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 3A Foster greater harmonization among stakeholders at global and country level</p>