

Systems Strengthening Working Group Workplan: Version, November 27, 2008

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 four 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.¹
- 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 members include UNFPA, WHO, USAID, World Bank, KfW, Gates Foundation, DFID, IPPF-ICON, DELIVER, Crown Agents, 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.

¹ 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	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Reproductive Health Interchange (RHI)								
<p>Serve as the Management Group for the RH Interchange (see footnote for details regarding the SSWG’s responsibility vis-à-vis the RH Interchange).² Activities endorsed by the SSWG and that it will direct/monitor are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand the database to include UNFPA third party procurement, Crown Agents, PSI, IRH and others as needed ▪ Develop functionality of the RH Interchange to support country-requested needs ▪ Integration of functionality of RHI into Access/RH (for completed integration by 2011) <p>In addition, the Management Group will advise and support implementation of additional expansion options for the RH Interchange.</p>	<p>Lead: Mimi Whitehouse</p> <p>A subset of members of the SSWG will serve as the Management Group. It will jointly direct RHI development and monitor its progress</p>	<p>In particular, country implementation will rely on assistance (already stated explicitly by UNFPA and USAID) by donors’ in-country offices as well as contracting agencies</p>	X	X	X	<p>Funded through 2009 by the Gates Foundation, with smaller amounts of funding by USAID, as well as in-kind resources from UNFPA USAID, others</p> <p>Funding required from (Jan 2010)</p>	<p>\$3.9m (over 3years 2006-2009)</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>Deliverable: Needed data available; RHI promoted by Secretariat to their contacts, and by Management Group within their institutions; RHI used by stakeholders (donors, in-country managers, etc.).</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 1.1 Mobilize public sector and total market resources at country level (SO 1.1.1; 1.1.5)</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.2 Strengthen capacity at Global level to manage RH supply chains (SO 2.2.1)</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 3.1 Foster greater harmonization among stakeholders at global level (SO 3.1.2)</p>

² The Management Group has direct responsibility for jointly directing RH Interchange development and monitoring its progress. “Directing” means involvement in assessing the quality of information, analysis, dissemination, use, and any future projects to advance the RH Interchange to meet needs for better information and environmental changes. “Monitoring” means review of partners’ progress to commitments made to the RH Interchange. This monitoring function forms the basis for the group to serve as the forum for accountability of RH Interchange participants and implementers for specific activities the achievement of which is their responsibility.

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Supplies Information Database (SID)								
Integrate Advocacy toolkit documents and update database with supplies related documents from July 2008 onwards	Steve Kinzett	RHSC Secretariat	X	X	X	Gates Fdn.	10K	Deliverables: Unified database of all documents – updated on at least yearly basis RHSC Focus Area 3.3 Serve as a technical resource and global advocate for RH Commodity Security (SO 3.3.1)
Re-engineer the tags on multiple-country documents for a “world” or “all country” category								
Compile reports into a single global platform								
Produce Country Pages with relevant supplies information	JSI	RHSC Secretariat	X	X	X		10K	
Forecasting Helpdesk								
Providing technical support and back-up to forecasting specialists at country level.	Steve Kinzett	RHSC Secretariat		X	X	RHSC	?	Deliverables: Provision of technical support in forecasting either country based or through remote means. RHSC Focus Area 2.2: Strengthen capacity at global level to manage RH supply chains (SO 2.2.1)
When requested, validate/legitimate the work of forecasting specialists who meet accepted standards (ie. have undergone a minimum level of training in forecasting)	UNFPA, JSI							
Provide a forum for better harmonization of forecasting training materials.								
Harmonising RHSC forecasting with requirements of Access/RH	Mimi Whitehouse			X	X			

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	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Global Financing/Access-RH mechanism (formerly MVG)								
<p>Implement and operationalise financing strategies that will improve efficiencies in the RH commodity financing/procurement system. (minimum volume guarantee mechanism renamed Access/RH)</p> <p>Alleviate RH commodity supply constraints in developing countries by:</p> <p>Providing mechanisms to mobilize additional resources for RH commodities.</p>	<p>David Smith (UNFPA) and representatives from KfW, Gates, DFID, World Bank, Dutch MoFA³, Also a counterpart group⁴</p>	Consultants	X	X	X	Dutch MoFA; KfW, DFID, Gates Fdn.	\$5000K	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational mechanism in place working with increasing volumes <p>RHSC Focus Area 1.2 Expand Resources at global level for RH supplies (SO 1.2.1)</p>
Regional Pooled Procurement Mechanism								
Development of Regional Financing mechanism through WAHO	<p>Wolfgang Bichmann, Wolfgang Theis and Sandra Rolet (KfW) and technical support from Alan Bornbusch (USAID)</p>	WAHO	X	X	X	KfW	6000K	<p>Creation of a mechanism for “pooled procurement” in the West African Region</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 1.2 Expand Resources at global level for RH supplies (SO 1.2.1)</p>

³ MVG/PG interim advisory group (who will provide guidance during the mid-point review): Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - Susan Rich; KfW - Wolfgang Bichmann, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Marion van Schaik; DFID - Anne Nolan and Julie Jones; UNFPA - Jagdish Upadhyay

⁴ MVG/PG Counterpart Group: KfW - represented by Sandra Rolet; World Bank - Sangeeta Raja; UNFPA - David Smith; USAID - Alan Bornbusch

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Pledge Guarantee for Health Commodities Mechanism								
Development and implementation of “Pledge Guarantee for Health Commodities” mechanism	Morten Sorensen (UNFPA)	Kevin Starace (UNF)	X	X	X		?	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational mechanism in place working with at least 3 countries RHSC Focus Area 1.2 Expand Resources at global level for RH supplies (SO 1.2.1)
Countries-at-Risk								
Continue Countries-at-Risk Group (CAR) to monitor and address country emergency supply needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize monthly conference calls of CAR members.⁵ Develop metrics to monitor and evaluate CAR effectiveness. Report twice-yearly to RHSC on CAR activities, results, and effectiveness. 	Kevin Pilz (USAID) -convening representatives of UNFPA, USAID, KfW, World Bank, Crown Agents, RHI, DELIVER and IPPF	In country reporting by DELIVER and UNFPA to report stock status	Monthly X	Monthly X	Monthly X	RHSC In-kind contributions from members	\$1000 per year	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly updates to tracking matrix List of indicators for reporting to RHSC Reports to RHSC 2.3 Provide coordinated response to RH supply disruptions (SO 2.3.1)

⁵ 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	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Country Supply Chains/ Country Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS)								
<p>Strengthen logistics management information systems (LMIS) for country-level supply chain management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Software review of Supply Chain Management packages ▪ Investigate common LMIS standards ▪ Investigate the applicability of “middle-ware” systems 	<p>Jagdish Upadhyay (UNFPA) Alan Bornbusch (USAID) DELIVER</p>	<p>DELIVER in country offices and logistics advisors; UNFPA in country offices and technical advisors</p>	X	X	X	USAID, UNFPA	N/A	<p>Deliverables: Report/Manual detailing the roles of each of the software programs; Internal report on recommendations for future direction</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.1 Strengthen capacity at country level to ensure and sustain functional RH supply chains across all sectors. (SO 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.4)</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.2 Strengthen Capacity at global level to manage RH supply chains (SO 2.2.1)</p>
RH Supplies in Emergency Settings								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate RH supplies in emergency response logistics capacities of UN and NGOs, even those not primarily in RH ▪ Ensure donor support for RH logistics in emergency response ▪ Advocate for easier customs clearance of essential RH supplies, either through the UN system or through agreements with specific countries 	<p>Maaike Van Minh (MSI) David Smith (UNFPA) Pam Steele (UNFPA) Carolyn Hart (JSI)</p>	<p>IRC, MSF, ARC, other humanitarian organizations as well as Dana Aronovich, Paula Nersessian, Merriweather Beatty from JSI.</p>		X	X	None	?	<p>Deliverables: Improved systems for the delivery of RH supplies in Conflict and Emergency settings</p> <p>Focus Area 2.4: Support a coordinated response to provide RH supplies to countries suffering from conflict, natural disasters, etc (SO 2.4.1)</p>

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	08	09	10	Funding Source	Cost (est.)	Deliverables, RHSC Focus Areas & Strategic Objectives
Quality Medicines for Reproductive Health								
<p>Monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ partner sign-on to interagency list. ▪ use of list to guide procurement and supply by partners and countries. ▪ use of list (and joint PATH/WHO guideline) by countries to include RH essential medicines on national lists of essential medicines. ▪ use of list to update/revise standard treatment guidelines (STGs) and establish STGs for new RH products as required. <p>Provide technical support for recommending new RH products for the model list.</p>	<p>Helene Moller (WHO) Jane Hutchings (PATH)</p>	<p>Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)</p> <p>WHO/ Reproductive Health and Research</p>	X	X		Gates Fdn.	N/A	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interagency List endorsed by IPPF, JSI, PATH, PSI, UNFPA, WB, WHO ▪ Updated national lists of essential medicines with RH products ▪ Updated STGs <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.1 Strengthen capacity at country level to ensure and sustain functional RH supply chains across all sectors. (SO 2.1.3)</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"> ▪ Activities TBD ▪ . 	<p>Helene Moller (WHO) Jane Hutchings (PATH) Leo Bryant (MSI) Mike Hall (ICON)</p>	<p>Tracey ?? (MSI) PSI, DKT Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)</p>		X	X	TBD	N/A	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Database (or mapping sheet) of equipment, places and types of testing for use at the country or global level <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.1 Strengthen capacity at country level to ensure and sustain functional RH supply chains across all sectors. (SO 2.1.3)</p>

Current and Potential Activities	Responsibility Within WG	Responsibility Outside WG	08	09	10	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"> ▪ standardize RH supply prequalification procedures. ▪ develop a business plan for long-term sustainability of RH supply prequalification activities. ▪ develop a framework for monitoring prequalification activities. <p>Provide update to RHSC on status of prequalification of RH suppliers and products. Support and monitor demand by procurers, suppliers, and consumers for products prequalified according to international standards.</p>	David Smith, Morten Sorensen (UNFPA); Hans Hogerzeil (WHO)	<p>Peter Hall (MDAWG – Concept Foundation)</p> <p>Joint SSWG/ MDAWG subgroup</p>	X	X		<p>Gates Fdn.</p> <p>None</p>	<p>?</p> <p>\$400K</p>	<p>Deliverables:</p> <p>Increasing number of companies/commodities prequalified by WHO/UNFPA</p> <p>RHSC Focus Area 2.1 Strengthen capacity at country level to ensure and sustain functional RH supply chains across all sectors. (SO 2.1.3)</p>
Professionalization of Logisticians								
[To be Developed]	Kevin Pilz (USAID); Carolyn Hart (JSI)	IAPHL		X	X	None	?	[To be developed]