

**New and Underused RH
Technologies Caucus
Background and 2012
Update**



Background



Reproductive Health
SUPPLIES COALITION

What is the NURHT Caucus?

- Community of Practice
- Purpose: to contribute to country level efforts to achieve MDG 5
- Approaches:
 - **Broaden discussion within Coalition on NURHTs**
 - **Collaborate with Coalition Implementing Mechanisms**

What do we mean by “new”?

- New RH technologies are those that are new to a global or country market, and are currently available for procurement.

What do we mean by “underused”?

- Underused RH technologies are those that are not routinely available in the public, private, or social marketing sectors, as well as those technologies not routinely procured by the major procurers.

The technologies discussed by the Caucus are those that:

- can expand choice in a reproductive health program focused on family planning and/or maternal health,
- add value to the method mix or medical response, and
- respond to the needs of the clients.

Coalition Structure

- 1 Executive Committee
- 1 Secretariat
- 3 Working Groups
- 2 Regional Forums
- 2 Caucuses



Coalition Structure

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- 1 Secretariat

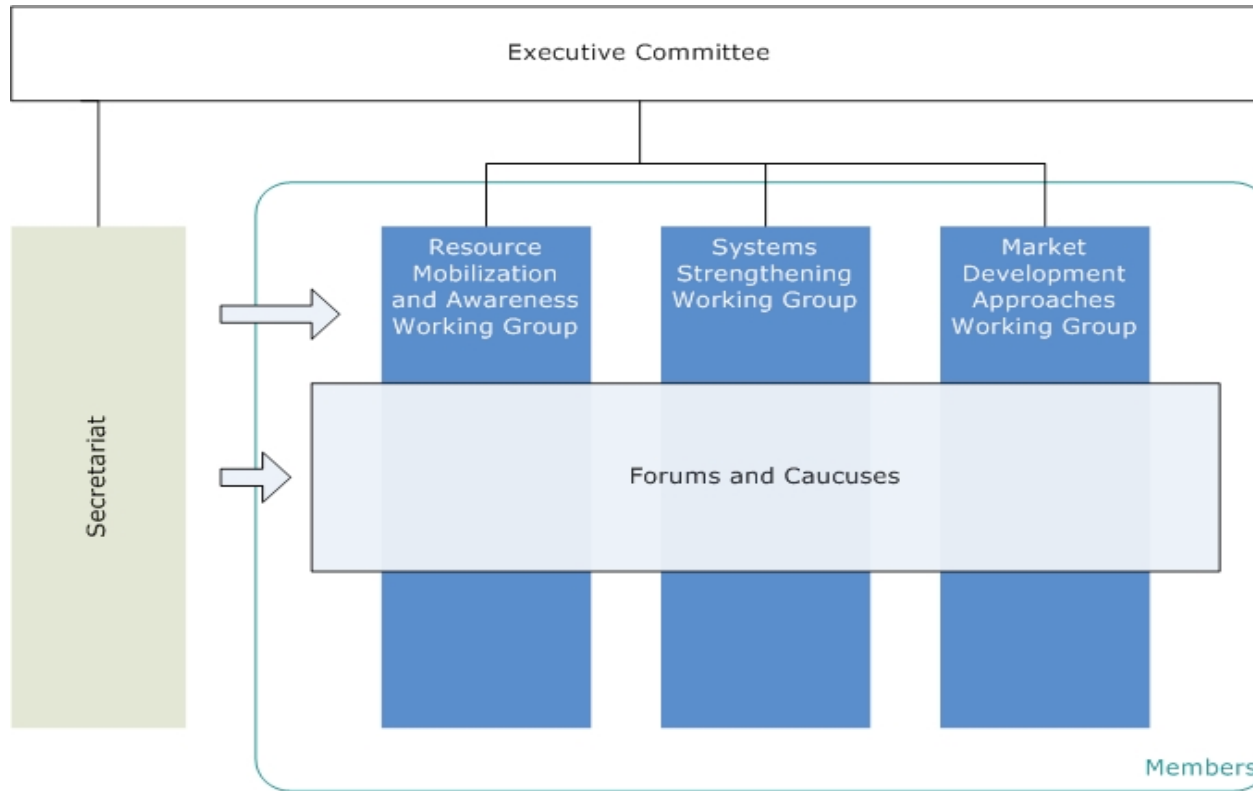
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Implementing
Mechanisms



Coalition Structure (cont.)



Support →
Authority —



Reproductive Health
SUPPLIES COALITION

Coalition Structure (cont.)

- Implementing mechanism, but not a Working Group
- Operates *through* the Working Groups
 - Include Regional Forums in the future
 - Liaisons to each WG
- All Caucus members also belong to at least one WG or Forum

Updates



June 2011 – October 2012

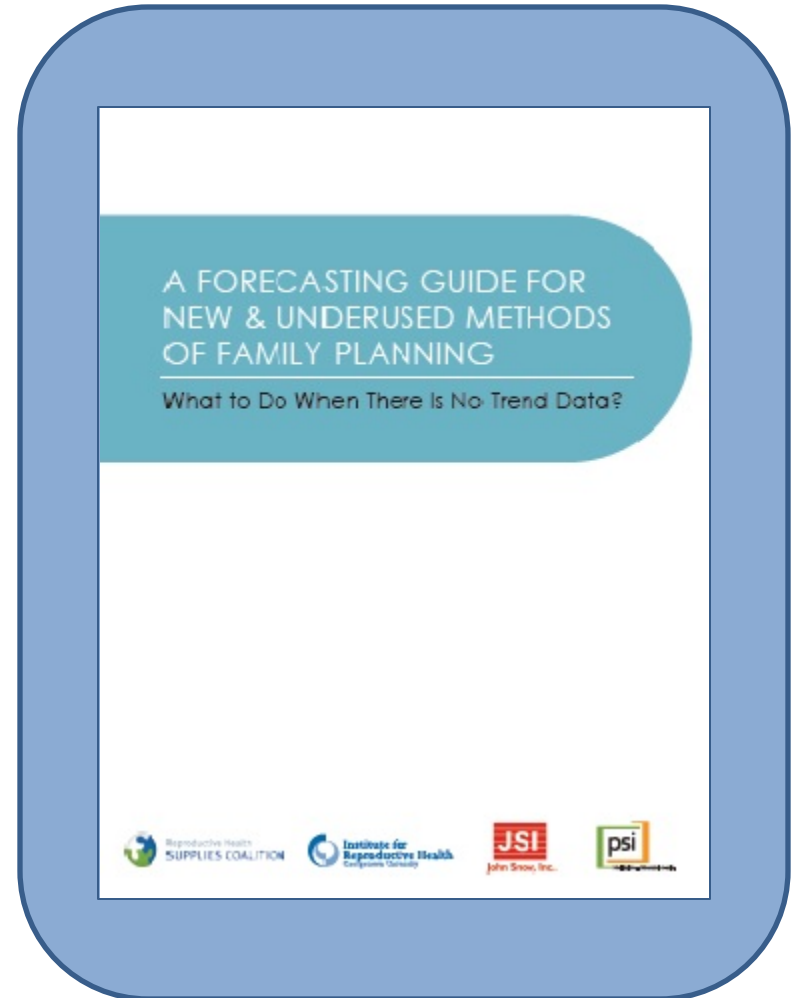
Maternal Health Supplies:

- Launched Maternal Health Supplies Task Force (Nov. 2011)
- Made recommendations to the Executive Committee (June 2012)
- Formed new Caucus on Maternal Health Supplies (Launch today!)
- New Product Briefs added

June 2011 – October 2012

NUMS Guide:

- Completed in September
- Brownbags to USAID, JSI, PATH
- Webinar scheduled for Oct. 24th
- Generating a lot of interest



June 2011 – October 2012

Product Briefs:

- Completed annual update in May, launched June
- Added 3 new MHS briefs
 - Magnesium Sulphate
 - Misoprostol
 - Oxytocin
- Now total 13 briefs



The image shows a product brief document titled "Contraceptive Implants" from the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. The document is framed in blue and contains the following text:

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
PRODUCT BRIEF
Caucus on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies

Contraceptive Implants

Description

Introduced more than 25 years ago, contraceptive implants are one of the most effective family planning methods available when used in accordance with approved prescribing information. Implants are thin, flexible rods that are inserted just under the skin of a woman's upper arm and provide sustained contraception ranging generally from three to five years.

The Population Council developed the first contraceptive implant—Norplant—which was approved in Finland, the country of manufacture, in 1983. Norplant consisted of six rods (2.4 mm × 34 mm), each containing 36 mg of levonorgestrel (a progestin). The second-generation system, Jadelle, was subsequently developed and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) in 1996; Jadelle consists of two rods (2.5 mm × 43 mm), each containing 75 mg of levonorgestrel. In 1994, Sino-implant (II), a similar two-rod implant with the same amount of active ingredient as Jadelle, was introduced in China. This was followed by Implanon in 1997 and approved by USFDA in 2006, a single-rod contraceptive implant (2 mm × 40 mm) containing 68 mg etonogestrel, a synthetic female hormone resembling progesterone, which was developed in the Netherlands. Production of Norplant was discontinued in 2008.¹

Contraceptive implants provide long-lasting contraception by suppressing ovulation, impeding sperm transit by thickening the cervical mucus, and

spacing and limiting. Implants should not be inserted in women during the first six weeks after childbirth if they are exclusively or partially breastfeeding; those with serious liver disease, problems with blood clots, or unusual vaginal bleeding; and women that have or have had breast cancer.² Contraceptive implants do not provide protection from sexually transmitted infections.

Efficacy

Contraceptive implants are one of the most effective contraceptive methods available. Annual pregnancy rates are less than 1 percent with all implants.^{4,5} Continuation rates are often better than those for other hormonal contraceptives or intrauterine devices.⁴ No significant differences are found in contraceptive effectiveness or continuation rates among users of various contraceptive implants.⁴

The major side effects associated with the use of contraceptive implants are changes in bleeding patterns (frequency, duration, and amount).^{3,7} Other potential side effects include weight gain, headaches, abdominal pain, acne, dizziness, nausea, breast tenderness, and mood changes. Rarely, infection at the site of the implant will occur.² Ovarian cysts may also occur, but usually do not require treatment.⁸

Current programme/sector use

<http://www.path.org/publications/detail.php?i=1726>

June 2011 – October 2012

UN Commission:

- Incorporated 3 family planning products per RHSC/NURHT Caucus recommendation
- Adopted our definition of “underused”
- NURHT members participating in preparatory meetings and ongoing follow up

Outstanding activities:

- Editorial in journal *Contraception*
- Ensuring NURHTs on WHO Essential Medicines List

Challenges

- Delayed production of briefs
- Liaison system not functioning as actively as in the past
- Little progress in identifying new activities with IMs
- Need to engage RMAWG

Opportunities

- NURHTs built into Coalition vision for the future
- New WG leadership, new activities with NURHT potential
- UN Commission-implementation of recommendations
- Partnership with MHS Caucus

Information

- Upcoming teleconferences:
 - October 23rd, 2012
 - January 15th, 2013
- Primary contact:
 - Bonnie Keith, bkeith@path.org
- Website:

<http://www.rhsupplies.org/working-groups/caucus-on-newunderused-rh-technologies.html>

