

**Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
Eighth Semiannual Membership Meeting
October 24–25, 2007, Washington, DC**

Breakout Group Sessions

During the breakout sessions, participants have the opportunity to discuss in depth some of the main issues that arise during the corresponding plenary sessions. Participants should also relate the findings in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to experiences in other regions and other foreign assistance contexts. You may choose to attend one of the three breakout sessions. **Please sign up in advance at the registration desk.** The number of participants per session is limited.

WEDNESDAY, October 24, 2007
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Mobilizing and Leveraging Resources for Family Planning

Breakout Session 1: Developing and implementing government policies to ensure family planning/reproductive health financing.

Guiding questions:

- What role do you think different actors play in policy development and/or implementation related to family planning or reproductive health financing?
 - How do you see the role of civil society?
 - What is the role of the commercial/private sector?
 - What is the role of the public sector?
- What are some specific challenges you face in your country/region related to policy development and implementation?
- What are the experiences of others in addressing these challenges? What are/were the 2-3 most important components to address policy development/implementation in your respective countries/regions?

Special guests from LAC:

- Mirna Montenegro, Guatemala (facilitator)
- Esmeralda de Ramírez, El Salvador
- Rubén Ortiz, Paraguay

Breakout Session 2: Financial sustainability for NGOs involved in family planning and the importance of the whole market approach.

Guiding questions:

- How do you see the role of NGOs in contraceptive security? How involved are NGOs in contraceptive security efforts in the LAC region? In other regions?
- What strategies are NGOs utilizing to ensure financial sustainability?
- What can be done to promote the whole market approach in contraceptive security?

Special guests from LAC:

- Teresa de Vargas, Ecuador (facilitator)
- Carmen Barroso, IPPF/Western Hemisphere

Breakout Session 3: The role of advocacy in ensuring commodity security and the use of quantitative data to support advocacy.

Guiding questions:

- What type of information (and sources) can be used for advocacy?
- Is the needed information available? Is it utilized to strengthen advocacy?
- Who should be involved in advocacy for ensuring CS?
- What has been the experience in other regions with respect to advocacy for ensuring CS?

Special guests from LAC:

- Patricia Mostajo, Peru (facilitator)
- Alejandro Solís, Nicaragua
- Oscar Viscarra, Bolivia

THURSDAY, October 25, 2007, 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Supply Chain Management Under Health Sector Reform

Breakout Group 1: Successes and challenges in outsourcing procurement to a third-party agent.

Guiding questions:

- What is the role of a third-party agent?
- When is it best to utilize a third party (e.g., PAHO, UNFPA, or commercial agents) for procurement of health commodities?
- What successes and challenges have countries experienced in using third parties for procurement of health commodities, and for contraceptives in particular?

Special guests from LAC:

- Esmeralda de Ramírez, El Salvador (facilitator)
- Rubén Ortiz, Paraguay
- Oscar Viscarra, Bolivia

Breakout Group 2: Successes and challenges in direct procurement

Guiding questions:

- What key capacities does the public sector need to procure in a transparent, efficient, and effective manner?
- What steps can organizations and governments take to ensure transparency in procurement?
- What successes and challenges have countries experienced with direct procurement?

Special guests from LAC:

- René Castro, Chile (facilitator)
- Patricia Mostajo, Peru
- Carmen Barroso, IPPF/Western Hemisphere

Breakout Group 3: Maintaining contraceptive security and prioritizing supply chain management systems in a decentralized and integrated setting.

Guiding questions:

- How do we transfer what we know about family planning commodity management to other products (in vertical and or/integrated systems)?
- What is the role of NGOs, civil society, UNFPA, and others in strengthening supply chain management and LMIS policies and implementation of policies at the local level and when integrating drug systems?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of vertical and integrated systems? What do countries gain and lose through integrating the supply chain—from forecasting to transportation to service delivery?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of decentralized and centralized commodity systems? What do countries gain and lose through decentralization of the supply chain—from forecasting to transportation to service delivery?

Special guests from LAC:

- Anabella Sánchez, Guatemala (facilitator)
- Teresa de Vargas, Ecuador
- Alejandro Solís, Nicaragua

THURSDAY, October 25, 2007, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions: Working Groups Consider Lessons from LAC

The three Coalition Working Groups will consider opportunities to incorporate the lessons learned from LAC into their work plans and on-going activities.

- Market Development Approaches Working Group
- Resource Mobilization and Awareness Working Group
- Systems Strengthening Working Group

Guests who are not members of any Working Group are welcome to attend the session of their choice (please sign up at the registration desk). Descriptions of Working Groups follow.

Brief Descriptions of Working Groups

The **Market Development Approaches Working Group (MDA WG)** is primarily concerned with the private sector and the Total Market Approach. The main activity groups cover the following areas:

- **Generic Manufacturing of RH Supplies.** The workstreams of this group include the assessment of mid-range companies to produce generic, quality, hormonal contraceptives; pre-qualification of RH commodities (under the leadership of World Health Organization); and quality testing toolkit (prior to full pre-qualification)
- **Second-Tier Market Approach.** This group focuses on identification of the market gap between the social marketing sector and the top private sector that could be filled by quality generic products being sold for profit in the market.
- **Total Market Approach Synthesis.** The workstreams of this group include the Market Segmentation Toolkit, Measurement of Market Development, Global Advocacy for MDAs, and compilation and dissemination of Market Development Approach tools that affect supplies.
- **Demand Creation.** Workstreams on pricing versus choice; demand creation strategies in the private sector.

Resource Mobilization and Awareness Working Group (RMA WG). The goals of this Working Group are to:

- Create an environment conducive to political support for RH supplies at country and global levels.
- Secure increased financial resources for RH supplies at the country and global levels.

In close collaboration with the other working groups, the RMA seeks to attain the following objectives:

- Provide transition support related to resource mobilization and awareness-raising to the Coalition Director.
- Build and maintain linkages with RHSC working groups (MDA WG and SSWG).
- Engage in country-level advocacy as it relates to political and financial commitment to supplies.
- Engage in advocacy at the global level with bilateral and multilateral institutions as it relates to political and financial commitment to supplies.

In late 2006, IPPF, PAI, and DSW received funding to conduct resource mobilization and awareness-raising activities outlined in the RMA workplan. Activities include a focus on awareness-raising and advocacy at the global level via a civil society network, the regional level via activities through regional structures and groups, and country-level activities.

The **Systems Strengthening Working Group (SSWG)** aims to strengthen the global, regional, and country systems needed to ensure reliable and predictable supplies of quality reproductive health products. It works to ensure that these systems are better aligned, more data-driven, and more coordinated. The work of the SSWG is guided by three objectives:

- To improve timely access to and use of standardized information needed to meet country requirements for reproductive health product flows and financing.
- To develop new tools and solutions needed to increase the reliability, predictability, and efficiency of public financing for RH supply needs.
- To identify and support the supply chain improvements required for effective and efficient delivery of quality RH supplies.

The SSWG focuses on the allocation and use of financial resources from the public sector—whether originating in-country or from donor budgets—to meet the RH supply needs of those requiring public subsidies.