



In the spotlight

Towards a strategic plan

Where do we see ourselves in three years time? What should we be doing to get there? And are we doing all we should? These are the kinds of questions addressed by five present and past Coalition members, as they met in Brussels to begin the development of a 3-to 5-year Coalition strategic plan. The plan – identified as a key output for the Secretariat – will detail more clearly the Coalition’s broader vision; bridge the gap between that vision and the activities of the three Working Groups; and provide a basis for tracking progress across the Coalition as a whole.

Over the course of their two-day meeting, the small task force reviewed the results of October’s Bonn meeting, studied past Coalition efforts at strategy formulation, and examined the strategic plans of other institutions and networks. By the end of their meeting, the group had taken the first steps in outlining a plan that promises to address many issues currently on the minds of Coalition members: missing and/or underemphasized areas of work; collaboration across Working Groups; meaningful membership criteria; and priorities for Coalition decision-making and action.

Next month, the task force will re-group to review their draft plan and suggest revisions. The Secretariat will then facilitate a consultative process with the Executive Committee and Working Groups so that the draft plan can be approved at the next membership meeting. For more information, please contact John Skibiak at jskibiak@path.org.

RHSC on the scene

April in London

On 15 December, the Executive Committee announced that IPPF would be hosting the next semi-annual meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. The membership meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the week of April 16, will take place over two days and will be preceded by an Executive Committee meeting. Valerie DeFillipo said that IPPF looked forward to hosting the event, which she said would be coordinated with DFID. Further details on the event will be communicated once they are available.

We have a logo

The Executive Committee has supported the Communication Task Force’s selection of a new Coalition logo. Appearing at the top of this newsletter, the logo was designed by Argentinian artist Eva Petrolo of the Brussels-based design firm, Ronny Peters bvba. The design – a sphere of three interlocking puzzle pieces - was inspired by the results of a Coalition survey that highlighted the importance of images representing global partnership, connectivity, and harmonization.

Minutes available online

Minutes of the Coalition’s sixth annual membership meeting are now available [online](#), along with copies of all presentations and speeches delivered at the event. Hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the meeting was held at the Bonn *Kanzleramt*, formerly the offices of the German Chancellor.

Schering visits the Secretariat

On 5 December, Mr. Robert French, Manager (UK & Ireland) of Schering’s Pharmaceuticals & Social Health Care Programs, visited the Secretariat’s offices to discuss his program and the

possible implications of Schering's recent buy-out by Bayer. A key player on the world commodity scene, Schering delivers each year around 70 million oral contraceptives, 12 to 13 million three-monthly injectables and 1 million one-monthly injectables.

French said he would welcome an opportunity to introduce Schering and its activities to the broader RHSC membership. He described the company's large warehouse facilities in Berlin where RH stocks are available for immediate distribution. He discussed the costing aspects of Schering's family of Social Health Care products; the possible inclusion of additional pharmaceuticals into that family; and the opportunities to lower costs through, for example, forward ordering. French also discussed Schering's work with generic manufacturers and its support for the WHO pre-registration process.

Highlights from the Working Groups

Systems Strengthening WG

Earlier this month, UNFPA/Copenhagen hosted two-day meeting of the Systems Strengthening Working Group. The discussions, which included input from participants across nine time zones, yielded a timeline of actions and commitment from partners to design and field test the "Minimum Volume" and "Pledge Guarantee" mechanisms. The discussions also saw agreement on actions to re-vitalize the Countries at Risk sub-group and to push ahead with further country-level work under the RH Interchange. The group learned more about efforts by KfW and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) to establish a regional funding mechanism for reproductive health supplies, and identified ways to coordinate with and support this work. Finally, USAID described some of its advance plans for the new DELIVER Project. As was pointed out at the Bonn membership meeting, USAID has set aside funds in the project to support RHSC priorities. Participants at the Copenhagen meeting were asked to think about how such funds could be used to support systems strengthening activities. USAID also welcomes ideas from the RMA and MDA working groups, and from the Secretariat. Minutes of the Copenhagen meeting will be posted on the RHSC website in January.

Market Development Approaches WG

Who would benefit from the development of an MDA country typology – countries themselves, the global community, or both? How do we develop common indicators for evaluating the success of MDAs? And what is our position on demand creation – worth the Coalition's attention or just a diversion? On December 7th, the MDA group met via teleconference to discuss these and other issues. What emerged from the discussion was lively debate and, in two instances, decisions to return to the drawing board. Claire Stokes, who has taken the lead on the country typology framework, will reformulate her draft SOW to highlight the utility of the typology for understanding better the conditions and forces influencing the total market, globally and at country level. In the meantime, Jane Hutchings and Lester Chinery have agreed to re-work the terms of reference for a consultancy to develop common indicators and approaches for evaluating the success of MDA. Notes of the teleconference will soon be available on the Coalition website.

Resource Mobilization and Awareness WG

From 4-6 December, a group of NGOs including RMA Working Group Members PAI, IPPF and DSW, as well as representatives from the Global Aids Alliance, UN agencies, civil society and eight developing countries met in Geneva to craft a strategy to advocate for the inclusion of reproductive health and reproductive health supplies into the Global Fund processes. The strategy will entail a multifaceted approach, beginning with a sign-on letter to the Fund's Portfolio Committee chairperson, urging the inclusion of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS linkages in the Round Seven Guidelines. The letter is currently circulating via the Worldpop list serve and is available for viewing on the [Coalition website](#). This will be followed by targeted technical assistance to the attendees of the Geneva event to ensure that each Global Fund proposal makes the strongest case possible for the inclusion of reproductive health. For more information, contact Carolyn Vogel at cvogel@popact.org.

Upcoming events

09 January	CAR teleconference (to be confirmed)
19 January	Deadline for submission of SOW/TOR revisions to MDA Working Group
19 January	Mr. Frank Roijmans, Executive Director, Institutional Affairs and Family Planning, Organon, to visit RHSC Secretariat
Week of 22 January	Strategic Planning Task Force follow-on meeting in USA (dates to be confirmed)
25 January	MDA Working Group Teleconference
Week of 16 April	Membership meeting in London (dates to be confirmed)

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