



## In the spotlight

### **PGH creates \$1 billion lending capacity**

Pledge Guarantee for Health (PGH) continues to evolve as a major champion for addressing cash flow shortfalls that undermine efficient procurement and manufacturing of health supplies. As noted in its 2013 [Annual Report](#), PGH joined the newly-formed Financing for Development; scaled itself up to include risk-management, legal, global health and finance experts; constituted its Board of Directors; and began implementing an in-depth monitoring and evaluation framework. The highlight of 2013 was undoubtedly the expansion of PGH's ability to leverage \$1 billion in credit, thanks to a new 5-year \$100 million guarantee funded by USAID and Sida. PGH was developed and launched under the Coalition's auspices in 2009; we celebrate the work of our ambitious partner and congratulate it as it grows from strength to strength.

### **Coalition Director shares engagement strategy at FP2020 videoconference**

In February more than 500 listeners tuned in to a global FP2020 videoconference during which Coalition Director John Skibiak and Alan Staple from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) presented the accomplishments to date of the FP2020 Market Dynamics Working Group (MD WG), which they co-chair. Together with the co-chairs of other working groups, John and Alan described the MD WG's work plan, which was developed in November by WG members. The plan builds on three core issues: 1) knowledge management and data transparency, 2) the vision of a well-functioning market, and 3) procurement & regulatory improvements. The co-chairs also described the engagement strategy now underway to tap the knowledge of a 150-strong consultative network of market dynamics experts. Those interested in joining the network may do so via the FP2020 [website](#), where a recording of the meeting and presentations are posted.

## GEMS Caucus launches its own webpage

The Coalition's newest implementing mechanism—the Generic Manufacturers Caucus for Reproductive Health (GEMS Caucus)—has just launched its own page on the Coalition website. Established in 2013 as a vehicle for expanding the availability of high-quality, affordable, and safe reproductive health products, the GEMS Caucus comprises seven generic pharmaceutical companies manufacturing throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe. It offers a platform for the partners to share issues, reach a global audience, and support new Coalition initiatives in market shaping, quality assurance and reducing stockouts. The new [webpage](#) includes key resource materials, links to GEMS member websites, and a short video, explaining what the new Caucus is all about.

### **Coalition project managers hone management skills**

As the Coalition moves forward with new field-based initiatives to reduce stockouts, shape markets, and fulfill commitments, the need for a core set of program management tools becomes increasingly critical – important for management purposes, but also to engage Coalition partners more effectively in the implementation process. With that aim in mind, staff of the Coalition Secretariat attended a three-day PMD Pro training session—a project management course for development professionals resulting in full certification as project managers. LAC Forum Facilitator Milka Dinev, a registered PMD Pro trainer, joined staff from PATH's Human Resources Department to teach the course—and, at the end, to congratulate the successful team of newly certified managers. Click [here](#) for more information on PMD Pro.



### **Snow fails to dampen CARhs meeting energy**

Despite inclement weather, Coalition partners from around the world gathered last month in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CARhs Group, draw lessons from a decade of managing supply crises, and begin formulating a strategic plan to guide the CARhs' work in the years to come. By the end of the meeting, participants from UNFPA, USAID, USAID/DELIVER, WAHO, CHAI, World Bank and DFID agreed on the importance of the CARhs communicating its successes to a wider audience, ensuring more efficient use of its resources, and optimizing its business processes. Arguably the oldest of Coalition's many supply "tools", the CARhs provides a platform for global procurers and country partners to remedy supply imbalances at country level—whether they arise from too little stock or costly overstock. For more information on the CARhs, contact [Ellen T. Tompsett](#).

### Coalition membership reaches 272 with three new members

- [Pharmaceuticals Systems Africa](#) (PSA), USA, is an international health organization providing consulting services to developing countries and specializes in the pharmaceutical supply value chain
- [William Davidson Institute](#) (WDI), USA, is a non-profit research and educational institute at the University of Michigan addressing challenges and opportunities in emerging markets
- Uganda Family Planning Consortium (UFPC), Uganda, represents non-governmental FP service providers and advocacy organizations in the country, working to improve access to contraception

## News from the Implementing Mechanisms

### LAC Forum takes strategic plan forward

The February heat in Colombia did not deter the LAC Forum from convening a meeting in which participants landscaped work of the "Movilizacion" working group members, identified areas for coordinated action, forged a regional advocacy approach and put together a focused message for the Coalition's October Membership Meeting in Mexico. The meeting supported the creation of several LAC Fund and Innovation Fund grant proposals designed to complement one another in addressing the big issues. The group identified three key areas of focus: adolescents' access to quality RH supplies, long acting and permanent FP methods, and reduction of obstacles to the purchase of contraceptives within international funding mechanisms. The meeting planned to come up with a regional commodity security monitoring mechanism deriving from existing tools.

### Beth Yeager takes helm of Maternal Health Supplies Caucus

The Coalition's Maternal Health Supplies Caucus is delighted to announce the appointment of its new Chair, [Beth Yeager](#) of Management Sciences for Health. Ms. Yeager, whose work focuses on increasing access and appropriate use of essential medicines and supplies to improve women and children's health, believes "It is an interesting and challenging time for the Maternal Health Caucus. With the current momentum around RMNCH and the post-MDG agenda, the Caucus can play an important role in channeling the lessons learned from other global initiatives such as the UNCoLSC to Coalition members, identifying potential gaps in the activities of those global initiatives, then using opportunities like the Innovation Fund to develop strategies increasing equitable access to maternal health supplies." Members of the Caucus extend their special thanks to the Coalition's LAC Regional Facilitator Milka Dinev who has held the position of the Caucus' Interim Chair for seven months, and will continue to serve as the Secretariat focal point.

### LAC Fund winner to cast light on regional need

[INSAD Mexico](#) has received a grant from the LAC Fund during its second round of awards. INSAD will develop a methodology allowing countries to identify and prioritize vulnerable Latin American regions and communities with a high need for RH services. It will also identify and help prioritize specific programme areas to which international donors and national governments can focus efforts to address inequity access to supplies and services. More information is available from the Regional Facilitator Milka Dinev at [mdinev\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:mdinev(at)rhsupplies.org).

### Coalition, SECONAF, join new Senegal steering group

SECONAF and the Coalition are among a number of institutions invited to join a new steering group, chaired by the Director-General of Senegal's Health Ministry, which aims to improve the quality of RH medicines in Senegal. The establishment of the steering group was an outcome of a three-day workshop, hosted in Dakar by UNFPA, the Concept Foundation, the Senegal Ministry of Health, and the Coalition. During the meeting, participants addressed procurement procedures, issues relating to regulatory policies and procedures, quality control testing, human resources, and infrastructure among others. Meeting presentations are all available [here](#), and a meeting report prepared by SECONAF Regional Facilitator Mr. Badara Seye is available [here](#). A final meeting report is to follow. Mr. Seye may be contacted at [bseye\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:bseye(at)rhsupplies.org).

## Upcoming events

2 April	Monthly <a href="#">CARhs</a> (Link CARhs) teleconference
9-10 May	Regional Workshop on the use of Misoprostol, CLACAI-GYNUITY
10-11 July	<a href="#">A&amp;A WG</a> in-person meeting, London
20-25 July	<a href="#">20th International AIDS Conference, Melbourne, Australia</a>
21-22 August	4th <a href="#">CLACAI</a> Regional Conference, Lima, Perú
15-19 September	<a href="#">FLASOG</a> Regional Meeting, Quito, Ecuador
20-24 October	15th General Membership Meeting, RHSC, Mexico
17-18 Feb 2015	<a href="#">XXI FIGO World Conference</a>

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