

## In the spotlight

### We are 10!

2014 marks the Coalition's 10th year of contribution to global reproductive health supplies-related work. We are marking this milestone, not so much as a celebration, but as a timely juncture at which to take stock of the lasting changes the Coalition has made to the supplies issue. This milestone also marks the start of a new decade where the strategic pillars of availability, choice, equity and quality will frame our efforts to ensure access to the supplies women and men need to meet their reproductive health needs. Join us as we embark on new cutting-edge research, support innovation, showcase the work of our growing membership, and roll out plans for this very special year. To use our new anniversary logo in your communications, please find instructions [here](#).



## Coalition on the scene

### CARhs: 2013 annual report

This month, the CARhs (Coordinated Assistance for RH Supplies) Group completed its 2013 annual review. The CARhs brings together the world's key commodity suppliers to address the short-term supply crises that periodically befall countries. Through electronic data-sharing and decision-making, members identify existing or potential supply shortages or overstocks, assess their causes, develop solutions, and where possible, apply them.

In its annual report, the CARhs reports having addressed 227 separate supply crises, the highest number of cases since the group was established in 2005. Of these, the group managed to close out 194 of them (85 percent), mostly by providing information. But more than a third of all closed cases – 66 in total – called for some sort of direct remedial action. And in about 18 percent of them, the CARhs responded either by issuing or postponing shipments, by expediting them, or in about four cases, by cancelling shipments altogether, thereby saving valuable resources. The final report will be soon be released and those wishing more information are invited to contact CARhs Manager, Ellen Tompsett at the Coalition Secretariat at [etompsett\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:etompsett(at)rhsupplies.org).

## Mexican government to host in October

January saw a number of key developments in the run-up to this October's Coalition membership meeting in Mexico. Following a consultation with representatives of the LAC Forum, the Mexican Secretariat of Health announced that it would co-host, and contribute financially, to the meeting. We are deeply grateful to the Secretariat for this overwhelming endorsement of our work and vision. We are also delighted to announce that FLASOG, the regional network of obstetric and gynecological organizations in Latin American, will join the Secretariat as a co-host of the event.

The meeting venue will be confirmed shortly, and agenda development is underway, so mark your diaries and follow the SupplyInsider for more details. Please remember, the success of this meeting is dependent on the support and participation of members, so please be on the lookout for calls for papers and presentations, which you will receive shortly.

### LAPTOP is highlight of conference presentation

Health logisticians and supply chain managers came together to learn about the Coalition's flagship resource, [LAPTOP](#) – an interactive global repository of supply chain management (SCM) education opportunities and still the most-visited resource on the Coalition website. LAPTOP was a highlight of a side meeting by People that Deliver (PtD) at [The Prince Mahidol Award Conference](#) (PMAC) in Bangkok this month. The conference focused on the scale-up of competency-based health education for the various health professionals required in specific developing country contexts. For more information on PtD's side meeting – "Approaches and tools for transforming the education and training of the supply chain management workforce to ensure equitable and sustainable access to critical, life-saving medicines and commodities" -- please contact PtD Director, Andrew Brown at [executivemanagerptd\(at\)unicef.org](mailto:executivemanagerptd(at)unicef.org). Up-to-date information on LAPTOP is available [here](#).

### New additions to SID

The Supplies Information Database ([SID](#)) posted 176 new entries in 2013. The online reference library with more than 6,000 records on the status of reproductive health supplies at country-level includes studies, assessments and other publications dating back to 1986. New entries include toolkits, country reports, and fact sheets in English, French and Spanish. The database is updated on an ongoing basis.

### Coalition membership reaches 269 with three new members

- [Pharmaceuticals Systems Africa](#) (PSA), United States, Technical Support Agencies and Partnerships
- [William Davidson Institute](#) (WDI), United States, Technical Support Agencies and Partnerships
- Uganda Family Planning Consortium (UFPC), Uganda, Civil Society

## News from the Implementing Mechanisms

### Webinar examines potential of product bundling

Can product bundling promote choice? More than 50 people came together to explore this issue at a January webinar – the first in a new [series](#) to be organized by the Market Dynamics Working Group (MDAWG). Moderator Aron Betru of [Financing for Development](#) opened the discussion by asking how bundling family planning products might help develop underserved markets or improve choice in the marketplace. Karen Hardee (Population Council), Marcel Hendriks (I+ Solutions) and Klaus Brill (Bayer Pharma AG) presented on the subject. The webinar contrasted the potential role of "procurement bundling" (negotiating the price of several commodities at once) as a tool for enhancing market development, including up-stream cost savings; with that of "product bundling" (packing, shipping, and distributing several products together) and its potential to ensure downstream choice and product availability. The session also highlighted the dependence of optimized bundling on improved demand forecasting. Learn more about the webinar by contacting the Secretariat's Senior Technical Advisor on Market Shaping, Anita Deshpande at [adeshpande\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:adeshpande(at)rhsupplies.org).

#### Coalition-funded film reaches further afield

This month, the LAC Forum embarked on an active campaign to disseminate further the video "[Con las Manos Vacias](#)" which brings to light the problem of stockouts throughout the Latin American region. [Salud Mesoamérica 2015](#), a public-private partnership aimed at reducing health inequity in Central America, announced this month its commitment to showcasing the video on its website and sharing it with its partners throughout Central America and the Caribbean. The Mexico office of the Population Council is also sharing the video with local partners and using it in community mobilization. And finally, UNFPA Bolivia organized a screening of the video for its staff, local partners and implementers. "Con las Manos Vacias" was produced by Population Action International with financing from the FondoLAC. For more information, contact LAC Forum Regional Facilitator Milka Dinev at [mdinev\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:mdinev(at)rhsupplies.org).

#### SECONAF launches new advisory group

This month SECONAF launched a multinational advisory group, charged with exploring new opportunities for action and collaboration, especially with regional counterparts such as WAHO and the Ouagadougou Partnership. During the first of what will be monthly teleconferences, representatives of six countries identified the following opportunities for action: application of programme management tools, sharing of best practices, an online landscaping exercise to identify training and funding opportunities, and an exercise to identify countries' outstanding needs for technical support. If you wish to join the advisory group please contact SECONAF Forum Facilitator Badara Seye at [bseye\(at\)rhsupplies.org](mailto:bseye(at)rhsupplies.org).

## Upcoming events

20-25 Jul	<a href="#">20th International AIDS Conference</a>
20-24 Oct	14th General Membership Meeting, RHSC, Mexico
17-18 Feb 2015	<a href="#">XXI FIGO World Congress</a>

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please click [here](#) and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

## Contact

### Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

Rue Marie-Thérèse, 21 · 1000 Brussels, Belgium · Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22 · Fax: +32 (0)2 219.33.63  
[www.rhsupplies.org](http://www.rhsupplies.org) · [communications@rhsupplies.org](mailto:communications@rhsupplies.org)

