



## In the spotlight

### Family Care International receives first MHS Caucus grant

The Maternal Health Supplies (MHS) Caucus has awarded its first technical support grant to Family Care International (FCI). Together with partners from the UN Commission on Life Saving Commodities, FCI will develop seven peer-reviewed briefs that draw greater attention to essential maternal health supplies. The briefs will touch on the three medicines (oxytocin, misoprostol, and magnesium sulfate) as well as the cross-cutting issues of policy; regulation, manufacturing, and supply chain management; and demand generation and community engagement. The MHS Caucus' technical grants are made possible through support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. For more information, please contact the [Milka Dinev](#).

## How can markets enhance access to young people?

The MDAWG's second webinar of 2014 highlighted the need for "youth-adapted services"—services that deliver contraception to the places where young people live and work. The webinar stressed the need to segment markets as a way of targeting services to populations that may differ by marital status, sex, wealth or residence. Participants learned how market segmentation could be used to develop tools for helping health ministries and community leaders (including youth leaders) to direct resources more efficiently. Leading the discussion were Janna Oberdorf, who spoke about Women Deliver's new "It Takes Two Campaign"; USAID | DELIVER's Annabella Sanchez, who discussed the use of data and advocacy to empower youth in Latin America; and Dr. Uwemedimo Esiet, who spoke on meeting the needs of young people in Nigeria. The webinar [recording](#), [presentations](#) and [minutes](#) are online.

## Coalition on the scene

### A&A WG yields results close to home

To ensure a place for RH supplies within the post-MDG global framework, members of the Coalition's A&A WG recently called on the governments of member organizations to express their support for RH language in a negotiated outcome to the upcoming Commission on Population and Development (CPD). Among the governments to have responded to this call was Belgium, home of the Coalition Secretariat. In a very rare move, perhaps even a first, both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Cooperation replied officially to the Belgian SRHR Working Group, in which Coalition staff has membership and involvement. Both ministers underlined their commitment to CPD and the Working Group's call for a negotiated outcome. A few weeks later, the Working Group was invited to a cabinet meeting to discuss further steps in preparing for the 47th session of CPD.

### Farewell to a longtime friend and supporter

In the wake of the untimely and tragic loss of Dr Wasim Zaman, the Coalition extends our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Dr Zaman was Executive Director of [ICOMP](#), a Coalition member association, and a strong and vocal supporter of our work. Coalition Director John Skibiak recalls having just recently discussed priorities and potential collaboration with Dr Zaman; the Coalition will feel deeply the loss of this untiring champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Well-wishers who would like to leave a tribute may do so on a commemorative Facebook page [here](#).

### Coalition members announce new course offerings

One of the Coalition's newest members, [Pamela Steele Associates](#), has announced a call for enrollment for a series of short courses entitled "Supply Chain Capacity Development Primers". These courses are intended for supply chain professionals and consultants, as well as other professionals. Information is [online](#).

Another Coalition member, [Empower School of Health](#) (whose Dean, Paul Lalvani, many will recall from last October's Delhi Membership Meeting), has also announced a new course opening entitled "Ensuring Product Quality in Procurement & Supply Chain of Health Commodities". To be held this June in Nairobi, this certificate course is designed for Global Fund recipients, National Public Health programmes (HIV, TB, Malaria and RMNCH), procurement agents, NGOs and public sector procurement and supply chain departments. Information is available [online](#).

### End of QuRHM Program draws global partners to New York

With the DFID-funded Quality Reproductive Health Medicines Program (QuRHM) Program coming to an end, the Coalition is increasingly becoming a go-to source for sharing information and addressing critical quality-related issues. On March 17-18, UNFPA, Concept Foundation, WHO and the Coalition hosted over 30 participants to a meeting of procurers of hormonal contraceptives and other essential medicines. The aim of the two-day event was to present the achievements and lessons learned of the QuRHM Program; highlight results achieved by procurers through the QuRHM Program; and engage the participants in an exercise to prioritize areas of continuing work around quality, post QuRHM. During the meeting, participants identified 5 priority areas for quality work: forecasting, pharmacovigilance, registration, demand generation for quality and advocacy and communications around the branding of quality at the country level. UNFPA will continue to host an annual Procurers' Meeting, providing a platform for manufacturers and procurers to discuss issues salient to quality work. For more information, contact [Lester Chinery](#), Concept Foundation.

### Coalition membership reaches 275 with three new members

- [Financing For Development](#), United States, Technical Support Agencies and Partnerships—advocates for, executes, and evaluates innovative financing techniques designed to make donor and domestic funding levels more predictable and efficient
- [Pamela Steel Associates](#), United Kingdom, Technical Support Agencies and Partnerships—an international management consultancy based in the UK, specializing in supply chain management in the international development and humanitarian sectors
- [Riders for Health](#), United Kingdom, Technical Support Agencies and Partnerships—works to make sure the 'last mile' is the most important mile in health care delivery by specializing in running vehicles

## News from the Implementing Mechanisms

### ForoLAC to harmonize regional RH data

The Coalition's regional network for Latin America and the Caribbean, ForoLAC, began work this month to harmonize the collection of regional data by USAID and UNFPA. Drawing on technical support from USAID | DELIVER, UNFPA/LACRO, PRISMA, IPAS, INSAD, the new initiative seeks to develop a common platform of indicators and measurement that will permit a more coherent vision of contraceptive supplies, gaps, stockouts, and priority areas in the LAC region, thereby providing a practical, efficient resource for local governments, civil society and donors. Results will be presented at the ForoLAC annual meeting in Mexico this October.

### John Templeton Foundation to support work of A&A WG

The A&A Working Group, through Pathfinder International, has received a grant from John Templeton Foundation to use effective advocacy in furthering the implementation of health sector workplans, developed in Nigeria and Senegal under the auspices of the UN Commodities Commission. Advocates within the A&A Working Group will support local counterparts to undertake a range of policy monitoring and advocacy activities aimed at ensuring adequate attention to the Commission's three contraceptive commodities: implants, female condom, and emergency contraception. For more information on the new award, contact Pathfinder's [Sono Aibe](#).

### SECONAF and Ouagadougou Partnership identify joint initiatives

This month saw SECONAF and the Ouagadougou Partnership join forces to launch three new regional initiatives in Francophone West Africa. The first calls for strengthening the quality of data collection under the PPMR, an online tool that describes the stock status of contraceptive products at country level. With technical support from John Snow Inc. (JSI), the joint effort will 1) enhance the quality of data available to the CARhs (which relies on PPMR data) – and 2) serve as a catalyst for strengthening, and in some cases reviving, national contraceptive coordinating committees in up to six countries of the region. Secondly, the two regional networks have linked their websites in an effort to broaden regional access to French-language information of special relevance to the region. And finally, the two regional networks, together with WAHO, will develop a common advocacy agenda on FP, which will be unveiled in late August at SECONAF's annual meeting. For more information, please contact [Badara Seve](#).

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 February 2015	<a href="#">XXI FIGO World Conference</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)



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter