

SUPPLYINSIDER

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Zika webinar draws record attendance

Rights, inequities and access were urgent themes discussed in a Spanish-language webinar on the Zika virus and related risks to babies born to women infected by it. The event attracted the largest audience of any webinar yet hosted by the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition; over 460 individuals registered to participate, forcing the organizers to set up a YouTube simulcast to cope with those who could not enter the webinar directly.

Two key messages emerged from the discussion, firstly that the spread of the disease is exacerbated by the same inequalities that characterize access to healthcare in the region. Secondly, mitigation efforts must be comprehensive and framed within a rights perspective. Apart from provisions to control the spread of the disease itself, contraceptive supplies and services (including dual protection) must be available to all men and women, including adolescents, who wish to prevent pregnancy. And for those who don't, or who are already pregnant and at risk of infection, access to adequate testing is critical. The discussion, hosted by the Coalition's regional forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, ForoLAC, included Dr Vicky Camacho of UNFPA/LACRO and CLAP/PAHO's Dr Bremen de Mucio. A full recording of the discussion is available [here](#). For more information, please contact LAC Forum Regional Advisor [Milka Dinev](#).

Can pregnancy tests increase access to same-day family planning?

Non-menstruating women are routinely denied family planning services when unable to rule out pregnancy. This month, the Coalition, FHI 360, and USAID's Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact hosted a [webinar](#) to address this issue. Attended by more than 60 individuals, the event showcased findings of FHI360's recently concluded

[Innovation Fund](#) project on the market prospects for pregnancy tests in three countries. Please contact Market Shaping Officer [Anita Deshpande](#) for more information on this discussion.

Coalition rallies partners to advance the cause of UHC

Worldwide, over 100 countries are currently engaged in efforts to offer their citizens full access to health care services. The paths being taken may differ dramatically, as do the definitions of what “health services” comprise. But Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a theme receiving increasing attention in the post-2015 landscape. It is the focus of SDG 3.8 and is seen as the bedrock for achieving nearly all of the other health-related SDGs.



For well over a year, the Coalition has provided a forum for active discussion on UHC. It is a common thread running across all the working groups, allowing each to bring their perspective to the table. The Coalition website serves as a platform for blogs and opinion pieces to draw attention to the prerequisites of UHC: effective use of a total market approach and adequate financial resources for supplies. And finally, funding from the Innovation Fund has supported Management Sciences for Health (MSH) to complete a literature review on knowledge and best practices in achieving UHC. This month, at ICFP, the Coalition and MSH joined with FP2020 to co-host a panel discussion on UHC where representatives from Uganda, Nigeria, Indonesia and Kenya drew attention to the progress and challenges facing their own countries. Highlights of the ICFP panel discussion are available [here](#).

The challenges of delivering choice to China’s youth

At this May’s Women Deliver conference, Marie Stopes China Director, Lily Liu Liqing, will join partners from Africa, the Philippines, and the US to discuss the range of variables that shape contraceptive access. Under a Coalition-sponsored panel “Contraception and Choice”, she will use the proverbial “empty shelf” as a vehicle for highlighting the often dramatic disconnect between what users want, and what the broader health system thinks they need. In China, where, for decades, service delivery has focused on providing married women with IUDs and sterilizations, the growing number of younger, single users presents a challenge. How can the world’s largest family planning program shift course, as increasing numbers of new users decide that what met their mothers’ needs doesn’t

necessarily suit them? What does it mean if shelves are technically full, but not with what younger women want?

Elizabeth Westley to lead MDAWG

A hearty welcome goes out to Elizabeth Westley, the new Chair of the Market Development Approaches working group (MDAWG). A dedicated member of both MDAWG and the [NuRHT](#) Caucus, Elizabeth has led the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) for nearly 15 years.

The Working Group also extends its gratitude to Ian Askew, who led the MDAWG for more than two years. On his watch, the WG has emerged as a tour de force, advancing impressive work in area of total markets and hosting the development a number of cutting-edge tools. In January, Ian replaced Marleen Temmerman, former Coalition Chair, as Head of WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

RHTargetMarket tool to launch in March



Faced with costly and complicated product registration processes in multiple countries, many companies focus on countries they may perceive as low risk and have significant market potential, but they often make this determination on the basis of very little information. In many cases they gravitate toward countries with which they are familiar rather than risk expansion into another unfamiliar market. This restricts the number of quality-assured contraceptives in many developing countries. In order to address this problem, the Coalition developed the web-based, interactive RHTargetMarket tool, which will be launched in March. It will provide manufacturers with access to critical information that will facilitate their decision-making processes and the availability of quality RH supplies. Stay tuned.

Bali consultation reveals young people's pressing priorities

"If men menstruated, sanitary products would be available and affordable in every self-respecting shop," one young man remarked at the Coalition's youth consultation at ICFP in Bali. The difficulty in accessing affordable, high-quality menstrual pads or tampons often leads to stigma and isolation from the community, the situation often exacerbated by a shortage of water. Some young women feel too insecure to attend school, and so leave it altogether. Local production and wider distribution of menstrual products not only offer the promise of increased availability; they hold out prospects for new employment. So for young people, the question is not "whether", but rather "how" this reality can come to pass. The discussions in Bali formed part of an ongoing dialogue, carried out under the banner of

the Coalition's new Youth Discussion Group, which focuses on supplies from young people's perspective. To join the group please contact Delivering on Promises Officer [Emilie Peeters](#).

Will China's new two-child policy affect demand for contraceptives?

After more than 30 years, this month saw the Government of China officially transition from its one-child to a new two-child policy. That move is one of the hottest topics right now in China; but many are asking what its implications will be for reproductive supplies and how it will impact the demand for contraceptives in general. The answers appear mixed at the moment.

While 70% of unmarried people say they want two children, whether they act on that desire is unclear. Back in 2013, China piloted a relaxed version of its family planning policy, allowing parents who were only-children themselves to have a second child. To date, only 12% of those eligible to do so have actually exercised this option. This reality echoes the optimistic perspective of many contraceptive manufacturers: that the new policy will not dramatically alter people's long term needs for contraceptives, and may in fact benefit the industry as today's babies become tomorrow's new contraceptive users.

New Woman's Condom faces barriers and opportunities

Not too long ago, the eyes of our community were focused on what was popularly known as the PATH Woman's Condom. That product, a collaborative effort between PATH and the Shanghai-based Dahua Medical Apparatus Company, was designed to increase choice and improve on the quality of female condom options. It was, to many, the way of the future; easier to insert, no inner rings, and well-liked during acceptability trials. But a recent interview with Dahua's owner, Mr. Chen Hua, suggests that despite early optimism, low domestic sales and fierce international competition present real challenges. As he pursues efforts to expand sales into the potentially lucrative markets of Brazil and South Africa, he is also looking to improve the product itself. In a price-sensitive market, costs are key, so Chen has embarked on efforts to lower them: by redesigning the product, exploring the use of locally available raw materials; and streamlining the production process. SupplyInsider will follow this development. For more information, contact our China Coordinator, [Dr. Yonggang He](#).

Three members join the Coalition, bringing total membership to 363

- [Silve Conseil](#) is a French consulting firm, founded in 2015 by Benoit Silve, former Director General of Bioforce and Co-Chair of the People that Deliver Initiative. The firm assists private and public organizations in strategy-building, management and evaluation.

- The [Logistics and Quantitative Methods Department, Julius-Maximilians-University Wuerzburg](#), Germany, focuses on procurement of essential medicines and helps develop applicable models specifically for not-for-profit global health settings.
- The [Global Medicines Program, University of Washington](#), USA, increases access and use of medicines in lower income countries through the dissemination of information on medicine safety and value, teaching and mentoring, and strengthening pharmaceutical systems and services.

In the calendar

23-26 Feb	8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights , Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
25 Feb	Inaugural RHSC Youth Discussion Group Meeting (Phone). Contact Emilie Peeters to join this call.
14-24 Mar	60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women , New York
23-25 Mar	5th Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference , Moscow, Russia
30 Mar-1 Apr	3rd Meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators , Mexico City, Mexico
11-15 Apr	49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development , UN, New York
19-26 Apr	Systems Strengthening Working Group meeting, Washington, DC
13-14 May	RHSC Executive Committee meeting, Brussels, Belgium
16-19 May	4th Women Deliver Global Conference , Copenhagen, Denmark
23-28 May	69th World Health Assembly , Geneva, Switzerland
18-22 July	International Aids Conference , Durban, South Africa

TAKE STOCK | UPDATES

Key documents now available in French and Spanish

Take Stock recently published key documents and resources in French and Spanish, including a campaign fact sheet, a harmonized suite of stockout indicators and a factsheet explaining the indicators, all available at www.NoEmptyShelves.org.

Take Stock makes strides in Bali

“If I had a dollar for every time someone at ICFP asked ‘how do you define stockouts?’, I’d be a rich woman,” said Ellen T. Tompsett, the Coalition’s Stockout Officer. Stockouts and how we measure them are becoming critical issues as we work to reach 120 million new FP users by 2020. At ICFP, the Coalition used the marketplace platform to engage participants in a high-energy exploration of the Take Stock campaign, which included a raffle and prizes.

46th partner commits to campaign

[VillageReach](#) announced their 2016 [New Year's Resolution](#), by becoming Take Stock's 46th committing partner. Take Stock stands to benefit enormously from VillageReach's [expertise](#) in increasing access to quality health services and its focus on last-mile delivery. Read VillageReach's full commitment [here](#).

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Rue Marie-Thérèse 21, 1000 Brussels, Belgium | Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22

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