

## TOP STORY



Photo: FHI360

## Sino-implant (II): Coalition welcomes eagerly-awaited WHO Prequalification

On June 30, 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) prequalified Sino-implant (II), a long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) implant marketed globally under the name of Levoplant. The Coalition celebrates this milestone as the culmination of more than a decade of committed collaboration between key Coalition partners and members: Shanghai Dahua Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.; FHI 360; the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation; the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); distributors including DKT, Marie Stopes International, and Pharm Access Africa Limited; as well as service delivery groups, national governments, and others.

Sino-implant (II)/Levoplant has been prequalified for a 3-year duration of use with collection of safety and efficacy data ongoing during the 4th year. It is a subdermal implant composed of two thin, flexible, silicone rods; each rod contains 75 mg of levonorgestrel, a synthetic progesterone. The implants are inserted under the skin of a woman's arm by a trained health care provider. This development contributes significantly to two key concepts underpinning the Coalition's strategy -- Quality and Choice.

[Read more](#)

## IN THE NEWS



Photo: VillageReach

## **Innovation Fund project leverages \$6M+ in additional funds**

An Innovation Fund project striking at the heart of young people's lack of contraceptive access in Malawi has leveraged more than US\$ 6M with which to expand its scope and impact. Working with Malawi's health ministry, fund recipient [VillageReach](#) tackles key barriers to access: contraceptive stockouts, provider attitudes, and clinical standards and procedures. Read [more](#).

## **A fond farewell to Francis!**

It is probably safe to say that there is no Coalition member who has not connected at some point with Francis Fix. For more than seven years, he has been the face of the Secretariat, managing, among other things, the Coalition's membership, our general membership meeting, and our Brussels office. This month, we say goodbye to Francis and wish him the best as he moves on to a new chapter of his life in Geneva.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome on board our new Brussels Office Manager, Veronique Tarasovici, who joins us from the European Patients' Forum where she worked as office and event manager for seven years. She can be reached at [vtarasovici@rhsupplies.org](mailto:vtarasovici@rhsupplies.org). We wish her a long and happy stay at the Coalition!

## **Can effective advocacy help open new markets?**

Many generic manufacturers of quality-assured reproductive health supplies struggle to break into new markets. This month, advocates from the Coalition's A&A Working Group hosted a [webinar](#) to helpmembers of the Coalition's GEMS Caucus overcome market barriers. Lester Chinery from the Concept Foundation and Sarah Shaw from Marie Stopes International addressed key subjects such as low prices being wrongly linked to low quality, and the support manufacturers need in order to get through quality assurance processes.

## **Innovation Fund project blazes new trail in California**

[#Donde](#) was one of only a few non-US projects featured at [YTH Live](#), a conference on innovative and effective health programs for youth. Advocates, researchers, developers, tech experts and donors heard about the Innovation Fund-supported app #Donde, an open-source platform that helps young Argentinians users locate condom supplies, HIV-testing centres, and other SRH services. The Coalition financed the participation of #Donde's host, Fundación Huésped; the [presentation](#) is online.

### **Publication of Youth Messages kicks off strategy development**

The Youth Caucus has set its sights on building political and financial support to increase access to RH supplies. Starting with the publication of a [set of messages](#), the Caucus has embarked on the development of an advocacy and communications strategy, which will include a toolkit on best practices and tips for online communication.

### **Coalition hosts webinar on FP scorecard for youth**

The Youth Caucus recently co-hosted a [webinar](#) to introduce a Youth Family Planning Policy Scorecard which can be used to measure and compare sixteen countries' youth FP policies, created by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

### **Supplies Information Database exceeds 2700 records**

The Coalition's Supplies Information Database (SID) now boasts more than 2700 records. One of its newest additions is a USAID SHOPS Plus report which explores whether market shaping can be used to increase same-day access to family planning using pregnancy tests. The project conducted market assessments in India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, and Zambia; the final report is available on SID as a [slide deck](#).

## **NEW MEMBERS**

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[Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network](#) is a non-profit NGO in Nigeria which among other functions, educates community health workers on the role of misoprostol in preventing postpartum haemorrhage.

[Grindeks](#) is a pharmaceutical company producing a WHO-prequalified oxytocin injection with a presence in Latvia, Estonia, Russia and Slovakia.

[Groupe des Hommes Voués au Développement Intercommunautaire](#) is an NGO working to improve the health of women and children affected by the war in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A youth-led non-profit organization, [My Age Zimbabwe Trust](#) uses performance arts and social media to inform and advocate around SRHR and HIV/AIDS in schools.

Adolescent children with parents in correctional institutions may be more vulnerable to sexual abuse, early sexual activity, and other sex-related challenges. [SCOPE](#) is an NGO in Uganda which educates these young people on their contraceptive options and safe sexual activity.

[Sensibilisation Santé Sexualité](#) is an NGO educating young, vulnerable women in Port Gentil, Gabon, about contraception and HIV/STD prevention.

## IN THE CALENDAR

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### [2nd Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Summit](#)

**7 July**

Nairobi, Kenya

### [CCIH 31st Annual Conference: Strengthening Global Health, Faith at the Center](#)

**13-15 July**

Baltimore, USA

Joint WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA meeting with pharmaceutical, condom, IUD, vaccine and diagnostics manufacturers and suppliers

**18-21 September**

Copenhagen, Denmark

### [EuroNGO's Annual General Meeting and Conference](#)

**26-28 September**

Brussels, Belgium

[Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition 18th General Membership Meeting](#)

**23-27 October**  
Dakar, Senegal

[Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health](#)

**13-17 November**  
Dublin, Ireland

[3rd Biennial Scientific Conference: Sustaining the Momentum for Regulatory Harmonization in Africa](#)

**27-29 November**  
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

[9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights](#)

**27-30 November**  
Hanoi, Vietnam

[XXII FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

**14-19 October 2018**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[5th International Conference on Family Planning](#)

**12-15 November 2018**  
Kigali, Rwanda

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

**3-6 June 2019**  
Vancouver, Canada



Reproductive Health  
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