

## TOP STORY

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# POUR ELLE

BRUSSELS | 20-22 MARCH 2018

## **Membership meeting rescheduled for 20-22 March 2018, Brussels**

The 18<sup>th</sup> RHSC General Membership Meeting, originally planned for Dakar, has been rescheduled for 20-22 March 2018 at the [Radisson Blu Royal Hotel](#) in Brussels, Belgium. Entitled “Pour Elle” (For Her), the meeting will showcase the accomplishments of partners from across the world in meeting the RH needs of women, with a special focus on accomplishments in Francophone Africa. Registration will open shortly, with priority given to those who registered

successfully for the meeting in Dakar. For any questions regarding the meeting, please write to [secretariat@rhsupplies.org](mailto:secretariat@rhsupplies.org)

[Read more](#)

## IN THE NEWS

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### **Global FP VAN taps private sector experts; launches RFP**

In November, a team of supply chain experts from Proctor & Gamble travelled from Cairo to Washington, DC, to share their control tower expertise with representatives of 12 organizations currently setting up the newly launched Global FP VAN. During the week-long meeting, members of the team provided guidance on each of the four pillars that hold up a functioning and effective Global VAN: people, processes, policies and technology.

This month also saw the Coalition issue a Request for Proposals to identify an established technology solutions partner with the experience and ability to establish a Global FP VAN platform. Interested parties are encouraged to review the full RFP document [here](#) and send their Expression of Interest to [GlobalFPVAN@rhsupplies.org](mailto:GlobalFPVAN@rhsupplies.org) by December 14, 2017. For more information on any Global FP VAN-related subject, please contact Market Development Technical Officer Julia White on [jwhite@rhsupplies.org](mailto:jwhite@rhsupplies.org).

### **China LARC project reaches 1000s of young people**

With Innovation Fund support, and working with a team of Chinese experts, Marie Stopes International in China (MS-China) has supported the development and field-testing of the country's first service delivery guidelines to increase young people's access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). To date, 50 health providers in six hospitals have been trained to provide LARC services and counseling.



Professor Xiong Chengliang, Chairman of the Chinese Society of Family Planning, Chinese Medical Association posing as a LARC angel.

In a country where young people's use of LARCs is rare, the project has already reached at least 4,000 university students. The project has published and translated four white papers on LARCs and has disseminated information on blogs, websites and Wechat, China's version of Twitter. Between January and July of this year, more than 500 abortion clients under the age of 25 who sought care at these six hospitals accepted a LARC method. A Chinese IUD manufacturer has contributed \$50K to take national FP experts to the UK to learn about youth-adapted LARCs services, and the China Population and Welfare Foundation has contributed \$35K to fund research and LARC-related advocacy efforts, including the production of an animated video. Support for this special youth-themed Innovation Fund round came from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. For more information, contact Lily Liu Liqing at [lilyliu@youandme.net.cn](mailto:lilyliu@youandme.net.cn).

### **Research on medical abortion gains traction in Latin America**

In a region where [more than 97 percent of women of childbearing age](#) live in countries where abortion is either restricted or banned altogether, Coalition-supported research on medical abortion is reaching receptive and influential audiences. Peru's former Deputy Ombudsman for Women's Rights and former Vice Minister of Public Health were among

the audience of a recent introduction to an exciting new study “[Mifepristone and misoprostol in six countries of Latin America: registration and availability processes](#)”. [Read more ...](#)

### **New report probes sharp decline in FP market value**

Analysis from the recently-published [2017 Family Planning Market Report](#) has revealed a sharp market value decline of 28 percent from 2015 to 2016 in the public and social sectors of the 69 FP2020 focus countries, after remaining relatively stable since 2011. Co-produced by the Coalition and the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the report suggests that as the family planning community continues to face funding challenges and uncertainty, the future of the FP commodity market may be under threat. [Read more ...](#)

### **Market Bookshelf – Health market intelligence at a click**

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and two partner organizations have developed a new online library of health market literature and related resources. The tool aims to increase awareness among global health workers and other stakeholders, and aid in research and decision-making. [Market Bookshelf](#), created by the [William Davidson Institute](#), the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#) and the Coalition, is an easy-to-navigate place where health market knowledge can be aggregated and disseminated. [Read more...](#)

### **Innovation Fund supports new gaming app**

With the support of the Innovation Fund, Health Games (a partnership between John Snow Inc. and SNTL Publishing) has developed a game called Your Choice, Your Future! which offers comprehensive information on contraceptive methods to young people. Based on the premise that young people find gaming more accessible and interesting than educational workshops YCYF! is a fun and interactive way to build a learning community. With weekly prizes, the game has a competitive element, and players are encouraged to keep improving their knowledge. Hundreds of users have registered online and response rates have already exceeded 90,000. For more information, contact Yasmin Chandani at [ychandani@jsi.com](mailto:ychandani@jsi.com). Play the game yourself at <https://www.health-games.org/>.

## Draft handbook seeks feedback

A new draft resource for young people's contraceptive access is inviting feedback. Shared recently in a webinar and at the [Bangladesh 2nd Youth Conference on Family Planning](#), the [Handbook on Young People and Contraceptive Access](#) explains how to use 18 evidence-based policy recommendations or "Key Messages" developed by the Youth Caucus. Your feedback is welcome; please send suggestions to Interim Youth Officer, David Eeckhout, at [deekhout@rhsupplies.org](mailto:deekhout@rhsupplies.org), by the end of December.

## SECONAF welcomes new Regional Advisor!

Ms. Aminata Lenormand has joined the Coalition Secretariat as our new Regional Advisor for the Francophone African Forum, SECONAF. Aminata joins us from PATH / Senegal, where she supported the country's National Procurement Pharmacy in the development and implementation of its five-year strategic plan. Aminata holds a Master's degree in International Business and a graduate diploma in International Banking and Finance. She can be reached at [alernomand@rhsupplies.org](mailto:alernomand@rhsupplies.org). The Secretariat also extends its appreciation and best wishes to Aminata's predecessor, Aminatou Sar, who left SECONAF to lead the PATH Senegal Office.

## NEW MEMBERS

[Be Girl Inc.](#) is a US-based social enterprise start-up that creates accessible, high-quality menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) products.

Part of the University of Michigan, the [Center for International Reproductive Health Training](#) works to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by integrating family planning and comprehensive abortion care services into the medical services in developing countries.

In Nepal, the [Group for Technical Assistance](#) is an NGO working in public health and community development.

[Nivi, Inc.](#) is a US-based company that produced the first digital contraceptive screening and referral service in East Africa, which anyone with a basic mobile phone can access to receive free screening, personalized recommendations for contraceptive methods, and referrals to nearby healthcare providers.

Canadian company [Optel Group](#) develops technological solutions to protect medical products across the global supply chain.

Pakistan's [Punjab Population Innovation Fund](#) spearheads locally responsive, scalable and sustainable family planning and reproductive health initiatives.

The [White Ribbon Alliance](#), a US-based civil society organization is a locally led, globally connected grassroots movement advocating for the health and rights of women and newborns.

## IN THE CALENDAR

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

**20-22 March 2018**

Brussels, Belgium

[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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Brussels, Belgium | Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22

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