

TOP STORY



The 18th General Membership Meeting

Three hundred people from over 45 countries convened in Brussels to hear 132 speakers and participate in an array of side meetings, receptions and other events. The spirit of Dakar was ever-present, a throwback to original plans to host the event there last October. M. Alassane Mbengue, Secretary-General of Senegal's Health and Social Action Ministry, welcomed plenary participants; while the opening panel addressed the opportunities and challenges facing reproductive health in Francophone Africa. The meeting also saw many "firsts":

- An interactive session unveiling the [Global FP VAN](#)
- The launch of the [2018 Global Contraceptive Commodity Gap Analysis](#)
- Real-time polling of audience responses during a youth-led plenary panel.
- First joint meeting of all RH manufacturers, innovator and generic.
- NURHT Caucus's inaugural meeting of its Safe Abortion workstream.
- The on-site presence of 17 senior journalists from 10 African countries
- Launch of the Supply Fellows initiative which paired 13 seasoned Coalition members with young participants
- [Donation of WHO Prequalified ShangRing](#) male circumcision devices to the governments of Uganda and Zambia.
- An [Innovation Exposition](#) where member agencies showcased exciting breakthrough developments

[Online meeting resources](#) include a Facebook photo [gallery](#), [presentations](#), new fact sheets, and a two-minute [video](#) capturing the week's experiences.

IN THE NEWS

Latest Innovation Fund grantees announced in Brussels

This month, [Innovation Fund](#) grants were awarded to the following five member agencies.

- Management Sciences for Health (managed by the [MHS Caucus](#)) to facilitate the integration of oxytocin into the EPI cold chain at country level
- Gynuity Health Projects ([MHS Caucus](#)) to assess the readiness of health facilities to diagnose and treat women with hypertensive disorders, and to identify gaps in equipment, medicines, policy and procurement practices that may pose barriers to recommended management

- Marie Stopes Uganda ([NURHT Caucus](#)), to establish commercial social marketing of menstrual cups in pharmacies within Marie Stopes Uganda social marketing network
- William Davidson Institute ([MDA Working Group](#)), to explore the potential to stimulate commercial distributor participation in rural, remote, and other underserved populations
- Village Reach ([Systems Strengthening Working Group](#)), to empower program managers to generate actionable supply chain cost data by adapting a cost modeling tool for RH supply chains



The Brussels membership meeting closed with a short film celebrating a recently concluded Innovation Fund project distributing menstrual cups in Uganda, in which a popular singer composes and performs a song about the safety and hygiene of menstrual cups.

NEW MEMBERS

Headquartered in London, the [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#)'s adolescent sexual health strategy includes tools for self-diagnosis (HIV self-testing) and self-medication (contraceptive self-injection) which strengthen user-controlled choice.

Malawian NGO, the [Development Initiative Network](#), works to create lasting change in vulnerable communities in the Chikwawa district of the country.

[SafeHands for Mothers](#) is a small and big impact UK-based charity that works towards a world where every pregnancy and birth is safe, and everyone's wellbeing is valued.

Based in the Netherlands, [MeduProf-S](#) is an international company specialized in sustainable healthcare solutions.

[Asociación Ciudadana ACCEDER](#), an NGO based in Costa Rica, uses advocacy, capacity building, cultural transformation strategies and social leadership to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence and discrimination. Its website is currently under construction.

IN THE CALENDAR

[10th Annual Conference on Health and Humanitarian Logistics](#)

25-27 July
Dubai, UAE

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

24 September
Copenhagen, Denmark

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

14-19 October
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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

12-15 November

Kigali, Rwanda

[PMNCH Partner Forum](#)

5-6 December

New Delhi, India

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

3-6 June 2019

Vancouver, Canada



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