

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) is a global partnership of more than 480 public, private, and non-governmental organizations dedicated to ensuring that all people in low- and middle-income countries can access and use affordable, high-quality supplies to ensure their better reproductive health.

The RHSC shares the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that ensures equitable access to quality health services, and mitigates the risk associated with out-of-pocket payments.

Dramatic equity gaps persist in reproductive health, particularly among youth and rural populations. Over 200 million women have an unmet need for modern contraception, despite the fact that family planning remains one of the smartest investments for achieving the SDGs, rendering \$120 in health and economic benefits for every dollar spent.

As demonstrated in UNFPA's "State of the World Population 2019" report, contraceptive prevalence is generally lower among the poorest 20% of the population and highest among the richest 20%. Our own 2019 Costed Commodity Gap Analysis reveals that out-of-pocket payments make up 82% of the total spending on family planning supplies in low-and-middle-income countries. This can compromise equity of access and prevent the poorest women from purchasing the products they need. The consequences are devastatingly high, with unwanted pregnancies resulting in increased maternal mortality.

Including family planning as a core indicator within UHC reinforces the notion of a continuum of care of which reproductive health is an integral part. We call on governments, donors and all stakeholders to make sure reproductive health supplies form an integral part of the basic packages included in UHC reforms.