



COVID-19 Impacts: *Early Findings via Member Survey*

4 May 2020

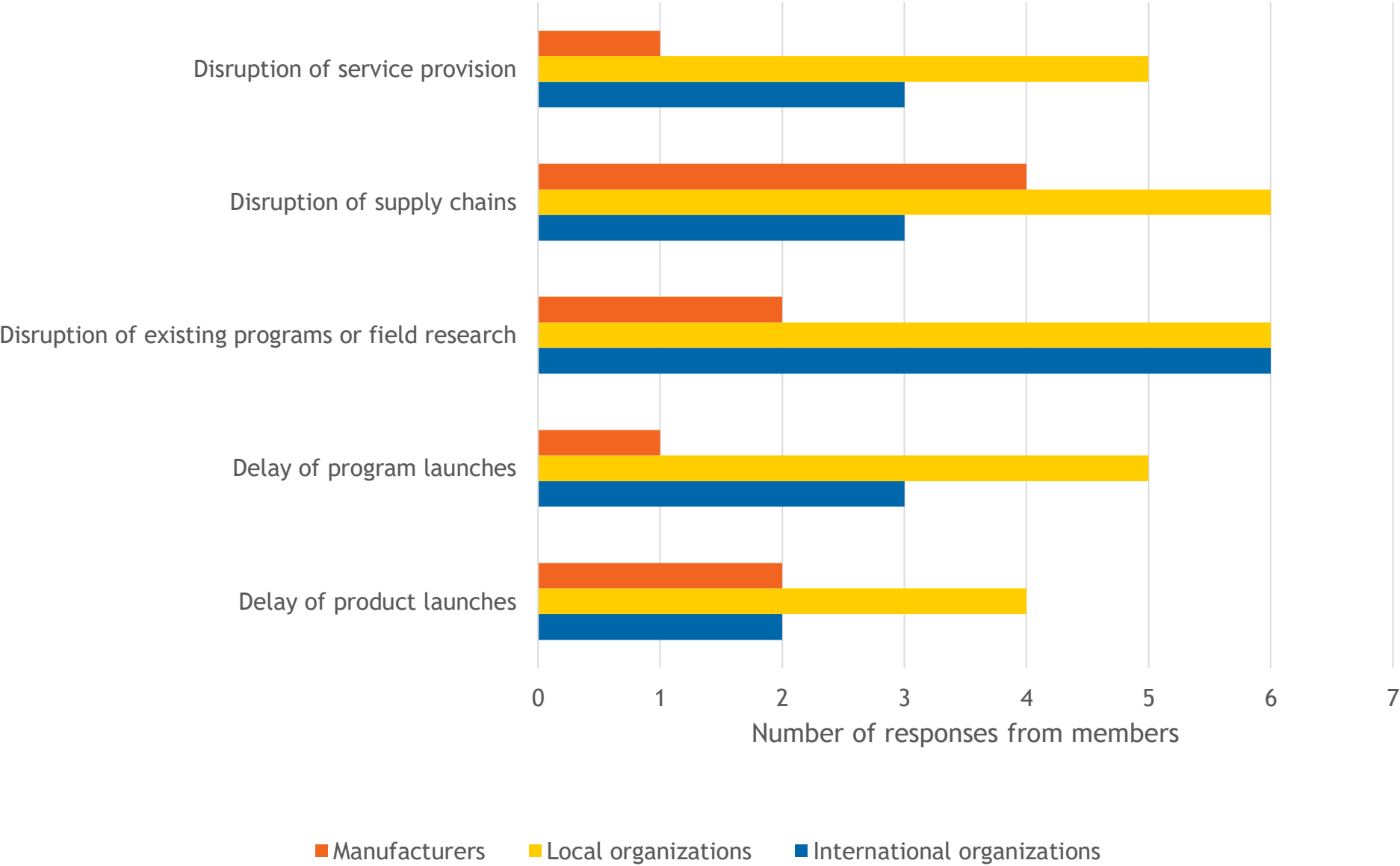
Market Development Approaches Working Group
(MDAWG)

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

MDAWG Member Survey

- RHSC Secretariat sought input from members, via the Council of Chairs
- Each implementing mechanism would field a brief informal survey to members
- Survey was emailed to members of the MDAWG on **10 April 2020**
- Responses were received from 19 organizations, including:
 - International and local NGOs
 - Social marketing organizations
 - Manufacturers
- Countries represented in responses: *Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia*

Members reported five predominant types of challenges/impacts from COVID-19 on RH work and supplies, in market development and private sector-related work



Members reported additional challenges and impacts

Escalation of prices of RH supplies in local markets (e.g., Uganda)

National lockdowns (e.g., impacting service delivery and manufacturing)

Potential delays in product registration activities

Postponement of conferences

To mitigate COVID-19 impacts, members are considering and undertaking multiple types of actions, which generally fall under three themes

Advocacy and
communications

Service delivery and technical
assistance

Supply chains

Actions being taken to mitigate impacts: *in advocacy and communications*

Support the development and implementation of national COVID-19 response plans, advocating for inclusion of RH supplies and services.

Advocate for continuity of RH services. Ask the government to ensure that RH services are not neglected, since the results will include unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, etc.

Recommend national SRH program guidance to MOH's, as part of COVID-19 preparation.

Use different platforms to discuss availability and access to RH/FP commodities/services: traditional media; social media; meetings.

Move data collection to phone-based methods, rather than in-person.

Implement community outreach, with MOH support, while observing safety protocols.

Engage with public officials to identify vulnerable groups and increase their awareness of the availability of financial and health supports.

Actions being taken to mitigate impacts: *in service delivery and technical assistance*

Rethink models of care and attempt to deliver services and technical assistance through other means (e.g., digital).

Provide free online product-specific training and counseling sessions for healthcare providers.

Work with field partners to modify timelines. Revise plans. Update donors.

Adapt health protocols in order to provide allowable services at home through telemedicine, audio consulting, etc.

Deliver PPE to doctors and nurses.

Establish a virtual platform for the provision of health support, from the point of view of coexistence and well-being at a national level.

Send employees to vacations, by a phased approach.

Utilize pharmacies, as an alternative channel to access RH supplies (depending on the legal context and potential need for a prescription), especially when health facilities are feared and avoided.

Actions being taken to mitigate impacts: *in supply chains*

Convene (remotely) contraceptive security committee to help public and private service providers mitigate the effects of delayed international shipments.

Try to invest in raw materials, inventory, mitigate risk, and push products onto shelves.

Include essential hygiene products in supply chain processes (e.g., sanitary pads, soap, hand sanitizers, etc.) for female health workers, women, and adolescent girls to access when coming for RH services.

Make greater use of e-commerce formats; this can be challenging due to restrictions on product launches and market development strategies.

Migrate local customers to online solicitations/transactions.

Procure some PPE kits, auto CPR devices, patient monitors, and/or ventilators (to be donated to MOH), assuring that the RH orders will receive priority treatment through supply chain, and be received on time.

Provide national SRH program guidance to MOH's, including: recommendations to assess national stock levels for all SRH commodities and calculate available months of stock; ensure generic products are registered; place new orders immediately, consider moving up any planned orders and procurements for 2019 and revising distribution schedules (before distribution and importation policies become more restrictive); increase minimum stock on hand at facility level; promote contraceptive methods available in private sector or stand-alone pharmacies, including condoms



Thank you

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