

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition General Membership Meeting (GMM) Supply Fellows Scheme - Concept Note

Scheme summary

This project aims to create a fellows scheme whereby both seasoned and young members of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) are able to share experiences and expertise on increasing access to contraceptives for young people and nurture and involve the next generation of young leaders in reproductive health supplies during the RHSC GMM meeting in Dakar in October 2017.

The scheme works in two ways. On the one hand it encourages more seasoned members to support young members during the meeting through technical capacity building, connecting them with relevant stakeholders and providing necessary background information on the structure and the focus of RHSC. On the other hand, young members will give the more senior members the opportunity to learn from first-hand experience what barriers young people are facing and start engaging more directly with youth experts.

Background and justification

The RHSC is the largest network of reproductive health organizations in the world. As a coalition, the RHSC convenes and catalyzes the collective intellect and energies of its members with the principal aim of ensuring that all people are able to access and use affordable and quality reproductive health supplies.

In Oct 2016, eleven youth representatives took part in the RHSC GMM in Seattle. The participation of these youth delegates was a milestone for RHSC, acknowledging the specific attention needed for youth as a key target group when it comes to RH supplies but also as a crucial enabler to enhance contraceptive use among young people.

The establishment of the Youth Caucus in May 2017, was a formal recognition of the youth work done over the years before and gave the group the task to strengthen young people's engagement and participation within the Coalition and increase data on young people's needs when it comes to RH supplies.

One of the outcomes of the youth representation during the RHSC GMM in Seattle in 2016 was the acknowledgement that more support structures were needed during future meetings to ensure young people are fully supported and able to contribute in a meaningful way. The Youth Caucus therefore initiated this 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme' for the upcoming RHSC GMM in Dakar in October 2017. The scheme is based on an equal exchange of experience and knowledge and will aim to provide learning opportunities for both seasoned and young fellows. It will allow young attendees to be better prepared to take part in the discussions and build a strong and relevant network among RHSC members. For the seasoned attendees the 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme' provides the opportunity to benefit from the vast knowledge and opinions young attendees can share, as shaped and formed by their lived experiences.

Project goals, objectives and outcomes

Goal

To nurture the next generation of RH supplies leaders and voices by supporting meaningful youth participation in the 2017 GMM in Dakar, and promote resilient professional and interpersonal relationships between young and more seasoned RHSC members.

Objectives	Outcomes
1. Create time and space for networking and relationship building among young and seasoned members.	Fellow-pairs gain new insights, new contacts, and identify areas of collaboration.
2. Foster better understanding of youth priorities related to RH supplies by enabling information sharing between seasoned and young members.	Increased visibility of youth RH supplies priorities in the 2017 RHSC GMM in Dakar.
3. Pave the way for a more long-term fellow scheme within RHSC.	Participating fellows benefit from the scheme and recommend continuation and other young and seasoned RHSC members express an interest in taking part in a future 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme'.

Target groups

- › RHSC members under the age of 35 that are actively engaged in RH supplies work and will be attending the GMM.
- › More seasoned RHSC attendees that have participated in RHSC GMM in the past, are active in the Coalition's IMs and know the internal structure of the network well.

Duration

This 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme' will last for approximately **two months** (a month prior to the GMM and a month after) for the fellows but will ask engagement from the Youth Caucus from June until November 2017 counting in the preparations and evaluation afterwards.

Depending on the success of the scheme and feedback collected from participants, the Youth Caucus will adjust the model where needed, with an aim to continue the scheme during future conferences and potentially expand beyond the confines of the GMM.

Key indicators for success

Data for indicators will be collected from the participants list, information on panelists for the conference as well as panels. A short survey at the end of the conference will be emailed to all fellows to capture recommendations and satisfaction rates.

Activity/Objective	Indicator	Source	Target
Call upon all RHSC GMM attendees (young and more seasoned) to take part in the fellow scheme	Number of young attendees (under the age of 35) joining the scheme	responses to the call	10
	Number of more seasoned attendees joining the scheme	responses to the call	10
	Number of Fellow pairs facilitated		10
Create time and space for networking and relationship building among young and seasoned members	Number of Fellows joining the pre-Dakar introductory call		15
	Number of Fellows attending informal meet-up		15
	Number of new contacts made	Post GMM Survey	10 per fellow
Fellow pairs gain new insights, new contacts, and identify areas of collaboration.	Number of positive responsive from Fellows on the Scheme	Post GMM Survey	15
Access interest of continuing fellow scheme beyond GMM 2017.	% of Fellows recommending that the scheme continue	Post GMM Survey	75%

Work plan

The 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme' working group will carry out activities towards the fulfillment of activities between June and November 2017.

Activity	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Concept note and ToR completed	■				
Call to all young and more seasoned attendants of the GMM to join the scheme		■			
Fellows shortlisted and matched			■		
Pre-Dakar introductory call with all Fellows set up by RHSC secretariat			■		
One to one call between matched seasoned and young Fellows to set expectations and discuss how best to maximize attendance and participation at the meeting				■	
Informal Fellows meet-up during the GMM in Dakar 2017				■	
Survey drafted					■
Post-GMM evaluation of the scheme through a short survey					■

Sustainability

The 'GMM Supply Fellows Scheme' will be initiated during the meeting in Dakar, with a limited group of people and no extra budget attached. The learnings will be documented and utilized to refine and scale up the scheme afterwards if relevant and needed.

Communication

During the GMM the Fellows will be encouraged to communicate on social media on the scheme to make it more known among all GMM participants and afterwards they will be supported to write blogs on their experience.

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