



POUR ELLE

BRUSSELS | 20-22 MARCH 2018

18TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES COALITION

Getting her what she needs

Reproductive health experts meet in Dakar to get lifesaving commodities to the poorest women and adolescents.

18th General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, Radisson Blu Hotel, Brussels, 20-22 March 2018

The world's poorest women and girls and their need for reproductive supplies will be the focus for more than 250 experts come together in Dakar this month. They will ask the hard questions, share successes, and re-commit to increasing contraceptive access for the world's poorest women and girls. With the Senegal's Ministry of Health part of the proceedings, the event will ask:

- Why is the reproductive health progress made in Francophone Africa so impressive?
- How is the region unique?
- What are the outstanding challenges?
- What solutions have been developed?

The Need

Worldwide, 225 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using safe and effective family planning methods. Most women with an unmet need for contraceptives live in 69 of the poorest countries on earth.

Unplanned and unwanted pregnancies arising from unmet need can result in:

- Higher infant mortality
- More infant illnesses and undernourished children
- Unsafe abortion
- Abandonment of unwanted children
- Fewer educational and development opportunities for women

Huge Funding Gap

As the number of contraceptive users grows, so too does the demand for contraceptive commodities. The Coalition's Commodity Gap Analysis projects that the gap between the consumption cost and all spending on supplies is projected to reach a cumulative \$1.17 billion between 2016 and 2020.

Who will pay for these products? How will the world's poorest women and adolescents get access to the lifesaving commodities that they need?

Revolutionary data-sharing in the wings

The meeting will unveil a new initiative to increase supply chain visibility through a family planning Global Visibility and Analytics Network to help procurers, manufacturers, shippers and medical stores to answer key questions, so that supply chains can work without hitches. This will be the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's biggest undertaking to date.

The Longer Last Mile for Young People

Young people face desperate challenges in getting the contraceptives they need in order to remain safe and protected, not just from unwanted pregnancy, but also from sexually transmitted infections. Their access to commodities is hampered by restrictive policies, hostility from providers, cultural taboos, and financial vulnerability. Frustrated but determined, a group of young people came together to write a set of Key Messages demanding that the community support them by addressing policy, sharing information, busting myths, designing contraceptives just for youth, and more. They talk about these Key Messages at the meeting.

Expert Speakers at the Meeting

Experts in markets, commodities, procurement, supply chain, young people's issues, advocacy and more will be present at the event. A complete Speakers' Catalogue is available online and interviews can be arranged on request. Please contact Hannah Pandian at hpandian@rhsupplies.org or +32(0)478786650 with interview requests.

What is the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition?

It's the largest network of reproductive health organisations in the world with more than 400 members from the public, commercial, and not-for-profit sectors. The Coalition convenes and catalyzes members' intellect and energies to ensure that all people are able to access and use affordable and quality supplies, including a broad choice of contraceptive methods.

CONTACT



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