



Coalition acts on calls to address needs of young people

The Coalition has responded to calls for addressing the needs and concerns of young people. Several of those who attended last October's Oslo membership meeting have joined forces to draft a concept paper on potential youth activities. And last month, many of those same people met with others in Uganda for the first formal consultation of youth-led organizations. The meeting singled out a host of potential issues for further exploration:

- More information on the appropriateness of long-term methods for young people.
- Reducing the age of parental consent to obtain family planning
- Making quality assurance of family planning products more recognizable to youth.
- Linking over-the-counter availability with better information on product use.
- Increasing access to affordable and quality menstrual products for young women.

The next consultation is scheduled to take place at the ICFP in Bali on 27 January. For more information, contact [Emilie Peeters](#), Commitments Officer.

Innovation Fund fosters partnership to distribute LNG-IUS

Through a collaboration made possible by an RHSC Innovation Fund grant, Medicines360 and Marie Stopes International have announced a new partnership to distribute M360's hormonal intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) to women in Kenya. Kenya is the first country outside of the U.S. in which Medicines360 plans to launch its 52mg LNG-IUS. Marie Stopes Kenya is Kenya's largest reproductive health and family planning organization, with a well-established product distribution network of training centers and private and public providers. This exciting new project will expand women's access to a hormonal IUD contraceptive in a country where 41% of recent births were unplanned. Read more about this [here](#).

New e-learning module keeps graduates on the cutting edge

With support from the Innovation Fund, i+Solutions last year introduced a new e-learning module on supply chain management at Mozambique's Catholic University. The module is part of a pre-service program which has seen more than 200 candidates leave with MSc degrees in public health and integrated medicine, and diplomas in hospital management and pharmacy. Through an internet platform, all who graduate remain part of a community of practice from which they can participate in topical discussions and exchange experiences with other supply chain manager alumni, and access updated course content including course lessons and self-evaluation tests. For more information on the course, contact Carole Piriou at CPiriou@iplussolutions.org or Griet Samyn at GSamyn@iplussolutions.org.

Uganda shows how collective action can change lives

Uganda is showing the world what it means to leverage the power of partnership. With financial support from the Coalition's Commitments Initiative, [Samasha Medical Foundation](#) and [PPD/ARO](#) have sparked a broad-based, multi-sectoral movement aimed at helping the country deliver on supply-related commitments, including those made at the 2012 London Family Planning Summit. Key to the movement is a new internet-based tracking tool which quantifies progress against a fixed set of targets. Thanks to collective action led by the Ministry of Health, multilateral organizations, private-sector and civil society, partners in Uganda can already point to the following achievements:

- The Ugandan government surpassed spending on the expected budget allocated for FP/RH commodities in FY 2014-2015, expending \$9.2M. UNFPA, USAID and DFID contributed an additional \$25.5M – also surpassing the original commitment of \$5M from each donor.
- Task sharing is now becoming mainstreamed as the government establishes an advisory committee and incorporates task shifting in national guidelines.
- Effective advocacy under 'Act Now to Save Mothers' called for doubling—from 50 to 100 percent—comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care

(EmONC) in hospitals. By mid-2015, this “ask” was achieved at all National Teaching, Regional Referral and district hospitals.

More information can be found on the Uganda [motion tracker website](#) or via [Emilie Peeters](#).

SECONAF welcomes new Facilitator, Ms. Aminatou Sar

As the saying goes, “good things come to those who wait”. And this month the long wait ends as SECONAF’s new Dakar-based Facilitator, Ms. Aminatou Sar, joins the Coalition Secretariat. Aminatou (or Ami for short) brings over a decade of experience at both Plan International and more recently, Amnesty International. She is intimately familiar with francophone Africa and is passionate about women and children’s rights. With 14 siblings of her own, she knows first-hand what unmet need for family planning really means.

Ami’s arrival coincides with the launch, by SECONAF’s new President, Dr. Meba Kagone, of a new strategic planning effort—an ideal opportunity to help shape the Forum’s future. Starting 25 January, Ami may be reached at asar@rhsupplies.org. Bien venue Ami!

Who’s holding up our Pillars...of Quality and Choice?

This month, the Coalition singled out two new champions in its campaign “Who’s holding up our Pillars”? The first is Indonesian manufacturer and GEMS Caucus member, [PT. Tunggal Idaman Abdi](#). In pursuit of what it calls “affordable quality”, the company is currently seeking WHO Prequalification for its three-month injectable contraceptive. It sees this as a critical step in strengthening its unique partnership with the nation’s midwives, who account for up to 70 percent of primary provision of family planning.

The second champion is [Nora Quesada](#), JSI Regional Director and current President of the [ForoLAC](#). Tracing a career that has seen Nora move from community support on a coal mining project to the management of a family planning training center, Nora concludes that for her, it’s all down to choice. The absence of choice, she says “... makes all the difference between using what is available and what is right for the user”. Catch the full story of each champion by clicking [Nora](#) or [PT. Tunggal](#).

It sometimes takes a Summit to shake things up: eyeing LAC

LAC Forum members were eyeing discussions last month that may lay the groundwork for a new Family Planning Summit—not in London, but Latin America. Concerned by widespread ignorance over the huge wealth—and health—disparities that prevail across the region, [ProFamilia Colombia](#) used a small grant from the Forum’s LAC Fund to assess the feasibility of creating a big splash—including a repeat of the high-profile summit that took place in London in 2012, replete with country commitments and a strong visible donor

presence. And who better to get on board than the successors of the London Summit, but FP2020. In December, representatives of the ForoLAC met with the FP2020 Secretariat (whose 69 priority countries include five from the region) to explore the possibility of moving forward together. Watch this space.

Webinar to assess costs of reaching the last mile

Getting supplies into the hands of those who need them costs money—anywhere from 12-25% above the cost of the commodity itself. Unfortunately, without any reliable means to estimate what those costs are and budget accordingly, supply chains risk failure, with users bearing the brunt of the impact. On January 20th, the LAC Forum will host a webinar to share, in Spanish, the results of a recently concluded initiative by Peru's Ministry of Health and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT to assess supply chain costs, specifically of warehousing and transportation. Using tools developed by DELIVER, the intervention was first piloted in Peru's Department of La Libertad and now stands to be scaled-up nationwide. Tune in to the Webinar by clicking [here](#) or access the summary report by clicking [here](#).

In the calendar

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| 25-28 Jan | International Conference on Family Planning , Nusa Dua, Indonesia |
| 23-26 Feb | 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights , Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar |
| 14-24 Mar | 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women , New York |
| 11-15 Apr | 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development , UN, New York |
| 16-19 May | 4th Women Deliver Global Conference , Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 23-28 May | 69th World Health Assembly , Geneva, Switzerland |