

The background features a collage of medical supplies and navigation tools. At the top left, a series of small, circular compass icons are arranged in a diagonal line. In the center, there is a white, folded surgical mask. To the right, a large, semi-transparent compass rose is overlaid on a circular scale with degree markings. Below the mask, a portion of a white pill blister pack is visible, showing several white, round pills with arrows and numbers (6, 7, 9) indicating their orientation. The entire scene is set against a solid blue background.

Compass

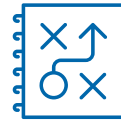
Charting the way ahead

INTRODUCTION TO THE INITIATIVE

Finding a “new normal”?



Reactive crisis-management phase in 2020



Periods of great adaptation to ensure access to RH supplies, along with calls for increased equity



Supply chain disruptions, economic inflation, shifts in donor spending, emerging variants of the virus, ...



What will be the “new normal”?
How can we ensure strengthened access to RH supplies?

Roadmap issued by JSI and RHSC in 2021

In early 2021, John Snow, Inc. (JSI) and the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) launched a new roadmap to ensure resilient supply chains in the face of COVID-19.

The Roadmap contains a series of broad, far-reaching recommendations in these RH supplies-oriented areas:

- Market dynamics
- Financing outlook
- Supply chain strategies
- Policies and stewardship
- Data visibility and access



Compass—charting the way ahead

RHSC has launched a new initiative to build on the Roadmap’s analysis and findings. Under this initiative, we will support the operationalization of a core set of recommendations to emerge from the report. We selected these recommendations because:



They resonate within the RH community and have done so for reasons that, in some cases, pre-date the advent of COVID-19



They offer the potential for a broad array of follow-on activities that we might support



They stand to benefit from the attention afforded by high-profile events and other initiatives sponsored by the Coalition

Three Priority Areas

1 From globalization to greater regionalization of supply chains



2 Managing the competition for scarce resources in a COVID-centric world



3 Learning from the adaptations used to ensure access in the pandemic



From globalization to greater regionalization of supply chains

Many RH supplies have historically been manufactured in countries far from regions of product use. This is true also for API and packaging. Consolidated global supply chains may not make optimal use of regional capacity for supply chain functions (e.g., warehousing, distribution). Largely to maximize total supply chain efficiency and achieve lower prices globally.



What types of broad changes to global RH supply chains would foster greater country/regional ownership? Where is this needed? What would it look like? How could it impact access, equity, QA, and efficiency?



How can we assess the feasibility and context of RH manufacturing in Africa?

Managing the competition for scarce resources

Many have been concerned since early 2020 that RH supplies financing would become deprioritized, due to diversion of resources towards COVID-19 response and to cover higher supply chain expenses (e.g., freight). There are concerns for domestic and donor resource levels in the near- and longer-term. And recent analyses of 2020 RH procurement point to a relatively healthy RH supply pipeline in 2020.



Seek to dissect and assess the state of COVID-19 impacts on the financial resource basis for RH supplies.



Identify and examine relevant data sources for this analysis.



Contract with a consultant to conduct the analysis.

Learning from the adaptations used to ensure access

During the pandemic, countless adaptations were put in place to enable the functioning of supply chains, markets, and service delivery. Examples of adaptations to service delivery and last-mile distribution include—expansion/establishment of telemedicine options, greater direct-to-consumer distribution, increased use of private pharmacies, etc.



Highlight successful/promising adaptations enacted in the last two years to support access to RH supplies.



Share lessons learned by our members: what has worked and what has not?



Make use of vehicles such as webinars, interviews, blog posts, or peer-reviewed articles.

What comes next?

Compass will provide the resources and, where necessary, technical assistance required to explore these key recommendations. We seek to address short-term needs and/or ensure greater and more resilient RH supplies access in an uncertain future.

Through activities such as policy reviews, landscape assessments, in-country interventions, and the promotion of promising strategies.

Our means of action include:



Collaborating with Coalition's Implementing Mechanisms, many of which will serve as key thought partners on a recommendation or activity



Issuing subawards to member organizations



Hosting webinars, discussions, and blogs