



SUPPLYINSIDER

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Innovation Fund assesses Kenyan market for new FDA-approved LNG-IUS

An Innovation Fund grant has helped launch a partnership designed to broaden options for long-acting reversible contraception in the Kenyan market. With the grant's support, three Coalition members—[FHI360](#), [Medicines360](#), and [Marie Stopes International](#)—are developing a national introduction strategy in Kenya for Medicine360's newly FDA-approved levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-IUS). A market assessment found that clients in the private sector are paying between US\$56 and US\$194 for the LNG-IUS product currently marketed in Kenya, making it prohibitively expensive for most women.

Medicines360 and Actavis recently announced the approval of their product (which will be marketed as LILETTA™ in the US) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use by women to prevent pregnancy for up to three years. The product will be affordably priced in both the developed and the developing world to increase equitable access and choice for women globally. For more information about the FDA approval of LILETTA, please contact info@medicines360.org. For more information about the Innovation Fund project, please contact cti@fhi360.org.

Calling for blog posts on maternal health supplies

The Coalition has joined Harvard University's Maternal Health Task Force in launching a new [blog](#) series aimed at sharing knowledge and identifying new opportunities to improve availability of quality maternal health supplies. Guidelines and instructions can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy tests prove critical in preventing pregnancy

In 2013, the Coalition's NURHT Caucus added pregnancy testing kits to its list of new and underutilized RH technologies (NURHT). While the decision raised more than a few eyebrows at the time, new research is suggesting that uncertainty over pregnancy can be a significant barrier to FP access. A study conducted by Coalition member FHI 360 indicates that nearly half of new family planning clients are not menstruating when they visit the clinic, and that 17 to 35 percent of these women are denied family planning services. Recent studies have demonstrated that the provision of simple, low-cost pregnancy tests can help reduce this medical barrier. An FHI 360 [blog post](#) on the subject recently appeared on the Lancet Global Health site; it references a NURHT Caucus [product brief](#) on pregnancy tests. This brief is part of a set of peer-reviewed technical briefs designed to help improve choice of reproductive health technologies.

Innovation Fund to support new initiatives in Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria

This month, the Coalition awarded three new Innovation Fund grants. Recipients are:

- IntraHealth International, to develop eLearning for supply chain managers in Kenya's NorthRift region, and to build country capacity to budget for commodities and to monitor supply chain manager performance.
- EngenderHealth, to test the [COPE\(c\) for Contraceptive Security](#) approach and share best practice for its use in supply chain management and quality improvement in Malawi.
- Civil Society for Family Planning in Nigeria, to engage seven or more parliamentarian advocates in reproductive health financing, and to develop a legislative plan for improving RH financing.

For more information, contact innovation@rhsupplies.org.

SID hosts two new resources

Two publications produced recently by the Abt Associates-led SHOPS Project have been added to the [Supplies Information Database](#).

- [Including the Private Sector in the SPARHCS Process](#) (2014) by Betty Ravenholt, provides guidance to planners on how to involve private sector stakeholders in the SPARHCS (Strategic Pathway to Reproductive Health Commodity Security) Process. Applied to date in more than 50 countries, SPARHCS aims to strengthen reproductive health commodity security through a structured process of awareness raising, implementation, and monitoring.
- [Using Total Market Approaches in Condom Programs](#) (2015) by Jeffrey Barnes, Francoise Armand, Sean Callahan, and Chloe Revuz. This primer discusses the supply- and demand-side indicators needed to identify the developmental stage of a country's condom market. It also identifies total market interventions based on that stage and provides additional resources for forecasting condom needs.

rrt Medcon becomes Coalition's 326th member

rrt Medcon is a condom manufacturer in South Africa supplying male and female condoms as well as lubricant. Established in 1993, the company has supplied well over 200 million condoms.

IN THE CALENDAR



18 March	UNFPA GPRHCS meeting, New York, USA
19 March	CSO Roundtable on Global Financing Facility, Washington, DC, USA
19 March	Implants Access Program Guaranty Group Meeting (closed meeting)
24-25 March	FP2020 Country Focal Point meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
16-17 April	International Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Development, Berlin, Germany
27 - 29 April	Reproductive Health Medicines Program - Hormonal Contraception and Essential Medicines meeting, New York, USA
11-15 May	RHSC Executive Committee Meeting, Beijing, China
13-16 July	Conference on Financing for Development , Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4-9 October	21st FIGO World Congress , Vancouver, Canada
5-9 October	RHSC 16th General Membership Meeting, Oslo, Norway
18-21 October	Global Maternal Health Conference , Mexico City, Mexico
9-12 November	4th International Family Planning Conference, Bali, Indonesia



Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

Rue Marie-Thérèse 21 · 1000 Brussels, Belgium · Tel: +32 (0)2 210.02.22 · Fax: +32 (0)2 219.33.63
www.rhsupplies.org

communications@rhsupplies.org

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