

## TOP STORY



A new two-year programme is poised to change the face of contraceptive access across Latin America. The Coalition's Regional Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean (ForoLAC) has embarked on a pioneering initiative aimed at opening partners' eyes across the region to the dramatic advances taking place internationally in the commodities space – advances that have yielded lower commodity prices, lower lead times, and universal standards of quality assurance.

Ultimately, the aim of this effort is to assist national procurers, ministry officials, even members of civil society, to access many of the benefits they are currently missing; but also to be able to apply some of the tools now being used globally to generate benefits of relevance to the region. “Encuentros: Contraceptive Procurement Improvement in Latin America” represents a vital bridge between a largely sidelined continent and world advances in contraceptive commodity security.

[Read more](#)

### **Coalition commits to improving data visibility**

Speaking at the Family Planning Summit in London, Coalition Director John Skibiak committed the Coalition to supporting upstream supply chain improvements to ensure the product flow from procurement all the way down into the hands of women. Mr. Skibiak introduced the global family planning Visibility Analytics Network (VAN) -- a shared platform to capture and use supply chain data from multiple sources to provide clearer visibility for short- and long-term decision-making.

The Coalition will host the VAN and manage its implementation. Built on the premise that “you cannot control what you cannot see”, the VAN will streamline access to in-country data and reduce parallel data flows, while also capturing data from manufacturers, procurers, and freight forwarders. [Read more](#)

### **Gap Analysis calculator makes debut at Family Planning Summit**

In April this year, the Coalition published the [Global Contraceptive Commodity Gap Analysis 2016](#) (CGA2016) which presents annual funding gap estimates for 135 countries, with a special focus on the subset of the 69 FP2020 focus countries. Since then, 82 people came together for a [webinar](#) explaining CGA2016’s forecast methods. Most recently, a two-minute [film](#) aired at the Family Planning Summit in London, asking, “What Happens if Governments Don’t Fill the Funding Gap?”. The film introduces a new tool which can be used to explore different cost and funding scenarios for countries and regions. The [CGA Calculator](#) can be found online. For more information, please contact Nina Miller on [nina.miller.rhsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:nina.miller.rhsupplies@gmail.com).

### **Tackling the Last Mile in rural Tanzania**

A [new case study](#) produced by the Last Mile workstream of the Coalition’s Advocacy and Accountability Working Group outlines the barriers, successes and lessons learned from the Tuungane Project. The remote and rural villages around Lake Tanganyika in Western Tanzania face many Last Mile challenges, including lack of transportation and limited access to health services. They also confront unsafe drinking water and a declining fish supply due to forestry sediment. The Tuungane Project was designed to overcome these varied challenges through an integrated approach, addressing environmental and reproductive health issues simultaneously. Working at the Last Mile, this project has successfully provided contraceptives to thousands of women and men over the last five years. To join the Last Mile workstream or offer your own case study, please contact Interim Advocacy Officer David Eeckhout at [deeckhout@rhsupplies.org](mailto:deeckhout@rhsupplies.org).

### **What do young Africans really think about contraception?**

The Youth Caucus has just published the findings of a consultation in Abidjan, which gathered the views of 30 young Francophone Africans on contraception. The report presents fresh and honest feedback about young people's wishlists for the perfect contraceptive method, their current favourite, methods and their dissatisfaction with gender-inequitable contraception. They called for environment-friendly, sustainable products, as well as oral contraceptives for men. The [report](#) can be downloaded from the Coalition website.

## Calling all volunteers for Supply Fellows Scheme at Dakar

A new buddy system will trial at the upcoming Coalition membership meeting in Dakar. The Youth Caucus is calling for volunteers to take part in a scheme where seasoned members of the reproductive health community pair up with participants under 35 to navigate the meeting together. Support, contact-building and learning are some key goals of this initiative. [Terms of reference](#) and the [concept note](#) are online. Please apply to be part of the Supply Fellows scheme [here](#).

## Liletta's duration of use extended to 4 years

Coalition member Medicines360, a global nonprofit women's health pharmaceutical company, and pharmaceutical company Allergan have [announced](#) the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of their application to extend the duration of use of LILETTA® (levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system) 52 mg for up to four years. Read an [earlier interview](#) with Medicines360's CEO Jessica Grossman who explains Medicine360's unique marketing model.

## CSP April 2017 Implants Forecast now online

The Coalition's Coordinated Supply Planning (CSP) group's latest annual forecast for contraceptive implants is now [online](#). The forecast provides critical data in supporting contract negotiations, advocating for commodity funding, informing market shaping discussions, as well as planning production by suppliers. The forecast estimates quantities of implants to be procured by countries within the Implant Access Program market.

## NEW MEMBERS

[Fundación Huésped](#) is an Argentinian non-profit working in public health and human rights since 1989. They are the original developers of [#Dónde](#), an Innovation Fund-supported open-source platform that helps users locate condom delivery points, HIV-testing centres, advice on STIs, vaccine centres, and quality counselling on contraception and safe abortion.

[Medical Students for Choice](#) is a US-based non-profit supporting 185 student activist groups fighting stigma around contraception and sexual health.

Specializing in menstrual health and hygiene, [Senegal Santé Mobile](#) is a youth organization delivering reusable menstrual pads for poor- and middle-income women and girls.

[Uganda Youth Alliance For Family Planning And Adolescents Health](#) is an NGO empowering young people to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health and rights and advocate with the national government to include young people in national health budget discussions and health planning.

Based in the United States, [World Vasectomy Day](#) is possibly the world's largest male-focused family planning movement, with a dual focus on improving awareness of and access to vasectomies as well as inspiring conversations about how men can be involved in family planning decisions. At last year's annual event 964 doctors in 51 countries performed more than 10,000 vasectomies in a single day.

## IN THE CALENDAR

Joint WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA meeting with pharmaceutical, condom, IUD, vaccine and diagnostics manufacturers and suppliers

**18-21 September**  
Copenhagen, Denmark

[EuroNGO's Annual General Meeting and Conference](#)

**26-28 September**  
Brussels, Belgium

[Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition 18th General Membership Meeting](#)

**23-27 October**  
Dakar, Senegal

[Africa Health Business Symposium](#)

**6-7 November**  
Dakar, Senegal

[Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health](#)

**13-17 November**  
Dublin, Ireland

[3rd Biennial Scientific Conference: Sustaining the Momentum for Regulatory Harmonization in Africa](#)

**27-29 November**  
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

[9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights](#)

**27-30 November**  
Hanoi, Vietnam

[XXII FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

**14-19 October 2018**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[5th International Conference on Family Planning](#)

**12-15 November 2018**

Kigali, Rwanda

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

**3-6 June 2019**

Vancouver, Canada



Reproductive Health  
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