

TOP STORY



Next General Membership Meeting: Kathmandu in March 2019

Registration for the RHSC's 19th General Membership Meeting is now open! The meeting is scheduled to take place in Kathmandu, Nepal, 25-28 March 2019, at the [Yak & Yeti Hotel](#). The two-day Membership Meeting will be preceded by two days of preliminary meetings hosted by the Coalition's working groups. Please confirm your participation by completing the [online registration](#) form. To help offset costs, we are charging a participation fee for this meeting; [so register now at the early-bird price to save money](#). All information is available on the [meeting site](#).

[Register now](#)

IN THE NEWS

#ItsAboutSupplies @ICFP2018

RHSC and partners will apply the Supply Lens to family planning and reproductive health in a number of sessions at the upcoming ICFP2018 conference in Kigali, Rwanda. The RHSC exhibition booth will offer an at-a-glance overview of cutting-edge RH advancements and a special interactive tour of the Global FPVAN (Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network). Click [here](#) to see an overview of our presence in Kigali, and come see us at Booth #68!

Innovation Fund takes on big challenges

In the most competitive Innovation Fund round to date, six proposals have emerged triumphant from a pool of more than 70 concepts, and all seek to push boundaries further than ever before. One Fund recipient, Gynuity, will support efforts to register mifepristone at country level by emphasizing its wider role as a women's health medication, administered by providers who both do and do not offer abortion services. More indications, it is hoped, will increase sales and thus market sustainability, which could in turn generate interest from the private sector. The full list of Fund grantees will be published in our next issue of the SupplyInsider.

SSWG helps update the HIP report on Supply Chain Management

Members of the SSWG are assisting in efforts to update the HIP (High Impact Practices) Series report on Supply Chain Management (SCM), which was last published in 2012. [The entire HIP series](#) includes 21 reports on evidence-based family planning practices, vetted by experts, with a view to helping programs focus resources for greatest impact. At the working group's recent in-person meeting in Washington, DC, members formulated a series of recommendations—no fewer than 40—for the SCM report's three co-authors, one of whom includes Global FP VAN Director, Julia White. They recommended, for example that best practices from the private sector be adapted to the public sector. They

recommended that a greater focus be placed on last mile distribution, not just warehousing and transportation. And finally, they called for the removal of software specific references that all too often quickly become obsolete.

Coalition welcomes Netherlands MoFA to Executive Committee

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands officially took its seat this month on the Coalition's Executive Committee. The Ministry will be represented by Frank van de Looij, a health economist who has broad experience in results-based financing, health system strengthening, and management. As many will recall, the Ministry has had a longstanding relationship with the Coalition. It was one of the Coalition's 15 founding members; and from 2006 to 2008, Margret Verwijk, currently the Netherlands Deputy Head of Mission to Lebanon, served as Coalition Chair.

New study aims to strengthen local engagement in the market

How secure can the market for any product be when national actors, and commercial distributors in particular, have no skin in the game? That question has inspired a landscape analysis being conducted by a team led by Mann Global Health, which seeks to better understand the opportunities and obstacles faced by local distributors in entering the combi-pack market, and then identify finance-based interventions to help manage them more effectively. Members of the NURHT Caucus and Safe Abortion Supplies workstream helped design the scope of the assessment, which kicks-off a three-year initiative to secure greater engagement by commercial distributors in increasing access to combi-packs in up to five countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Encuentros reap groundbreaking returns in Latin America

Earlier this year, the Coalition conducted two "encuentros" or "learning sessions" in Panama City and Lima in order with the aim of informing regional partners of the many new procurement opportunities to emerge from more than a decade of global work to further commodity security. The results of this effort speak volumes: one NGO (ProSalud Bolivia) and five national governments (Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Peru) have secured better prices for seven contraceptive products, including one- and two-rod implants, the Copper-T IUD, one- and three-month injectables, and the male condom. These price reductions have generated \$15.3 million in cost savings, most of which have

been reinvested in greater procurement volumes. To learn more, contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev on mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

“Buy Quality Oxytocin, Keep it Cold”

Together with global partners, the Maternal Health Supplies Caucus has developed an [advocacy framework](#) that aims to encourage national governments to purchase only oxytocin prequalified by WHO or approved by a stringent regulatory authority. [A recent webinar](#), which introduced participants to the framework, is now available online to advocates, policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders. Satellite webinars are upcoming in [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on the 27th and 28th of November.

New – and returning – leaders take helm in working groups

Fsahat UI Hassan and Génesis Luigi have been elected as the next co-leaders of the Youth Caucus. In the run-up to the Coalition’s GMM, where they formally assume their new roles, they will shadow current Caucus leaders Jennifer Amadi and Morillio Williams. Also in recent elections, two members vied to lead the SSWG Working Group and Ellen Tompsett retained her position. Thanks to all the candidates who stood in both elections!

New webinars and fact sheets now online

The RHSC webinar portal now hosts 96 webinar recordings in total. In addition to the resource on oxytocin advocacy (see story above), these titles have recently been added to the portal:

- [The FP Indicator Monitoring System in Guatemala \(Spanish-language\)](#)
- [The UNFPA Order Management System \(Spanish Language\)](#)
- [Supply Chain Data 4 Advocacy: Data is a dialogue](#)
- [The IPPF Medical Abortion Commodities Database](#)
- [The Female Condom Landscape: a Total Market Approach](#)

Four updated fact sheets bring members up to speed on:

- the [LAC Forum](#)’s latest work,
- the [Coalition](#)’s achievements,
- [Innovation Fund](#) successes, and

- the [Global FP VAN](#) (Visibility & Analytics Network).

IN THE CALENDAR

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

12-15 November

Kigali, Rwanda

[PMNCH Partner Forum](#)

5-6 December

New Delhi, India

[19th General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#)

25-28 March 2019

Kathmandu, Nepal

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

3-6 June 2019

Vancouver, Canada



Reproductive Health
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