



# SUPPLYINSIDER

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## After Ebola, Innovation Fund helps Liberia tackle supply chains

In the wake of the recent Ebola crisis, the Liberian government has adopted a new roadmap for addressing human resource bottlenecks in health supply chains. Developed by **Pharmaceutical Systems Africa (PSA)**, with resources from the Innovation Fund, the road map is helping to shape a new post-Ebola strategy for strengthening supply chains and the capacities of those who manage them. In July, PSA and People that Deliver assembled partner agencies to review the roadmap and establish a donor platform for improved communication and coordination. For more information, contact Ellen T. Tompsett at [etompsett@rhsupplies.org](mailto:etompsett@rhsupplies.org).

## Coordinated Supply Planning group averts projected shortfalls

The [Coordinated Supply Planning \(CSP\) group](#) – a dedicated workstream under the Systems Strengthening Working Group – drove USAID procurement of US\$2.2 million of commodities to cover projected shortfalls in 2015. Using a supply planning tool, which compares current shipment plans and expected needs, CSP identified 12 countries where additional DMPA procurements by USAID would free up UNFPA funding for other commodities. The result will see 3.7 million vials of DMPA being shipped in 2015 to Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor Leste, and Zambia, along with an additional US\$645,000 of oral contraceptives for Niger. These donations stand to prevent 303,029 pregnancies, 40,404 abortions, 153 maternal deaths, and 2,020 infant deaths.

## New Packard grant supports strategic commitment to youth

Meeting the reproductive health needs of young people has always been a challenge for the supplies community, if only because supplies represent just one of the many social, cultural and institutional barriers that impede young people's access to RH care more broadly. Teasing out the supplies factor remains a challenge; but it is a challenge now at the core of the Coalition's new strategic pillar on equity. To help address it, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation has provided resources to increase access to the reproductive health supplies young people want, and to mainstream youth priorities within the Coalition. The awards will be channeled as small grants through the Innovation Fund. For more information, please write to Anita S. Deshpande at [innovation@rhsupplies.org](mailto:innovation@rhsupplies.org).

## New LAC resource looks closer to home

Many in Latin America have long criticized the actions of northern governments to cut assistance to countries they feel no longer need it. Unfortunately, the governments of countries affected by these cuts have often shown no more interest than their northern counterparts in filling that financing gap. To highlight this tragic reality and to encourage LAC governments to do more, IPPF Western Hemisphere has used funding from the LAC Fund to produce a new factsheet on what it calls "this punishing and dangerous financial burden on the region's women." The fact sheet is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## Parliamentarians commit to reproductive health in Nigeria

Parliamentarians from across Nigeria are being called on to address budgetary constraints and recurrent stockouts of RH supplies with their government. This development is part of a new advocacy initiative spearheaded by Coalition member, [Civil Society for Family Planning \(CiSFP\)](#). Saying it is "unacceptable to let women die in childbirth", parliamentarian Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim, has promised to reach out to his peers with a view to convening a round table for reproductive health champions. Financed by the Innovation Fund, CiSFP's project aims to increase funding for RH by harnessing political champions, deploying effective advocacy and delivering what politicians value most: votes. For more information, please contact CiSFP's National Coordinator Wale Adeleye at [waylextelecom@yahoo.com](mailto:waylextelecom@yahoo.com).

## Coalition explores implications of e-commerce for RH supplies

As consumers increasingly turn to the digital marketplace for everyday purchases, the [Institute for Reproductive Health](#) is using resources from the Innovation Fund to understand whether e-commerce can increase access to new and underutilized RH technologies. Focusing on three methods in particular – emergency contraception, the female condom, and CycleBeads® – the project will examine the current e-commerce landscape and build on the experience of another Innovation Fund initiative: [Pregna's doctorstore.in](#), where doctors can purchase RH commodities directly from suppliers. For more information contact Victoria Jennings at [victoria.jennings@georgetown.edu](mailto:victoria.jennings@georgetown.edu).

## Coalition and UNFPA co-host annual procurers meeting

More than 30 participants attended this year's annual meeting of procurers of hormonal contraceptives and other essential medicines. Participants addressed the market barriers and procurement challenges facing both suppliers and buyers. By the end of the meeting, the participants had agreed to 1) harmonize quality assurance policies; 2) share with manufacturers both market intelligence and information on procurement policies; and 3) promote the use of WHO's [Model of Quality Assurance for Procurement Agencies](#), which allows procurers to assess the safety, effectiveness and quality of pharmaceuticals, independently of WHO prequalification. For more information, contact Anita Deshpande at [adeshpande@rhsupplies.org](mailto:adeshpande@rhsupplies.org).

## Leadership transitions within Francophone community

This month, the Coalition acknowledges and thanks the support of two friends and long-term supplies champions: Serge Rabier and Benoit Silve.

After 14 years as Executive Director of [Equilibres et Populations](#), Serge Rabier passes the mantle to Aurélie Gal-Régniez. In 2008, Serge helped secure the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' membership in the Coalition and later, supported the Ministry in co-hosting the Coalition's 2012 General Membership Meeting in Paris. Under Serge's leadership, E&P also helped organize the 2011 Ouagadougou Conference on Family Planning, which triggered the establishment of the Coalition's Regional Forum for Francophone Africa, SECONAF. This month also saw the departure of Benoit Silve who, for more than a decade, served as Director General of [Bioforce Institute](#). Silve has been a familiar face within the SSWG, helping to transform a past workstream into the "People that Deliver" Initiative which he has chaired since 2011.

## Three members join the Coalition, bringing total membership to 344

- [Plan UK](#) is a global child rights development civil society organization with a presence in 68 countries.
- [Axios Internatonal, Inc.](#) is a US-based technical support organization that develops innovative strategies to increase patient access to healthcare in countries where it's needed most.
- Nordic Pharmaceutical Company S.A.C. is based in Peru and specializes in the import and distribution of health supplies.

## In the calendar

**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  
1-3 December [Global Female Condom Conference 2015](#), Durban, South Africa



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