

TOP STORY



Second *Encuentro* blazes a trail

Last month, we announced the inaugural “*encuentro*” or “learning session” in Panama City under the Coalition’s new initiative to help Latin American governments benefit from global achievements in advancing commodity security. Hot on its heels, a second *encuentro* in Lima convened delegations from eight South American countries.

Participants agreed to create a regional price observatory; push for local registration of critical commodities; secure more affordable pricing through UNFPA Procurement and COMISCA; and explore opportunities to leverage the region’s purchasing power to secure favorable procurement terms.

[Read more](#)

IN THE NEWS

Innovation Fund increases access to MH supplies in Ethiopia

Two Innovation Fund-supported projects are set to change the face of maternal health (MH) supplies in Ethiopia. Late last year, Concept Foundation’s workshop on registration of MH supplies resulted in five manufacturers taking steps to register their WHO prequalified products. You can learn more by listening to a [recent webinar](#) which recommends key actions to achieve further progress.

In a second project, Monash University assessed the landscape for quality oxytocin in Ethiopia. Compromised quality has undermined the Ethiopian Government’s efforts to address postpartum hemorrhage. Study results, which are soon to be released, will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. For more information, please contact Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

“Buy Quality Oxytocin, Keep it Cold”

Late last year, the Maternal Health Supplies Caucus exhorted country governments to purchase only oxytocin approved by a stringent regulatory authority or WHO/ERP. The Caucus’ core message “Buy quality oxytocin, keep it cold” has been worked into an [advocacy messaging framework](#) for use by maternal and child health advocates when communicating with government policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders. This framework is the outcome of last year’s technical consensus meeting held in Geneva and the follow-up advocacy discussion in Washington, DC. “We know what to do ... We just need to figure out how to do it efficiently and effectively so that no woman need worry about dying when giving life,” writes MHS Caucus Chair Beth Yeager in [her guest post](#) on Chemonics’ blogsite.

All you wanted to know about the RHSC– now updated!

What's the VAN? Why should we care about the Gap? What's a Ruby Cup®? The answers to all these questions and more are available in a raft of updated fact sheets on the [RHSC](#), the [Innovation Fund](#), and the [Global FP VAN](#) (Visibility and Analytics Network). In addition, an easy-to-read [infographic report](#) of four youth-themed Innovation Fund projects is now downloadable. New fact sheets will be added on an ongoing basis, including resources on the working groups and some of the Coalition's key issues.

How the Coalition adds value with its webinars

Our most recent webinar, [Access to RH Supplies in Humanitarian Settings](#), drew more than 200 registrations. Thirteen probing questions emerged in the Q&A session, which presenters were able to address or post answers to an online recording of the webinar. Thanks to such flexibility, webinars have become an intrinsic part of the Coalition's added value to its members. In the last 10 months, the Coalition has hosted 30 webinars, which have reached nearly 1,000 participants live, and many more through visits to our [webinar hub](#). The platform contributes to reducing our carbon footprint, saves time and cost, and improves and increases partner engagement. [Read here](#) on Medium how the Coalition uses this digital platform in its lifesaving work.

Coalition Secretariat welcomes new Program Assistant

Anjali Upadhyay has joined the Coalition Secretariat as a new Program Assistant in Washington, DC. She is a recent graduate of the American University where she majored in international studies and economics. Please join us in welcoming Anjali!

NEW MEMBERS

A civil society organization in Cameroon, [Femmes – Santé – Développement](#) has advocated for increased use of the female condom for more than three years.

Youth Health International, another civil society organization in Cameroon, brings young people aged 18-30 together to advocate for young people's sexual and

reproductive health and rights.

The [Guttmacher Institute](#) is a leading research and policy organization whose key activities include global analyses and reports on abortion incidence, adolescent SRHR, national studies of SRHR in collaboration with in-country partners, and publication of the peer-reviewed journal International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

[Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands](#) is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. It works to provide SRH services and comprehensive sexuality education, and advocates for a supportive political environment in the US as well as countries around the world.

[Real Relief ApS](#) is a company in Denmark that provides life-improving and life-saving relief items to people at risk in developing countries.

IN THE CALENDAR

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

20-22 March
Brussels, Belgium

[10th Annual Conference on Health and Humanitarian Logistics](#)

25-27 July
Dubai, UAE

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

14-19 October
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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

12-15 November
Kigali, Rwanda

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

3-6 June 2019

Vancouver, Canada



Reproductive Health
SUPPLIES COALITION

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