

TOP STORY



Kathmandu debuts new issues, builds on Brussels “firsts”

Some 250 participants from 35 countries came together at the Coalition’s recent general membership meeting (GMM) in Kathmandu - more than a third from developing countries. The event looked at the implications of a closing decade; glimpsed at the newly emerging ecosystem for RH supplies; and showcased the supply challenges facing humanitarian crises. The meeting also pursued issues introduced at last year’s GMM: menstrual health supplies, real-time audience feedback, a scaled-up Innovation Exposition and an expanded Supply Fellows Initiative. Three site visits and 24 parallel sessions rounded off the four-day event. Meeting presentations can be found [here](#), and you can watch a short wrap-up video [here](#). See if you can spot anyone you know in our

[online photo gallery](#). A special thank-you to all the participants who made this event a success.

IN THE NEWS

Coalition's flagship resources map the coming decade

Participants at last month's GMM were given a preview of the soon-to-be launched 2019 edition of the Contraceptive Commodity Gap Analysis (CGA2019). The work shifts the time horizon from 2020 to 2030 and presents, for the first time, a more accurate account of private sector financing. Building on data from CGA2019, a panel session on the 2030 Ecosystem addressed questions such as: How does a growing private sector alter the development narrative? What is needed to ensure sustained public sector provision of health care services? How can more effective procurement maximize the purchasing power of the total market? And what is the future for Universal Health Care? Presentations can be found [here](#); watch for the full report to be released next month.

Live-polling software boosts audience engagement

Five plenary and parallel sessions harvested audience questions and comments electronically in real-time using interactive software, offering thought-provoking insights. "How will the findings of the Ecosystem 2030 study inform the RHSC's next four year workplan?" asked one participant; another wondered how Nepal was considering emergency preparedness in its procurement and supply chain planning; while someone else asked for examples of innovative funding. Complete anonymity encouraged total honesty; the 250+ responses will inform expert speakers for further research and other follow-up activities.

Global VAN offers visitors an interactive walk-through experience

Global FP VAN Steering Committee member, Kate Wright, offered participants an entertaining take on the VAN by presenting it from the perspective of countries, procurers and manufacturers. Those eager to learn more took an interactive journey by visiting the

VAN booth at the Innovations Exposition. Core VAN achievements to date are celebrated in this [FP2020-hosted blog](#).

Executive approves discrimination and harassment policy

Our ability to ensure a safe space for candid honest discussion was strengthened last month with the endorsement of the RHSC's [discrimination and harassment policy](#). The policy reaffirms the dignity of all Coalition members and prohibits discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, at any event undertaken under the auspices of the Coalition. At its meeting in Kathmandu, the Executive Committee approved the policy unanimously; all Secretariat staff have been trained to implement and uphold it.

Mentors share life advice with Supply Fellows

- “Get training in finance and administration, whatever you’re doing in this field”.
- “Don’t burn your bridges with *anybody*”.
- “Reach out to the RHSC Secretariat for help with networking”.

These and other nuggets of advice were offered freely at the recent Fellows career guidance session in Kathmandu. Thirteen experienced RH supplies experts were paired with young partners for a reprise of last year’s Supply Fellows Initiative, a mentorship scheme designed to allow participants to learn from one another and navigate the general membership meeting together. This year, participants welcomed a tailormade career guidance session in which younger fellows sought advice from their more experienced partners on surviving and thriving in RH supplies-related work. Read more about the session [here](#).

NEW MEMBERS

In Mexico, the [Promoter Committee for a Safe Motherhood in Mexico](#) comprises 64 non-governmental, governmental and academic organizations working to improve pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care for women.

IN THE CALENDAR

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

3-6 June

Vancouver, Canada

[European Development Days](#)

18-19 June

Brussels, Belgium

[4th Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical
Products Regulation in Africa](#)

30 September - 1 October

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

[Inspire Annual Conference](#)

01-02 October

Athens, Greece



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