

TOP STORY



FondsSECONAF helps shine a light on Congo-Brazzaville's supply needs

The Coalition's small grants fund for Francophone Africa, FondsSECONAF, has shed light on the supply needs of a country largely sidelined by donors: Congo-Brazzaville. A small grant to that nation's IPPF member association, [ACBEF](#), has made it possible to identify the bottlenecks hindering the flow of supplies and begin putting in place the means to overcome them. ACBEF found that with no public budget for supply distribution, 40 percent of health facilities and warehouse relied on public transportation, with providers often footing the transport costs themselves.

To address this issue, ACBEF trained key clinical staff in logistics management, and set up a national coalition of NGOs to persuade public officials to prioritize RH supplies distribution, create an appropriate budget line for that purpose, and establish a new national warehouse in the north of the country.

IN THE NEWS

Scholarships awarded to 10 young supply chain managers

LAPTOP Scholarships were recently awarded to 10 young supply chain managers from Ghana, Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Togo, and Uganda. The five women and five men will further their studies in supply chain management in respected institutions ranging from Pamela Steele Associates and Empower School of Health to the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply. They each bring with them different passions and experiences—from humanitarian healthcare to health economics and pharmacy. This third round of scholarships is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, with **People that Deliver** supporting the candidate selection process.

Fact sheets to inform on contraceptive security in Latin America

A suite of new **fact sheets** is now available in Spanish, mapping the status of contraceptive security in 12 Latin American countries, and providing key decision makers with an easily accessible tool for comparing national progress in the region. The fact sheets use data collected by **ForoLAC** and the USAID project GHSC-PSM for contraceptive safety indicators created by USAID / DELIVER in 2009, addressing years of absence of data on Latin American countries. Indicators include national shortages and market barriers, the manufacturing base for each method, and political barriers to contraceptive access, making them useful advocacy resources for civil society and governments. Countries covered are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. More than a hundred government officials attended a dedicated webinar for governments, and a **general webinar introduction** drew nearly 300 registrants.

Hormonal IUD now included in USAID catalogue

In April 2021, the levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device (IUD) - also known as the **hormonal IUD** - was added to the **USAID Product Catalog**, the specific products being Mirena™, supplied by **Bayer AG**, and Avibela™, supplied by **Impact RH360**. Aimed at facilitating procurement and distribution in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), this addition will allow USAID's **family planning priority countries** to procure hormonal IUDs. This development is a culmination of many years of research and investment, which included Innovation Fund support to FHI 360 to assess the potential to introduce the hormonal IUD into Kenya. That pioneering work helped create an interest in the broader introduction of the method in LMIC markets and helped establish costing parameters for the product. For more information, visit the Hormonal IUD Access Portal [here](#).

VAN members enjoy tailored knowledge management options

The VAN – dedicated to data transparency, information sharing, and collaboration -- has launched a new resource to support its members' knowledge needs. The Information Portal (Portal) is a SharePoint site that allows members to access advocacy and training tools, meeting recordings, and other resources that support member interaction. Members can now share and collaborate on content without having to request separate viewing permissions, as was the case with the Portal's predecessor. Each member now also gets access to a suite of folders individually tailored to their particular role in the VAN. The upgraded Portal is part of the VAN's ongoing evolution to **meet user needs and make for better collaboration** between its members.

SAS workstream co-Chair takes on second term

The Safe Abortion Supplies (SAS) workstream of the NURHT Caucus has welcomed the news that Ipas' Nathalie Kapp will serve a second two-year term to co-Chair the group alongside Florence Erb from the Global Fund.

NEW MEMBERS

Intrepid Entrepreneurs is an institution based in the US that runs Next Health Accelerator, an incubator for young African entrepreneurs who want to create positive social change across several sectors, including sexual and reproductive health.

Pathways Policy Institute (PPI) is a policy and accountability think tank in Kenya, providing a safe space for advocates and communities to influence public health and environmental policies through research, training and capacity .

The PharmAccess Group is an international NGO based in The Netherlands dedicated to improving access to quality healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa by providing inclusive health insurance programs in four focus countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania, which integrate SRH services.

IN THE CALENDAR

European Development Days 2021

15-16 June 2021

Virtual Event

FIGO World Congress 2021

21-28 October 2021

Virtual Event

16th European Society of Contraception Congress

25-28 May 2022

Ghent, Belgium

International Conference on Family Planning 2022

14-17 November 2022

Pattaya City, Thailand