

# United Nations High Level Meeting on Reproductive Health Commodity Security



New York, New York — 7 and 8 September 2011



**Cover:** The UNFPA Executive Board heard a statement from the 12 focus countries attending the event, delivered by Her Excellency Zainab Hawa Bangura, Minister of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone, in a presentation at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

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First ladies, ministers of health and parliamentarians numbered among the 80 people present at the first High Level Meeting on Reproductive Health Commodity Security, 7 and 8 September 2011 in New York. It provided an opportunity to share experiences among 12 priority countries in the UNFPA Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security. The event included four panel discussions, plenary sessions, a presentation to the UNFPA Executive Board and a Call to Action that voluntary family planning, secured by a steady supply of contraceptives, is a national priority for saving women's lives.

The 12 Stream One countries in the Global Programme are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In opening remarks, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA, called on the 12 countries to put resources in their budget to meet the needs of their women and girls.

### Key points:

1. Dramatic increases in the use of modern methods of contraception are widely reported by participating countries. In Niger, the contraceptive rate increased from 5 per cent in 2006 to 21 per cent in 2010. In Madagascar, it rose by 11 percentage points from 2004 to 2009, when it reached 29.2 per cent.
2. Supplies are reaching more people in the right place at the right time. In Burkina Faso, the number of health clinics reporting no shortfalls or stock-outs increased from 29 per cent in 2009 to 81 per cent in 2010.
3. Access to appropriate methods is improving. In Nicaragua, the percentage of service delivery points offering at least three modern methods of contraception increased from 66.6 per cent in 2008 to 99.5 per cent in 2010. In Ethiopia, the increase was from 60 per cent in 2006 to 98 per cent last year.
4. Country-driven initiatives include training and computers for stronger supply delivery in the national health system, awareness campaigns and advocacy for national policies, strategies and dedicated lines in national budgets for contraceptives.

### Objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for High Level Officials of GPRHCS Stream 1 countries to discuss country achievements and share experiences with each other, the UNFPA Executive Board, UNFPA donors and other UNFPA major partners;
- Brainstorm and agree on the most effective strategies for ensuring even greater successes;
- Produce a joint declaration of commitment in support of family planning, reproductive health commodity security, and sexual and reproductive health (FP/RHCS/SRH) in their respective countries.

### Expected outputs:

- Achievements, lessons learnt and challenges shared among delegates and with the UNFPA Executive Board, UNFPA Donors and other UNFPA major partners;
- Increased understanding by delegates about UNFPA and GPRHCS;
- Increased understanding by Executive Board and other partners about the implementation of RHCS in beneficiary countries;
- Most effective strategies for ensuring successful FP/RHCS/SRH interventions identified and agreed upon for further action;
- Declaration made in support of intensification of FP/RHCS/SRH interventions.

# Opening Ceremony



From left to right: Mrs. Helen Onma Mark, spouse of the Senate President of Nigeria; Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma, First Lady of Sierra Leone; Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA; Ms. Julia Bunting, Leader of the AIDS and Reproductive Health Team at DFID

### 2.1 | Mr. Werner Haug Technical Division, UNFPA

Mr. Werner Haug, Director of the UNFPA Technical Division, welcomed participants to the Opening Ceremony. “This meeting is very important because it is the first of its kind at which eminent personalities, first ladies, ministers of health and parliamentarians are together in one room

encouraging in the Stream 1 countries, Mr. Haug said, where building a strong foundation for RHCS is high on the national agenda. He thanked participants for attending this meeting, held at the mid-term of the programme to chart the way forward.”

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