

Reproductive health supplies: a question of availability, quality and affordability

Seminar on access to quality medicines and supplies for sexual reproductive health and rights - SRHR

Venue: DG Development Cooperation (DGD), Belgian FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Development Cooperation, Rue des Petits Carmes - Karmelietenstraat 15, 1000 Brussels

Co-organised by: Be-cause health Working group on Access to quality medicines together with Working group on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

Background

UN's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health calls for increasing access to and appropriate use of medicines, medical devices and health supplies that effectively address leading avoidable causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth and childhood. A UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children (UNCoLSC) identified in 2012 up to 13 essential but overlooked life-saving commodities that, if more widely accessed and properly used, could save the lives of more than 6 million women and children. Currently 214 million women of reproductive age in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy are for example not using a modern contraceptive method. How to ensure that supplies are accessible, affordable and within the reach of all? That supplies and products are of trusted quality? That supplies actually reach those who need them most? And that there is a sufficient choice of supplies to meet users' needs?

This seminar brings together researchers and practitioners who will exchange insights and share good practices with regards to ensuring access to a full range of affordable, quality reproductive health supplies in low- and middle-income countries.

Aim of the meeting

This seminar will bring together experts working on reproductive health supplies related issues on global and in-country level to look at the problems faced and present some good practices aiming to prevent and remediate these issues. The seminar aims to:

- give an overview of problems related to availability, equity, choice and quality of family planning medicines and supplies in the Global South
- present good practices aiming to prevent or remediate these problems
- identify policy recommendations and the operational role that Belgium's development cooperation actors can play.

Registration

Registration is obligatory. Use this [registration form](#) and register **at the latest by 30th October**.

The seminar is held in English only. A lunch is provided at 13h.



Belgian Platform for
International Health

Preliminary programme (9h – 13h)

Welcome

9h45: 'Reproductive Health supplies: a question of availability, equity, quality and choice' key note speech by Brian McKenna (Deputy Director, Reproductive health Supplies Coalition).

10h15: key note on WHO 'Survey of the quality of medicines identified by the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children', by Rutendo Kuwana (WHO Essential Medicines Department).

10h45: Break

11h00: Good practices: experiences presented by representatives of

- UNFPA supplies
- MSD for Women
- Marie Stopes International
- Belgian NGO field experiences
- Southern Country representative

12h00: Viewpoint of Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Minister of Development Cooperation

12h15: Q&A - panel discussion: identify potential changes

12h50: Conclusions

13h: Lunch