

## RHInterchange: Creating a Community of Practice for Improved RH Supplies Management

### What Is the RHInterchange?

Developed in 2003, the RHInterchange (RHI) is a web-based tool of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition that collects order and shipment information from the central procurement departments of UNFPA, USAID and IPPF. It provides the detail of each order for each country and program (an example is on the reverse). The RHI captures \$100 million annually of contraceptive shipment information going to over 55 countries around the world. The focus of phase one of the project (2003 – 2005) was twofold: (1) ensuring donors were aware of the value of contributing information, and (2) harmonizing donor data.

Now in its second phase (2007 – 2009), the RHI is charged with engaging country-based managers to help expand the information to include procurements conducted in-country, as well as forecast data. Over the next months, with feedback from key stakeholders in-country, we hope further adaptations of the tool will allow in-country managers to make more informed and coordinated decisions.

As a result, improved dialogue between and among all concerned managers and donors will help to achieve improved commodity security, better donor harmonization with government-led priorities, and ultimately, country ownership.

### Who Is the RHInterchange For?

In a 2005 study, Mercer Consulting identified four issues which restrict contraceptive commodity availability, including “Donor funding allocation and procurement activities are inefficient[; and] Country planning and procurement is fragmented and slow.”<sup>1</sup> The RHI addresses these issues by providing better data on orders, shipments and needs, and improving channels of communication between and among supply managers, procurement agents and donors.

By providing concrete, accurate, and easy to access data - specifically on commodity needs and orders - the RHI can be a valuable tool for a variety of users including:

- **Country program managers:** RHI can provide access to consolidated information on inbound supplies; RHI information can be used to inform logistics decisions and contraceptive security committees
- **Advocacy groups:** RHI can inform discussion points regarding donor funding patterns; reviewing the rational allocation of resources
- **Researchers:** RHI information can support policy papers on long-term method use and areas for improvement
- **Private sector (manufacturers):** The RHI can help manufacturers gain insight into the larger donor market
- **Headquarters-based donors:** RHI information supports discussions on countries at risk of supply disruptions. Countries-At-Risk meetings are held on a monthly basis and attended by donor agencies which provide or fund RH supplies. Regular attendees include UNFPA, USAID, the World Bank and KfW.

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<sup>1</sup> Mercer Management Consulting. September 2005. Contraceptive Availability Study: Methodology and Key Findings. Report to the Reproductive Health Field.



### Is The RHI Tool Easy To Set-up And Use?

Yes. The RHI is web-based and can be accessed easily anywhere the Internet is available. Use your web browser and type in rhi.rhsupplies.org.

### What is the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition?

The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition is comprised of multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors and foundations, as well as representatives from civil society, developing countries and non-governmental organizations. United in their concern and desire to ensure access to a choice of quality reproductive health supplies for all people in developing countries who want and need them, the Coalition provides a forum in which groups can collaborate on strategies and exchange technical information on the topic of reproductive health supplies.

The Coalition developed the RHInterchange with goal of creating – in-country and with specific headquarters-based donors – a community of practice for reproductive health supplies management. This community will be standards-based and evidence-based and will make use of best practices and information for decision making.

Our ultimate vision for this effort is for reproductive health supplies to be reliably and predictably available to all – in essence, to achieve reproductive health commodity security.

For more information please contact [supply@jsi.com](mailto:supply@jsi.com) or dial +1.703.528.7474 for Mimi Whitehouse or Jane Feinberg

### Example of RHI Order & Shipment Information Report

The screenshot shows the 'Ethiopia Shipment History Report' page. It includes a navigation menu with 'Logout' and 'Edit Profile', and a breadcrumb trail: '>> RHI Home >> Service Request >> Donors'. The page is divided into several sections:

- Refine Report:** Includes filters for Donors (IPPF, UNFPA, USAID), Dates (Start Date: January 2006, End Date: December 2006), and Methods (Barrier Methods, Condoms, Implants, etc.).
- Ethiopia Reports:** Links to 'Summary of Shipments' and 'Shipment History'. It also notes that 'Forecasts and Net Need Reports' data is currently unavailable.
- Ethiopia Shipment History Report:** A text block explaining that the report shows contraceptive shipment history for Ethiopia and provides instructions on how to refine the data.
- Shipment History Table:** A table with columns for Shipment Date, Donor, Product, Quantity, and Recipient. It lists various shipments from January 2006 to October 2006, including products like condoms, implants, and injectables from donors such as USAID, IPPF, and UNFPA.
- Reports:** A section with a 'More Info' link and a list of report types: Summary of Shipment Reports, Global, Regional, and Country.