

Coordinated Supply Planning Group (CSP)

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The Coordinated Supply Planning Group (CSP) is a testament to the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. By sharing data and developing joint forecasts and supply plans, group members are showing how better coordination can help prevent many of the supply crises that have befallen countries in the past.

CSP is a workstream of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's (RHSC) System Strengthening Working Group. Its members include representatives of UNFPA's Procurement Services and Commodity Security Branches, USAID, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), John Snow, Inc. (through the Implant Access Program and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT), and the RHSC.

First envisioned in 2012, CSP seeks to prevent supply chain crises through better coordination among the two key procurers of family planning commodities, USAID and UNFPA. It works in two ways:

- › To develop joint UNFPA–USAID forecasts for use in production planning, resource advocacy, contract negotiation, supply allocation, and other functions.
- › To coordinate UNFPA–USAID supply orders and shares country data to help ensure rational allocation of products and avert stockouts.

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For years, we have relied on tools such as the CARhs¹ to remedy supply crises that could have been prevented in the first place. Finally, we have CSP on board to help us address the causes of these crises, and not just treat symptoms.” John Skibiak, Director, RHSC

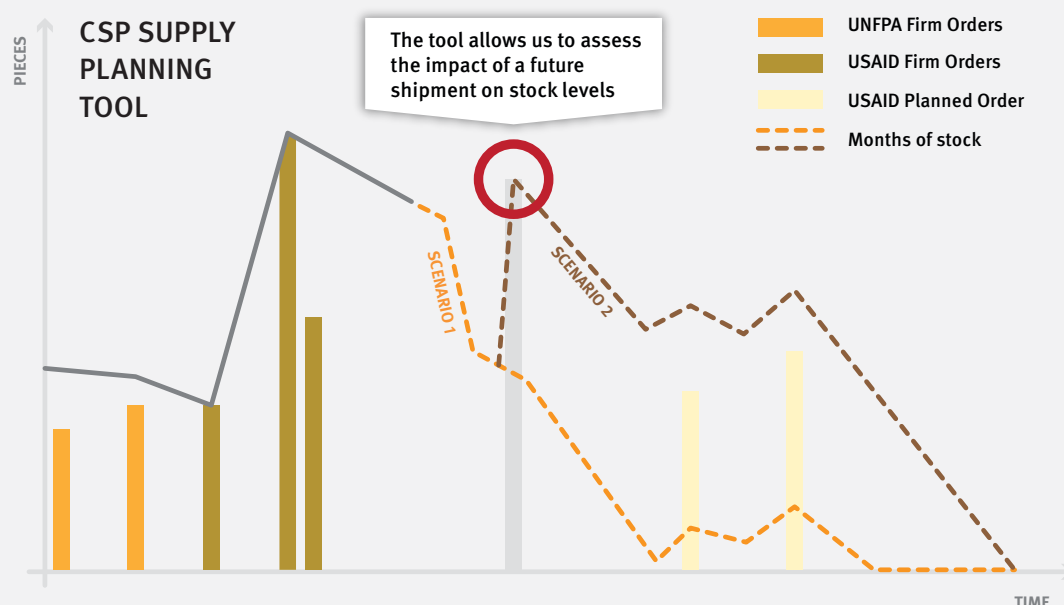
At present, CSP's forecasting and planning efforts focus on two commodities – contraceptive implants and three-month contraceptive injections – both of which remain in high demand yet face production constraints.

Key to CSP's work is a valid and reliable methodology for regularly monitoring stock levels and foreseeing product needs. To that end, CHAI has helped CSP to develop a supply planning tool that can be updated regularly with country data and shipment information.

¹ Coordinated Assistance for Reproductive Health Supplies Group

Figure 1: Example of CSP supply planning tool used to evaluate quantities and timing of future shipments

CSP draws on many sources of information, including the Reproductive Health Interchange (RHI) and the Procurement Planning and Monitoring Report (PPMR). The supply plan tool pulls in data from USAID, UNFPA, and other procurers on past and planned shipments, average consumption levels, and forecast demand to assess stock levels and orders and evaluate alternative scenarios to maintain optimal stock levels.



First applied by CSP to review UNFPA Global Program to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS) requests for 2015, the new tool helped expedite shipments to countries in greatest need, while at the same time ensuring a more equitable distribution among countries with divergent needs. CSP recommended USAID's procurement of an additional US\$2.2 million of commodities, and identified 12 countries where additional DMPA procurements by USAID have freed up UNFPA funding for other commodities. The result was 3.7 million vials of DMPA shipped in 2015 to Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, and Zambia, along with an additional US\$ 645,000 of oral contraceptives for Niger.

As of August 2015, CSP has also recommended reallocation of 129,200 implants and helped mobilize funding for an additional 512,749 implants, averting an estimated 500,000 unplanned pregnancies, 250 maternal deaths, and 3,400 infant deaths. Looking ahead, CSP

intends to refine the tools it uses, improve the quality of its data, and expand the range of contraceptives under review.

The best decisions are made with the best information. The more data that can be shared with CSP by various partners including Ministries of Health, Procurers, Service Providers and Manufacturers the more women we can ensure have access to family planning products. The group hopes to engage with more countries, sharing data, enhancing coordination, and improving product monitoring at country-level.



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For more information, contact CSP Coordinator Alexis Heaton (aheaton@jsi.com).