JSI and the RHI:
A Long Term Relationship Spanning Idea to Implementation to Institutionalization

JSI's engagement with the reproductive health supplies community, dating from the mid-1980s, has informed our understanding of the information needs of suppliers, customers, transporters, funders, and others along the supply chain, as well as the data needs of advocates and researchers. In the late 1990s, JSI began to focus on harmonizing data from various sources in the interests of creating greater supply chain visibility, better customer service, and an evidence base for researchers and advocates to more effectively measure and promote contraceptive availability. The RHInterchange and AccessRH resulted from that foundational work and through these initiatives, JSI has enabled supply chain and program managers, researchers, advocates, and donors to access and coordinate around more timely, accurate, and comprehensive contraceptive supply information.

The RHInterchange

The RHInterchange (RHI) is an online database that provides users with access to contraceptive shipment data for more than 80% of all contraceptives provided to 140 developing countries. The first and only site of its kind, the RHI is on myaccessrh.org/rhihome.

JSI played a leadership role in the conception, development, and stakeholder engagement that allowed the RHI to expand its user base and data offering as well as transition to operation at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Procurement Services Branch (PSB). JSI's involvement supported a standards-based approach to sharing harmonized contraceptive order and shipment information by donors and country programs.

By making harmonized contraceptive shipment information easily accessible, the RHInterchange is a valuable resource for:

• **Reproductive Health Program Managers** to consult for program planning and budgeting.

• **Commodity Managers** to monitor shipments and prepare for arrivals.

• **Advocates and Researchers** to compile evidence that will inform campaigns and help answer key questions.

• **Donors** to coordinate and allocate resources more efficiently.

• **Technical Assistance Providers** to better understand contraceptive forecasting, procurement, supply chain management and financing.

The RHI provides access to data on more than US $ 2 billion in shipments since 2000.

A multi-institutional RHI Management Group (later the AccessRH Advisory Group) made up of funders and data providers offered strategic guidance and support for the product from 2003-2013. Efforts by JSI and the Management Group resulted in significant uptake and use of the RHI, particularly in developing countries. Prior to integration with the AccessRH portal, the RHI had 741 users from 98 countries.
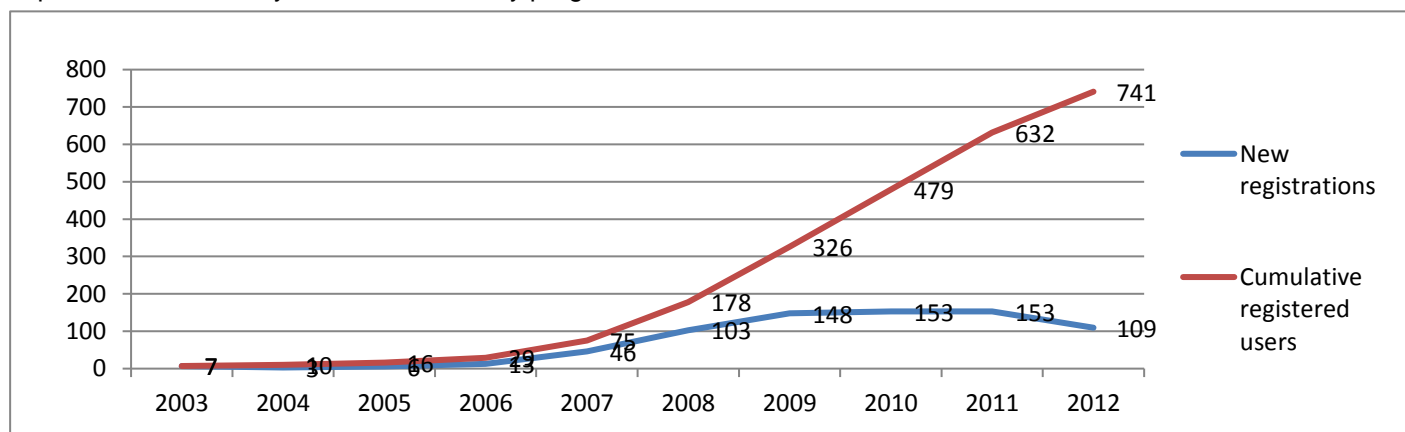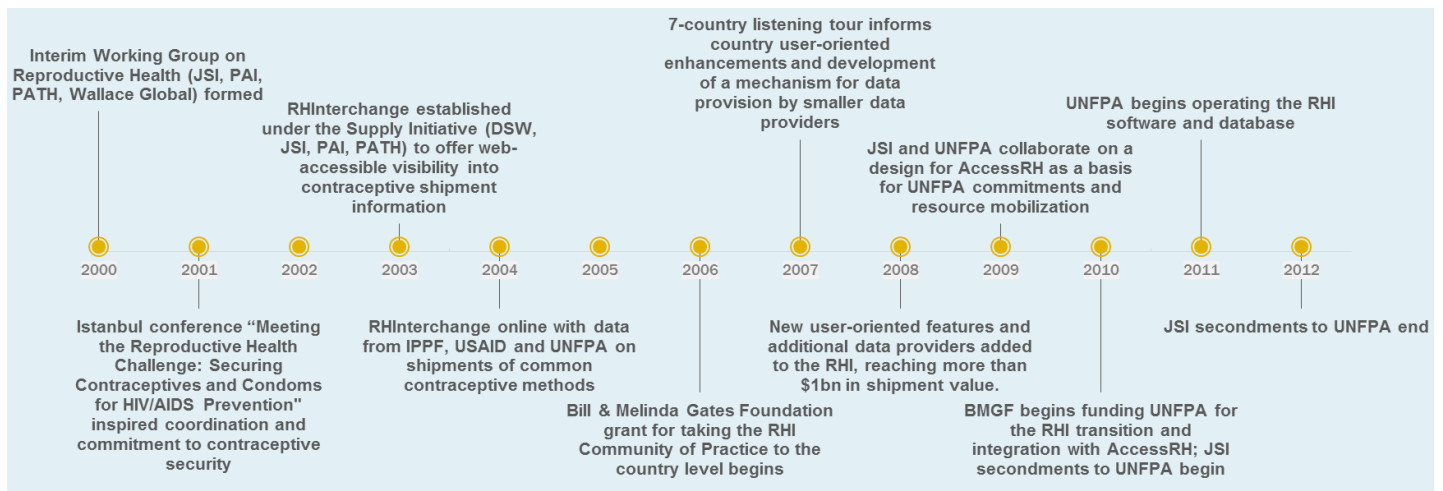

Figure 1: RHInterchange Registered Users 2003 - 2012

Figure 2: Key Milestones

The RHI supports decision making and coordination by a wide range of reproductive health stakeholders. It offers visibility into: What product was ordered by whom from which manufacturers, how much (quantity and dollar value), and was shipped where (the recipient country), when, and to whom (the beneficiary organization).

Data providers including AIMAS Cote D'Ivoire, Crown Agents, Cycle Technologies, DKT Ethiopia, IPPF, MSI, PSI, UNFPA, and USAID, share data in a standard format, on regular schedules as their systems permit. JSI developed reporting options and provided technical assistance to facilitate data sharing by organizations with varying procurement volumes and levels of technological sophistication, using technology ranging from an automated data feed to a manually-populated spreadsheet

The RHI was conceived by members of a precursor to the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, the Supply Initiative, formed after the milestone 2001 Istanbul conference "Meeting the Challenge." The RHI was established in 2003 with support from US foundations, under the auspices of the Supply Initiative, to improve coordination of contraceptive provision among donors.

Funding from USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate its adoption and ensure its relevance —particularly through wide introduction to country-level users and improvements to meet their information needs —began in August 2006. A business planning process undertaken with the RHI Management Group and other stakeholders in 2008 guided the RHI toward its next "home," at UNFPA.

Transition to UNFPA and AccessRH

In 2010 with support to UNFPA from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and to JSI from USAID, JSI prepared to transition the RHI and achieve institutionalization and sustainability by integrating RHI operations and management at UNFPA PSB. This effort was coordinated with partners and aligned RHI planning with development of other mechanisms for improving financing and procurement of health commodities. AccessRH the procurement mechanism, was developed with the support of the German Development Bank (BMZ), and the European Commission as an option for country Ministries of Health (MOHs) and other organizations to procure quality reproductive health supplies at favorable cost. With the inclusion of the RHI, it evolved to become UNFPA's procurement and information service offering for external clients including MOHs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in low- and middle-income countries. RHI users became integrated into the AccessRH web portal in 2013.