

WHAT WE DO

THE GLOBAL FAMILY PLANNING VISIBILITY AND ANALYTICS NETWORK



The importance of data visibility

In the face of shrinking development resources, reaching 120 million new contraceptive users by 2020 will require more effective and efficient family planning (FP) supply chains. Getting there hinges on strengthening supply chain visibility.

 **PROCURERS**
will need to know how many units of each commodity to buy, and for whom

 **MANUFACTURERES**
will need to know how much to produce, and by when

 **SHIPPERS**
will need to know which commodities to send where

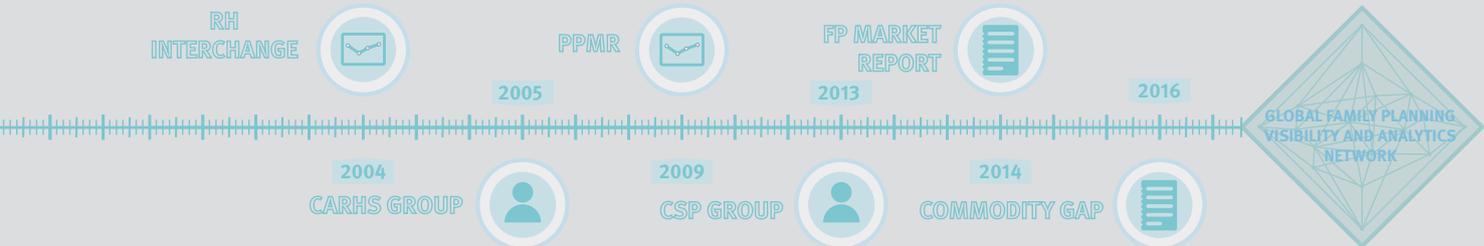
 **CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES**
will need to know which commodities to order and when they will arrive

Insufficient or incorrect data sends wrong messages through the supply chain, which results in stockouts, overstocks, expiration, wastage, and ultimately, empty hands.

Transcending the silos

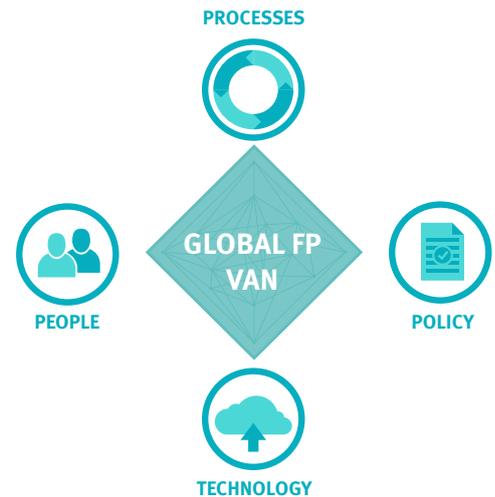
Since 2004, the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition has fostered the development of many tools and mechanisms to enhance supply chain visibility. The Coordinated Supply Planning (CSP) and the Coordinated Assistance for RH Supplies (CARhs) teams are perhaps the best known of these. But their effectiveness is increasingly being hindered by cumbersome manual processes for reconciling data from

multiple systems. In an ideal world, both these groups and the tools they use would form integral parts of a virtual, collaborative platform where community members can access the same data to collectively make supply chain decisions. This is the vision that is driving the establishment of a Global Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network, or Global FP VAN.



Global FP VAN—a new vision for collaborative supply chain management

The Global FP VAN will bring together people, processes, policy and technology to transform the way our community makes supply chain decisions. From the people side, it will link procurers, manufacturers, shippers and countries in an active network focused on product flow into countries. In terms of technology, the platform will capture data from many sources, facilitate data harmonization and consolidate tools for network members to use. New processes will transform how these members interact, analyze data, and make decisions. There will be harmonized policies that govern data-sharing and use. The Global FP VAN will offer a platform to collectively estimate and prioritize supply needs, take action when supply imbalances loom, and advocate for funding when necessary. Eventually, a well-functioning Global FP VAN will lead to more timely and cost-effective delivery of commodities; more women reached with the right product at the right time; and a better allocation of limited health resources.



What makes the Global FP VAN innovative and exciting?

INNOVATION #1 | A true community initiative and a collective mindset

At the 2017 London Family Planning Summit, international stakeholders committed to establishing a Global FP VAN. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development (DFID) pledged seed money; the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) offered human resource support to design, test and use the platform; and the Coalition committed to hosting and managing the Global FP VAN to ensure sustainability and community ownership.

A central governance structure was then put in place to support collective action: A multi-partner Steering Committee meets every two weeks to align policies, design needs, and funding options. A central management unit oversees implementation, while four task forces provide technical input for design and implementation.

INNOVATION #2 | Forging a collective “ask” of the technology vendors

How do the various Global FP VAN stakeholders, each with their own needs and priorities, choose a single technology vendor that satisfies them all? Solving that challenge has required thinking outside the box. As part of the tendering process, both stakeholders and bidding vendors were given access to an interactive, collaborative web-based software called Basecamp. Basecamp allows partners to simultaneously see different documents as they are developed, formulate questions, share feedback, and develop final system requirements, thereby forging a collective “ask”.

INNOVATION #3 | A new approach to data sharing

A more efficient Global FP VAN demands streamlined legal parameters for ensuring supply chain visibility. Traditionally, the issue of data confidentiality has been handled through negotiated, bilateral agreements, which can often make it legally confusing and logistically cumbersome for multilateral groups seeking to share data. The Global FP VAN is working to resolve such barriers through the development of a multilateral data sharing agreement that hinges on a robust, secure, role-based data security model.

Next Steps

Within the next six months, the Global FP VAN initiative will have selected and contracted a technology vendor, led data-sharing discussions, embarked on system configuration and user testing, and launched pilot roll-out in Malawi and Nigeria.

For more information on Global FP VAN, please contact Julia White at jwhite@rhsupplies.org.