

As the world's largest procurer of donated contraceptives, UNFPA Supplies is committed to ensuring that essential supplies reach where they are needed, especially by marginalized and vulnerable women and adolescent girls. Support for supply chain management and logistics information systems over many years remains fundamental to health systems strengthening in the 46 programme countries.

## LATEST SITUATION

### Hormonal contraceptives

UNFPA is committed to procuring quality reproductive health products and sources products that meet internationally recognized quality standards, predominantly products prequalified by the World Health Organization.

#### **Oral contraceptives, emergency contraception, implants and injectable methods**

In India, suppliers are affected by a nationwide shutdown until 14 April; those still manufacturing face restrictions at ports and airports. Suppliers are updating UNFPA focal points on order status and expected delays.

In Indonesia, currently suppliers are shipping according to the agreed schedule. Production capacity will be affected if the situation persists as the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) is sourced from Europe. The supplier has stocks to supply UNFPA for the next three months.

In Europe, suppliers are manufacturing at full capacity at this time, although they expect increased prices and challenges sourcing packaging and APIs if the crisis persists. Mindful of anticipated challenges, suppliers are seeking "free carrier" contract arrangements under which UNFPA would arrange transportation for deliveries in the third and fourth quarters of 2020.

#### **Female condoms**

Like hormonal contraceptive suppliers, female condom suppliers located in India are affected by the national shutdown. The supplier in Malaysia is reporting production restrictions, i.e. suppliers are currently unable to carry out pre-shipment inspections. Delays are expected in the supply of female condoms.

#### **Male condoms**

Production levels in Thailand seem to be maintaining, ensuring a certain level of supply. The supply situation in China is beginning to return to normal. UNFPA procurement is affected by the closure of factories in Malaysia. Indian factories face restrictions.

Most of the laboratories and sampling agencies that UNFPA uses for condom testing are closed until mid-April. UNFPA is closely monitoring this rapidly changing situation.

#### **IUDs**

All current holders of UNFPA Long Term Agreements (LTAs) are located in India and are affected by the nationwide shutdown.

Some manufactured orders have been blocked following Government restrictions on access to ports and airports. All placed orders of IUDs face delays and suppliers are currently unable to provide freight rates. UNFPA is unable to supply IUDs at the current time.

### **Delivery challenges**

Freight forwarders face a volatile market with prices changing hourly, as capacity expands and shrinks. Surcharges are affecting road freight in Europe and sea freight from Europe to Asia and the United States.

### **In-country impact of COVID-19**

UNFPA is monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family planning and reproductive health commodities, working closely with our Regional Offices and Country Offices, national authorities in the Ministry of Health and key implementing partners. UNFPA has received initial data and information from 33 of the 46 countries in the UNFPA Supplies programme, reporting on the stock levels of contraceptives and other essential supplies, with projected risks of stock-outs. Data are being collected for all 46 countries and compiled for the next update.

### **UNFPA has proposed actions to mitigate stock-out risks:**

- Collaboration on fast-track procurement for pipeline orders, including feasibility analysis
- Liaison with the Coordinated Supply Planning (CSP) Group and the Coordinated Assistance for RH Supplies (CARhs) group to set up order prioritization by commodity for each country case—focusing on identified cases where other key stakeholders need to fast track procurement and shipment

- Collaboration of the UNFPA Supplies programme team with Regional Offices and Country Offices regarding potential stock transfer and stock rotation within a country or from one country to another, to balance the surplus or deficit stock situation
- Data collection for further analysis

## **UNFPA SUPPLIES RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

### **Procuring contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines**

All international procurement activities for UNFPA Supplies are carried out by UNFPA Procurement Services, a consolidated source of quality reproductive health supplies.

- UNFPA has increased the number of countries with specific Fast Track Procedures (FTP) approvals on top of the global FTP activation on COVID-19. Of the 46 UNFPA Supplies countries, 21 currently have specific FTP activation.
- Procurement operations at UNFPA are focusing on WHO guidance regarding operations and logistics to scale up country readiness and response operations for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The pandemic is beginning to strain global supply chains. Communication with suppliers and manufacturers has increased. Challenges in sourcing and freight delivery are affecting deadlines and leading to price fluctuations.

Border closings and other restrictive measures are affecting transportation and production in a number of countries and regions. These factors combine to slow down business, lengthening lead times and delaying delivery of supplies to countries and end users.

## How UNFPA Supplies is working to meet needs and mitigate shortfalls

Home of UNFPA Supplies, the Commodity Security Branch (CSB) is coordinating staff to manage and oversee implementation of the programme, and increasing communication to assess needs and emerging challenges. Remote working arrangements are proving adequate in ensuring business continuity.

- Established mechanisms are in place in all UNFPA Supplies programme countries to **monitor and track** stock levels, consumption rates, risk of stock-out or overstock, and pipeline orders for every contraceptive method and life-saving maternal health medicine.
- **Data** collected by forecasting, monitoring and tracking will be used for decision making on where transfers from one country to another might be needed, or where increased stocks now might prevent shortfalls later. Rationing is possible, based on global and country-specific analysis.
- Country offices and other relevant business units will **renew and update** inventory management efforts, disaggregated by method for current and projected orders, and procedures for supply distribution.
- **Coordination and partnership** will be increased between UNFPA Country Offices, national authorities, implementing partners (including the country Visibility and Analytics Network) and other programme beneficiaries.
- At the global level, UNFPA is **updating** responses from countries regarding their inventory levels by product; **reviewing** purchase orders, shipments and production; and continuing to work proactively with suppliers to understand the impact of delays and price increases on family planning in developing countries.

The UNFPA Supplies team continues to work to better understand and mitigate the potential negative impact of COVID-19.

The UNFPA response follows the WHO Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. The UNFPA Business Continuity Plan has been activated for staff members in affected duty stations.

**The COVID-19 crisis reaffirms the importance of funding to procure much-needed contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medication, to computerize logistics management information systems (LMIS) and to strengthen supply chains. Contributions by donors and partners since the programme's inception have strengthened forecasting, procurement and distribution processes that countries will depend on in their response to this unprecedented challenge.**



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