

Concept Note – GPRHCS High Level Meeting of Senior Officials from Stream One Countries, New York, 7th - 8th September 2011.

UNFPA launched the Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS) in 2007 to provide a structure for moving beyond *ad hoc* responses to stock-outs towards more predictable, planned and sustainable country-driven approaches for securing essential supplies and ensuring their use. The GPRHCS contributes to the goal at the heart of UNFPA's mission: ***universal access to reproductive health, along with universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention for improved quality of life***. Progress towards this goal is measured in terms of increased availability, access and utilization of reproductive health commodities for voluntary family planning, HIV/STI prevention and maternal health services in the GPRHCS focus countries.

Since 2007, the GPRHCS has been instrumental in transforming this once marginalized policy area and mainstreaming RHCS—both within UNFPA and in target countries—as a prerequisite for much work across Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health. It takes its guiding principles from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and promotes an integrated human rights based approach that really improves peoples' lives at country level. It puts national governments at the centre of the decision-making process and encourages strong alliances of stakeholders – with in-country partners—led by the government—defining, owning and driving national efforts to improve RHCS. The GPRHCS provides resources designed to catalyse national action and mainstream RHCS into national health policies, programmes, supply systems, institutional thinking, budgets and plans in support of improved SRH outcomes.

In the period 2007-11, the GPRHCS—UNFPA's first and largest thematic fund—has mobilized well over US\$300m to complement national, UNFPA country programme and other in-country efforts to improve Reproductive Health Commodity Security. In many of the neediest countries, the Programme is providing support under three funding streams and thanks to its monitoring framework, rigorously monitoring the progress and measurable impact of these additional funds. Under Stream 1, twelve countries currently receive predictable, flexible, multi-year funding to help them develop more sustainable approaches to RHCS. The programme's Monitoring Framework provides compelling evidence that this innovative, flexible, multi-year programme is an effective catalyst for national action promoting the prioritisation and mainstreaming of RHCS into national health policies, plans, programmes, supply systems, and budgets. As a result, target countries are beginning to move towards more predictable, planned and sustainable country-driven approaches to secure essential supplies and ensure their use.

High level stakeholders have been invited to showcase the many RHCS/SRH successes within their countries and to brainstorm and agree on the most effective strategies for ensuring even greater successes in the future. Participants therefore include: the Ministers of Health, First Ladies and other Key Policy Makers from the GPRHCS Stream 1 countries (*Burkina Faso, Haiti, Ethiopia, Laos, Mali, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone*). This meeting will take place here in New York, from the 7-8th September 2011 alongside the September Board Meeting.

Participation from the 12 countries is confirmed and the participants list and agenda for the meeting are attached for further information.

Objectives include:

- a) To provide an opportunity for High Level Officials of GPRHCS Stream 1 countries to discuss country achievements and share experiences with each other, the UNFPA Executive Board, UNFPA Donors and other UNFPA major partners

- b) To brainstorm and agree on the most effective strategies for ensuring even greater successes in the future.
- c) To produce a joint declaration of commitment in support of FP/RHCS/SRH in their respective countries.