Since 2012, 450 health experts from 83 organizations have been implementing the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities’ recommendations to increase access to and use of 13 essential commodities for women’s and children’s health.

These experts have developed global knowledge resources and accumulated know-how to overcome obstacles in the supply chain for essential commodities, strengthen demand and ensure their quality and proper use in developing countries. They are available on the Life-Saving Commodities website.

Making these resources available, however, is not enough. High burden countries, for which these knowledge resources are intended, should actually use them, adapt them to local contexts, and contribute their own knowledge and lessons.

We are now setting up a Life-Saving Commodities Practitioners’ Network to translate the global learning and know-how that the exerts have developed into country-level action under the banner of the new Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents Health. We will launch the RMNCH Commodities Knowledge Network in August 2016.

**Purpose**

This network will bring together RMNCH experts, at the national, regional and global level, as well as a knowledge library, building on the 500+ resources currently hosted on the Life-Saving Commodities website.

It aims to both respond to knowledge needs at country level – through contacts with experts, sharing of knowledge, mentoring – and capture country and regional knowledge on how to increase access to life-saving commodities.
Pooling expertise, applying knowledge

Functions

The Life-Saving Commodities Practitioners’ Network will serve two functions:

- Provide a member-only community of practice for collaborative working and interdisciplinary reflection around the topic of access to life-saving commodities for RMNCAH.
- Provide a public vehicle, via the ask-the-expert web feature and the knowledge library, for knowledge exchange and brokering between national practitioners and global experts, national and global experts, and among national experts.

Who can join?

Professionals at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels, who are experienced at developing and implementing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programs and want to make a difference. Their expertise could be on market shaping, supply chain strengthening or demand generation for RMNCAH essential commodities, health worker performance, advocacy, regulation, quality assurance, or digital health

What role can countries play?

- Identify practical issues that could benefit from the expertise developed in the Life-Saving Commodities Practitioners’ Network
- Suggest new resources, or adaptation of existing resources
- Identify national RMNCAH experts and practitioners who could be interested in joining the Network

What will the experts be doing?

- Answer questions posted through the moderated ‘ask-the-expert’ web function
- Suggest tailored tiers of knowledge support: mentorship, sharing knowledge and expertise, triggering discussions on strategic and operational topics
- Take part in webinars on emerging topics, in Twitter chats focusing on a particular issue, or in calls to discuss specific country requests/initiatives for knowledge
- Have face-to-face meetings where possible to tackle critical bottlenecks and share knowledge

To join the Life-Saving Commodities Practitioners’ Network, suggest projects that could benefit from the services of the Network or inquire about knowledge resources, contact:

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