

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. In the face of COVID-19, family planning supplies and services remain vital to the health and well-being of millions.

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.

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 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, as well as 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, CSB and PSB, in collaboration with the UNFPA Regional Offices, are **updating** responses from countries regarding their inventory levels by product, while PSB is **reviewing** purchase orders, shipments and production, among other aspects of procurement. PSB continues to work proactively with suppliers to understand the impact of delays and price increases on family planning in developing countries. CSB continues to work to better understand and mitigate the potential negative impact of COVID-19 on UNFPA Supplies now and in the coming months.

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.

Current situation regarding 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.

For the foreseeable future, provision of **combined oral contraceptive pills, progestogen-only pills and emergency contraceptive pills** seems to be assured.

Contraceptive implants are in demand yet limited production capacity has constrained availability over the past several years, both for 1-rod and 2-rod implants; one supplier reports that freight companies are prioritizing shipment of personal protective equipment in response to COVID-19.

The three suppliers of **3-month injectable contraceptives** are at maximum capacity for 2020 production; the supplier of the **2-month injectable** has a 16-week lead time.

The supply of **male condoms** is reasonably assured, with sourcing possible from among 23 products. Three **female condom** products are available, although two of three suppliers are based in India, which currently has manufacturing and shipping restrictions.

UNFPA can source from a wide selection of **intrauterine devices**.

Bottlenecks may arise where UNFPA holds stocks, e.g. **RH Kits** for humanitarian situations, due to trade and transport restrictions.



UNFPA
www.unfpa.org
 605 Third Avenue
 New York, NY 10158 USA