

Dear Members of the Executive Committee of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC),

Reproductive health programs empower women and men, reduce pregnancy-related health risks, and create positive impacts on the environment and economic development in addition to many other benefits. In its 24 January 2015 issue, *The Economist* - referencing the work of the Copenhagen Consensus Center - reported that ensuring access to contraceptives is one of the best investments in development, rendering \$120 in benefits for every dollar spent.

However, countries and their citizens are only able to reap these substantial benefits when there is access to the needed supplies. Unfortunately, many women and men around the world arrive at health clinics only to find empty shelves. Stockouts limit choice, put women and their families at risk, and disempower health workers and supply chain operators. VillageReach pledges to stand alongside the RHSC and play an active role in resolving stockouts as a participant in the campaign, *Take Stock*.

Globally more than 1 billion people have little or no access to healthcare. Most live in low- and middle-income countries where limited resources and infrastructure significantly impede the ability to access quality health services, especially at the last mile, where healthcare is delivered, often the most remote and underserved communities. These issues can be exacerbated for individuals trying to access reproductive health services and commodities who may face stigma and cultural barriers in the process.

VillageReach is a global health innovator that develops, tests, implements and scales new solutions to critical health system challenges in low-resource environments, with an emphasis on strengthening the “last mile” of healthcare delivery. With more than a decade of experience studying and working in low-resource communities around the globe, VillageReach capabilities include supply chain design, information and communications technology, human resources for health, advocacy and change management, and private sector engagement.

VillageReach joined RHSC in 2015. We fully support the Coalition’s campaign, *Take Stock*, and its ambitious effort to mobilize our community to speak with one voice about resolving stockouts. To demonstrate our support to *Take Stock*, we at VillageReach are proud to commit ourselves to the following:

- We commit to invest in human resources for supply chain. By 2016, VillageReach will train 150 pharmacy assistants to work in health centers in Malawi where they will improve storeroom management, pharmaceutical practice and access to all commodities, including reproductive health supplies.

- We commit to increasing visibility and use of data from the last mile to improve supply chain performance and availability of commodities. By 2017, VillageReach will support the deployment and/or expansion of OpenLMIS in at least 3 countries, improving access to data for more effective management of public health supply chains.
- We commit to advocating for new approaches, solutions, and technologies to improve access to reproductive health supplies. VillageReach will actively contribute to initiatives and organizations dedicated to systems approaches to improving access to reproductive health commodities through our membership in the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children and our commitment to the *Take Stock* campaign.

The successful achievement of our commitment will have a significant impact on the lives and well-being of women and families in the developing world.

We applaud the Coalition for its campaign, *Take Stock*, and its effort to rally the reproductive health community to resolve stockouts. We look forward to working with our Coalition partners to make reproductive health supplies available to those in need across the globe.

Sincerely,



Emily Bancroft
Vice President