

TOP STORY



Panama *Encuentro* tackles regional inequities head-on

In Latin America, it is not unusual to find a national procurement agency paying up to 10 times more for the same RH supply as their counterpart in a neighboring country. This and other startling discoveries got countries talking at the inaugural “*Encuentro*” or “learning lesson” – a key building block in the Coalition’s new initiative to bridge the information gap between Latin America and the rest of the world. The consultation brought together representatives from the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, and Panamá, to learn how to tap into the many global mechanisms now in place to lower costs and improve conditions of sale. The next *Encuentro* will take place in Lima 20-22 February. For more information on

this and future Encuentros, please contact LAC Regional Advisor Milka Dinev mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

IN THE NEWS

Hypertension sub-group launched within MHS Caucus

Gestational hypertension is one of the most common disorders associated with childbirth. In about half of all cases, the disorder progresses into preeclampsia, a dangerous condition that can prove fatal to expectant mothers. The Maternal Health Supplies Caucus has formed a special interest sub-group to increase access to the supplies needed to address hypertension. These include high quality, affordable oral antihypertensives and blood pressure devices. For more information, please contact Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Plenary agenda for #rhsupplies2018 now online

In anticipation of our 18th General Membership Meeting, we have put the first draft of our [Plenary Agenda](#) on the Coalition website. Other agendas, including those for side meetings of our Working Groups and Caucuses, will follow shortly.

Coalition Secretariat welcomes new Global FP VAN specialist

Sarah Kozlen joins the Coalition Secretariat as the new Supply Chain Data & Technology Specialist. Sarah will guide the Global FP VAN's information technology, system configuration and master data management. She will also take on the roles of Secretariat lead for SSWG and the new CARHs administrator. Sarah joins us after six years at Microsoft, and more than 10 years of experience in data analytics and supply chain operations. Sarah can be reached at skozlen@rhsupplies.org.

New Supply Chain Officer post seeks applications

The Coalition has just begun recruitment for a [Supply Chain Officer](#). The incumbent of this position will serve as the knowledge expert on country level-efforts to ensure visibility into national supply chains. He/she will also relaunch and manage a re-energized Take Stock campaign. For more information, please contact Brian McKenna at bmckenna@rhsupplies.org.

NEW MEMBERS

Pharmaceutical company is newest Coalition member

Headquartered in Saint-Prex, Switzerland, [Ferring Pharmaceuticals](#) is a research-driven, specialty biopharmaceutical group developing treatments for mothers and babies for over 50 years. A few years ago, Ferring partnered with the World Health Organization and Merck for Mothers to provide access to their patented heat stable carbetocin product which is used to prevent postpartum haemorrhage.

IN THE CALENDAR

[WHO/IBP Semi-Annual Consortium Meeting](#)

13-15 February

New Delhi, India

[Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition 18th General Membership Meeting](#)

20-22 March

Brussels, Belgium

[10th Annual Conference on Health and Humanitarian Logistics](#)

25-27 July

Dubai, UAE

[XXII FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

14-19 October

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[5th International Conference on Family Planning](#)

12-15 November

Kigali, Rwanda

[Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#)

3-6 June 2019

Vancouver, Canada



Reproductive Health
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