

TOP STORY

The logo for MICRO Modeling, featuring the word "MICRO" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Modeling the Impact of
COVID-19 on RH Options

MICRO models the effects of COVID-19 mitigation efforts

MICRO Modeling is a new tool designed to help health care planners quantify the shifts in contraceptive supply needs that could arise from responses to COVID-19 disruptions. The tool helps decision-makers model different scenarios and address the “what if?” questions they face today.

Launched by the Coalition in partnership with Avenir Health and the Global Financing Facility, MICRO uses data from the 2019 Commodity Gap Analysis so that users can apply the analytics to each of the report’s 135 low-and-middle-income countries, including country groupings based on geography,

income and organizational priority. A video guide on using the tool, as well as individual country briefs, will be available shortly.

IN THE NEWS

In the wake of COVID-19, Chilean advocates take action

This month, advocates in Chile took a bold stand. Moved by the results of a survey that linked the advent of COVID-19 to significant increases in contraceptive prices and commensurate reductions in contraceptive access by four out of ten women, ForoLAC member [Miles Chile](#) decided to take matters into their own hands. They lobbied nine Chilean parliamentarians to call on the country's president to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health supplies. The letter, which was subsequently picked up by the [mainstream press](#), sparked a wave of responses and recriminations from amongst the manufacturing and pharmaceutical communities. Manufacturers are claiming innocence and vow to keep prices steady. Meanwhile, Chile's women, and others from across the region, are watching closely and taking note.

RHSC tweets for Menstrual Hygiene Day

The RHSC joined seven other organizations in a five-hour Twitter discussion to mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day. The wide-ranging conversation spanned COVID-19 responses, increasing access to high quality menstrual supplies in LMICs, and user-centred design of sanitary products. The hashtag #MHTwitterChat appeared in 2,200 posts, reaching more than 14 million views. Colleagues at the RHSC Secretariat highlighted the importance of integrating menstrual health (MnH) supplies into reproductive policies and programs. This message was reinforced by RHSC Advocacy Officer Charlotte Soularý who recently published a blog identifying five strategies for protecting MnH [supply access](#).

Global FP VAN referenced in High Impact Practice brief

The Johns Hopkins University has just published the latest High Impact Practice Brief on strengthening supply chain management. A recommendation to increase data visibility cites the [Global FP VAN](#) and exhorts countries to look to early adopters like VAN-users

Nigeria and Malawi for advice on connecting to global visibility networks. Read the brief: [Supply Chain Management: Investing in the supply chain is critical to achieving family planning goals](#).

ForoLAC helps countries shorten supply chains

Using the business intelligence tool, SEPREMI, [ForoLAC](#) has collated a set of resources to help countries look closer to home to address pressing stock issues. By tracking stock levels at central medical stores and by producing an inventory of regional manufacturers, ForoLAC is primed to help governments lean more closely on their neighbors to resolve stockouts and overstocks, thereby shortening the global supply chains which are being compromised in the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Maternal health takes a hit as pandemic disrupts supply chains

In the wake of COVID-19, lead times have increased for procurement of maternal health supplies—as have some prices—Maternal Health Caucus members heard recently. A recent GHSC-PSM presentation to the Caucus mentioned the challenges arising from border closings, bans on passenger travel, and quarantine of truckers. Air freight remains the largest challenge and ocean capacity has been reduced due to lack of available routes, according to the [presentation](#).

New Chair for SSWG

Laila Akhlaghi, Senior Technical Advisor from JSI, has been elected to chair the Systems Strengthening Working Group. She will replace Ellen Tompsett who held the post for nearly four years. We welcome Laila and thank Ellen for her years of service.

Coalition welcomes first member organization from Romania

[PE Stop](#) –the Coalition’s first member organization from Romania – is an NGO providing menstrual care products and education to vulnerable girls and women. Last year, they distributed more than 3,000 dignity kits containing menstrual health products, wipes, disinfectant, underwear and condoms.

IN THE CALENDAR

[General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#)

New Date:
27-30 September 2021
Accra, Ghana

[International Conference on Family Planning 2021](#)

8-11 November 2021
Pattaya City, Thailand



Reproductive Health
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