

TOP STORY



New study explores the market for menstrual health supplies

This month, [Mann Global Health](#) and the RHSC introduced a groundbreaking [new analysis](#) to inform critical market decisions aimed at delivering menstrual health products more effectively and sustainably to those who need them. The work explores key market barriers along each step of the supply chain—from product manufacturing, through importation and distribution. It explores the factors influencing product price and the relationship between access

and product options. Finally, it identifies key business models capable of targeting subsidies and growing the wider menstrual health market.

Drawing on multiple data sources, interviews, and deep dives into Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and India, the analysis calls for incentivizing full product choice in national markets; supporting market actors to grow scalable businesses; and fostering demand generation through greater awareness. Growing interest in menstrual health and in the new publication specifically were evident in the number of participants—more than 80—who joined the [launch webinar](#).

[Download the report](#)

IN THE NEWS

Ghana kicks off a new era in end-to-end data visibility

The launch of an automated platform has made possible the uninterrupted flow of data between the VAN and Ghana's electronic logistics management information system, otherwise known as GhLMIS. Now, for the first time ever, the control tower functions of the VAN can see and assess, among other things, the risk of product expiry in near real time, signaling the VAN's evolution from a central support role to a country-led dynamic. Eyes are now focused on monitoring how this new visibility will affect daily operations and decision-making at country level.

ForoLAC pioneers new course to forecast abortion supplies

The ForoLAC recently hosted a pioneering training course to forecast the supplies needed to provide manual vacuum aspiration, misoprostol, and medical abortion combi-packs. The virtual course was delivered live to 26 regional procurement agents from eight Latin

American countries, including health ministries and civil society, as well as UNFPA and PAHO staff. Efforts are now underway to adapt the five three-hour sessions into a standardized online course in both English and Spanish, with provisions for certification after course completion. Watch this space for developments.

SEMA launched to flag and resolve market inequities

Last year, our assessment of the 2030 RH Supplies Ecosystem shone light on the fragmented market for reproductive health supplies, challenged continually by regulatory hitches, registration difficulties and inefficiencies in procurements and pricing. In the intervening months, staff from across the RHSC Secretariat have contributed their knowledge and experience in the design and development of a promising new initiative, [SEMA Reproductive Health](#). Officially launched at the Generation Equality Forum, SEMA will serve as a collaborative platform and financing vehicle for enhancing country and global capacity to create healthier and more responsive markets. As a key partner of SEMA, we welcome its advent and call on our partners to join us in supporting this new and exciting initiative.

Encuentros 2021 get underway in Latin America

The first of three annual meetings or “encuentros” has taken place to help countries review procurement costs and use the quantification tool MiPLAN to model different fallback scenarios in the event of possible budget cuts. These meetings are a testament to the dedication and sustained engagement of public sector procurement officers across Latin America who first came together, over three years ago, in an [ambitious initiative managed by ForoLAC](#). Encuentro participants now include more than 70 officials from 16 health ministries and procurement agencies. For more information, contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

RIAMA midwife network goes from strength to strength

Severe COVID-related lockdowns across Peru are taking their toll on the use of resupply methods. To help address that challenge, RHSC partner, [APROPO](#), began training its network of Peru-based midwives, RIAMA, on the provision of long-acting contraception. And despite the fact that nearly 20% of midwives have still not returned to work, the

RIAMA network continues to thrive: It now includes more than 541 midwives who reach more than 150,000 women nationwide. In addition, the revolving fund set up last year to procure supplies has trebled in value.

PT Tunggal and Naari secure WHO prequalification

Two RHSC manufacturer members have secured WHO Prequalification. PT Tunggal Idaman Abdi was awarded prequalification for its three-monthly injectable contraceptive ([DMPA-Injection 150 mg/ml](#)) with a 60-month shelf life, as was Naari Pharma Private Ltd for its oral contraceptive ([1.5 mg Tablet Levonorgestrel](#)), which has a 48-month shelf life. Congratulations to both members for this expansion of contraceptive choice and access.

NEW MEMBERS

In Congo-Brazzaville, ACPED (Actions Communautaires pour la Population, l'Environnement et le Développement) is a non-profit association that prioritizes sexual and reproductive health.

Established in 2004, The Gambia's [Hope Life International](#) is a charitable organization dedicated to helping the victims of poverty, disease, and natural disaster by improving their health and quality of life.

Rwanda-based [Medical Doctors For Choice](#) advocates for reproductive health and provides access to a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception and safe abortion in areas where it is legal.

Resurrecting a familiar name in the reproductive health space, US-based [Organon](#) is a new global healthcare company formed through a spinoff from Merck/MSD. Organon builds on a strong foundation of more than 60 medicines across a range of areas including reproductive health, heart disease, dermatology, allergies, and asthma.

IN THE CALENDAR

FIGO World Congress 2021

21-28 October 2021

Virtual Event

[16th European Society of Contraception Congress](#)

25-28 May 2022

Ghent, Belgium

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November 2022

Pattaya City, Thailand



Follow us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Medium](#)

=