

TOP STORY



Supply chain management video a hit with young viewers

Some 3,600 viewers, aged 18-34, have tuned in to the first episode of the new LAPTOP video series on careers in supply chain management. More than half the viewers were from Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda. This first instalment of a four-part series explains how supply chains underpin every aspect of life, and how the need for skilled supply chain managers continues to grow. The series,

supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, shares the collective experience of 18 logistics experts who answer challenging questions on educational requirements, gender in the workplace, and suitability for the profession.

[Watch the video!](#)

IN THE NEWS

ISO acts on calls to define standards for menstrual products

This month, the [International Standards Organization \(ISO\)](#) voted to establish a new technical committee to define standards for menstrual products. This historic decision comes as the culmination of a global conversation that the RHSC and its Menstrual Health Workstream enriched with the following activities:

- [Three webinars](#) held in 2020 on menstrual product standards
- Development of a [reference guide](#) to menstrual product standards
- Publication of the report: [Development of Disposable and Reusable Sanitary Pad Standards in LMICs](#)

West Africa champions the VAN

This month 40 participants convened in Dakar to share lessons learned about VAN and use it more effectively as a tool for advancing contraceptive security across West Africa. Hosted by WAHO with support from key partners (KfW, Ouagadougou Partnership, RHSC, UNFPA, USAID), the meeting assembled delegates from 12 West African countries. The impressive results reported by delegates from Ghana and Nigeria ignited a wave of interest and by the end of the meeting, Senegal, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo had formally requested more advanced access to the VAN; others had initiated a series of one-on-one capacity building sessions. West Africa is well on its way to demonstrating the

transformative potential of increased supply chain visibility. So for more information, please contact the VAN Director, Julia White at jwhite@rhsupplies.org.

Compass now poised for action

Three new [fact sheets](#) have been released under the banner of Compass – our new initiative to operationalize the recommendations of last year’s JSI/RHSC COVID-19 [Roadmap](#). The factsheets introduce Compass’ three priority areas: greater local ownership of manufacturing and supply chains; managing the competition for scarce resources; and learning from success. Each factsheet is designed to be used as a springboard for further discussion and proposal development under each of the Coalition’s IMs. For more information, contact the Secretariat lead for Compass, Senior Technical Officer, Safia Ahsan at sahsan@rhsupplies.org.

Reiterating the case for gloves and forceps

In early 2020, an Innovation Fund-commissioned a [white paper](#) that demonstrated how the lack of equipment and consumables such as gloves and forceps was undermining the achievement of national and global family planning goals. The paper noted that shortfalls arise because adequate funding for consumables is often not systematically factored into financial and supply planning. A newly-published [Knowledge Success blog](#) brings this issue back into the spotlight by referencing the original work.



LAPTOP scholar discusses conflict, curfews & commodities

The 12-year conflict in northeastern Nigeria has led to the deaths of more than 350,000 people. In a region where conflict disrupts every aspect of daily life, supply chain managers like Nkoli Nnamonu need exceptional skills to get supplies to the last mile. [Click here to learn](#) how Nkoli, one of our recent LAPTOP Scholars, has applied what she learned from her recent CIPS Level 4 diploma course to make the impossible possible.

New VAN Control Tower Analyst

Afua Aggrey has just joined the Coalition Secretariat as a Control Tower Analyst with the VAN Team. Afua joins us from the Global Health Supply Chain-Procurement and Supply Management project (GHSC-PSM) in Ghana where she supported the design and implementation of the country's own national electronic management information system, otherwise known as GHILMIS. Welcome, Afua!

IN THE CALENDAR

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

25-28 May

Ghent, Belgium

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November

Pattaya City, Thailand

[Women Deliver 2023](#)

July 2023

Kigali, Rwanda



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