

TOP STORY



In Malawi, upstream and downstream converge under the VAN

This month, Malawi became the second country to link its national electronic management information system or “eLMIS” to the VAN – a key program priority under the “Movement” arm of the RHSC’s new 3M workplan. To mark this event, the VAN has unveiled an enhanced, user-friendly dashboard that will allow the country’s supply chain managers to visualize and track product flows across all levels, from

manufacturer to central to district levels and down to service delivery points. It will allow them to manage resource allocations, ensure adequate stock levels, and even see the history of reporting rates across their service delivery points. To connect with what are essentially separate logistics systems at country level, the VAN makes use of an intermediary platform called OpenHIM – a feature that has huge implications for the VAN’s ability to scale up globally its efforts at end-to-end visibility. The next quarter will be critical as country data managers begin using the enhanced system, bringing all parts of it into alignment, and improving quality and performance.

IN THE NEWS

New LAPTOP video explains entry into supply chain workforce

In the latest video of the LAPTOP series, 11 supply chain experts share their thoughts on what it takes to enter the field of supply chain management. Starting with the numerous entry qualifications that, in effect, act as gatekeepers, the experts weigh the merits of pursuing academic degrees, on-the-job training, or some combination of the two. Join the nearly 4,000 viewers who have already seen Episode 2 and [watch it here](#). The LAPTOP video series is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation with a view to cultivating the next generation of supply chain managers and leaders.

Latin America poised to boost Last Mile operations

A new feature of the SEPREMI business intelligence platform has now made it possible for health authorities from across Latin America to assess the effectiveness of their supply chains and, in the process, identify both bottlenecks and areas for further investment. Known as Last Mile Assurance (LMA), the new module was recently unveiled to procurers and health officials from 14 countries at ForoLAC’s first [Encuentro](#) of 2022. Developed

with the support of UNFPA, the LMA module allows countries to score and compare their performance indicators with neighboring or similar countries in the region. For more information, please contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

New resources on quality standards for menstrual products

DevSolutions has completed a [review](#) of quality standards for disposable and reusable menstrual pads in low- and middle-income countries. They found that while standards exist across much of Africa, the same is not true for South and Southeast Asia. India, which just released standards for reusable pads, is one exception. DevSolutions also launched an online [inventory](#) of existing technical standards for menstrual pads and a [guidance brief](#) to assist Indian government officials and others to advocate for the enforcement of menstrual pad standards at state level. These resources are available on the RHSC website and the Menstrual Health Hub, an information network comprising 908 member organizations from 131 countries. For additional information please contact Tanya Mahajan at tanyadargan@gmail.com or Sumati Joshi at joshisumati33@gmail.com.

Colombia's decriminalization of abortion focuses on supplies

Colombia's recent decriminalisation of abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy has galvanized efforts to set clear guidelines for improving access to self-managed medical abortion, especially by migrants and other vulnerable populations. RHSC members [Profamilia Colombia](#) and [Fundación Oriéntame](#) are scaling up provision of mifepristone and the mifepristone–misoprostol combi-pack, previously issued only in cases of incest, rape, or risk to the health of the mother and/or fetus.

Recording: webinar on menstrual waste management

Demand for disposable menstrual products is growing, according to findings emerging from the [LEAP Analysis](#). Improper disposal practices, limited options for disposal, and poor or absent waste management options mean that waste material is finding its way into the environment. To raise awareness and understanding of the impact of menstrual waste, the RHSC Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream and the Menstrual Hygiene Management in Emergencies Working Group have organized a three-part webinar series.

The first webinar, Understanding the Menstruator, is available [online](#).



How the audacity of Hope took on Uganda's supply chains

When LAPTOP Scholar Hope Fortunate Achiro applied for the post of Chief Quality Control Officer at Uganda's National Medical Stores, some thought she was too young, and rather audaciously ambitious. [Read here](#) how she countered prejudice, got the job, and is making potentially lifesaving changes in supply chain practice.

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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