

TOP STORY



VAN shares answer to data-sharing minefield

The saying ‘data is the new oil of the digital economy’ has been doing its rounds for some years now. But sharing this new “virtual gold” has become a legal minefield with enormous potential for professional misunderstandings. Leveraging the RHSC’s unique role as a broker of trusted partnerships, the VAN introduced a [new policy framework](#) that promises to revolutionize this sensitive and highly contentious space. A new case study *Sharing Data Across a Community* tells the story of the VAN’s data sharing policies, highlighting the importance of

balancing trust with the realities of partner self-interest.

[Download the Case Study](#)

IN THE NEWS

Product intro & commodity security to feature at ICFP2022

Given their leadership roles in the supplies arena, the RHSC and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are leading ICFP2022's new track on New Product Introduction and Commodity Security. RHSC Deputy Director Brian McKenna and the Foundation's Senior Program Officer Kirsten Vogelsong screened and triaged for review more than 120 submissions. Meanwhile, the RHSC's own presence this year at ICFP2022 will be significant. It will include a pre-formed panel on the value proposition of the VAN; a presentation on supply chains in the humanitarian-development nexus; and multiple poster sessions on digital supply chain innovations. Watch this space for updates on the RHSC's presence at ICFP2022.



Upsurge in scholarship applicants prompts call for sponsorship

Last month saw the highest number of applicants in a single round of the LAPTOP Scholarship program. Over 130 applicants vied for the **13 scholarships** awarded — all to recipients from sub-Saharan Africa, including our youngest ever scholar, aged 22. This upsurge in interest is a reminder that the RHSC’s ability to provide LAPTOP scholarships hinges on the generosity of the many donors and private sponsors who have made the program possible. We encourage members from across the Coalition to help us support LAPTOP and cultivate tomorrow’s supply chain leaders. Please contact Shannon Mills at smills@rhsupplies.org for more information.

Menstruation toolkit now available in Portuguese

Starting this month, Portuguese speakers will have access to a newly translated version of the popular toolkit, [Managing Menstruation: Know Your Options](#). The toolkit, hosted by the Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream, offers readers a full range of safe self-care options for managing menstrual bleeding, addressing pain management, and understanding the interaction of contraception and menstruation. A [blog](#) by author Lucy Wilson, cross-posted on the [RHSC blogsite](#), speaks about her motivation behind creating this unique tool.

Central America re-focuses energies on adolescent RH

Health professionals from across Central America met last month in Panama to revive a coordinated regional effort to address the RH needs of adolescents. Spearheaded by RHSC member [SECOMISCA](#), an intergovernmental entity that prioritizes health concerns in Central America and the Dominican Republic, the meeting saw ministerial delegations from eight countries develop and endorse guidelines on rights-based approaches to adolescent contraception. These guidelines, once approved, will form the basis for a new multi-donor initiative, supported jointly by ForoLAC and SECOMISCA, to increase young people's access to long-acting reversible contraception, initially in three countries: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Honduras. For more information, contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Ipas presents efforts to improve forecasting of abortion supplies

This month, RHSC member Ipas hosted a webinar to present the results of its recent Innovation Fund award to strengthen capabilities for forecasting abortion-related supplies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country recently liberalized its legal and policy framework on abortion but did so without any means in place to forecast stocks of abortion commodities. Ipas designed and applied a comprehensive forecasting tool to determine the national public sector commodity requirements. They also worked to ensure broad-based stakeholder recognition of the need for robust forecasting processes. The one-hour webinar also featured presentations from WHO and [VSHD](#) on the landscaping assessments conducted recently for quality-assured medical abortion supplies in nine countries.

Webinar offers peek into future of menstrual waste management

A three-part webinar series on menstrual waste management concluded this month with a presentation on innovative solutions for menstrual waste disposal and recycling. Hosted by RHSC, UNHCR, and UNFPA, and organized by the Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream, the event saw partners introduce a fascinating range of commercial options for addressing the menstrual waste generated by 1.67 billion menstruators worldwide. Catch this installment [here](#).

Ashish Das to represent manufacturers on Executive Committee

Mr. Ashish Das, General Manager/Commercial at pharmaceutical manufacturer, Viatrix (formerly Mylan) has just taken up his seat on the RHSC's governing body, the Executive Committee, representing the commercial and manufacturing sector. Ashish was nominated to the position, following his election in April by the RHSC's Manufacturers Group. Ashish will replace Pfizer's Daniele Russo, whose portfolio within the company changed last year.

Women First Digital becomes Coalition's latest member

This month, [Women First Digital](#) joined the RHSC, becoming its 554th member. Women First Digital is an eHealth social enterprise that applies digital solutions to advance user-controlled healthcare. They operate three multilingual websites offering accessible, stigma-free, de-medicalized abortion and contraception information and services. Read more in their White Paper [here](#).

IN THE CALENDAR

[People that Deliver Global Indaba](#)

12-13 October

Lusaka, Zambia

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November

Pattaya City, Thailand

[Women Deliver 2023](#)

July 2023

Kigali, Rwanda



Reproductive Health
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