

SUPPLYINSIDER

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THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

46%

In 2022, 46% of orders expedited in the VAN were for seven countries in West Africa, including two important transfers between ECOWAS countries. [Read the story.](#)

1.67B

In LMICs alone, there are an estimated 1.67 billion menstruators — 38–61% of whom are not currently using purpose-made products, meaning products specifically intended for menstrual health management. [Our blog](#) calls for market development approaches to fund supplies.

72

Since its inception, our LAPTOP Scholarship initiative has funded 72 scholars from LMICs to pursue their supply chain management courses. Apply for our latest round of scholarships [here](#).

THE LATEST



Senegal becomes VAN's newest Premium member

This month Senegal joined seven of its West African neighbors in becoming a VAN Premium member. Government officials and implementing partners gathered in Thies, Senegal, to learn how to use the VAN, and to see how the platform increases coordination and resilience in the region, helping countries ensure reproductive health supplies are where they're needed. Premium member countries are better able to work with partners to move product around in the face of challenges, through expedition and inter-country transfers, because enhanced data visibility allows them to detect barriers and find solutions. In 2022, 46% of orders expedited in the VAN were for seven countries in West Africa, including two important transfers between ECOWAS countries. [See more here.](#)



The importance of market development approaches in menstrual supplies

To ensure sustainable, long-term access to quality, affordable menstrual products that meet the needs and preferences of menstruators, there is a need to encourage market development approaches, writes Senior Technical Officer Sarah Webb [in her recent blog](#). You can hear Ms. Webb's [thoughts on this issue](#) at the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos, where she joined experts from the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, The Case for Her, and 2X Global.



Research on joint supply planning in West Africa available online

Last year, as part of the [Compass Initiative](#), the RHSC launched a project with Chemonics International to identify challenges to, and opportunities for, joint supply planning in West Africa, with a view toward regional decision-making around reproductive health supply planning. Several data sources related to this topic were collected during the initial literature review; they are now available in our publications database. [Read more for individual links.](#)



Updated DMPA-SC and self-injection advocacy tools find new home

The DMPA-SC Advocacy Pack – long hosted on the RHSC website – can now be found in the [DMPA-SC Resource Library](#). Updated last year by the [Injectables Access Collaborative](#), the Advocacy Pack includes 20 helpful resources for advocates and decision makers including summaries of the latest evidence on DMPA-SC and self-injection scale-up, advocacy messaging examples, and templates for policy briefs and slide decks. While designed to strengthen advocacy for DMPA-SC and self-injection, this material is also a helpful reference for anyone seeking to advance access to new products. Available in English and French in PDF, Word, and PPT formats, materials are customizable and unbranded so they can be tailored to users' needs. For more information, contact FPoptions@path.org.



New VAN control tower analyst joins RHSC

Diallo Afadhali has joined the RHSC as one of the VAN's Francophone Control Tower Analysts. Based in Rwanda, Mr. Afadhali has a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree and has worked for global health equity in operations, market access and supply chain management with organizations such as the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). We wish him a long and happy stay at the RHSC!

RHSC thanks SSWG's outgoing Chair

Having completed his two-year term as [SSWG](#) Chair, John Durgavich, Senior Technical Advisor for Forecasting and Supply Planning at GHSC-PSM, will be stepping down from his role as Chair. A voluntary nomination committee has been busy overseeing our Chair election process and we will announce election results in the next issue of SupplyInsider. The RHSC would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Durgavich for his tireless support and leadership.



Scholarship application deadline this week

Last month, we announced the launch of our latest round of LAPTOP Scholarships, [this time for applicants from Latin America and the Caribbean](#), for professionals in the health sector, with a special focus on sexual and reproductive health. This initiative aims to empower individuals by providing financial support of up to US \$3000 per person to cover the costs of a supply chain management or logistics course. Apply by close of business on 29th February.

NEW MEMBERS

[The Public Health Institute \(PHI\)](#) improves health, equity, and wellness through new research, strengthening key partnerships and programs, and advancing sound public health policies. The PHI is home to 100+ programs working around the globe.

The [International Association of Public Health Logisticians \(IAPHL\)](#) is a

global community of practice housed within John Snow Inc, working toward strong and well-run supply chains reaching all people with life-saving health products.

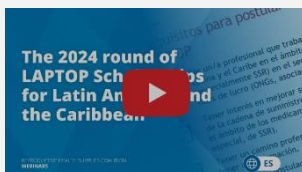
The [Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States \(OECS\) Commission](#) is an international inter-governmental organization dedicated to regional integration in the Eastern Caribbean, procuring RH Commodities on behalf of nine member states.

[Swedcon18](#) is a company based in Sweden offering tailored IT solutions to health-focused businesses. It powers Carelyo, a digital healthcare platform which will soon launch operations in Nigeria and Ghana.

In the Netherlands, [HER Network Europe](#) is a consultancy promoting and advocating for women's health in Europe and the Middle East.

[Action Against Hunger](#) in the United States works to support family planning and reproductive health in fragile settings through financing, advocacy, governance, and improving policy.

NEW WEBINARS



[The 2024 round of LAPTOP Scholarships for Latin America and the Caribbean \(Spanish\)](#)

IN THE CALENDAR

6-8 March 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

[People that Deliver Global Indaba](#)


6-8 April 2024 | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania


[WomenLift Health Global Conference](#)


20-24 May 2024 | Lilongwe, Malawi


[9th African Population Conference - Road to 2030: Leveraging Africa's human capital to achieve transformation in a world of uncertainty](#)

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