

TOP STORY



New tool helps estimate the risk of a shipment disruption

As countries take steps to stop the spread of COVID-19, many of those same steps—mandatory home confinement, restricted movement of goods and people, and even social distancing—are wreaking havoc on the world’s supply chains. Until now, it’s been difficult to assess the risk of a shipment disruption, if for no other reason than the sheer number of potential obstacles that come into play: from the multiple sources of product ingredients, to the prevailing disease burden at each step along the way, to the mitigation strategies in effect within and between countries. But now, a new RHSC tool, [D-RISC](#), helps estimate risk by factoring in variables (health, policy, transport, etc.) with the potential to impede movement along the total journey or “supply lane” from manufacturer to

consumer. For more information, contact Abi Beaudette at abeaudette@rhsupplies.org.

IN THE NEWS

RHSC and JSI launch new effort to build roadmap for action

Supply chain resilience and survival are at the heart of many ongoing debates within the SRH supplies community. Will the new normal ever be like the old? Should we shore up the global systems that have served us well? Or do we focus energies on addressing the immediate challenges of today? Whatever our viewpoints, the road ahead will only become clear once we've dug deeper, and prioritized the constraints that impede movement of products from manufacturer to the last mile. To that end, the RHSC with support from JSI is engaging the wider SRH community in a rapid assessment of supply chain complexities. The aim is to develop a "Roadmap" for building resilient public health supply chains during COVID-19 and beyond. It will help foster more agile supply chains that promote rapid demand sensing; mitigate the risk of future supply chain disruption; and reduce the inefficiencies created by funding cycles and policies. For more information, contact [Leslie Patykewich](#) at JSI.

MICRO attests to strength of RHSC-GFF partnership

Since the Global Financing Facility (GFF) took its seat on the Coalition's Executive Committee just over a year ago, the partnership between the two organizations has gone from strength to strength, culminating last month in the development of [MICRO](#), a new tool to for assessing the supply-related consequences of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Fresh on the heels of MICRO's [launch](#), an article co-written by the GFF's Brendan Hayes, Avenir Health's Michelle Weinberger, and RHSC's John Skibiak and Julia White asks [What It Would Take to Ensure Continued Access to Contraception During COVID-19](#). An [accompanying blog](#) queries: "Are we ready to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on family planning and contraceptives?". Executive Committee member Dr. Monique Vledder quoted topline MICRO figures in a [Reuters news piece](#) to express her concern over declining access to RH supplies, and referenced MICRO again in a recent CGD [webinar on global players responding to COVID-19](#). Now, users can get country-specific

information by downloading [MICRO summary briefs](#): one-page briefs with key information, and two-page briefs that provide a more in-depth data analysis.

AAWG demands uninterrupted supplies during pandemic

RH supplies and services are essential and life-saving and so cannot be interrupted during a crisis, says a recently released [call-to-action from the Coalition's Advocacy and Accountability Working Group](#) (AAWG). The call asks that RH supplies and services be included in COVID-19 emergency response interventions and policies; that interruptions of supply chains be resolved; and that continued financial support to reproductive health supplies be assured. The statement comprises a series of policy, supply chain, and financing recommendations to donors, governments, and the private sector. For more information please contact Charlotte Soulary at csoulary@rhsupplies.org.

RHSC helps shape conversation on COVID-19 and supplies

Coalition Director John Skibiak has called for new ways to adapt existing supply chains in order to head off the ravages COVID-19 is wreaking on RH supplies. [Speaking to Devex](#), he envisioned a post-COVID world with wider use of telemedicine and more automated delivery of supplies, while in his interview for a [Knowledge SUCCESS article](#), he predicted the rise of shorter supply chains and generic manufacturers, both offering “security in having supplies come in, literally, from next door.” In his blog [hosted by Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters](#), he called for alternative supply options where contraceptive choice is limited; new ways to deliver supplies and services in the face of social distancing; and greater flexibility in securing regulatory approval of new quality-assured products. Periods do not stop for pandemics, Advocacy Officer Charlotte Soulary reminded us, in her blog [Access to Menstrual Health Supplies during COVID-19: what have we learnt?](#), which maps five ways to help mitigate COVID-19's impact on menstrual health supply access. And in her [Interview with the French Development Agency](#), Ms. Soulary warned that as access to supplies dwindles during the pandemic, the up to 1 million projected unwanted pregnancies would lead to more unsafe abortions, more healthcare costs, and more women dying.

Menstrual Health workstream welcomes new co-leader

Tanya Mahajan from Development Solutions Inc., and also the co-founder of the Menstrual Health Alliance India, joins Nancy Muller in leading the Menstrual Health workstream of the NURHT Caucus. We welcome her on board and thank outgoing co-chair Shamirah Nakalema for her contributions.

IN THE CALENDAR

[General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#)

New Date:
27-30 September 2021
Accra, Ghana

[International Conference on Family Planning 2021](#)

8-11 November 2021
Pattaya City, Thailand



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