

## TOP STORY



### ***A minka* for bringing our workplan to life**

With funding now secured, the time has come to breathe life into our [2021-2025 workplan](#). On 27-28 April, we follow the ancient Andean tradition of a “minka” to assemble our members and work together as one. Register now and check out the two-day agenda on [our meeting hub](#).

[Join the meeting](#)

## IN THE NEWS



### **ForoLAC introduces new Comité Directivo**

This month, the [ForoLAC](#) introduced its [new governing body or Comité Directivo](#), consisting of representatives of government, civil society, and the research community. Earlier this year, the forum's Chair, Nora Quesada, issued an open call for nominations and reached out to supply champions from across the region. The committee will look to ForoLAC's [2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#) as its road map and, given the challenges of COVID-19, address the need for robust supply chains. The new team will serve until December 2022.

### **Country engagement in the VAN grows**

Over the past three months, 21 governments have joined the [VAN](#), bringing the total number of countries eligible to explore the platform for their data needs to 24. GHSC-PSM partner, Panagora, has just published an [article](#), profiling the VAN's country engagement work by team members Chiedu Ezeadum and Tamah Kamlem, both of whom have been seconded to the VAN by Panagora.

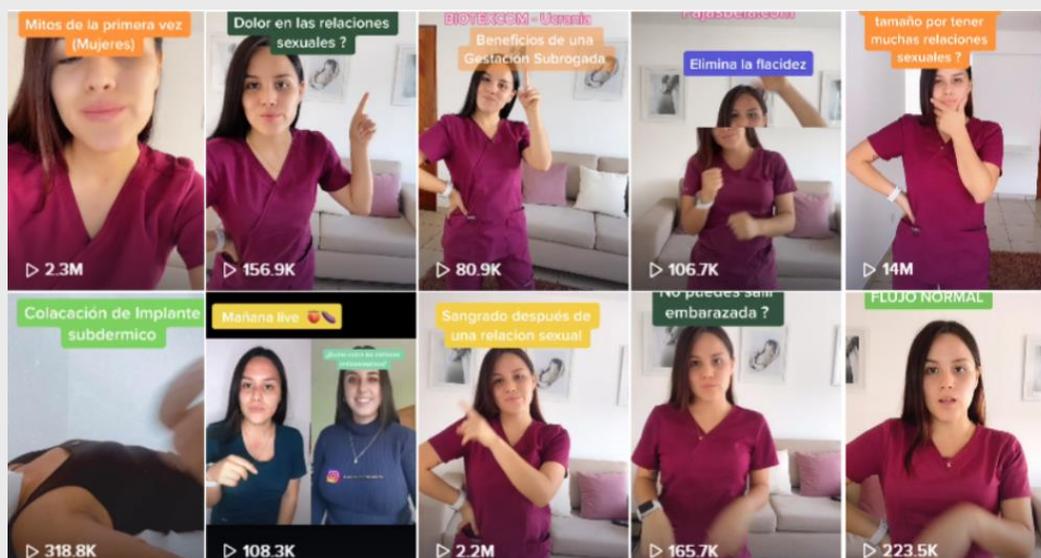
### **Ethiopia leverages VAN membership for end-to-end visibility**

Ethiopia, one of the four pioneering countries to join the VAN last year, is creating an electronic network that taps attributes of the VAN to trace products from manufacturer to the last mile. Hear Heran Gerba, Director General of the Ethiopian Food and Drug

Authority (EFDA) talk about end-to-end connections in this [livestream presentation hosted by JSI](#).

## New study addresses access to menstrual health products

This month, [Mann Global Health](#) began mapping the complex ecosystem that links access to different menstrual health (MnH) products with market and supply chain considerations – all with the aim of tailoring market interventions to realities on the ground. The work will be completed this summer and will identify bottlenecks and recommend improvements.



## Two Peruvian midwives take social media by storm

Two young midwives from the RIAMA network in Peru are using social media to talk about contraception and sexual health. The midwives, [Salma Elguera](#) and [Sandra Barahona](#), together reach nearly a million TikTok followers, plus thousands more on Facebook and Instagram, and tell their story on our Medium platform. No subject is too sensitive as the two regularly cut through embarrassment and stigma to take vital information straight to young women with the help of dance and music. Both midwives obtain their contraceptives from the RHSC-sponsored RIAMA Network in Lima, managed by Peruvian social marketing organization APROPO.

## **Fireside chat reflects on recent forecasting competition**

This month, the Chair of the SSWG, Laila Akhlaghi, moderated a [“Fireside Chat”](#) on the lessons of USAID’s recent Intelligent Forecasting Competition. Evolving health systems and digital infrastructure have made it possible to more accurately predict future contraceptive needs, and the competition sought to encourage innovation in forecasting methods to predict contraceptive consumption, specifically in Côte d'Ivoire’s public sector health system. The discussion included Kevin Pilz and Glenn Milano of USAID; as well as competition winners Trista Chen and Jonathan Soeseno of Inventec.

### **IN THE CALENDAR**

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<a href="#"><u>A minka for bringing our workplan to life - Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Virtual Meeting</u></a>	<b>27-28 April 2021</b> Virtual Event
<a href="#"><u>CCIH 2021: Cultivating Unity in Global Health</u></a>	<b>11-27 May 2021</b> Virtual Event
<a href="#"><u>European Development Days 2021</u></a>	<b>15-16 June 2021</b> Virtual Event
<a href="#"><u>16th European Society of Contraception Congress</u></a>	<b>1-4 September 2021</b> Ghent, Belgium
<a href="#"><u>FIGO World Congress 2021</u></a>	<b>21-28 October 2021</b> Virtual Event
<a href="#"><u>International Conference on Family Planning 2022</u></a>	<b>14-17 November 2022</b> Pattaya City, Thailand

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