

TOP STORY



Our *minka* moved mountains within ambitious schedule

This month, more than 250 participants from around the world met at our virtual *minka* to learn from one another and plot a course of action that breathes life into the Coalition's 2021-2025 workplan. The ease of registration and worldwide accessibility meant that one-fifth of participants were first-time attendees to an RHSC meeting. Working groups and workstreams partnered up with one another to help build their respective workplans. Nearly all post-meeting survey respondents gave the meeting their thumbs-up, praising its

organization and seamless flow of events. Meeting resources and recordings can be found [on the meeting page](#).

IN THE NEWS

‘State of the Coalition’ sums up triumphant year

"Nowhere and no one has been left untouched," said RHSC Director John Skibiak in his recent State of the Coalition address, referring to COVID-19's global onslaught. The speech touched on the community's coordinated fight against the pandemic's effect on supplies, the VAN's momentous achievements, the Coalition's commitment to new health areas, and the strategic process to forge the RHSC's four-year [workplan](#). The State of the Coalition address [can be heard online](#).



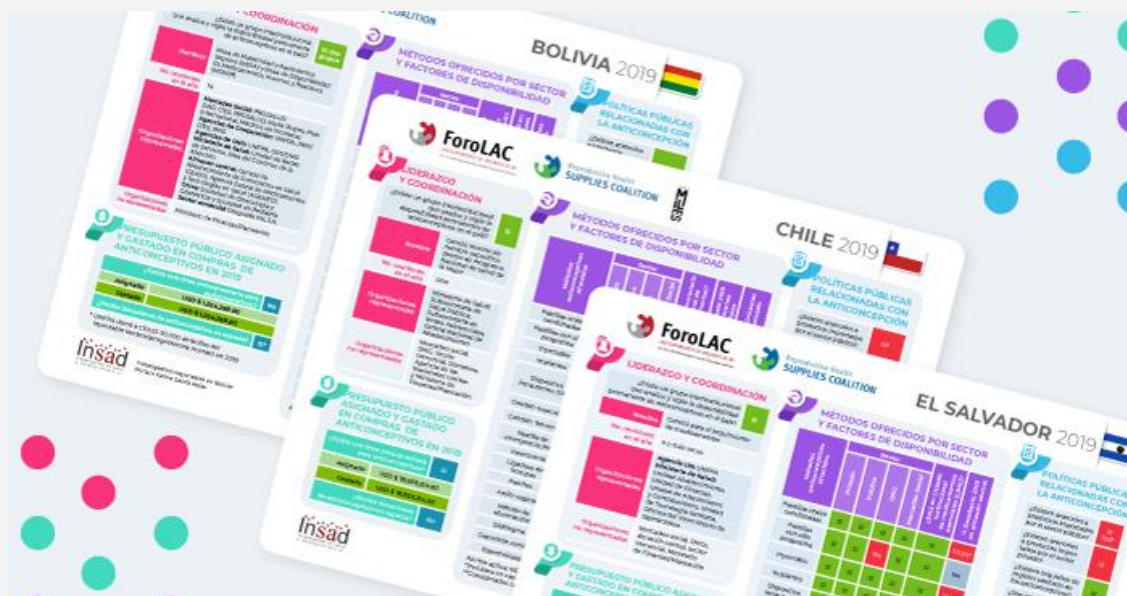
New COVID roadmap traverses the supply landscape

At this month's minka, John Snow, Inc (JSI) and the RHSC presented the results of their joint six-month exercise to assess pandemic-induced constraints to reproductive health product availability. Collaboration with the Ministries of Health in Ethiopia, Kenya, and

Zambia and more than 50 interviews offered insights into challenges and lessons in resiliency. Research findings informed a roadmap aimed at helping global- and national-level actors strengthen end-to-end supply chains for RH products. The focus is on accelerating the adoption of practices that worked well in 2020 to promote broader product availability while addressing those weaknesses that pose the greatest threat in the short and long term. [Read the report](#) and [watch a recent video presentation](#) of the report. For more information, please contact Alexis Heaton at alexis_heaton@jsi.com.

Challenging preconceptions about the market for combi-packs

How unique is the market for co-packaged mifepristone and misoprostol medical abortion packs (combi-packs)? Are they regarded by the commercial sector as just another pharmaceutical product? Who exactly are the combi-pack supply chain actors? A new report presents lessons learned from the recent RHSC effort to leverage the role of commercial distributors to increase access to combi-packs in sub-Saharan Africa. It debunks long-held myths and assumptions around the marketing of combi-packs and it takes a deep dive into Francophone Africa's distinctive supply system. Read and download the [report here](#).



Contraceptive security tracked in 12 LAC countries

ForoLAC has launched a set of Spanish-language fact sheets that document contraceptive security in 12 Latin American countries. The [fact sheets](#) provide a summary of the

Contraceptive Security Indicators first established by USAID/DELIVER in 2009 and carried on by GHSC-PSM. The indicators look at national shortages, number of manufacturers for each method, political and market barriers in the country, method availability, national contraceptive-related policies, and public budget allocated to, and spent on, contraceptives in 2019. Given the withdrawal of donor assistance and the region's exclusion from many global procurement mechanisms, better insight into the supply realities of the region increase prospects for reducing unmet need and bringing visibility to regional inequities. Fact sheets are now available for: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru.

A snapshot of success

The VAN's Consensus Planning Group (CPG) has completed a landmark first year that has seen it mobilize resources (\$10M), yield additional CYPs (662K), and generate savings by preventing overstocks and potential expiries (\$2M). A new [infographic](#) highlights key outcomes the past year.

New Chair for ForoLAC

Martin Gutiérrez, Special Advisor at IPPF Western Hemisphere Region (IPPFWHR) succeeds Nora Quesada as the new ForoLAC Chair. He brings with him experience of developing INNOVA, a social marketing organization for reproductive health supplies across the region. He has also worked to raise the profile of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and in resource mobilization, communications, and health research. As we welcome him, we express our deep gratitude to Nora Quesada for her two terms of valuable and envisioned leadership.

AAWG welcomes new co-Chair

Habeeb Salami from Pathfinder has joined Sara Stratton as co-Chair of the AAWG. A medical doctor specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Salami has been an active member of the AAWG and Maternal Health Caucus for several years. We welcome Dr. Salami on board, thank all the candidates, and express our gratitude to outgoing co-Chair Rosemarie Muganda.

NEW MEMBERS

[Centro de Cuidado Integral de Salud \(Cecis\)](#) in Peru works to protect the reproductive rights of disenfranchised populations.

In Tanzania, [Kasole Secrets Company](#) is a female-founded social enterprise providing both private companies and individual customers with sanitary products.

[Women on Web International Foundation](#) is a Canadian non-profit organization sponsoring a clinical trial for mifepristone 50 mg as a contraceptive.

In the Netherlands, the [Access to Medicine Foundation](#) is a partner of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and works to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to support people in low- and middle-income countries.

IN THE CALENDAR

[Webinar: Accountability and sexual and reproductive health and rights research](#)

17 May 2021

Webinar

[CCIH 2021: Cultivating Unity in Global Health](#)

11-27 May 2021

Virtual Event

[European Development Days 2021](#)

15-16 June 2021

Virtual Event

[FIGO World Congress 2021](#)

21-28 October 2021

Virtual Event

[16th European Society of Contraception Congress](#)

25-28 May 2022

Ghent, Belgium

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November 2022

Pattaya City, Thailand



Reproductive Health
SUPPLIES COALITION

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