

TOP STORY



Menstrual product standards at a glance

What is the state of quality standards for disposable and reusable sanitary pads, menstrual cups, and tampons around the world? Why does it matter? And what can you do about it? Written by the RHSC's Menstrual Health Supply Workstream co-chairs Tanya Mahajan and Nancy Muller, a [newly-published brief](#) summarizes the current status of menstrual health supplies standards in low- and middle-income countries, key standardization categories, barriers to establishing uniform global standards, and recommendations for overcoming these challenges. This brief is also available [in Spanish](#).

IN THE NEWS

ForoLAC membership meeting tackles big issues

In a region facing systematic price hikes and access inequities exacerbated by the pandemic, Latin America's reproductive health community is eager for action. More than 200 people registered for the ForoLAC's recent virtual membership meeting, including representatives of 14 LAC health ministries as well as—for the first time—regional manufacturers. Menstrual supplies and humanitarian access issues in Venezuela were two key issues attracting high engagement. The meeting's two plenary sessions can be [watched here in Spanish with English subtitles](#), the first focusing on the health economics of contraceptives and the second a historical journey through the development of contraceptives, starting in ancient Greece. For more information on outcomes, please contact ForoLAC Regional Advisor Milka Dinev on mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Walking through LEAP: webinar now online

Last month, more than 180 people joined a webinar to mark the launch of the new [LEAP](#) analysis, which estimates the future demand for, and costs of, supplies in four key health areas – family planning, maternal health, abortion and post-abortion care, and menstrual hygiene. You can [access the recording of the webinar here](#) to hear LEAP's co-authors report top-line findings and explain the processes by which they were reached.

LAPTOP Scholarships

[ForoLAC](#) is pleased to announce the launch of a new round of LAPTOP Scholarships offering up to US\$3,000 per individual to help defray the costs of a course of study in supply chain management. These scholarships seek to motivate young professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean to join the field of health supply chain management. Women are especially encouraged to apply. Please find more information [here](#).

Webinar dives deep into medical abortion distribution channels

This month, Mann Global Health [presented the findings](#) of an in-depth study on medical abortion distribution channels in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria, with an added social marketing organization perspective from PSI. The landscape assessment explored medical

abortion pricing, access channels, and interventions to inform design, testing and scaling of promising solutions for equitable and affordable access. This work, funded by CIFF, followed on from original work contracted by the RHSC, in which Mann [explored](#) how to leverage national distributors' roles to increase access to medical abortion combi-packs in Africa.

Price campaign shakes up social media

RHSC-funded research targeting opportunistic price hikes of oral contraceptives in Latin America has taken social media by storm. The attendant media campaign has, to date, achieved a total reach of 170K hits on Instagram, 390K on Facebook, and 61K on Twitter. Advocates can access Spanish-language country reports on the research from [Peru](#), [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), and [Uruguay](#).

New brief traces journey from PPMR to the VAN

Thirty-three countries that once depended on the PPMR to track their stocks and supply orders are now doing so through the VAN. What does this transition mean and why is it important? A [newly-published brief](#) sheds light on the behind-the-scenes processes that made the transition possible. It also tracks the powerful collaboration between the RHSC and its partners that today makes possible rapid problem-solving and strengthened supply planning.

Safe Abortion Supplies Workstream welcomes new Co-Chair

Concept Foundation's Petra Procter will succeed Florence Erb as Co-Chair alongside Nathalie Kapp. We thank Florence for her two years' service and welcome Petra on board.

NEW MEMBERS

[The Pad Project](#) is the US-based nonprofit behind the 2019 Academy Award-winning documentary short [Period. End of Sentence](#). It aims to increase menstrual equity by combining pad machines and washable pad programs with community partnerships and sexual and reproductive health education, and combats period poverty in the U.S. by

providing school districts with microgrants to purchase bulk menstrual supplies.

[Eco Ser](#) is a small private company in Uruguay specializing in the import and sale of alternative menstrual products. Eco Ser introduced the Mooncup menstrual cup to the market in Uruguay and designs educational material about menstruation for children and young people aged nine and older.

IN THE CALENDAR

[FIGO World Congress 2021](#)

21-28 October

Virtual Event

[19th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development](#)

17-18 November

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



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