

TOP STORY

A new Compass to steer us along the COVID Roadmap

Our brand-new initiative [Compass — Charting the Way Ahead](#) builds upon the analysis and findings of the JSI/RHSC COVID-19 [Roadmap](#), released earlier this year. Compass will provide the technical support and necessary funding to assess, pilot test, and/or apply the Roadmap's key recommendations, all of which seek to address short-term supply chain needs and/or ensure greater supply chain resilience in an uncertain future. A first blog, [Sharing the Compass](#), aims to help our members prepare for this exciting journey together. For any queries, please write to Safia Ahsan at sahsan@rhsupplies.org.

IN THE NEWS

New blog reveals how, by working together, we averted the worst of the UK's 2021 funding cuts

The UK government's substantial funding cuts earlier this year set in motion a tailspin of ever-widening funding gaps across the reproductive health community. As this year comes

to an end, we can take some relief in knowing that the worst of what could have happened was averted by the RH community having come together to increase levels of financial support, and by having targeted that support to the countries that needed it most. The RHSC was at the center of these efforts, tapping both its convening capacity and its ability to put to effective use, critical data sources, including some only available through the VAN. Today, millions of women around the world have access to supplies they almost didn't get. [This new blog](#) details the trajectory of the collective effort and reveals how donors, manufacturers and other key stakeholders put the VAN's data to effective use.

RHSC gets awards to work in Latin America, equip tomorrow's supply chain managers, increase safe abortion supply access

A two-year award from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation will bolster the RHSC's work on access to safe abortion supplies, and inspire young people, especially women, to pursue supply chain management careers. This is Packard's fourth grant to the RHSC for work in these areas. At the same time, a separate anonymous donor has just renewed its support for the RHSC's work in Latin America. This new one-year initiative will increase the efficiency of procurement decisions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; help a network of midwives to deliver RH supplies to underserved women in Peru; increase access to long-acting reversible contraception for adolescents in Central America and the Caribbean; and enhance efforts by the private sector to make more affordable implants available to low-income clients in Buenos Aires.

Congo-Brazzaville advocacy network hits the ground running

A new award to the Congolese NGO, [ACPED](#), to advocate for increased domestic investment in RH supply chains, is already reaping returns. The award builds on the foundations of a previous FondsSeconaf grant to Congo Brazzaville's IPPF Member Association, [ACBEF](#), which led to the development of an advocacy network and strategy to reduce supply stockouts through greater public sector investment in reproductive health commodity security. Under this new award, a national coalition of advocates, managed by ACPED, has taken off. It is already [making waves](#) in the media and has initiated discussions with the health ministry, central medical store officials, and senate members serving on the country's health commission.

RHSC welcomes two new staff

We are delighted to announce two new members of the VAN Team, Yaye Marone and Alfred Muriithi. Yaye, who hails from Senegal, was previously Reproductive Health Analyst with GHSC-PSM. Alfred, who is based in Nairobi, joins us from CHAI where he worked there with the Ministry of Health, donors, and other partners to implement health-related projects.

Spanish-language webinar looks at lifting “period taxes”

A **new Spanish-language webinar**, co-hosted by WASH United and ForoLAC, looks at the state of menstrual product prices and taxes worldwide, and hears from the successful campaign to remove value-added taxes on menstrual products, otherwise known as “period taxes”, in Mexico, as well as an ongoing campaign to do the same in the Dominican Republic.

New leadership at Systems Strengthening Working Group

John Durgavich, Senior Technical Advisor Forecasting and Supply Planning at GHSC-PSM, has taken over the leadership of the Supplies Strengthening Working Group. We welcome him on board, but also extend special thanks to the Working Group’s outgoing Chair, JSI’s Laila Akhlaghi, for her service and support.

IN THE CALENDAR

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

Women Deliver 2023

July 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

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