

TOP STORY



The happy family returns home

Last month, a relic of the former Dutch pharmaceutical company NV Organon made its way to Washington, D.C., where it now occupies pride of place at the offices of the RHSC Secretariat. Copies of the 30-cm high bronze statue, entitled “Happy Family”, were once distributed by the company to officials of family planning-related institutions.

On the occasion of the 2016 Copenhagen Women Deliver Conference, Frank Roijmans, then member of the RHSC Executive Committee and a former executive with NV Organon, presented the statue to the RHSC Secretariat at a dinner held in honor of outgoing committee



member Jagdish Upadhyay. Six years on, and with the consolidation of the RHSC Secretariat in Washington, D.C., it is fitting that the statue should make its new home there.

In 2007, NV Organon was acquired by the US pharmaceutical manufacturer Schering-Plough which, two years later, merged with MSD/Merck. On 5 February 2020, Merck & Co., Inc. (known as Merck, Sharp & Dohme outside the United States and Canada) announced its intention to spin off products from its women’s health, trusted legacy brands, and biosimilars businesses into a new, independent, publicly traded company, known today as Organon & Co, based in New Jersey. The name — and our statue — have now come full circle.

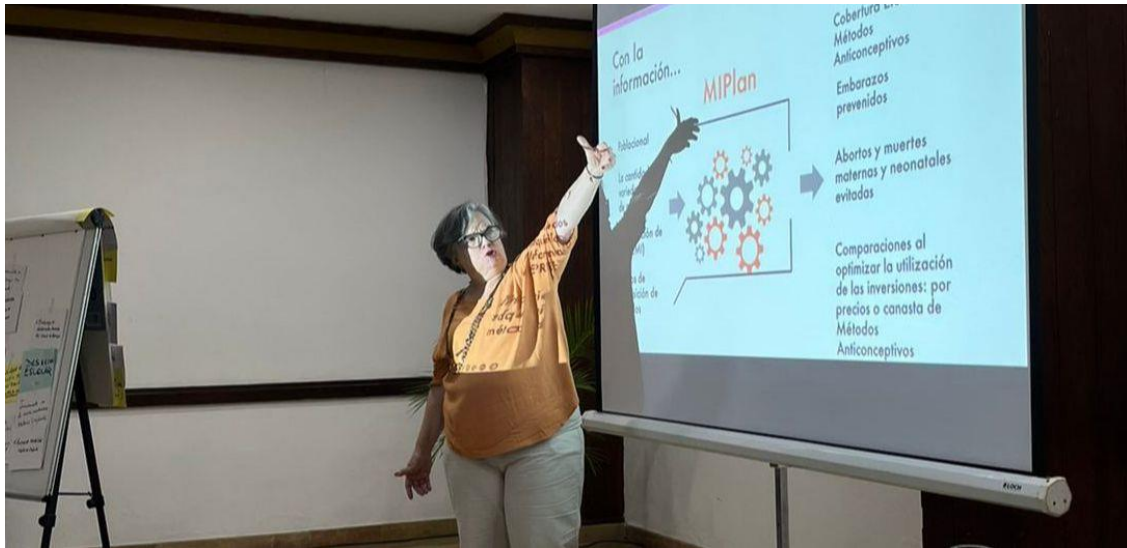
VAN leverages global platform to widen its audience

Lessons learned under the VAN will now reach an even larger global audience, thanks to the [American Productivity & Quality Center \(APQC\)](#) — an authority in best practices, process and performance improvement, and knowledge management — which reshared a series of VAN learning documents through its network of 1,000 member-organizations from 45 industries worldwide

This collaborative effort will bring two distinct audiences together, spotlighting public health supply chain concerns for the larger logistics and supply chain community. Visitors to the collection will need to register on the site before accessing its resources but registration is free. [This blog](#) tells you more about this collaboration.

ForoLAC helps providers estimate safe abortion supplies

ForoLAC joined [PAHO](#) and [CLAP](#) to co-host a five-day course on the quantification of safe abortion supplies. The course made use of materials developed by CHAI with funding from the RHSC. Representatives from more than 20 maternity hospitals across Latin America learned how to use service statistics and demographic data to estimate required quantities of manual vacuum aspiration kits, misoprostol, and medical abortion combi-packs. The interactive course and training materials are being digitized and will be made available in English and Spanish on the RHSC website.



Dominican Republic hosts business intelligence workshop

ForoLAC and UNFPA-LACRO joined Dominican Republic governmental officials to help them generate the evidence needed to inform a new national strategy for reducing adolescent pregnancy. During the two-day workshop, 30 participants learned how to apply ForoLAC's SEPREMI and UNFPA's impact modeling tools, MEMI, to estimate the effect of different budget scenarios on RH outcomes. The workshop marked the first time that officials from five government agencies came together to collaborate on a joint strategy for the reduction of teenage pregnancy. For more information, please contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Positioning the VAN to help ECOWAS countries prioritize funding

The RHSC is actively supporting efforts to position the VAN as a tool for assisting ECOWAS member states to prioritize RH supplies funding. At a workshop on commodity financing sponsored by WAHO and the USAID Francophone Task Order, VAN Director Julia White highlighted how the VAN's procurement gap analyses and other market intelligence tools can be used by national governments to raise awareness of commodity

and procurement funding gaps and needs. The workshop also highlighted the importance of effective advocacy to get FP financing back on the map.

New efforts gather speed under Compass initiative

Since its launch at the end of 2021, the [Compass Initiative](#) – designed to operationalize key recommendations from the JSI/RHSC COVID-19 Roadmap – has gone from strength to strength. New efforts started within all three of Compass priority areas: Towards Regionalization, Managing Scarce Resources, and Learning from Adaptations. [Read a full update here](#). For more information on Compass, contact Safia Ahsan at sahsan@rhsupplies.org.

New webinars

Webinars this month took on a wide array of issues ranging from period tax in francophone countries to the impact of ‘black swan events’ on supply chain functions. Check out the titles below and visit the full webinar library [here](#).

- [Parlons peu - parlons précarité menstruelle](#). French language discussion on the status of period poverty and a look at current campaigns and policy measures addressing the issue.
- [Use of Oxytocin](#). Second webinar of a series studying challenges, solutions, and best practices in the support of appropriate uterotonic use. Panelists discuss the role of oxytocin from findings in Nigeria and India.
- [Recovery strategies for public health supply chains post-black swan event](#). How do supply chain managers react when an event beyond their control impacts not only their local logistics environment but an entire region or the globe? A black swan event — named after the rarity of black swans — can set off severe systemic consequences. This webinar explores how a program/supply chain might best recover.

NEW MEMBERS

[Rescue and Hope](#) is a Benin-based NGO addressing inequalities among adolescents, young mothers, and women, and promoting access to sexual and reproductive health.

Based in the United States and working in LMICs, [Zipline](#) is the world's largest commercial autonomous system, delivering essential medicines, reproductive health commodities, and other program drugs and vaccines by drone.

IN THE CALENDAR

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November

Pattaya City, Thailand

[Women Deliver 2023](#)

July 2023

Kigali, Rwanda



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