As ICFP 2022 kicks off in Pattaya, we invite you to attend key supplies-themed events at the conference. A wide range of voices from the RHSC Secretariat and our member organizations around the world will ask bold questions and share cutting-edge technologies to increase access to reproductive health supplies. All the session information you need can be found here.

Analysis of supply challenges reflects RHSC perspectives
The recently published “Meeting Family Planning Supply Chain Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa” takes a searching look at how global reproductive health supply chains are failing women seeking contraceptives. In coming to grips with the complex, nuanced landscape of bottlenecks and challenges, co-authors Kim Whipkey of the White Ribbon Alliance and Stephanie Bowen of the Wilson Quarterly have drawn on the knowledge and experience of the RHSC’s VAN Director Julia White and Senior Technical Officer Safia Ahsan, as well as Malawi’s deputy minister of health, Enock Phale, who speaks to why his country became a member of the VAN to improve their supply data visibility. This article suggests ways of creating a more resilient—and responsive—family planning supply chain by exploring market shaping solutions; data visibility; and increased and sustained advocacy.

**Review finds info lacking around COVID’s impact on MA**

A newly published scoping review in BMJ Open maps the extent and characteristics of available literature on disruptions to medical abortion (MA) medicine procurement caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Co-authored by RHSC’s Senior Technical Officer Safia Ahsan, “Disruptions to the procurement of medical abortion medicines during COVID-19: a scoping review” flags a significant need for increased empirical evidence of MA procurement.

“I get excited when I talk about data-sharing”
Dr. Clétus Adohinzin is one of seven Ambassadors recently recruited to actively raise the VAN's profile. The Ambassador program has a demanding list of requirements, but Dr. Adohinzin checks the boxes with ease. Read here why he believes so passionately in this data-sharing platform and how his personal story led him to enter the field of reproductive health.

Internship program bridges gap between education and work
An inaugural supply chain internship program in Kisumu, Kenya, has hit the ground running. Funded by the RHSC with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Girls on the Move recruited 30 young women for eight-month placements with public- or private-sector agencies. The program appears to have pre-empted a real need for young talent; requests have come in for additional interns, and two of the young women have already gained employment with their mentor agencies, suggesting that the program promises to be a valuable bridge between graduation and employment. The RHSC has responded flexibly and positively to the call for additional interns and has been able to support six new candidates joining the original intake, but this time in the capital, Nairobi, thereby extending the geographical reach and impact of Girls on the Move. For more information, check out the program's launch here.

Post-partum IUD inserter gets prequalification
Congratulations to RHSC member organization Pregna International Ltd., whose post-partum intra-uterine contraceptive device inserter has received WHO/UNFPA prequalification.

Self-care webinar draws crowds
A recent webinar co-hosted by RHSC’s Market Development Approaches Working Group and the Self-Care Trailblazer Group drew more than 200 participants from 50 countries. Panelists discussed the different perspectives of private sector intervention – manufacturer, pharmacist, provider, and government partnerships – in advancing self-care on a grand scale. You can catch a recording of the webinar on the RHSCs webinar portal here.

IN THE CALENDAR

International Conference on Family Planning 2022
14-17 November
Pattaya City, Thailand

Women Deliver 2023
July 2023
Kigali, Rwanda