

TOP STORY

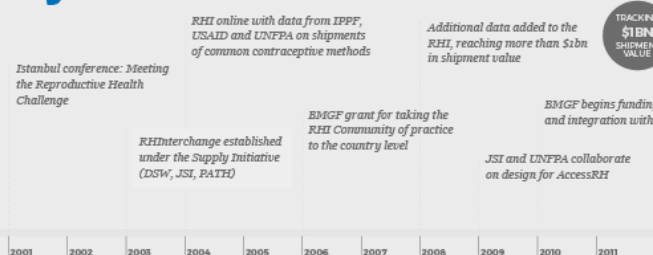


FP supplies provide reality check in the time of COVID-19

Our oft-cited mantra “No product, no program” could be leading us astray according to Coalition Director, John Skibiak. The remarks were made in a webinar hosted by Breakthrough ACTION (Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs) to review the impact of COVID-19 on demand generation and the work of social and behavior change specialists. John saw the global pandemic as revealing an increasingly symbiotic relationship between product and program. While COVID may be affecting all countries, each country is confronting the virus from varying positions of strength or weakness, each striking a balance between on the one hand, the supplies they have in stock, and on the other, the services now in place to deliver those supplies. Struggling to deliver supplies that cannot be provided, while failing to provide those that can is a mistake, he argued. We need the right products in the right quantities and our guidance to country partners must reflect that. Read the full opinion piece [online](#).

Enabling informed decisions globally

Celebrating the pioneers



Launched earlier this year, [RHViz](#) is providing the broader RH community with a ringside seat to the roller-coaster that is today's COVID-19-affected supply chains. Sustained by live shipment data from the [Global FP VAN](#), RHViz is the latest in a long tradition of data-sharing and decision-making tools that extends to the earliest days of the RHSC. It is a tradition that reflects the work of visionaries who forged the very concept of RH supply security. The RHSC has just published [a retrospective look](#) at the pioneering work of a handful of people behind what was, for many years, our flagship tool for tracking supply shipments: the RHInterchange. It speaks of the unique collaborative spirit that has stood the RHSC in good stead for nearly two decades.

Global FP VAN now in French

This month, the [Global FP VAN](#) platform was launched in French, bringing the potential of enhanced supply chain visibility to countries across West Africa and the Francophone world. As a founding member of both the RHSC and CARhs group, the [West African Health Organization](#) (WAHO) was a key driver of this move. Procuring \$3-4M worth of RH commodities each year, WAHO saw the potential for a regional supply chain forum to monitor regional stock levels and make recommendations. Such a forum has long been a subject of discussion within the region, and the VAN offers the prospect of making that discussion a reality.

Now is not the time to let the ball drop, supply partners argue

The RH supplies community is painfully aware of COVID-19's impact on supply chains and the threat to contraceptive access. To address this crisis, planners and key decision makers need

reliable, up-to-date data; countries must submit information, tracking systems must remain in place, and data collectors will need support. COVID-19 has raised the stakes for up-to-date reliable data, as a recent [Joint Statement issued by the Coalition and key partners](#) reminds us. The statement provides guidance on collaboration, identifies the most useful FP supply data, and commits to receiving data in a wide range of flexible formats.

The power of a “crystal ball” in the face of COVID-19

In today’s COVID-19 world, a major challenge facing countries is figuring out how best to balance global supply chain challenges with the country realities on the ground. At a recent webinar hosted by Studies in Family Planning—“Looking Back, Looking Forward”— [Global FP VAN](#) Director Julia White noted that not all countries are alike with regards to their supply needs or use of the supplies they have. She argued that the predictive value of supply chain data from the VAN, coupled with country consumption data from the [Commodity Gap Analysis](#), can make possible risk modeling to assess the supply implication of changes to service delivery options.

HENNET reaps advocacy gains

In Tanzania, effective advocacy efforts resulted in a 125% increase in MOH budget allocation for RH in FY2019-2020. In Malawi, reproductive health now holds a prominent place in the GFF country investment case. These encouraging developments speak to the work of Kenya’s Network of Health Organizations (HENNET), which has just concluded a grant from the Innovation Fund to hone the advocacy skills of civil society coalitions in the two countries. For more information, please contact Charlotte Soulary on csoulary@rhsupplies.org.

MDAWG welcomes new Chair

Tanvi Pandit-Rajani of John Snow, Inc. (JSI) has been elected to the position of Market Development Approaches Working Group Chair. We welcome her on board and express our gratitude and appreciation to outgoing Chair Andrea Bare.

New UK Aid Direct funding round calls for applications

[UK Aid Direct](#) has launched a new funding round with [Community Partnership grants](#) as well as [Impact grants](#) in order to fund small to medium sized organisations who can demonstrate how they will address (any of) the [Global Goals](#) whilst considering the longer term impact of COVID-19. Applicants must be based either in the UK, OR in one of the list of [eligible countries](#). A [guidance webinar](#) to support applicants is taking place on Thursday 28 May at 11:00am (UK time) and the deadline for concept note submissions is Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 17:00 (UK time). Further details are available at the [UK Aid Direct website](#).

NEW MEMBERS

[Light Ethiopia](#) is a civil society organization implementing projects aimed at youth empowerment, including RH supply capacity building.

[Faith For Family Health Initiative](#) (3FHi) in Uganda is a national interfaith NGO founded by leaders from the Church of Uganda and the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council. 3FHi is active in policy and budget advocacy for RH supplies.

IN THE CALENDAR

[International Conference on Family Planning 2021](#)

New Date:

8-11 November 2021

Pattaya City, Thailand



Reproductive Health
SUPPLIES COALITION

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