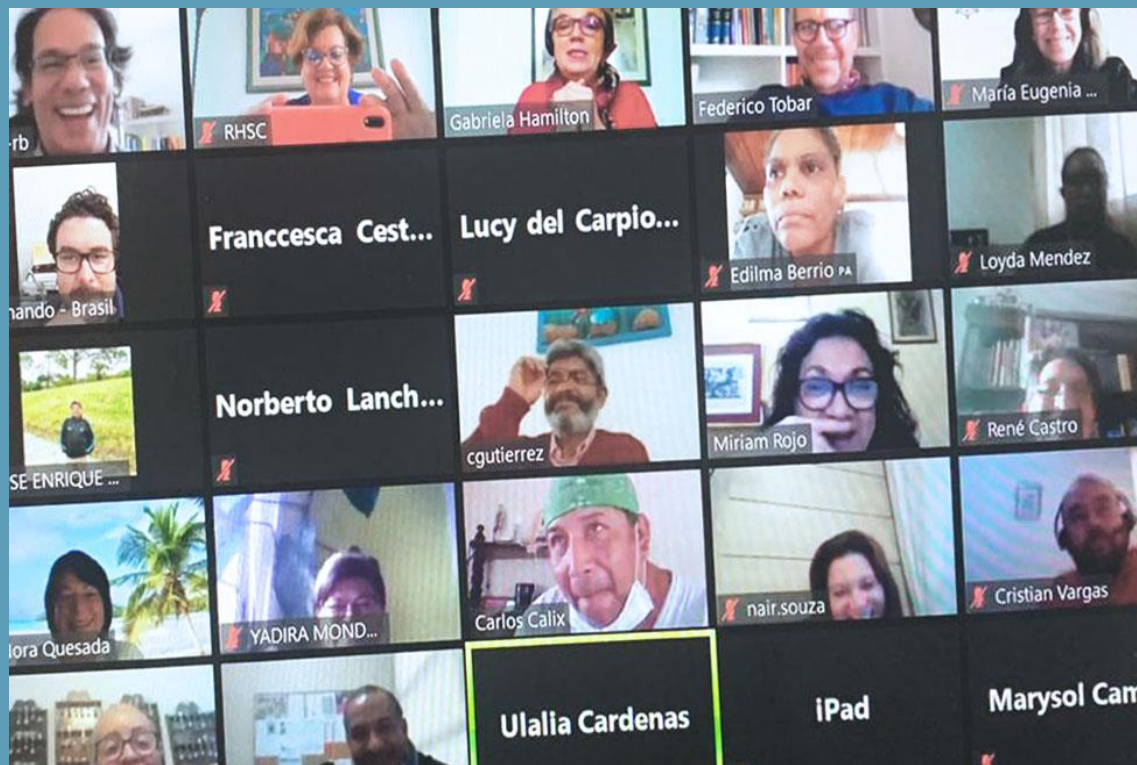


TOP STORY



LAC Forum sidesteps pandemic, completes successful *Encuentros*

Unfazed by the blows COVID-19 is dealing global event planning, the [LAC Forum](#) has successfully completed 12 of 13 virtual *Encuentros* for health ministry officials and UNPFA staff from nine countries. Participants from Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay learned how the business intelligence tool SEPREMI provides visibility into country stock levels, thereby helping decision makers resolve both

stockouts and overstocks. Participants also learned how to use a second tool, MIPLAN, to quantify the impact of COVID-related budget cuts on contraceptive use and to advocate accordingly. The final plenary will take place in August 2020. For more information, contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

IN THE NEWS

Executive Committee launches search for new Chair

As Coalition Chair John Townsend ends his term this year, the search process to select his successor begins. Under the guidance of Executive Committee member Jagdish Upadhyay who has led all the Coalition's Chair search processes since 2004, an ad hoc preselection committee will be formed to help ensure Coalition-wide input into the nomination process. Implementing Mechanism leaders will be reaching out to individuals interested in being a part of that committee. For more information, contact Chair@rhsupplies.org.

Country briefs model method shifts during COVID-19

In May, the Coalition, in partnership with Avenir Health and the Global Financing Facility, unveiled [MICRO Modeling](#) to help healthcare planners estimate changing contraceptive needs in response to COVID-19. Now, one- and two-page briefs in English and French offer a deeper dive into 135 countries. As COVID-19 leads to increased use of self-care methods such as oral contraceptives, these briefs can help decision-makers gauge the consequences of this increase for both supply needs and contraceptive use.

Manufacturer and product inventory available in LAC countries

The LAC Forum has created an inventory of 60 LAC pharmaceutical manufacturers and 200 locally produced RH supplies to help regional health authorities source products locally in the face of COVID-19 related supply bottlenecks. The inventory can be accessed from the [Manufacturers' Group landing page](#) on the RHSC website.

Two topical webinars attract high participation

Two webinars hosted by the Safe Abortion Supplies workstream of the NURHT Caucus are now available online. More than 90 participants attended the 90-minute long [Expanding Access to Medical Abortion Across the Globe with Telehealth](#) which included a special focus on shifts in provision and access to supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 60 participants logged into the Spanish-language webinar [Challenges and Routes of Mifepristone Registration in Bolivia](#) which offered wide-ranging legal, NGO, commercial and health ministry perspectives.

LAC Forum tool provides metrics for pandemic impact report

A recent joint report of UNFPA and the LAC Forum on the [Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Contraceptives in the LAC Region](#) forecasts a decline of between 900,000 and 2.6 M CYP between 2019 and 2020, with nearly 75% of the drop concentrated in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. Supply shortage estimates were obtained from SEPREMI, the online procurement tracker.

VAN use soars this summer

Hot on the heels of intensive training sessions for West Africa and beyond, the Global FP VAN has recorded its highest use to date, registering almost 800 logins in June. Numbers were up 26% from the previous month, following a steady upward trend in use over the last 13 months. Members of USAID's Global Health Supply Chain (GHSC) – Technical Assistance (TA) Francophone Task Order learned to use the platform and will be supporting the West African Health Organization as the VAN prepares to roll out in the region.

IN THE CALENDAR

World Contraception Day 2020

26 September 2020

Universal Health Coverage Day 2020

12 December 2020

[European Development Days 2021](#)

15-16 June 2021

Brussels, Belgium

[16th European Society of Contraception Congress](#)

1-4 September 2021

Ghent, Belgium

[General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#)

27-30 September 2021

Accra, Ghana

[International Conference on Family Planning 2021](#)

8-11 November 2021

Pattaya City, Thailand

FIGO World Congress 2021

13-15 December 2021

Kigali, Rwanda



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