

## TOP STORY



## Search underway for new Coalition Chair

Last week, the search for a new Coalition Chair officially began with the inaugural meeting of the newly established Pre-Selection Committee. Led by Executive Committee member Jagdish Upadhyay, the Committee was convoked for the first time in 2015 as part of the process that led to the selection of John Townsend as Chair. With John's term ending this year, the aim of the Committee is to cast the net for nominations as widely as possible across all RHSC constituencies. Final selection of the Chair will be decided by the Executive Committee.

Though the post of Coalition Chair is an honorary one, it constitutes the senior-most position within the RHSC. The incumbent leads by leveraging his/her stature within the reproductive health field to forge vital links, introductions, and new opportunities for action, thereby reinforcing the RHSC's power of partnership. It has often been said that the prerequisites for Chair are less skill-set than mindset. He/she is the organization's moral compass with the independence and integrity to speak truth to power.

Anyone employed by a Coalition member is eligible for nomination to the post of Chair. For more information on the post or for the submission of nominations, please contact [chair@rhsupplies.org](mailto:chair@rhsupplies.org). All correspondence will be held in the strictest confidence.

## IN THE NEWS

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### **MICRO Modeling continues to make an impact**

Some 1,700 unique visitors have accessed the new modelling tool MICRO, hundreds have downloaded information, and more than a hundred UNFPA staff from around the world attended a webinar this month introducing the tool. Launched in May, MICRO helps policy makers understand the financial and programmatic consequences of changes in contraceptive availability and choice as a result of COVID-19 related disruptions. MICRO has been the subject of several blogs and webinars and was recently referenced in [What FP/RH programs can do now in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#), a series of recommendations compiled by Knowledge Success. In addition, MICRO has been quoted in news reports around the world, from [Namibia](#) to [Peru](#). For more information, please contact Michelle Weinberger at [MWeinberger@avenirhealth.org](mailto:MWeinberger@avenirhealth.org).

### **Innovation Fund to support Ipas in DRC**

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo is making strides in ensuring access to safe abortion care, there is no standardized inclusion of abortion commodities in national forecasting and over one-third (37%) of public health facilities supported by Coalition partner [Ipas](#) have recently faced stockouts of abortion commodities. An Innovation Fund grant to Ipas will help strengthen government capacity to ensure national forecasting and the sustainable of abortion commodities. For more information, please contact Safia Ahsan on [sahsan@rhsupplies.org](mailto:sahsan@rhsupplies.org).

### **ForoLAC initiates supply-related work in the Caribbean**

Working outside its usual scope, the LAC Forum is using its business intelligence tool SEPREMI to analyze contraceptive stock data for six countries in the English-speaking Caribbean: Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago; plus Dutch-speaking Suriname. The aim is to forecast and head off potential stockouts during the COVID-19 pandemic. ForoLAC and UNFPA are working together to sensitize health ministries to the need to ensure prompt procurement for selected products and/or plan for alternatives and shift method use. For more information, please contact Milka

Dinev on [mdinev@rhsupplies.org](mailto:mdinev@rhsupplies.org).

## MICRO country briefs now in Spanish

Last month, we announced the launch of one- and two-page MICRO briefs in English and French to help decision-makers plan as their country's method mix shifts toward self-care methods due to COVID-19's impact on supply chains. This month, we are pleased to offer **country briefs in Spanish** for all 135 low and middle-income countries (LMICs), and in addition, separate briefs for two special country groupings: seven countries in South America (excluding Brazil), and six in Central America.



## RIAMA midwives brave pandemic to return to work

In February, we reported that our partner RIAMA, a **network** of 215 midwives in Peru had sold \$19K worth of discounted contraceptives at 25-75% below pharmacy prices to women in marginalized neighborhoods across Peru. COVID-19 brought RIAMA's functions to a temporary standstill, but 70% of the midwives are now back at work, and the network's aim to boost midwife numbers to 525 and reach 120,000 women across seven cities is unshaken. The value of RIAMA's contraceptive revolving fund, managed by **APROPO**, has also increased by almost 60% since its inception. Write to Milka Dinev at [mdinev@rhsupplies.org](mailto:mdinev@rhsupplies.org) for more information.



## The Menstrual Health Supplies workstream

A **new fact sheet** produced by the NURHT Caucus' Menstrual Health Supplies workstream notes that the supply chain challenges facing menstrual health differ from those facing other areas of reproductive health, thereby highlighting the need to apply a dedicated supply lens when addressing menstrual health concerns. The resource also outlines the workstream's mission, focus, and strategic activities.

### IN THE CALENDAR

World Contraception Day 2020

**26 September 2020**

**18th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development**

**28-29 October 2020**  
Virtual Event

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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