

TOP STORY



Innovation Fund supports new website on menstrual product taxation

The newly launched website periodtax.org is the most comprehensive online resource for advocates and decision-makers working to reduce or remove taxes on menstrual products. With support from the Innovation Fund, [WASH United](#) created the website to highlight the need for fairer taxation policies and to share tips for conducting successful advocacy efforts to drop taxes on menstrual products. The site was featured on a recent [RHSC-hosted webinar](#), which addressed

the economic impact of menstrual health tax relief, and the results of advocacy campaigns in four countries.

[Discover the new website!](#)

IN THE NEWS

RHSC Executive Committee member speaks for manufacturers

Although most manufacturing has returned to pre-pandemic production levels, some challenges persist, reported Mukul Taparia, Manufacturers' Representative on the RHSC's Executive Committee. Speaking this month at the virtual UNICEF-WHO-UNFPA meeting with manufacturers and suppliers, he highlighted the ongoing challenges of high production and transport costs, delayed regulatory approvals, missing customer forecasts and commitments, and customs issues. Mr. Taparia called for greater collaboration with procurers to mitigate the risk of negative market impacts. You can access the full presentation [here](#) and contact Mr. Taparia for more information at mukul.taparia@pregna.com.

VAN poised to launch free basic membership

The Global FPVAN Steering Committee and user representatives held its annual "in-person" meeting virtually at the end of October. Key outcomes include endorsement for the roll-out of free basic VAN membership to the 30+ countries that had previously submitted supply data to the PPMR, as well as a strategy for the membership model to achieve cost-neutrality over the next five years.

Steering Committee members also heard that VAN users can now track more than 4,209 orders and 5,400 shipments across 136 countries. And four countries—Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia—have begun using the platform for internal decision-making. This development represents a critical first step in the long-term aim of integrating the VAN into

health system work at country level. For more information, please contact VAN Director, [Julia White](#).



RHSC Secretariat welcomes two program assistants

Two new senior program assistants—Madison Schoeben and Monique Zegarra—have joined the RHSC Secretariat. Madison will be a familiar face (or at least voice) to many as she has been supporting our work, part time, for the past four months. Monique, a native Spanish speaker, will, among other responsibilities, backstop our ever-expanding agenda in Latin America. Please join us in welcoming the two.

New agreement promises to expand contraceptive choice

The RHSC congratulates member organization [Population Council](#) for concluding a new exclusive licensing agreement with [Duchesnay](#) to make ANNOVERA, a soft reusable silicone ring that combines a novel progestin, Nestorone®, with a widely used estrogen. The method, which protects against unintended pregnancy for up to a year, can be inserted and removed by a woman herself. This new agreement represents an important step in increasing contraceptive choice for women and girls around the world.

RHSC Director joins 18th International Dialogue

RHSC Director John Skibiak represented the Coalition at the "The 18th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development". The focus of this year's event was "COVID-19 and SRHR", which the organizers—GIZ, BMZ, DSW, Bayer, IPPF, KfW—approached from multiple angles. A popular session of the Dialogue, the "fishbowl discussion", featured John Skibiak and two other panelists: UNFPA's Diene Keita and BMZ's Birgit Pickel. In his remarks, John noted that COVID was forcing countries to face up to new and difficult choices: declines in service delivery, growing interest in self-care, constrained budgets and pervasive supply disruptions. Everyone agreed that strong and resilient health systems were a cornerstone for realizing SRHR—especially in today's world. A summary of proceedings is available at: <https://18th.dialogue-population-development.info/>

NEW MEMBERS

[UNITAID](#), hosted by the WHO in Geneva, invests in innovations to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria efficiently, and works in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health.

[Policy Cures Research](#) is a global health think tank in Australia providing governments, funders and civil society with the information they need to make R&D policy and funding decisions to improve health outcomes of the underserved.

IN THE CALENDAR

China Reproductive Health Industry Association Reproductive Health EXPO	10-13 December 2020 Jinan City, China
Universal Health Coverage Day 2020	12 December 2020
CCIH 2021: Cultivating Unity in Global Health	11-27 May 2021 Virtual Event

[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

FIGO World Congress 2021

24-29 October 2021

Sydney, Australia

[International Conference on Family Planning 2021](#)

8-11 November 2021

Pattaya City, Thailand



Reproductive Health
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