

C-II 20 SPECIAL
ACCRA 23 EDITION

SUPPLYINSIDER

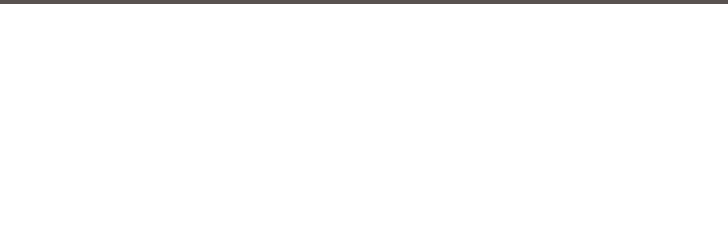
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023



**An unforgettable week
in Accra**

Nearly 300 participants from 39 countries attended 39 individual events at the RHSC's General Membership Meeting (GMM) in Accra, Ghana, this October, meeting in person after 4.5 years. They reflected on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on money, markets, and movement; drew lessons from our sector's response; and celebrated our community's unique resilience.

RHSC Director Martyn Smith shared the **State of the Coalition Report** – an overview of RHSC's accomplishments and a testament to our landmark year of hard work.





Resilience – and drums – at the GMM

The meeting's theme of Resilience was symbolized by drums in this [2-minute call-to-action](#), preceding a high-energy workshop with Ghana's master musician Dela Botri. [A plenary session on Resilience](#) brought a diverse range of speakers together to consider disruption, adaptation, innovation, and resilience.



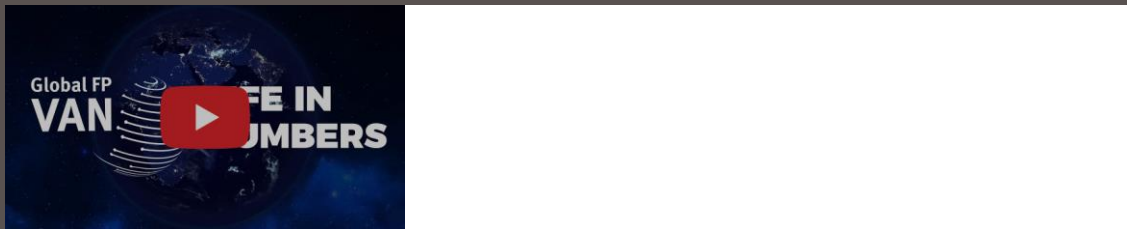


The firsts

Especially active workstreams met independently for the first time and a cross-cutting supply chain issue enjoyed the spotlight in its inaugural plenary session.

- **Gender Equity** — The importance of gender equity and social inclusion in supply chains was explored in plenary for the first time in an RHSC general membership meeting plenary. How can the supply chain better serve the needs of young people, female logisticians, minority community members, and women and girls? Find presentations [here](#).
- **Menstrual Health Supplies** — Prior to Accra, the Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream had only met under the auspices of its host, the NURHT Caucus. In October, participants came together for a **packed agenda** at the workstream's first dedicated event. [This blog](#) has more.

- **Safe Abortion Supplies** — The Safe Abortion Supplies Workstream also hosted its **first dedicated in-person meeting**. Read more **here**.
- **China** — RHSC partners from China hosted their first GMM side event, co-organized by the China Reproductive Health Industry Association, exploring China’s role in the future of RH supply access.
- **VAN** — The VAN convened its largest gathering of advocates and users since its inception. The **premiere of a special tribute video introduced** the people powering the VAN, showing how they use the network to increase RH supply access.



More conversations, on and off stage

Novel, interactive session formats — This year, meeting sessions benefited from more interactive, non-traditional presentation formats and resources to maximize participant engagement. The plenary session on The Future of Financing for RH Supplies, for example, employed a series of fireside chats to explore unique tensions in the effort to diversify financing. **This first installment of a blog series** sets up the issues and maps the discussions. Polls, quizzes and other hands-on activities also kept engagement high.

Cross-collaborations — The GMM generated new collaborations across Implementing Mechanisms. A sub-group of **AAWG** and **Maternal Health Caucus** members will drive forward supplies-related advocacy

efforts to support the recently-launched [PPH Roadmap](#). A new collaboration between the [MDAWG](#) and [Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream](#) will apply market-based approaches to promote access to quality menstrual health supplies. And a partnership between the [AAWG](#) and the [Menstrual Health Supplies Workstream](#) will leverage advocacy and accountability approaches to the workstream's efforts to develop product standards, address market levers, and integrate menstrual health into broader SRH initiatives and supply chains. [Read more here.](#)

Conversations online

Social media — Numerous blogs and an active social media presence kept the meeting in the community spotlight. RHSC's LinkedIn following has grown 11% since the first day of the GMM with an almost 200% increase in reaction rate. Check out [#ItsAboutSupplies](#) to read guest blogs on RH supply issues.

Media — The GMM also received wide coverage in print, online, and television media with a collective circulation of more than 15M.

Celebrating our host country

The Ghana Health Service — The GMM was planned and executed in full partnership with the Ghana Health Service (GHS); in his reception keynote, GHS Director-General Dr. Patrick Aboagye reaffirmed the longtime relationship between the health service and the RHSC. A dedicated task force advised on key decisions over the months of preparation, comprising Ms. Claudette Diogo from GHS, Ms. Dela Gle from UNFPA, and Ms. Afua Aggrey and Ms. Gladys Tetteh-Yeboah from USAID.



The agenda — The Health Ministry’s Dr. Maureen Martey opened plenary proceedings, hailing her country’s decline in births per woman; reductions in household size; and the decline in maternal mortality. She also celebrated Ghana’s Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS) joining forces with the VAN to access real-time data on shipment, stock, and consumption. In plenary, Dr. Demi Priscilla Letsa Duah from Ghana’s Total Family Health Organization explored the tensions behind leveraging private sector capabilities to strengthen national RH commodity supply chains, referencing Ghana’s reality. Issues unique to, and likely to affect, supply chain issues in Africa were spotlighted, such as the plenary discussion on Regional Manufacturing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Site visits — Participants visited manufacturers, a clinic, and medical stores to observe work and learn about successes and challenges.



Local businesses — Dela Botri introduced Ghanaian music and drumming, Charlene Wulff, a young female artist, designed the conference bag, and participants received krobo bead bracelets handmade by Global Mamas – a fair trade brand creating employment and opportunities for hundreds of women in Ghana.

A more inclusive and equitable GMM

Entry into Ghana — Every participant who needed a visa to enter Accra was granted one and was able to attend the GMM, and ECOWAS citizens enjoyed priority entry into the country.

Language — Six plenary sessions enjoyed live simultaneous interpretation into French, and 28 sessions used an artificial intelligence application to provide real-time translations. Participants accessed 19 languages through the app.

Funded participation — The RHSC funded 75 participants to attend the GMM (57 fully funded and 18 partially funded).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion were explicitly referenced in the Executive Committee's plenary address as a **priority for the RHSC**, and plenary proceedings addressed gender equity in supply chain, referenced above.



Young people and RH supplies at the GMM

Supply Fellows — The GMM hosted the third round of the Supply Fellows Initiative to bring together 22 seasoned and early career members to share introductions, knowledge, and career guidance.

Alumni — LAPTOP scholarship alumni attending the GMM included

Hope Achiro of Rocket Health Africa who offered plenary perspectives on the resilience and creativity of our community in continuing production during the pandemic. Mary Arubuola and Senamede Comla joined the Supply Fellows and Simplice Kamdem, our inaugural LAPTOP Scholar from 2012, also attended.

FPNN — Thanks to support from the Gates Institute, Family Planning News Network Trailblazer Reporter Esenam Amuzu attended the entire five-day meeting, interviewed participants across the board on youth issues, and filed numerous reports daily. [Read her blog here](#) on being included in the Supply Fellows program and catch up on her [news reports here](#).

Calling on the hive mind to plan the future

The RHSC leveraged the in-person presence of nearly 300 representatives of its member organizations in one place, calling on them to contribute to planning for the future.

CSM Report — Earlier this year, RHSC & DKT International announced that RHSC would take on the production of the [Contraceptive Social Marketing \(CSM\) Report](#). In a [Co-Creation Session on the Future Vision of the CSM Report](#), participants advised on current usage and future improvements. [Read more here](#).

Strategy re-design — The meeting also served as an accelerating point [for RHSC's Strategy re-design](#); interactive and participatory sessions through the week captured member feedback on the Strategy re-design process. [Read more here](#).

Missed it? Or missing it already?



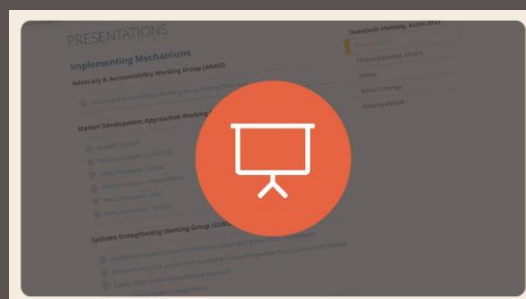
[GMM 2023 website](#)



[Video: Meeting at a glance](#)



[Video: Drumming Call-to-Action](#)



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