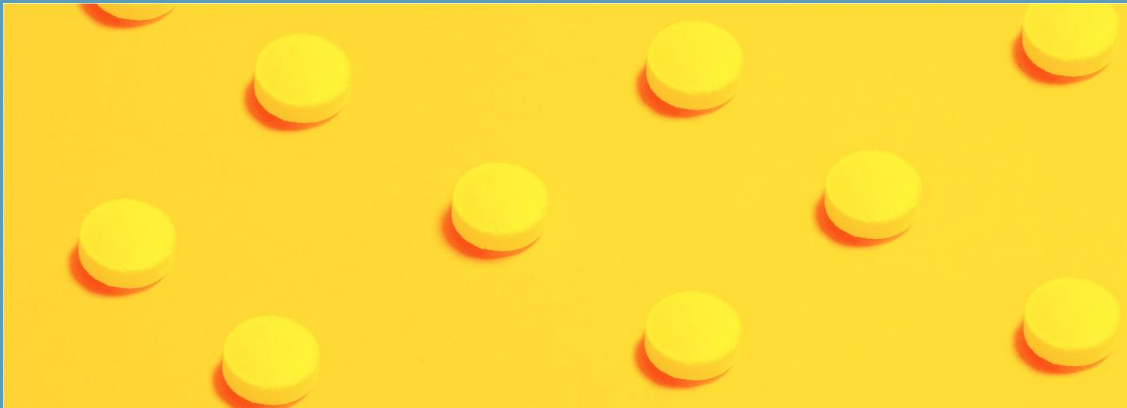


TOP STORY



New study examines entry of misoprostol and mifepristone into Argentina

Concept Foundation in partnership with CEDES Argentina, and with support from the RHSC, The study found that the lack of regulatory requirements for misoprostol and mifepristone products lengthened product development and registration times. It flagged the consequences of inaccurate demand forecasts and called upon Argentina's regulatory agency to issue import waivers for MA products registered in countries with stringent regulatory agencies. Upcoming webinars on the study's findings will be announced soon

[Download the study](#)

IN THE NEWS

RHSC helps inform new WHO guidance on oxytocin

New [regulatory guidance](#) for the marketing of oxytocin, released by WHO and partners, references the RHSC's own [Advocacy Messaging Framework for Oxytocin](#) developed by the Maternal Health Supplies Caucus in 2018. Both resources reiterate the importance of keeping high-quality oxytocin at a low temperature to ensure its efficacy in treating postpartum hemorrhage.

COVID-related price hikes spur advocacy in Latin America

RHSC/ForoLAC-funded research has found that opportunistic oral contraceptive price hikes have led to increases of at least 10-20% in Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay. As 60% of contraceptive funding is out of pocket, the impact on individual consumers is an unwelcome reality, especially given the negative impact of COVID on household incomes. Four partner organisations -- PROMSEX Perú, Oriéntame Colombia, MYSU Uruguay and Corporación MILES de Chile – have designed an advocacy campaign to hold manufacturers accountable for excessive increases in these four countries. Please support the campaign on Twitter by following and engaging with the [#ItsAboutSupplies hashtag](#).

Coming soon—a LEAP into the future

We once called it the Commodity Gap Analysis. But in just a few weeks, we and our partners at Avenir Global Health will reveal a powerful new way of seeing the growing demand for reproductive health supplies and assessing the cost of meeting that growth to governments, donors, and consumers alike. Are you ready? We are!

ForoLAC country fact sheets now on USAID GHSC-PSM website

In May, [we reported the launch](#) of Spanish-language fact sheets mapping the status of contraceptive security in 12 Latin American countries. Previously available only on the

RHSC website, these resources can now also be found in USAID GHSC-PSM's [Contraceptives Security \(CS\) Indicators toolkit](#), alongside the complete country databases that informed the factsheets. These factsheets were designed as advocacy tools to help decision makers budget, program, and distribute contraceptives in their countries.

WHO alert brings timely warning about falsified RH supplies

Suspicious of counterfeit misoprostol, falsely labeled as Cytotec, were reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) this summer. A thorough investigation confirmed that the product was indeed falsified and that it had reached the levels of wholesalers and patients in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Nigeria. The WHO has since issued a [Medical Product Alert](#), which has been distributed broadly. While we are all aware that counterfeit pharmaceuticals may exist in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), we often downplay the risk, in part because we assume the profits to be gained would be relatively low. However, this incident reminds us that RH supplies are not immune to the threat of counterfeiting. This is especially true now during the COVID-19 pandemic; due to the myriad disruptions that are still occurring globally on so many levels, conditions are unfortunately ripe for the distribution of counterfeit and substandard health supplies in LMICs. And it is incumbent upon all of us to be vigilant and continue to actively ensure the integrity of RH supply chains.

Who's who in the VAN?

A new feature on the VAN website offers a snapshot of all VAN members and their type of engagement in the network. As the number of VAN members rapidly grows (currently more than 70 member organizations and over 320 individual users), so too does their interest in increasing their level of engagement. The new [VAN Membership Table](#) offers an up-to-date resource for current members. As we went to press, the table included governments from 37 countries.

NEW MEMBERS

[Rural Women Rights Structure](#) in Liberia is a women-led civil society organization providing marginalized women and girls with information on reproductive health and rights.

Civil society organization [Peace Foundation Pakistan](#) designs social activism in rural areas for young people, including the distribution of, and education around, reproductive health supplies.

IN THE CALENDAR

RHSC Executive Committee Meeting

(by invitation only)

15 September

Virtual Event

[FIGO World Congress 2021](#)

21-28 October

Virtual Event

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

25-28 May 2022

Ghent, Belgium

[International Conference on Family Planning 2022](#)

14-17 November 2022

Pattaya City, Thailand



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