

# IMPROVING ACCESS IN AFRICA

There are many notable initiatives in place by pharmaceutical companies to improve access to medicine around the world, especially in hard-to-reach and developing countries. We pinpoint some standout examples from companies who are going the extra mile to achieve access for patients, no matter where they live, in the first instalment of our Improving Access infographic series.

## ● ROCHE AND NOVO NORDISK'S CHANGING DIABETES® IN CHILDREN PROGRAMME – Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Sudan

Roche and Novo Nordisk, along with the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes and the World Diabetes Foundation, set up this programme to provide care and medication for children living with type 1 diabetes in developing countries. They work with local partners and health ministers in each country to anchor the initiative to their existing healthcare systems, providing therapy supplies, better education, and training for local healthcare professionals.

## ● NOVARTIS' COMHIP PROGRAMME – Ghana

Novartis' community-based hypertension management project is bringing services to local communities in Ghana to improve hypertension control. Blood pressure screening stations have been introduced into residential areas, workplaces, and shops. They are also using text messaging services to remind patients to self-manage the condition. Observed patients in the programme had an improved rate of hypertension control, rising from 36% to 72%.

## ● GSK AND BARCLAY'S LIVE WELL – Zambia

Live Well aims to raise health awareness and improve access to health products, such as contraception and pain management, while giving local people the opportunity to learn new skills and earn an income by becoming community health entrepreneurs (CHE). The CHEs are trained in business, finance, healthcare, and product knowledge, enabling them to educate and help local communities. The initiative aims to impact 1 million Zambian people.

## ● ASTRAZENECA'S HEALTHY HEART AFRICA – Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania

AstraZeneca have collaborated with a range of partners to tackle hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Healthy Heart Africa aims to help 10 million people living with high blood pressure in Africa by 2025. They are raising awareness and improving education surrounding lifestyle choices and risk factors for cardiovascular disease, providing training in the healthcare system, and facilitating access to high quality anti-hypertensives at a discounted price.

## ● MERCK'S CURAFA™ POINTS OF CARE – Kenya

This initiative is improving access to affordable, quality healthcare services for patients living in underserved communities. CURAFA utilises data driven healthcare, offering instant medical test results on digital devices, as well as providing medicines and improving education. Local pharmacists and nurses run the centres to help address the communities' most pressing health needs.

## ● EISAI CO. AND MERCK'S CLEAN WATER COLLABORATION – Kenya

Eisai Co. have collaborated with Merck to provide clean water tanks in Kenya as part of their efforts to reduce the prevalence of neglected tropical diseases (NTD) in the area. This follows Eisai Co.'s initiative of providing 1.9 billion diethylcarbamazine tablets, to treat the NTD of lymphatic filariasis, to 28 endemic countries, including Kenya.

## ● SANOFI'S SCHOOLCHILDREN AGAINST MALARIA – Mozambique, Gabon, Cameroon, Togo, and Guinea

Collaborating with national programmes, education ministries, and NGOs, Sanofi created this programme to promote malaria prevention in schools across sub-Saharan Africa. The lessons and educational cartoons aim to raise awareness and knowledge of malaria amongst schoolchildren, who will then go back to their communities and share this education. The programme has given malaria awareness to more than 8 million people.

## ● JOHNSON AND JOHNSON'S MOTHERS2MOTHERS – South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, and Uganda

mothers2mothers is helping women, children, and adolescents, as part of a wider mission to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The programme has created 'Mentor Mothers' – a cohort of over 1,500 women living with HIV, who have received health training to educate local communities. As a result, mother-to-child transmission of HIV within their cohorts has dropped to 1.3%.

## ● TAKEDA AND THE CANCER ALLIANCE – Kenya

As a founding partner of the Cancer Alliance, Takeda is aiming to improve diagnosis, affordability, impact, and quality of the cancer care available for patients living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Takeda, along with academic organisations, NGOs, government bodies, and other partners, hope to develop Nairobi into a centre of excellence for cancer treatments in the region.

## TOP 10 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICINE

- 1 GLAXOSMITHKLINE PLC
- 2 NOVARTIS AG
- 3 JOHNSON AND JOHNSON
- 4 MERCK KGAA
- 5 TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD
- 6 NOVO NORDISK A/S
- 7 SANOFI
- 8 EISAI CO. LTD
- 9 ASTRAZENECA PLC
- 10 ROCHE HOLDING AG

## THE 4 A'S OF ACCESS

- 1 **AVAILABILITY**  
Offer solutions to unmet needs in developing countries/emerging markets, from prevention to diagnosis and treatment
- 2 **AFFORDABILITY**  
Provide support for health workers, communities, and patients, who are unable to pay for the healthcare needed
- 3 **ACCESSIBILITY**  
Develop strong supply chains and health solutions that allow health workers, communities, and patients access to effective health solutions, regardless of geography
- 4 **AWARENESS**  
Empower health workers, communities, and patients by providing the tools, knowledge, and skills to help them make informed decisions around prevention, diagnosis, and treatment