



## GLOBAL COMPASSION

Improving access to medicines in the developing world



### Where there's a need...

It is a monumental challenge to improve the health of people living in the developing world, who represent over half of the world's 7 billion people. An estimated one-third of the global population does not have regular access to basic healthcare, and most of them live in the developing world.

It is a challenge Canada's research-based pharmaceutical industry takes seriously. In collaboration with the global pharmaceutical industry, we work with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and governments both at home and abroad to build a stronger, healthier global community.

These partnerships save human lives each and every day.

This includes developing the necessary healthcare infrastructure that supports sustainable care for people in need.

This includes creating and supporting clinics, training healthcare providers, ensuring access to clean water and refrigeration and maintaining basic infrastructure and regulatory systems that enable the safe and effective delivery of healthcare services – including life-saving medicines and vaccines.

This is an effort that spans borders. Through their multinational affiliations, members of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) actively contribute to 140 programs that benefit people in sub-Saharan African countries. In collaboration with pharmaceutical companies from around the world, Rx&D members are partners in a global compassionate movement that supports 220 programs and partnerships that not only provide urgent medical care, but also help people stay healthy in 160 countries.

It means children are being inoculated against polio and other infectious diseases, that more HIV/AIDS medications are being made available to more people and that new treatments for tuberculosis, malaria, dengue fever and other diseases are being developed and administered.

And it's working. Since 1990, there has been a 43 per cent drop in the number of deaths of children under the age of five. This international effort is helping save 14,000 children every day from premature death, largely because of disease control measures – like vaccinations against polio, measles and malaria – around the world.

**But there is always more that can and must be done.**



Healthcare services in the developing world are in demand, as seen by how many local residents will wait in line at a clinic to get the care they need.

### Children Without Worms

Since 2007, Johnson & Johnson has led the Children Without Worms initiative. In regions of the world where sanitation and clean water are in short supply – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nicaragua and Uganda – an estimated 80 million children have been treated for health-robbing intestinal worms. In the early years of Children Without Worms, Johnson & Johnson annually donated more than 50 million doses of mebendazole, a deworming medication used in the treatment of children with STH (Soil-transmitted helminthiasis). But in 2012, Johnson & Johnson broadened and extended its donation levels, agreeing for the next eight years to annually donate 200 million doses of mebendazole to more than 30 developing countries.

## ...there are ways we can help

The healthcare challenges in the developing world are complex and go far beyond only providing medicines and vaccines to countries in need.

Safe drinking water, roads to facilitate shipments, the construction of clinics and hospitals, training of healthcare professionals, education initiatives that promote better healthcare, disease prevention, education, improved living conditions and healthcare capacity are also foundational. Our efforts include these vital infrastructure improvements.

Given the varying degrees of development among nations most in need, and the different healthcare issues facing each, there simply isn't a blanket approach to deliver needed medicines and services that are in demand. Different programs and approaches are required, tailored and delivered in every case.

Facing these challenges in the developing world requires a concerted effort by Rx&D member companies, and they actively work with their international partners to help improve the health of billions of people around the world.

By taking steps to ensure people in need can access new medicines and vaccines, investing in research and development, engaging in community partnerships, developing innovative solutions and preventing illness, we are making a difference.



**Rx&D's member companies are partners in a global effort to improve the health of billions of people around the world.**

### River Blindness

In 1987, Merck launched the first large-scale, comprehensive global health initiative of its kind, the Merck MECTIZAN® (ivermectin) Donation Program to provide the drug MECTIZAN to treat river blindness in countries where the disease is endemic. Today, the program is recognized as one of the world's most successful global healthcare collaborations, and one that continues to have a significant positive impact on tens of millions of people.

## Improving Access to Healthcare

Resources are scarce in the developing world. Millions live in impoverished conditions, with very limited access to life's basic necessities.

We share a responsibility to help and to treat those who are sick and to make strides towards eradicating preventable illnesses like polio. The first step is to ensure we can actually get life-saving medicines and vaccines to the people who need them.

That's why our industry supports the construction of hospitals, clinics and even road networks that facilitate the movement of imported medicines and vaccines to areas of need.

It's why we provide medicines and vaccines at low or no cost, and are helping build capacity in poorer nations by supporting the local manufacture of generic versions of our medicines.

Tiered pricing policies ensure more countries can access more medicines and vaccines, regardless of their economic realities.

It is also common practice for research-based pharmaceutical companies to issue voluntary licenses for their newest medications, allowing them to be manufactured by pharmaceutical companies based in the developing world.

Granting licenses to generic manufacturers based in developing countries helps build capacity for needed medicines, while controlling costs and ensuring quality standards remain in place. It has been estimated that forming licensing partnerships with generic companies based in developing nations have reduced costs by 75 per cent.

### Training healthcare professionals

Gilead Sciences has developed an access program that is helping people in more than 130 developing nations around the world. By leveraging various partnerships with different governments, agencies and other healthcare companies, Gilead is doing more than providing needed medicines – it is training healthcare professionals and developing licensing partnerships. Today, licensing partners supply 96 per cent of Gilead's patented HIV medications in the developing world. Gilead's program has reached 3.5 million HIV patients, is financially self-sustaining and is flexible to adapt to changing times.

## Helping mothers and children

Janssen Inc., a pharmaceutical company of Johnson & Johnson, backs 700 initiatives in 50 countries, with a focus on maternal and child health. Over the past decade, it has committed more than \$5 billion in grants, product donations, patient assistance and education to the developing world. As recent evidence of Johnson & Johnson's long-term commitment to improving access to medicine in developing and least-developed countries, in November 2012 the Access to Medicine Foundation's Access to Medicine Index – an independent initiative that ranks the world's largest pharmaceutical companies according to their efforts to improve access to medicine in developing countries – ranked Johnson & Johnson second among the 20 companies examined.

## Controlling tropical diseases

In 2012, the global pharmaceutical industry, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the governments of the UK and the US, the World Bank and countries in need, committed to eliminate or control 10 Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) over the next decade. NTDs afflict at least one billion people worldwide and disproportionately kill or disable millions of people living in tropical and subtropical areas. This partnership will help provide the necessary medicines to combat NTDs, accelerate research and development, share intellectual property and manufacturing capabilities and fund and support treatment programs.

### Groundbreaking partnerships

Abbott, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck and Sanofi are part of a groundbreaking partnership that is collaborating on research targeting the discovery of new tuberculosis medicines. The goal is to create a regimen that will cure tuberculosis in one month, a drastic cut in the six months it currently takes to cure the disease.

## Research and Development

Industry-wide research and development efforts target diseases that are widespread in the developing world, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. It is important that we support research and development at home to support these efforts abroad.

The importance of research and development goes beyond the discovery and development of new medicines and vaccines. It is also helping overcome unique challenges to improving healthcare in the developing world. In many of the countries where the need is greatest, facilities are substandard or rudimentary. This means new products being developed for export to countries in need must be heat stable, must not require refrigeration, last for extended periods of time, cannot be reliant on access to clean water, are easy to administer and sometimes contain pictorial instructions to surmount language and education barriers.

### New treatments

Sanofi and the not-for-profit agency Global Alliance for TB Drug Development are collaborating on an effort to develop new treatments for tuberculosis, which kills an estimated 1.5 million people annually – 95 per cent of whom are in low- and middle-income countries

**In developing nations, it is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get medicines that cure fatal ailments.**





## Community Initiatives

The world's research-based pharmaceutical industry is active in more than 160 countries around the world, helping millions of people afflicted with diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, intestinal disorders, hepatitis and tuberculosis. They help ensure there are people on the ground trained to administer medicines and treat patients, and build the clinics needed to do so.

We help train local healthcare professionals and build domestic healthcare capacity.

The global pharmaceutical industry is involved in more than 220 partnerships and programs that are bringing healthcare knowledge and innovative treatments to 160 countries in the developing world. This effort has been valued at more than \$9 billion and has benefitted 1.75 billion people.

This outreach has helped build some of the necessary healthcare infrastructure – facilities, equipment and human resources – to improve access to life-saving therapies and treatments, including:

- An \$85-million Positive Action for Children fund that aims to prevent the passage of HIV/AIDS from mothers to babies;
- Ensuring a stable supply of medicines and vaccines to treat curable and preventable diseases and ailments;
- Engaging in public-private partnerships to finance the building of new hospital facilities and healthcare clinics;
- The development of 31 HIV/AIDS medicines, with more than another 100 in development, that have been provided to millions of people in the world's poorest countries;
- Supporting research facilities around the world that are dedicated to new diagnostics, medicines and vaccines; and
- Working with local manufacturers in underdeveloped countries to produce generic versions of new medications royalty-free.

In partnership with government agencies and international relief organizations, research-based pharmaceutical companies from around the world, including those from Canada, are providing training for more than 220,000 health workers, which is equal to one-third of Africa's total health workforce.

### Combatting HIV/AIDS

Every year, the Roche Children's Walk fundraiser enables its employees to join together to support HIV/AIDS orphaned children in Malawi and vulnerable children in communities around the world where Roche is active. The money raised supports the provision of clothing, food, mosquito nets, education and practical skills training, which includes group sessions and programs on HIV/AIDS prevention.

### Building infrastructure

The Abbott Fund and the Government of Tanzania have invested \$60 million to build an outpatient centre at the country's leading teaching hospital, and to renovate a lab that does diagnostic testing for HIV and other chronic diseases.



In partnership with Health Partners International of Canada, representatives of Rx&D's member companies are helping train healthcare workers in developing nations, ensuring the work they do will have sustainable benefits over the long term.

### Sustainable efforts

The Global Health Fellows Program is an international corporate volunteer program that places Pfizer colleagues and teams on short-term assignments with leading international development organizations in key emerging markets. During assignments, Fellows transfer their professional medical and business expertise in ways that promote access, quality and efficiency of health services for people in greatest need. Since 2003, more than 300 Pfizer colleagues, including 14 from Canada, have participated in the program working in close to 45 countries. Assignments are focused on optimizing supply chains and business functions and scaling up promising health prevention approaches. Through this program, Pfizer has partnered with more than 40 international development organizations.



**Rx&D member companies work in partnership with their counterparts in developing nations to produce the new medicines and vaccines in the greatest demand.**

### Global support, local treatments

One of Africa's largest HIV/AIDS treatment programs was created by a partnership of The Merck Company Foundation/Merck & Co., the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the government of Botswana. The program has treated more than 100,000 people at 32 clinics and 60 satellite locations across the country.

### Innovative Solutions

Our industry partners with other companies, granting licenses that allow locally-based generic companies to produce the new medicines and vaccines in greatest demand.

We work with local partners to establish clinical expertise in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing nations. This includes collaborative clinical studies that involve thousands of patients.

By providing training to healthcare providers in impoverished nations, building clinics and supporting public education campaigns aimed at preventing the spread of communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, we are helping build hope and healing in the far corners of the world.

### Supporting local companies

Gilead has entered into agreements with Indian generic drug manufacturers to provide the technology to manufacture its patented HIV/AIDS medications, with funding to assist in process improvements and reduce overall manufacturing costs. Gilead was also the first pharmaceutical company to join the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), which was established by UNITAID in 2009 to expand access to medicines through the sharing of drug patents.

## Preventing Illness

Vaccination is one of the greatest public health breakthroughs in recorded history. With the exceptions of sanitation, pasteurization, clean water and education, vaccinations have saved more human lives than any other healthcare innovation.

However, while billions of lives have been saved by inoculations and diseases like smallpox have been all but eradicated, there are still an estimated three million children worldwide who die every year from preventable diseases.

With a long track record of researching, discovering and developing vaccines, research-based pharmaceutical companies play an important role in protecting the world from preventable diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, influenza, rubella, polio and measles – among many others.

By providing vaccines at not-for-profit prices or less, we are helping improve global health.

By continuing to invest in research and development, innovative pharmaceutical companies are working on new and improved vaccines to fight diseases like malaria and dengue. A team of Canadian researchers has made important strides in developing a viable HIV vaccine, which has the potential to save millions of lives every year.

### Saving lives with vaccines

GlaxoSmithKline has teamed with an Indian vaccines company on early-stage research and development of a six-in-one pediatric vaccine to protect children against polio and other infectious diseases. It's a unique initiative that, if approved, will reduce the number of injections required to protect vulnerable populations, and follows GlaxoSmithKline's commitment to eradicate polio.



By investing in medicines and vaccines for the developing world, our industry is helping save millions of lives every year.



### Forging links

Medicine is often the difference between life and death, and Health Partners International of Canada is working to strengthen that link. Doctors and healthcare professionals embarking on medical missions are equipped with Physician Travel Packs, mobile kits that are packed with enough essential medicines and supplies to provide up to 600 treatments, helping deliver primary and emergency healthcare to communities in the greatest need.



"People all over the world should not be suffering from preventable illnesses."

– Melodie Hicks, nursing instructor at Vanier College and HPIC partner.

## Health Partners International of Canada

Every year, millions of people in the developing world suffer and die from diseases and conditions that the right medications and expertise can treat and even prevent.

Addressing these healthcare issues in the developing world is a massive challenge; the needs are vast. It is not the kind of humanitarian work that can be done alone.

Key to this effort is Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), a not-for-profit relief and development organization that is dedicated to increasing access to medicine and improving health in the developing world. This is accomplished through partnerships. As founding and ongoing supporters of HPIC, Rx&D and its member companies are able to connect with international aid organizations, doctors and government agencies working in impoverished nations to provide emergency relief and support community development initiatives.

Since 1990, Rx&D and its member companies have donated \$265 million in medication through HPIC, an effort that translates to 11 million treatments in more than 110 countries.

In developed countries like Canada, where needed medications are often never more than a pharmacy away, it is easy to take the value of life-saving innovations for granted. But in less developed countries, inadequate infrastructure and inefficient healthcare systems make it difficult, if not impossible, to access medicines that cure fatal ailments.

HPIC works with Canada's pharmaceutical companies to ensure donated medicines get to where they are needed most. HPIC also works with local officials in developing countries to establish and develop the capacity to provide healthcare services by streamlining procurement and distribution, improving medical facilities and equipment and training local healthcare professionals.



HPIC provides Physician Travel Packs to support efforts at refugee camps like this one at Domiz Camp in Iraq, home to more than 70,000 Syrian refugees.



## Profiles

### The Izzy Doll

Every year, hundreds of Canadian knitters and crocheters make and donate 12,000 Izzy Dolls, which HPIC then distributes to children in need across the Developing World.

Every Physician Travel Pack that is sent overseas includes 12 Izzy Dolls, which are used in lieu of packing styrofoam. Once the packs reach their destination, the dolls are used to comfort sick children in the community.

Sometimes the hand-made doll is a child's first toy.

Learn more about the Izzy Dolls and how to make them by visiting [www.hpicanada.ca/izzy-dolls/](http://www.hpicanada.ca/izzy-dolls/)



**Over the years, close to 100,000 children in more than 100 countries have received Izzy Dolls.**

### We take it for granted

We sometimes take our ease of medical access for granted. But what we may consider a routine treatment for a minor ailment is not quite the reality in the developing world.

In Canada, a small impetigo infection on a child's face is treated and cured with a simple antibiotic. In Haiti, it's a different story.

Left untreated, impetigo will spread and cover the entire body with open lesions. Dr. Harry Max Prochette, a Quebec family doctor and partner in HPIC's Physician Travel Pack program saw such a case. A young lady was living in physical pain and suffering mental anguish because of untreated impetigo. Her body covered in sores, she couldn't sleep and was embarrassed by her disfigurement.

Dr. Prochette reached into his Physician Travel Pack and administered a treatment of an antibiotic donated by GlaxoSmithKline. It paved the way for the young woman to make a full recovery.



With help of HPIC and a Quebec family physician, this young lady was cured of the pain and mental anguish brought on by an impetigo infection.

## Profiles

### Creating sustainable solutions

Lynn Tassé – Rx&D

While our industry provides medicines and vaccines to the developing world, the effort goes beyond donations of product.

Lynn Tassé, Rx&D's manager of government affairs, spent most of March 2012 in Guatemala helping local communities build capacity for record keeping and sharing as part of an effort to combat poverty and exclusion, support peace building and expand human rights and equity initiatives.

Her work helped establish protocols and procedures to enhance economic development opportunities in Guatemalan communities and encouraged greater use of technology for record keeping and sharing information.

“When countries are struggling to meet their most basic needs to survive on a daily basis, it goes without saying that they do not have the resources to devote to the long-term sustainability of their regions,” says Lynn. “It just makes sense that if there is the possibility to make even the slightest difference in another human being’s life, then we should.”

### Building healthcare capacity

Laurie Dotto – AbbVie

For the past 11 years, Laurie Dotto, the director of government and external affairs with AbbVie Canada, has been doing humanitarian work to support people living in the impoverished nation of Malawi.

In 2010, Laurie was part of an AbbVie Foundation (formerly supported by Abbott and the Abbott Fund) delegation that helped open a new hospital built with money raised by AbbVie employees at eight different fundraisers across Canada and matched by AbbVie.

“What we wanted to do was invest in infrastructure and build some capacity. It’s a sustainable development project,” says Laurie.

Malawi is one of the lowest-ranked nations on the United Nations development index, with 40 per cent of its children malnourished and 90,000 children HIV positive.

“We wanted to do something that would really make a difference,” says Laurie. “This new hospital will make a long-lasting contribution. To be able to go over there for the opening was one of the highlights of my career here at AbbVie Canada.”



## Sources

**Unless otherwise noted, the information in this report was compiled from the following:**

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