

How we're contributing to the MDGs

As a science-led global healthcare company, GSK is working to improve the health and wellbeing of people the world over.

We want to help people to live healthy lives, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay. We are committed to playing our part in helping meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond these, to contributing to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

We have evolved our business model so that making progress on the MDGs is aligned with our own corporate objectives. Here, we give some examples of how we are contributing to achieving the MDGs.



Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



People can lead more productive lives if they are healthy. We are therefore helping to fight diseases such as polio that can leave people unable to support themselves and their families.

For four decades, we have been working in polio eradication and have supplied over 15 billion doses of vaccine to prevent this debilitating disease. We continue to support the World Health Organisation's (WHO) objective of eradicating polio by 2018 and will continue to provide vaccines to UNICEF until this is achieved.



4bn

tablets donated to support the elimination of LF

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), a parasitic infection spread by mosquitoes, is one of the world's leading causes of disability. Disfigurement caused by the disease can leave people unable to work, often leading to a life of poverty. We have now donated more than 4 billion albendazole tablets to support efforts to eliminate LF in 58 countries, and we continue to donate around 600 million albendazole tablets to the WHO each year to help eliminate LF globally.

Lack of access to healthcare is most acute in the world's poorest countries. In the Least Developed Countries, prices of our medicines are capped at no more than 25% of their price in the UK.

In 2014 we announced major investments aimed at delivering sustainable growth and increasing access to medicines in Africa. We have committed to targeted investments totalling £130 million over the next five years and will be creating at least 500 jobs helping to lift people out of poverty.

Achieve universal primary education



By improving children's health, we can better their chances of attending school and completing their studies. Intestinal worms are said by the World Bank to cause more ill health in school age children than any other infection in deprived communities. Treating children for these worms has proven to be a cost-effective way of improving school attendance. We have pledged to donate up to 400 million albendazole treatments to WHO to enable the deworming of school age children each year to 2020 in support of its goal to deworm 75% of school age children in countries where intestinal worms are endemic.



Promote gender equality and empower women



Community programmes, such as our support for the training of health workers, target women. Since 2009 we have invested £15m which has contributed to training 25,000 frontline health workers, reaching over 6.5 million people. In another project, with our support, women's development organisation, Pro Mujer, is empowering 470,000 women to overcome poverty. Women across five countries in Latin America are provided with a holistic package of financial services, education and healthcare.

Reduce child mortality



In 2013, we formed an innovative partnership with Save the Children to help save the lives of one million children. As part of our collaboration, we are reformulating an antiseptic commonly used in mouthwash into a gel for cleansing the umbilical cord stump of newborn babies as recommended by the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities. This has the potential to prevent thousands of deaths from infection during a baby's first few weeks.

This is just one element of our work to save children's lives. We have supported the expansion of life-saving immunisation programmes for nearly three decades, by offering all our vaccines at reduced cost in developing countries using a tiered pricing system. In 2013 we were the leading supplier of vaccines to UNICEF.

We are increasing access to newer vaccines by making shots for pneumococcal disease and rotavirus available at a reduced price to developing countries through our partnership with the GAVI Alliance. These diseases are among the biggest killers of young children and our supply agreements will help immunise up to 250m children by 2015.

Basic health and hygiene education is also vital to helping children fight diarrhoea and other diseases. Through our PHASE programme, we teach children the importance of hand washing and oral health. Launched in Kenya in 1998, the programme has reached over 1.5m children in 16 countries.

1m 

the number of children's lives we aim to save through our partnership with Save the Children

Improve maternal health



Since 2009, GSK has reinvested 20% of profits it generates in the UN-defined Least Developed Countries back into community programmes to help those countries strengthen healthcare infrastructure, primarily through training community health workers. This can improve maternal health in a number of ways. For example, in Bangladesh, we are working with CARE International to help women access appropriate healthcare. Through steps such as training 176 skilled birth attendants and 1,122 health and family planning staff, we have reached over 900,000 women of reproductive age and pregnant women over three years.

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



The biggest contribution we can make to combating these diseases is through scientific innovation – researching and developing new treatments. Our efforts include investing \$300m to develop our malaria vaccine candidate, RTS,S, in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. It is in the final stages of development and if successful will be a world first. GSK remains committed to price it at the cost of production plus a small return of around 5% to be reinvested in research and development for vaccines against diseases of the developing world.

We have a long history at the frontline of researching innovative medicines to fight HIV. In 2009, GSK and Pfizer created ViiV Healthcare, a specialist HIV company; Shionogi joined in 2012.

Tivicay, the first medicine from ViiV Healthcare's pipeline, was approved in the US in August 2013 and in Europe in January 2014. Through an agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), ViiV is accelerating access to dolutegravir where the need is the greatest, in the countries where 99% of children and 93.4% of adults with HIV in the developing world live. Through its royalty-free voluntary licensing policy, ViiV Healthcare enables manufacturers of generic medicines to sell versions of its entire antiretroviral (ARV) portfolio.

Our dedicated drug discovery and development facility at Tres Cantos in Spain researches new treatments for disease of the developing world (DDWs) such as TB and malaria.

The open laboratory welcomes visiting scientists from universities, not-for-profit partnerships and other research institutes to work on projects for DDWs, learn from our expertise and share our world-class facilities. Building on the success of Tres Cantos, GSK is also investing £25 million to create the world's first R&D Open Lab for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Africa.

Ensure environmental sustainability



Our long-term goal is for our value chain to be carbon neutral by 2050 and reduce our water impact across the value chain by 20% by 2020. We have several environmental initiatives underway. Complete the Cycle is a recovery and recycling programme aimed at reducing this waste. The programme encourages patients to return their old inhalers to participating pharmacies, which are then sent back to us to be recycled. Now well established in the UK it is also in 31 cities in the USA and the programme is operating in several other markets including Australia, Chile, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Develop a global partnership for development



Partnerships with other organisations are central to helping people live healthy lives and are fundamental to the way GSK operates. Much of our contribution to achieving the MDGs is done in partnership with governments, NGOs and other organisations such as multilateral agencies and product development partnerships.

Our increased focus on the needs and opportunities in the developing world means we are seeking to make our product portfolio more reflective of the communities in which we operate. For example, as a result of some acquisitions, GSK has around 40% of the molecules on the WHO's Essential Medicines List.

The fight to tackle diseases that blight the developing world continues. In 2012, we joined the Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) coalition and signed the London Declaration. This multilateral partnership, including WHO and governments, is working to control or eliminate ten NTDs by 2020.

Through this, our other partnerships and our own innovation, we continue to play our part to meet the MDGs.