

# Novartis launches 'Novartis Access', a portfolio of affordable medicines to treat chronic diseases in lower-income countries

Sep 24, 2015

- - First-of-its-kind portfolio approach in healthcare industry, aiming to increase availability and affordability of 15 medicines against cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, respiratory illnesses and breast cancer
- - Novartis portfolio to be offered to governments and non-governmental organizations in low- and low-middle-income countries for USD 1 per treatment, per month
- - Some 28 million people die from chronic diseases in low- and middle-income countries each year, representing 75% of such deaths globally(1)

NEW YORK, Sept. 24, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Novartis today announced the launch of Novartis Access, a portfolio of 15 medicines to treat chronic diseases in low- and low-middle-income countries. The portfolio addresses cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and breast cancer and will be offered to governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other public-sector healthcare providers for USD 1 per treatment, per month.

"Novartis Access is a natural extension of two important contributions our company makes to society: developing innovative medicines that help people fight disease and working to get them to as many people as possible," said Joerg Reinhardt, Chairman of the Board of Novartis. "This program takes a novel approach to addressing the rising tide of chronic diseases in parts of the world where people often have limited access to healthcare. We know we will need to keep an open mindset and learn as we progress on this journey."

The Novartis Access portfolio includes patented and generic Novartis medicines. It will be launched first in Kenya, Ethiopia and Vietnam. Over the coming years, Novartis plans to roll out Novartis Access to 30 countries, depending on demand.

The products included in the Novartis Access product portfolio have been selected based on the World Health Organization's Essential Medicines List and are among the most commonly prescribed medicines in these countries. Novartis expects this new approach to be commercially sustainable over the long term, enabling continuous support in those regions.

Each year, approximately 28 million people die from chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in low- and middle-income countries, representing 75% of deaths from NCDs globally<sup>1</sup>. By 2025, the WHO projects that 75% of all deaths will be due to NCDs<sup>2</sup>, mostly due to the rapid increase of NCDs in poverty-stricken areas.

Novartis is launching Novartis Access to coincide with the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, where the new Sustainable Development Goals will be adopted.

To more effectively address the rapid rise of chronic diseases in low- and low-middle-income countries, Novartis is actively seeking to partner with governments, NGOs and other public-sector organizations to strengthen healthcare systems. Areas of potential collaboration include programs to raise awareness about diseases, train healthcare workers to diagnose and treat chronic illnesses and strengthen medicine distribution

systems.

The challenge of improving access to medicines and healthcare will take a concerted long-term effort by many people and organizations. As a healthcare company, Novartis is trying to do its part.

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#### About Novartis

Novartis provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, eye care and cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals. Novartis is the only global company with leading positions in these areas. In 2014, the Group achieved net sales of USD 58.0 billion, while R&D throughout the Group amounted to approximately USD 9.9 billion (USD 9.6 billion excluding impairment and amortization charges). Novartis Group companies employ approximately 120,000 full-time-equivalent associates. Novartis products are available in more than 180 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

Novartis is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at <http://twitter.com/novartis>.

#### References

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#### List of links present in page

1. <https://qa1.novartis.us/us-en/us-en/news/media-releases/novartis-launches-novartis-access-portfolio-affordable-medicines-treat-chronic-diseases-lower-income-countries>
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