Essential medicines donated to control, eliminate and eradicate neglected tropical diseases

The WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases aims to prioritize the public health needs of all peoples, particularly poor and marginalized populations living in countries where these diseases are endemic.

Besides providing technical and strategic guidance in key areas, the Department promotes partnership involvement, strengthens country-level capacity and leverages the contribution of stakeholders to control, eliminate and eradicate these neglected diseases of poverty.

As universal coverage against neglected tropical diseases relies on enhanced access to essential medicines provided free of charge, the Department coordinates the global supply of safe, quality-assured medicines donated by pharmaceutical companies (Table 1). Coordination involves planning and forecasting, with help from international partners.

Table 1 Essential medicines donated by pharmaceutical companies through WHO and other mechanisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Donation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bayer            | nifurtimox                                                               | 2014–2019                   | • Up to 320 000 tablets annually for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis  
• Donated through WHO  
• nifurtimox 2012–2021  
• total of 7 million 750 thousand over a period of five years for the treatment of second-line Chagas disease  
• Donated through WHO  
• suramin Until November 2020  
• Up to 10 000 vials annually for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis  
• Donated through WHO |
| Eisai            | diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC)* (100 mg scored tablets) in combination with albendazole |Seven-year period 2014–2020 | • Up to 2.2 billion tablets for use in the preventive chemotherapy of lymphatic filariasis  
• Donated through WHO |
| EMS (Brazil)     | azithromycin                                                             | 2018–2022                   | • 150 million (500 mg) tablets to support the global eradication of yaws. Medicine will be donated through WHO. Shipment to select countries to start soon. |
| Gilead Sciences, Inc. | liposomal amphotericin B (lyophilized 50 mg formulation) | 2017–2020                   | • Up to 380 000 vials for the treatment of visceral leishmaniasis in South-East Asia and East Africa  
• Donated through WHO |
| GlaxoSmithKline  | albendazole* (400 mg tablet)                                             | Since 1997 until the target of global elimination of lymphatic filariasis is achieved | • Up to 600 million tablets annually for use in the preventive chemotherapy of lymphatic filariasis  
• Donation expanded by 400 million tablets annually for use in the preventive chemotherapy of soil-transmitted |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Johnson & Johnson             | mebendazole* (500 mg tablet) | Initial five-year period 2012–2016 | • Up to 200 million tablets annually for the treatment of soil-transmitted helminthiases in school-age children  
• Donated through WHO                                                           |
| Merck                        | praziquantel* (600 mg tablet) | Initial 10-year period 19 April 2007 – 19 April 2017 for an unlimited period | • Up to 200 million tablets annually for the treatment of schistosomiasis in school-age children (notably in Africa)  
• Since 2017, donation will be scaled up to 250 million tablets annually for the treatment of schistosomiasis  
• Donated through WHO                                                             |
| Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)     | ivermectin* (3 mg tablet)  | Since 1997 until the elimination of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis in Yemen and African countries where lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis are co-endemic | • Unlimited supply for the treatment of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis; 7.8 billion tablets donated during the past 29 years; current annual donation is over 791 million tablets  
• Donated through the Mectizan Donation Program                                     |
| Novartis                     | multidrug therapy (rifampicin, clofazimine, dapsone) in blister packs  
Loose clofazimine in capsules | 2000-2020  
2000-2020 | • Unlimited supply for the treatment of leprosy and its complications  
• Unlimited supply of additional bulk quantities for the treatment of severe erythema nodosum leprosum reactions  
• Donated through WHO                                                              |
|                             | triclabendazole           | 2016–2022 | • Up to 600 000 tablets for the treatment of fascioliasis and paragonimiasis  
• Donated through WHO                                                              |
| Pfizer                       | azithromycin               | 1998–2020 | • Unlimited quantity for the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem; 500 million doses donated to date  
• Donated through the International                                                  |
Trachoma Initiative
Sanofi

- eflornithine
  - Until 2020
  - Unlimited quantity for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis
  - Donated through WHO

- melarsoprol
  - Until 2020
  - Unlimited quantity for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis
  - Donated through WHO

- pentamidine
  - Until 2020
  - Unlimited quantity for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis
  - Donated through WHO

In 2017, close to 19000 tonnes of medicines used for preventive chemotherapy interventions were delivered through WHO to more than 100 endemic countries worldwide; more than 1.5 billion tablets were delivered annually to countries that requested these medicines (Table 2).

Table 2: Essential preventive chemotherapy medicines donated and delivered through WHO, 2010–2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of shipments</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of shipments</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tablets (millions)</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>1 002</td>
<td>1 278</td>
<td>1 519</td>
<td>1 320</td>
<td>1 568</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pallets</td>
<td>2 198</td>
<td>2 055</td>
<td>2 598</td>
<td>3 346</td>
<td>3 684</td>
<td>3 971</td>
<td>3 760</td>
<td>4 466</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total weight (tonnes)</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>1 057</td>
<td>1 262</td>
<td>1 490</td>
<td>1 603</td>
<td>1 590</td>
<td>1 889</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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