



World Health
Organization

The EU/ACP/WHO **RENEWED PARTNERSHIP 2012–2016**

for strengthening
pharmaceutical systems and
improving access to quality
essential medicines

The Renewed Partnership (RP) is a collaborative initiative between the European Commission (EC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and 15 African Member States of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

The overall objectives of the RP are to contribute to the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals (i.e. MDGs 4, 5, 6 and 8), and to help realize Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the partner countries. To accomplish this, the RP supports improvements in the availability, affordability and use of safe, effective and quality-assured essential medicines. The overall budget of the RP amounts to €10.8 million.



ACP Member States participating in the Renewed Partnership



The RP builds upon the successful initial phase implemented under the EC/ACP/WHO Partnership for Pharmaceutical Policies (2004–2010), and is aligned with relevant WHO and EC Global Health Policy Frameworks and strategies.^a It contributes to improved cost effective health care and better patient outcomes through improved availability, affordability and use of safe, effective and quality assured medicines in 15 African ACP countries.

The RP focuses on implementation and enforcement of policies and best practices in target countries. It promotes innovative medicines policy models, strategies and monitoring methods as well as inter-country collaboration and sharing of information and expertise.

The RP benefits from WHO normative work and technical guidance and expertise available at all levels of WHO (Headquarters,

RENEWED PARTNERSHIP RESULT AREAS

In order to improve access to quality assured medicines, the RP will address five main result areas which might be identified as priority activities in national work plans:

1 Improved **availability and supply** of essential medicines

- Develop/revise national policies and/or plans for procurement and supply
- Develop/revise and use best practices guidelines
- Strengthen capacity in procurement and supply
- Assess/monitor public sector procurement & supply chain
- Support joint initiative through Regional Economic Communities and other regional institutions in public procurement and supply

2 Reduced **medicines prices** and improved mechanisms for fair **financing** and **coverage**

- Establish or strengthen mechanisms for monitoring prices and availability of medicines
- Develop and implement medicines pricing policy
- Improve mechanisms for fair financing/coverage of essential medicines, as part of a social protection scheme

3 Improved **quality and safety of medicines** and reduced occurrence of sub-standard medicines

- Assess National Medicines Regulatory Authorities and identify areas that require strengthening

- Develop and implement tools and/or guidelines on effective medicines regulation and quality assurance
- Improve capacity for regulation/quality assurance of medicines and blood products
- Establish/strengthen pharmacovigilance (PV) systems
- Support Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to harmonize medicines regulations

4 Improved medicines **selection, prescribing, dispensing** and **use**

- Update national essential medicines lists, Standard Treatment Guidelines and National Formularies
- Survey and evaluate prescribing, dispensing and use of medicines using WHO methodology
- Improve prescribing, dispensing and use of medicines in public sector health facilities

5 Review and develop evidence-based national **medicines policies and plans** and enhance **transparency and good governance** of the pharmaceutical sector

- Build capacity and sustainable systems for collecting and analyzing reliable information on the pharmaceutical sector
- Develop or update national medicines policies and implementation plans
- Implement strategies for improving transparency and good governance in the pharmaceutical sector

Regional Office for Africa and Country Offices). WHO Medicines Advisers located in country offices play a critical role in the RP implementation in the 15 target countries. Advisers provide intensified support to Ministries of Health in assessing national medicines needs and priorities, and assist with planning, implementing and monitoring of medicines policy implementation.

The RP also supports medicines policy initiatives at the African regional level. For example, those being implemented by Regional Economic Communities and institutions in order to enhance alignment of policies, establish common medicines policy guidelines, to coordinate procurement and to harmonize the regulation of medicines.

Increasing impact in individual countries

- Supporting countries in assessing needs and priorities using reliable monitoring tools and methodologies;
- Providing high quality expertise and technical support tailored to country needs;
- Supporting establishment of in-country coordination mechanism for medicines-related work;
- Promoting and supporting inter-country collaboration through sharing of information and experiences;

- Facilitating synergies with other UN programmes on MDGs 4, 5 and 6, such as through the Muskoka initiative^b, the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children^c and other initiatives for improving access to medicines e.g. Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA).^d

Overall planning, implementation and monitoring of the RP is coordinated by WHO with EC support, at both regional and headquarter levels, while implementation is led by individual ministries of health, with the support of in-country WHO Medicines Advisers. Country, regional and global work plans are generally developed on an annual basis, and are monitored each quarter.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the Renewed Partnership is focused on demonstrating achievements against agreed targets and indicators, and uses existing reliable data sources wherever possible. Particular consideration is dedicated to strengthening country capacity for the collection, analysis and use of data that is most relevant to assess country needs and priorities and monitor progress and achievements. A mid-term review is planned for 2014 and an external evaluation in 2016.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AT COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVEL DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE RENEWED PARTNERSHIP

- Assessment of the national medicine policy in Ghana;
- Assessment of the National Medicine Regulatory Authorities in Ghana and Senegal;
- Support for the assessment and/or the development of national pharmacovigilance systems in Congo, DRC, Guinea and Mozambique through training sessions in countries;
- Contribution to the development of a new regulatory framework in Kenya as part of the decentralization process currently ongoing in the country;
- Price and/or availability surveys conducted in Burundi and Mali;
- Survey to assess prescribing, dispensing and rational use of medicines for diarrhea, malaria and hypertension done in Zimbabwe;
- Conduct of a regional workshop in Ghana to introduce the principles of evidence-based medicines selection used by the WHO Expert Committee and to build country capacity for updating national essential medicines lists;
- Conduct of a workshop in South-Africa on how to develop blood regulatory systems including regulatory and blood centres representatives from seven RP countries.

WHO contribution to the Renewed Partnership

- Development of norms, standards and guidelines;
- Access to information and expertise in the pharmaceutical sector e.g. WHO staff, collaborating centres, pool of experts;
- Expertise and operational capacity at country level for advocacy, policy advice and capacity building e.g. WHO Medicines Advisers;
- Convening power for effective collaboration, coordination and policy dialogue among stakeholders;
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies: development of methodologies, tools and strengthening of capacities.



Delegates at the official launch of the Renewed Partnership, held in Dakar, Senegal (April 2013)

ENDNOTES

- Including: World Health Assembly Resolutions: Pricing (WHA 54.11/2001); Availability (WHA 57.14/2004); Rational use (WHA60.16/2007); Essential Medicines for Children (WHA 60.20/2007); WHO Medicines Strategy 2008–2013; WHO Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008–2013; EU 10th EDF Intra-ACP Strategy; Joint EU-AU Action Plan 2011–2013; EU Role in Global Health.
- Muskoka Initiative: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/En/FRA-119133138-PQT>
- UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children: http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/news/2012/20120323_un_commission_lifesaving_commodities
- Medicines Transparency Alliance: <http://www.medicinestransparency.org/>



The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

ACP is an organization created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

<http://www.acp.int/>

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World Health Organization

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system.

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