

Corporate Responsibility

Changing Diabetes[®] in Children

Overview

The Changing Diabetes in Children programme is a partnership initiative with Novo Nordisk, The World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), local governments and key opinion leaders. The programme aims to increase access to diabetes care for children with type 1 diabetes in developing countries and thus change their future. It helps the children and their families to live better healthier lives and is designed to build long-term, sustainable solutions. Key components include therapy supplies, education and training of health care professionals.

About the project

The Changing Diabetes in Children programme, announced by Novo Nordisk in 2008, was joined by Roche in 2009. Together with the WDF, the focus is on working with local partners in each country to provide care for children with type 1 diabetes, and to help build infrastructure and strengthen overall capacity to eventually support all people with diabetes.

The programme integrates a number of key components:

- Improve existing infrastructure and supply of medical and laboratory equipment to establish centres for the treatment of children with type 1 diabetes.
- Train and educate health care professionals, diabetes educators and nurses through development of training materials and organised workshops specifically adapted to a developing country setting.

- Provide insulin and blood glucose monitoring equipment and supplies free of charge to children and adolescents enrolled in the programme for a period of five years.
- Develop specific educational materials for the children and their families and organise education sessions and children camps to support better diabetes self-management.

Insights and learnings gained through the programme will be extracted and shared among the participating countries, and will hopefully assist the development of health care systems in other developing countries.

Background

Childhood diabetes has a high mortality rate in poor countries. The life expectancy for a child with newly diagnosed type 1 dia-



Key facts and figures¹

- An estimated 285 million people worldwide have diabetes, with 438 million expected by 2030.
- More than 70% of people with diabetes live in low- and middle income countries.
- Africa currently has one of the lowest prevalence rates, however, the region is expected to experience the highest increase.
- Over 70,000 children worldwide develop type 1 diabetes each year.
- In developing countries, less than half of people with diabetes are diagnosed.
- The life expectancy for a child with newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes in Africa is less than a year.

“Novo Nordisk welcomes Roche’s collaboration on this programme. We believe that only through united effort we can effectively facilitate change. Our programme will provide access to diabetes care for children with diabetes and it will enable healthcare infrastructure development in the world’s least developed countries.”

Lene Andersen, Vice President, Global Diabetes Partnership, Novo Nordisk A/S

betes in sub-Saharan Africa is typically less than a year. Many children die even before they have been diagnosed due to the lack of diagnostics facilities. In fact, the majority of cases of diabetes in Africa go undetected. Undiagnosed diabetes evolves into complications such as renal failure, retinopathy, cardiovascular disease and lower limb amputation. Several factors contribute to the high morbidity and mortality in children with type 1 diabetes which include lack of insulin and other diabetes supplies, lack of equipment for monitoring treatment, poor understanding of the specificity of diabetes in children among healthcare workers, lack of appropriate protocols and lack of patient and parents education.

Roche uses its extensive experience in diabetes management to work closely with our partners through local clinics and summer camps to educate and train healthcare professionals, patients and their families on comprehensive and effective management of diabetes. Our objective is to produce care guidelines, educate healthcare workers and ensure all children entering the programme are registered and monitored so their condition can be controlled. We also have a number of programmes for increasing access to diagnostic tests.



A child with diabetes showing the injection sites she uses for insulin.



A key component is ensuring the families are educated and involved with the child's diabetes care.

Results

The programme² has been rolled out in five African countries: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Conakry, Tanzania and Uganda. Currently, over 450 children have been enrolled in the programme and received education in diabetes care and access to insulin and diabetes supplies. We have conducted pilot training workshops for healthcare workers in Cameroon and Uganda. Additionally, Novo Nordisk has developed a training manual specifically for children and adolescents for healthcare professionals in developing countries.



Mother showing booklet where her daughter records her blood sugar readings.

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**changing
diabetes®
in children**

¹ IDF, Diabetes Atlas
4th edition, 2009

² This programme also includes Bangladesh