

Access to Healthcare



What does “access to healthcare” mean for Roche?

- As one of the world's leading healthcare companies we believe it is an integral part of healthcare's mission to adopt policies that extend access to desperately needed products to people affected by poverty throughout the world.
- We are committed to finding healthcare solutions that are sustainable and have a long-term impact, particularly on the lives of those living in the Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

How does it work?

By forging public-private partnerships, Roche is able to combine its skills and resources with those of other organisations to deliver outcomes that could not be achieved by any single entity alone. Strategies implemented by Roche to increase global access to healthcare include:

- Developing a clear patent and pricing policy
- Working in partnership with committed governments, NGOs and other parties sharing similar goals
- Undertaking research and development to develop new HIV/AIDS drugs and improve existing treatments
- Promoting education, training and knowledge-sharing
- Donating technical expertise in the industrial development of drugs, particularly antimalarials, in order to support the development and distribution of a new drug to combat malaria

Examples

The fight against HIV/AIDS is one example of an area in which medical products are at the focal point of sustainable development. In addition to its primary role as a discoverer and developer of drugs for HIV/AIDS, Roche is meeting its corporate citizenship responsibilities by implementing policies and programmes that are designed to help people living with the disease in the poorest, hardest-hit parts of the world.

- Roche has developed innovative **patent and pricing policies** that are widely acknowledged as clear and transparent. We have removed both patents and profits as obstacles to the use of our HIV protease inhibitors in the world's 50 Least Developed Countries (as defined by the UN) and in all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Roche also offers discounted prices in low and lower middle income countries.
- Roche is a founder member of the **Accelerating Access Initiative (AAI)**, a global initiative that combines the collaborative efforts of seven research-based pharmaceutical industry members and five UN agencies. As a result of the AAI, ever-increasing numbers of HIV/AIDS patients are receiving treatment in developing countries.
- Founded in South Africa in 2001, Roche's **AmpliCare Initiative** is a multifaceted program that provides access to the latest HIV/AIDS diagnosis and monitoring technology to the world's least developed and developing countries. AmpliCare focuses on the complete continuum of care – from testing and monitoring to education – and works to maximise efforts on a region-by-region basis. It

includes flexible pricing and enjoys the support of major government and private programmes. Capping it off is an education programme to ensure that local doctors and nurses are fully informed on the latest advances in HIV/AIDS care. Right from the outset, Roche Diagnostics has partnered international agencies, local communities and hospitals and, most recently, the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, to create a programme that would go far beyond providing diagnostic tests.

Following warnings by the WHO that the next global influenza pandemic is imminent, Roche has been doing all it can to ensure worldwide availability of its influenza drug Tamiflu for pandemic use. The steps taken include:

- Ramping up Tamiflu production capacity to over 300 million treatments annually by 2007
- Licensing agreements with local companies for production of the drug for pandemic use in India and China
- Implementing a tiered pricing system with significant reductions for pandemic use
- Donating over five million packs of Tamiflu to the WHO

What impact does it have?

- Roche's no-profit prices for HIV protease inhibitors have made these drugs available to over 26 million people living in the Least Developed Countries – or almost 70% of all people living with HIV/AIDS. In total, Roche's access pricing policies benefit over 35 million people, or around 93% of the total number living with HIV/AIDS globally.
- By allowing production of generic versions of its HIV treatments in Least Developed and sub-Saharan African countries, Roche hopes that overall production will increase, helping to ensure sufficient supplies of these essential treatments for the growing numbers of people able to access treatment.
- In June 2005, the WHO reported that the AAI had shipped enough drugs to treat 427,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries – nearly half of the one million people reported to be on therapy in developing countries at that time. In Africa 216,000 patients are being treated with medicines supplied by AAI member companies. This represents an increase of over 121% on the previous year and a 23-fold increase in Africa since the initiative was founded in 2000.
- Roche Diagnostics has proven that with adequate training, PCR viral load testing can be done in some of the world's most resource-limited settings, despite the highly technical requirements of running this state-of-the art technology.

Who are our partners?

Many international organisations, such as the WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, as well as governments, NGOs, academic organisations and the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation