

## **Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry**

### Executive Summary - September 2007

The Pharmaceutical Industry recognises the need for Global effort from all stakeholders to improve access to medicines in the Developing World.

WHO requests information on work suggested in the draft Action Plan already being undertaken and asks how the Pharmaceutical Industry sees itself in contributing to the strategy taking forward this challenge. These questions are answered directly in the publication "Global Health and the Pharmaceutical Industry" compiled in association with ABPI Member Companies. This gives evidence of particular work under elements:-

- 1. Prioritizing research and development needs (Action points 1.1-1.4)**
- 2. Promoting research and development (2.1-2.4)**
- 3. Building and improving innovative capacity (3.1, 3.2)**
- 4. Transfer of technology (4.1, 4.2)**
- 6. Improving delivery and access (6.2, 6.3)**
- 7. Ensuring sustainable financing mechanisms (7.2, 7.3)**
- 8. Establishing monitoring and reporting systems (8.2)**

The publication shows the scale of the problem highlighted by the pharmaceutical industry. Case studies highlight just a cross section of the many actions already undertaken in partnership to support local research in relevant neglected diseases, by building new or collaborating with established research facilities in developing countries.

Industry recognises that problems in providing access extend well beyond the supply chain of medicines and is doing what it can to help NGOs become more effective – including supporting non-medicinal initiatives to reduce spread of disease and educate in primary healthcare. Particular examples concern an initiative to diagnose and manage breast cancer in Ethiopia (the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest killer, but there is only 1 oncology specialist in the entire country) and supporting an educational programme to reduce diarrhoea by encouraging hand-washing. Another example highlights industry work to overcome cultural and religious differences and prevent social stigma in seeking medical assistance for diseases.

Industry is already working actively with NGOs, Government Funding and Policy makers, Academic Research organisations and charitable grant makers as well as forming public/private collaborations between pharma companies to fight neglected diseases. The publication highlights one of these – the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.

The publication looks at the role of Intellectual Property Rights and National Regulatory bodies to maintain standards of medicine safety in the supply chain by providing patients with effective medicines rather than counterfeit or drugs produced to low quality standards. The publication concludes by making suggestions for how stakeholders can work together to overcome these challenges.

ABPI requests WHO freely circulate this publication to all IGWG participants. This pdf may be downloaded free of charge from the ABPI website <http://www.abpi.org.uk/recent.asp> and ABPI can supply printed copies as requested.