FOCUS ON: HIV

Working to Make HIV History

Johnson & Johnson Global Public Health is supporting global efforts to end HIV by expanding access to new treatment and prevention options, supporting community-based education and outreach efforts and accelerating R&D to meet the needs of people living with HIV everywhere.

THE CHALLENGE

In 1981, the first cases of what would become known as AIDS were reported. Forty years later, HIV/AIDS remains one of the world’s most significant health challenges. Nearly thirty-eight million people worldwide are living with HIV today and 1.5 million more acquired it in 2020. Many of these people belong to underserved communities.

The world has made tremendous strides in combatting HIV, but millions of people lack access to treatment and prevention services. COVID-19 has worsened many of these challenges, making it even more difficult for many people living with HIV to access care.

OUR RESPONSE

Johnson & Johnson has been working to make HIV history for more than 25 years. In that time, we’ve introduced nine new medicines for people living with HIV, including the world’s first, complete long-acting injectable regimen. We are also pursuing a preventive vaccine, with two large-scale efficacy trials underway, and are supporting the development and introduction of a World Health Organization-recommended discreet, long-acting HIV prevention method for women.

We also work with vulnerable communities impacted by HIV, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Johnson & Johnson is proud to support the MenStar Coalition, which is addressing the unique needs of men, DREAMS Thina Abashu Abantu (DTAA), which provides prevention education and support to adolescent girls and young women, and the New Horizons Collaborative, working to improve care for children, adolescents and young people living with HIV.

In addition, we support people on the frontlines of care. The newly-launched medical drones program alleviates burden on health workers by delivering HIV medicines directly to remote communities in Uganda. Through our Global Community Impact team and the J&J Foundation, we collaborate with mothers2mothers, who empower HIV-positive women to be community health workers.

We won’t stop until we make HIV history.

BY THE NUMBERS

How we’re making an impact:

9
HIV medicines developed

100
HIV programs supported globally

2.5M+
Young women and girls supported with HIV prevention education through the DTAA program

1.2M+
Men in sub-Saharan Africa newly initiated into HIV treatment through the MenStar coalition

1 https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/factsheet

Last updated: June 2021
INNOVATING IN THE LAB

DAPIVIRINE RING
Developed by the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) under an exclusive license from Janssen, the WHO-recommended dapivirine vaginal ring is the world’s first discreet, long-acting HIV prevention method designed for women. The dapivirine ring was approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in July 2020 and is now included in the World Health Organization (WHO)’s clinical guidelines as an HIV prevention choice for women.

LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE TREATMENT REGIMEN
Johnson & Johnson collaborated with ViiV Healthcare to develop a first-of-its-kind, long-acting injectable (LAI) treatment regimen for HIV, comprised of Janssen’s rilpivirine and ViiV Healthcare’s cabotegravir. The regimen has received regulatory approvals from the European Commission, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration and from Health Canada, with filings expected to begin in sub-Saharan Africa in 2021.

HIV VACCINE
Janssen has the only preventive HIV vaccine currently in late-stage clinical development, with two large-scale efficacy studies – Imbokodo and Mosaico – underway across four continents. The investigational mosaic-based regimen is designed as a “global vaccine” with the goal to be deployed anywhere in the world and prevent a wide range of viral strains responsible for the HIV epidemic.

The Imbokodo Phase 2b clinical trial, which is testing the safety and efficacy of the vaccine regimen among adolescent and young women in sub-Saharan Africa, completed vaccinations in July 2020. The Mosaico Phase 3 clinical trial is also underway and is continuing to enroll men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people in Europe, North America and South America.
DREAMS Thina Abashu Abantu

DREAMS Thina Abashu Abantu (DTAA) is a youth-led initiative aimed at reducing HIV acquisition rates among youth in South Africa. The program was launched in 2018 and is being implemented in two of the country’s provinces with high rates of HIV: KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. This program is an evolution from DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe), an ambitious partnership led by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and supporting organizations, including Johnson & Johnson, to reduce acquisition of HIV among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in 10 sub-Saharan Africa countries.

DTAA has exceeded targets and reached more than 1.4 million AGYW during 2018-2019. Despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, DTAA maintained momentum by pivoting to a digital presence and exceeded its 2020 goal by reaching 1.1 million people.

MenStar Coalition

In 2018, Johnson & Johnson – together with the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, Gilead Sciences, PEPFAR, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Unitaid – launched the MenStar Coalition to address the unique needs of men in the HIV epidemic, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Since launching, the MenStar Coalition has brought more than 1.2 million more men into care with a 91% viral suppression rate. Johnson & Johnson is also proud to contribute our expertise on brand development, segmentation, and human-centered communications to the development and launch of the MINA brand in South Africa. MINA focuses on the health and wellbeing of men, while also engaging them in HIV care and treatment initiation and retention.

Collaborative Drone Program

In close collaboration with the local community and institutions, Johnson & Johnson is supporting a new, innovative program to use medical drones to deliver lifesaving HIV treatments quickly, efficiently and reliably to people in the remote island communities of Uganda’s Kalangala District. The program serves more than 1,000 people living with HIV around the region and is gathering important data to inform future efforts aimed at scaling drone technology to solve other last mile delivery challenges, both in Uganda and beyond.
mothers2mothers

With support from the Johnson & Johnson Foundation, the mothers2mothers (m2m) initiative employs, trains and helps to empower HIV-positive women as “Mentor Mothers” – community health workers who work in local communities and at understaffed health facilities to ensure that HIV-positive pregnant women and their families receive the health advice and medication they need.

By virtue of their position, Mentor Mothers become role models, putting a face on empowered, strong and healthy HIV-positive women and helping to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Johnson & Johnson has worked with m2m since 2006, reaching more than 1.3 million women in nine countries. Currently, program activities focus on supporting the role of Mentor Mothers as frontline health care workers who work to improve the overall health outcomes of families in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and South Africa.

New Horizons Collaborative

The New Horizons Collaborative (NHC), launched by Johnson & Johnson, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and other collaborators, works to provide children, adolescents and young people in need with second- and third-line treatment for pediatric HIV, which impacts approximately two million children worldwide. The initiative builds awareness, inspires action and advances learning using an integrated approach to improve and scale-up pediatric HIV care through medicine donation and healthcare system strengthening in 11 countries with high burden of HIV infection.

ABOUT J&J GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Through a dedicated global public health (GPH) organization that combines world-class research and development, global strategy, and external affairs capabilities and local implementation and impact teams, we put the world’s most underserved at the heart of everything we do—measuring our success in lives improved. As a team of innovators, we are committed to pioneering and sustainably delivering meaningful and transformational products. Working with global and local partners, we ensure the critical solutions necessary are within reach of those who need them to save lives, cure patients, and prevent disease.

Upholding the rich heritage of Johnson & Johnson, we are taking on the toughest challenges and doing our part to close the gap of inequity and help pave the way to a healthier future where all people and communities can thrive.