

## **Expanded roles of pharmacists in Global Health Initiatives**

# **Walking the Talk –**

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# Learning objectives

- Considerations for introducing new treatment in resource limited settings
  - Existing formulations, generic formulations
  - Quality assurance
  - Initiating an scaling up supply of essential medicines
  - Ensuring the appropriate use
  
- Remaining challenges and opportunities



# Introduction



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# What is meant by Global Health Initiatives.....

- Concerted efforts to address specific health threats across countries and/ regions .....
- Primarily services delivered through public services ( not excluding Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) ) ( not excluding Non Government Organisations (NGO's))
- Characterised by long periods of no / limited funding, followed by substantial funding
- Questions about the absorptive capacity of countries to take over these initiatives, sustainability



# What is meant by Global Health Initiatives.....

- Some examples .....
- Vaccination programmes,
  - Kick Polio out-of-Africa, GAVI
- The Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
- UNITAID
- PEPFAR
- International Agencies, NGOs
  - UN agencies providing health sector support
  - MSF, EGPAF, CU MTCT Plus, Faith Based Organisations
- Outcomes dependent on access to quality medicines and related health products



# Progress and Challenges in reaching People Living with HIV AIDS .....

- Marked progress in prevention and treatment programme scale up in all regions of the world
  - Successful programmes are characterised by government leadership, sound partnerships, and coordination in the planning of activities
  - Programme directives and treatment protocols exist in most of the highly affected countries
- Success is hampered by a lack of human resources , weak health systems, poor management of services, prescribing and adherence problems, breakdowns in supply



# ***Walking the talk ...***

**Practical implications of  
delivering the services needed to  
achieve ambitious targets**



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# Key milestones and related pharmaceutical challenges

- Preventing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV infection ( PMTCT )
  - Interagency Task team created to develop, test and implement PMTCT packages of care
  - Early developments in zidovudine 300mg formulations
  - Nevirapine monotherapy as a cure for systems problems
  - Current appropriate regimens, need for a mother baby pack
- UNITAID announced another 50 million USD at the last AIDS conference, in addition to other planned resources from governments and other resources



# Key milestones and related pharmaceutical challenges

- Early NGO experiences in providing Antiretroviral treatment were critical to inform the scale up of coverage
  - MSF experiences with ART in resources poor settings
  - Columbia University MTCT Plus programme with UNICEF, initiates the first formalised global supply
  - WHO prequalification programme established
- Major challenges are being addressed
  - Quality generic medicines are available, prolific market for first line treatments for adults
  - Paediatric formulations are under the spotlight







# Key milestones and related pharmaceutical challenges

- Prices of medicines are coming down, patent barriers are being overcome
- Need for better monitoring and evaluation – what are the long term impact of all these initiatives ?
- Greater investment in research ( development and health systems research )



***Thank you ...***



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