

**Pharmacy
united in
action for
a healthier
world**

**Across the globe pharmacists,
pharmaceutical scientists
and pharmacy educators
are making people healthier**

In 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that, by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity. **Goal 3 is good health and well-being** for all and has 13 targets.

This World Pharmacists Day 2022 resource gives some examples of the invaluable actions of the pharmacy profession towards these targets.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



fip **WORLD** 25 SEPTEMBER
PHARMACISTS DAY

#WPD2022

Examples of pharmacy actions

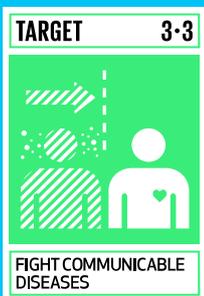
The pharmacy profession has been contributing to all the SDG3 targets!



Severe anaemia during or post pregnancy doubles the risk of maternal death.¹ In Tanzania, pharmacies help reduce risk by providing iron supplements. These can sometimes be cheaper than free supplements from government clinics when costs of transport and time spent at a clinic are considered.²



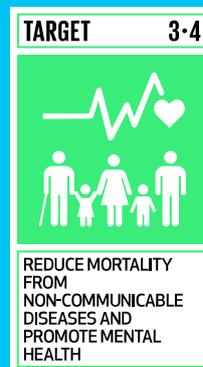
In South Africa, pharmacists administer childhood vaccinations, such as for polio and measles, under an expanded programme on immunisation.³



Pharmacists are preventing HIV infections in Brazil by prescribing antiretrovirals for pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis.⁴

As recognised partners in India's tuberculosis control programme, pharmacists provide screening, referral, and directly observed treatment (DOT); improving patients' health and helping to stop the spread of TB.

And thanks to pharmaceutical scientists, we now have a vaccine for malaria and more than a million children in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have received a dose.⁵



Community pharmacies in Switzerland give access to stool tests, advise on results, and refer to a physician when needed. One six-week campaign in 600+ pharmacies detected 58 cases of colon cancer and 368 cases of advanced adenoma.⁶

In Lebanon, pharmacies care for diabetes patients through medicines management, but they also run diabetes awareness campaigns, distributing information, measuring blood glucose and making referrals where needed.⁷

Through a specialised service in Canada pharmacists not only help mental health patients with medicines, but also support their communication with other healthcare providers and navigation of the mental health system.⁸

TARGET 3-5

PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In Kyrgyzstan, community pharmacies supply naloxone in order to prevent deaths from opioid overdose.⁹

TARGET 3-6

REDUCE ROAD INJURIES AND DEATHS

Some medicines more than double the risk of traffic accidents. Around the world, pharmacists educate patients on risks of driving impairment. “Talk to your pharmacist” is the advice from New Zealand’s transport agency.¹⁰

TARGET 3-7

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE CARE, FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATION

Pharmacists widen access to reproductive health services, including counselling and education. In the USA, some pharmacists are prescribing hormonal (including emergency) contraception.¹¹

TARGET 3-8

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Portugal’s government made use of the country’s pharmacy network to bring COVID infections under control; 12.1 million tests were performed in pharmacies between November 2020 and April 2022.

TARGET 3-9

REDUCE ILLNESSES AND DEATH FROM HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION

In Sweden 90% of patients are prescribed a dry powder inhaler instead of a metered dose inhaler, reducing greenhouse gases emissions.¹²

TARGET 3-A

IMPLEMENT THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Pharmacists in Thailand provide smoking cessation services. One study showed that 29% of patients receiving this service reported abstinence at 30 days.¹³

TARGET 3-B

SUPPORT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE VACCINES AND MEDICINES

Pharmacy has supported the regulatory approval of single-tablet combination products for nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and protease inhibitor backbone regimens to improve patient adherence — a major breakthrough in HIV therapy.

TARGET 3-C

INCREASE HEALTH FINANCING AND SUPPORT HEALTH WORKFORCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Pharmacy educators add capacity to the health workforce through 2,100+ pharmacy schools. The FIP-UNESCO UNITWIN programme has enabled powerful development of undergraduate training and continuing pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁴

TARGET 3-D

IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RISKS

FIP is tracking key pharmacy outputs during COVID-19 and, in October 2022, will publish findings on what is needed for pharmacy to be prepared for future pandemics.

What can we celebrate?

Global life expectancy at birth has increased from 66.8 years in 2000 to 73.3 years in 2019,¹⁵ largely due to gains in maternal [3.1] and child health [3.2], and in communicable diseases [3.3]. For example:

The maternal mortality ratio dropped by about **38%** ↓

worldwide between 2000 and 2017.¹⁶

Since 1990, the global under-5 mortality rate has dropped by **60%**.¹⁷ ↓

Between 2010 and 2020 new HIV infections declined by **31%** ↓ and there's been a **32%** decline in HIV mortality since 2016.⁵

Globally, tuberculosis deaths reduced by **14%** ↓ between 2015 and 2019.¹⁹

33 countries have reached the target for a 35% reduction in TB deaths since 2015 and 86 have achieved a **20%** ↓ reduction in incidence.⁵

Since 2012, nine more countries have been certified as malaria-free and cases in the Greater Mekong have dropped by almost **90%**.⁵ ↓

The SDG 3 target on hepatitis B has been met and, since 2015, the number of people who have received treatment for hepatitis C has increased nine-fold to **9.4 million**.⁵

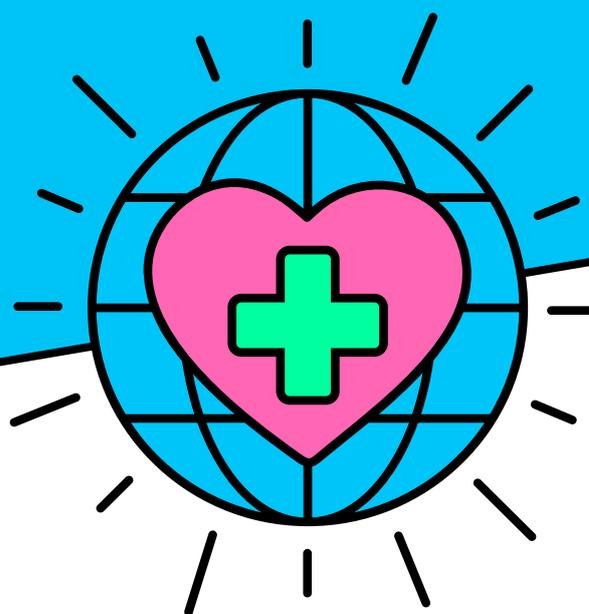
In fact, save for diabetes, there has been progress in all other SDG 3 target areas: non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and mental health) [3.4]; substance abuse [3.5]; road traffic [3.6]; sexual and reproductive health [3.7]; universal health coverage [3.8]; environmental health [3.9]; tobacco control [3.a]; medicines and vaccines [3.b]; health financing and workforce [3.c]; and emergency preparedness [3.d].

Why we must stay united in action

There are many improvements to health and well-being of which the pharmacy profession can be proud. Nevertheless, we all now face the task of restoring essential health services that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic when more people have been unable to get health check-ups, vaccinations and even urgent care. Decades of improvements in health outcomes are under threat of reversal.

If universal health coverage is to become a reality by 2030, growth in the provision and use of essential health services must greatly accelerate.

Pharmacy — through its many sectors and areas of expertise — is vital to this vision!



Resources from FIP

FIP (the International Pharmaceutical Federation) has documented many of the roles of pharmacists and services they provide in different areas in its reports, including:

[FIP reference paper on the effective utilization of pharmacists in improving maternal, newborn and child health. 2011](#)

[Policy statement: The effective utilisation of pharmacists in improving maternal, newborn and child health. 2013](#)

[Vector borne diseases: A handbook for pharmacists. 2020](#)

[Beating non-communicable diseases in the community: The contribution of pharmacists. 2018](#)

[Diabetes prevention, screening and management: A handbook for pharmacists. 2021](#)

[Focus on mental health: The contribution of the pharmacist. 2015](#)

[Reducing harm associated with drugs of abuse: The role of pharmacists. 2017](#)

[Policy Statement: The role of pharmacists in reducing harm associated with drugs of abuse. 2018](#)

[Pharmacists supporting women and responsible use of medicines. 2018](#)

[An overview of pharmacy's impact on immunisation coverage. A global survey. 2020](#)

[Pharmacy as a gateway to care: Helping people towards better health. 2017](#)

[Mitigating the impact of air pollution on health: The role of community pharmacists — Global survey report. 2020](#)

[Establishing tobacco-free communities: A practical guide for pharmacists. 2015](#)

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