Expanded roles of pharmacists in Global Health Initiatives

Walking the Talk –

Helene Möller, M.Pharm PhD
WHO Dept of Medicines Policy and Standards
Geneva
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
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
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 ...