

# BOOSTING PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION





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### INTRODUCTION

Since 2006, UNIDO has provided technical cooperation and advisory services to advance local pharmaceutical production (LPP) in developing countries with a wide range of public and private sector partners. Under a global project, UNIDO contributed to improving the operational environment and technical capacities of local manufacturers, and helped "mainstreaming" LPP as a global development theme. This engagement has established UNIDO as a leading organization on the LPP agenda, with a strong and vibrant network of partners. The success of the global LPP project - funded by Germany as a basis to attract additional resources for scale-up and transformational impact - has increased demand for UNIDO's services and allowed it to expand its engagement beyond essential medicines into the local production of biologicals and vaccines.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF LPP

- » More than two billion people worldwide cannot get the medicines they need.
- » LPP can help vulnerable populations, especially those in remote rural areas, to access quality medicines, thus contributing to "leaving no one behind, and reaching the furthest behind first", the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- » LPP can reduce the dependency on international donations and a shrinking number of overseas companies who dominate the global market.
- » LPP is easier to control and can help curb the vast influx of sub-standard medicines into developing countries.
- » While LPP is wide-spread, most companies operate much below international standards. Helping to upgrade their production contributes directly to people's health, as well as to inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

#### **UNIDO STRATEGY**

Against this background, UNIDO is taking its assistance to the next level by using a programmatic approach. In line with the Theory of Change of UNIDO's Medium Term Programme Framework, a multi-disciplinary team of UNIDO technical experts ensures effective and coherent delivery of the organization's key LPP services. Proactive knowledge management and communications provide the basis for strategic operational planning and coordination which integrate technical cooperation, policy advice and quality-related services with priority partnerships for scale up and transformational change. A particular focus is given to removing key systemic constraints such as lack of finance, technology and access to markets. As such, UNIDO's support to LPP contributes effectively to strengthening the health security of LMICs and attaining SDG target 3.8 on "access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all", while, at the same time, contributing to ISID as enshrined in SDG9.

#### **UNIDO SERVICES**

UNIDO's global LPP project (2006-2018) confirmed the need for continued delivery and further expansion of a tested package of LPP services under a programmatic approach. In particular, these include:

- » Policy advice to formulate and implement pharmaceutical sector strategies, policies and programmes
- » Technical guidance to companies to achieve international production standards such as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
- Business mentoring to increase production efficiencies and cost savings, and to improve business planning
- » Promotion of investment and technology transfer through 1) working with local companies and partners, and 2) matchmaking platforms and activities between both North-South and South-South, brokering winwin arrangements, including through Public-Private Partnerships
- » Human resources development to ensure further expansion and long-term sustainability of local production
- » Analysis and research for developing sector policies and strategies, including on the economics of production and on market data, as a basis for rational decision making by companies, investors and policymakers
- Strengthening regional and continental pharmaceutical manufacturers associations who represent and promote the industry, provide services to its members and engage with decision makers to address remaining challenges to LPP

#### **UNIDO LPP PROGRAMME - THEORY OF CHANGE:**

2023 2030 2019 Integration\* Scale Up + Transformation Outcomes **Impact** LPP acceleration through: • Growing number of companies embarking on international Technical Cooperation, Strong progress in quality standards of production including policy advisory reaching Universal GMP • Increase in access to finance and qualityacross LMICs and technology Sustainable supply of related services safe, effective, quality, • Expansion in number of RECs, and affordable essential Effective and favorable countries and companies medicines and vaccines requesting and receiving LPP operational environ-UNIDO technical assistance (as contribution to SDG ment (legal framework, target 3.8) - with a focus policies, regulations, · Growing commitment of on quality production institutional capacities, ...) Convening and Governments to implement and inclusive and across LMICs conducive policies and **Partnerships** sustainable industrialtime-bound incentives ization (i.a. SDG targets Legal frameworks, policies and 9.2, 9.3, 9.5) Effective access to institutional structures in place \* Integrated provision of finance, technology and • Business Membership UNIDO LPP Service Package, markets through strong Organizations strengthened leveraged through systematic and sustainable partner-KM as basis for strategic to represent and promote LPP ships and stakeholder planning, monitoring & • KM mechanisms and tools reporting, communications & networks strengthening advocacy, advocacy, and learning communications and partnerships



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## PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Boosting local pharmaceutical manufacturing requires implementation of a holistic set of complementary initiatives. Following this vision, UNIDO supported the formulation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan (PMPA-BP) which provides an integrated framework of vital "solutions" to establish a vibrant and sustainable pharmaceutical industry across African countries.

In addition, UNIDO is helping individual countries to develop and implement holistic pharmaceutical sector strategies which combine and tailor generic LPP "solutions" to different national contexts. At regional level, UNIDO is working with the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) on a strategic programme to operationalize the ECOWAS Regional Pharmaceutical Plan.

#### **MAIN APPROACH**

At the outset, a pharmaceutical sector analysis looks at the national health budget, medicines expenditures, relevant policies and legislation, tax regime, regulatory capacity and quality assurance, medicines produced, imports and exports, as well as access to finance conditions.

Based on the analysis, UNIDO supports the development and operationalization of pharmaceutical sector strategies to advance the industry. By engaging all key stakeholders, developing the sector strategy can result in quick and important policy and legislative changes, as well as improved cross-sectoral commitment and collaboration.

#### **RESULTS AND IMPACT**

Pharmaceutical sector analyses and development strategies in Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe, with a focus on:

- » Policy framework, including time-limited incentives
- » Regulatory framework and capacities
- » Quality standards of production, in particular Good Manufacturing Practices and WHO pre-qualification
- » Industry structure
- » Market diagnostics: Market shares of imported (donated), (re)exported, and locally-produced medicines
- » Local industry product portfolios
- » Competitiveness of domestic companies
- » Quality assurance in the distribution chain
- » Public procurement of medicines
- » Access to finance for investment in the sector

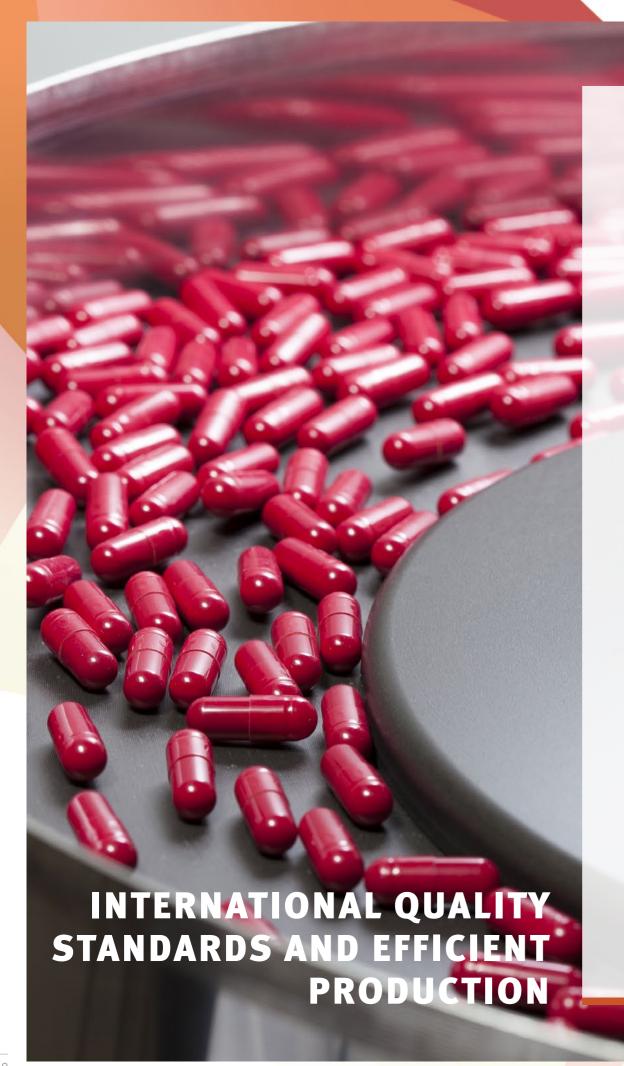
#### Implementation of national sector strategies, resulting in:

- » Development of Kenya GMP Roadmap
- » Faster market authorization and reduced registration times for local products
- » Tariff rationalization
- » Temporary incentives/preferential treatment for local manufacturers

#### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

- » 6 out of 7 companies assessed in 2012 achieved noticeable improvements in GMP compliance in 2015, 3 of them achieved a higher GMP compliance rating (Kenya)
- Import duties / VAT rolled back on a list of 234 raw materials used in pharmaceutical manufacturing (Zimbabwe)
- » Import restrictions, including special licensing to import 23 molecules that are also produced locally by more than one company (Zimbabwe)
- » Total pharmaceutical sector strategy delivered, with complete costs for quality upgrading and revamping of company product portfolios (Zimbabwe)





The ultimate objective of the global LPP agenda is that pharmaceutical manufacturing in all developing countries adheres to international Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards to ensure consistent quality of medicines. In accordance with the PMPA Business Plan, UNIDO supports WHO-GMP as the target to which all countries should aspire.

In order to counterbalance the higher costs associated with producing medicines in line with international quality standards and to ensure the competitiveness and sustainability of LPP, UNIDO also supports initiatives to increase the efficiency of pharmaceutical production. As part of the global LPP project, UNIDO worked with companies in applying Lean Six Sigma, OPEX and similar methods to maximize the use of available resources, minimize waste (physical, down-time, etc.) and assure overall efficiency in organizational processes.

#### **MAIN APPROACH**

#### **GMP Roadmap:**

Compliance with WHO-GMP requires implementation of an array of production measures to ensure that medicines are of consistent quality, as well as safe and efficacious. As such, moving towards internationally recognized GMP is a complex and costly multi-year process which - due to lack of financial resources, as well as technical and human resource capacities - the majority of manufacturers in developing countries are unable to pursue on their own. To address this challenge, UNIDO has developed the GMP Roadmap approach. In close collaboration with key national stakeholders, the GMP Roadmap process first compares existing manufacturing practices with international WHO-GMP and identifies those technical challenges posing the greatest risks to the quality of medicines, and thus to the health of patients. Subsequently, the GMP Roadmap establishes a gradual pathway to address these priority risks with clearly defined milestones and targets towards WHO-GMP compliance within a defined timeframe.

#### Production efficiency and competitiveness:

To make pharmaceutical production more efficient and competitive, UNIDO has been working directly with companies to optimize the cost of manufacturing through methods such as Lean Six Sigma (LSS). LSS helps companies to reduce wastage and variation in the production process. By increasing profitability, it contributes to making LPP more sustainable and allows companies to invest more in upgrading production towards international GMP quality standards.

#### **RESULTS AND IMPACT**

- » As part of the GMP Roadmap approach, UNIDO has conducted over 100 baseline assessments across Africa
- » Successful piloting of the UNIDO GMP Roadmap in Kenya has led to its adoption and broad-based application by GIZ in the EAC region
- » The West African Health Organization (WAHO) decided to collaborate with UNIDO in applying a Regional GMP Roadmap Framework as a central component for developing the pharmaceutical industry
- » An LSS Programme in Kenya enabled participating companies to increase productivity and output, leading to plans for the execution of additional LSS projects

#### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

- » Total of 107 GMP baseline assessments conducted, incl. 34 in Kenya, 26 in Ghana, and 18 in Nigeria
- » 6 of 7 companies participating in GMP Roadmap process improved their overall rating, or their score in either site or quality management system (Kenya)
- » Implementation of GMP Roadmap Framework for West Africa involves all 15 countries in the ECOWAS region, providing foundation for comprehensive WAHO/UNIDO LPP Programme
- » LSS Programme in Kenya increased annual profits or savings per company by more than USD 100.000



Affordable finance and technology are fundamental requirements for pharmaceutical manufacturers in developing countries to upgrade their production to international quality standards, such as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and to gain access to markets. As part of UNIDO's services to promote investment as well as technology transfers in the sector, UNIDO conducted a Partnership Mentoring Programme to help African pharmaceutical manufacturers to best prepare themselves for partnerships with international pharmaceutical firms, finance institutions and development partners.

#### **MAIN APPROACH**

The objective of the Partnership Mentoring Programme was to stimulate growth of local pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa through partnerships with European firms, and to assist a cohort of promising African manufacturers in finding a European technology or finance partner.

To identify these companies, UNIDO reached out to pharmaceutical manufacturers in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. From a total of 30 received applications, 10 companies were selected for the programme, based on criteria including adequate commercial and manufacturing capabilities as well as a sound growth strategy as presented in the application.

The selected African companies were then mentored in developing a highly focused prospectus with clear and concise growth and partnership strategies. The companies were invited to meet face-to-face with European firms and investors at the UNIDO International Business and Investment Forum in Bonn, Germany, March 1-2, 2018. The Forum, organized by the UNIDO Pharma Team and the Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Bonn, not only served to discuss the key topics of access to finance, technology and markets, but

their next partner. Just weeks after the face-to-face event, a number of African companies already had follow up discussions and meetings with European firms and investors who participated in the Forum.

The majority of participants commented that the Forum offered a chance to gain valuable insights and market intelligence. For African companies it served as their first opportunity to compare themselves with other manufacturers within and outside Africa. Some African companies explored how to do business together. The presence of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provided new perspectives and orientations to African companies on the value of attaining WHO Prequalification (WHO-PQ) for their products. Many participants expressed their wish to attend a similar event in the future.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES**

- » 10 African companies mentored to present clear and focused growth and partnership strategies to potential partners
- » 5 companies confirmed to have learned concrete lessons from the mentoring process that will help in their partnership efforts. 3 followed up with engaging further experts to expand work in the field
- More than 100 B2B conversations between pharmaceutical manufacturers from Africa and Germany/Europe served to explore options for future business partnerships
- 3 African companies are in talks with finance institutions and 3 on technology-transfer; 4 intra-African linkages have been established and will be further explored

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