



WHO Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Promoting access to safe, effective,
quality and affordable essential
medical products for all

ANNUAL REPORT **2018**

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effective, quality and
affordable essential medical
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¹Measure our success not by our outputs, but by outcomes - by the measurable impact we deliver where it matters most: that's in countries.



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

¹ [Link to quotation](#)

2018

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Access to health products continues to be a major challenge in low- and middle-income countries and, due to rising prices, has become one for wealthy countries as well. While a central health and human right, access to health products is also a pillar of development – without preventive, diagnostic and treatment tools populations cannot thrive. For these reasons, WHO's principal goal of achieving universal health coverage is dependent on access to vaccines, medicines and other medical technologies for all.

Access alone however will not help us reach the goals WHO and the international community have set in the shorter and longer terms. We must ensure that access is equitable, and that medicines and other health products are affordable, quality-assured, safe and effective.

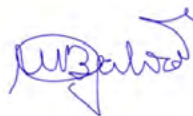
WHO has therefore been working along two main lines – formulating policies that will allow for more people to receive the treatment they need and issuing guidance on the norms and standards that must be applied to ensure health products do what they are supposed to do. Interaction between these two broad streams is essential if we want to ensure that people everywhere have the opportunity to be diagnosed and treated so they can have a higher quality of life.

To that end, WHO developed its first ever 'Access Roadmap' for vaccines, medicines and health products in 2018. The roadmap serves as a framework for countries to build the necessary blocks for sustainable access.

Other firsts included the revision of the Global Benchmarking Tool, an instrument used to measure and improve countries' regulatory agencies' proficiency. The 2018 success story in regulatory strengthening was United Republic of Tanzania's achievement of a well-functioning regulatory system after a number of technical exchanges with WHO.

In the pages that follow you will find details of these and many more developments. For those who want to delve deeper, we highlight some of the key publications and flagship meetings of the year.

2019 promises to be another year of growth and change as WHO undergoes a major transformation. This will only further strengthen our will and ability to support countries to increase access to health products and achieve sustainable health care for their populations.

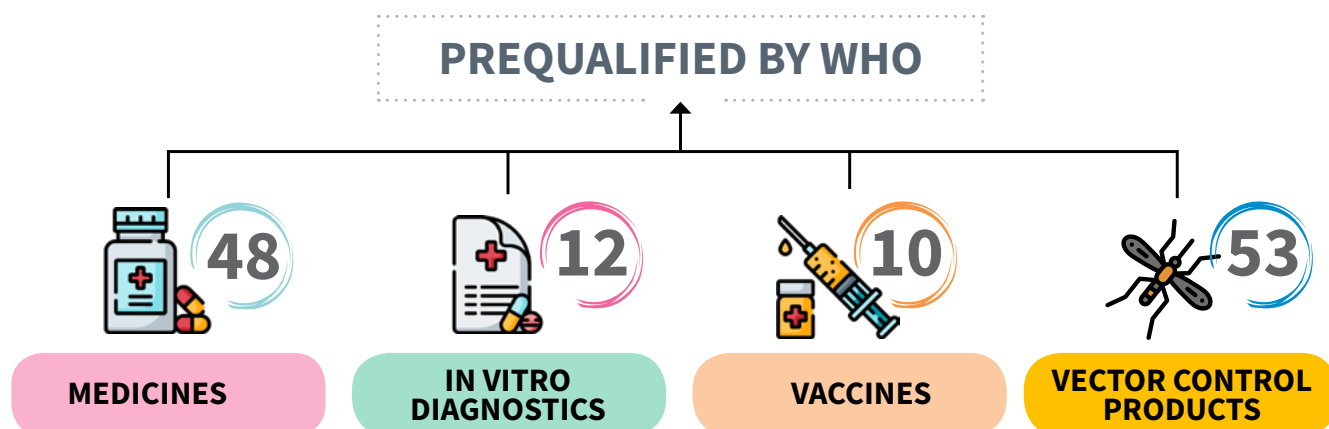


Mariângela Simão

Assistant Director-General

Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals

2018 AT A GLANCE



An **ACCESS ROADMAP** developed to direct WHO's work for greater access in countries

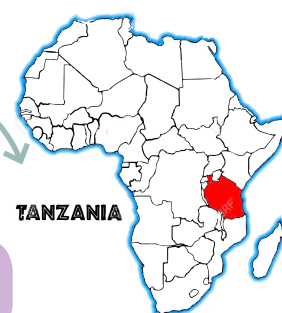


UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

becomes **1ST** country in Africa to achieve recognition as

WELL-FUNCTIONING REGULATORY SYSTEM

for medical products



6 TRAINING WORKSHOPS on substandard and falsified medicines for approximately **300 participants**



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