Corporate responsibility at Novartis

Our mission is to discover new ways to improve and extend people’s lives. We use science-based innovation to address some of society’s most challenging healthcare issues. We discover and develop breakthrough treatments and find new ways to deliver them to as many people as possible. We also aim to provide a shareholder return that rewards those who invest their money, time and ideas in our company.

Our vision is to be a trusted leader in changing the practice of medicine.

Our strategy is to use science-based innovation to deliver better outcomes for patients in growing areas of healthcare. We maintain strong investment in research and development (R&D) focused on areas of unmet medical need. We seek to develop medicines and products that can produce positive real-world outcomes for patients and healthcare providers. We aim to develop innovative products in growing areas of healthcare where we can make a real difference. At the same time, we are expanding our presence in the emerging markets of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where populations are growing fastest and where demand for access to high-quality medicines and healthcare is also likely to continue to increase.

Novartis corporate responsibility strategy

Expanding access to healthcare
- Control and eliminate diseases
- Pioneer new business approaches and healthcare delivery models
- Find new treatments

Doing business responsibly
- Care for our associates
- Promote ethics and strengthen governance
- Strive for environmental sustainability

Our corporate responsibility strategy

We focus our corporate responsibility (CR) work in two areas: expanding access to healthcare and doing business responsibly. This combination of responsible business and making medicines accessible is an important element supporting our company mission, vision and strategy.

To help us find ways to improve access to our treatments for as many people as possible, we offer an array of approaches, including innovative, sustainable business models; equitable commercial models; zero-profit models; patient assistance programs; and philanthropic efforts.

To help us become a trusted leader in changing the practice of medicine, we are taking steps to ensure our standards align with society’s increasingly high expectations by strengthening our compliance function, continuing to educate our associates, and changing how we interact with customers. At the same time, we are working to increase our environmental sustainability, reducing our footprint in our day-to-day operations.
Novartis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals urge countries to “leave no one behind.” The third development goal specifically focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people of all ages, while others such as goal 1 (no poverty), goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), and goal 10 (reduced inequalities) are inextricably linked to health, either directly or indirectly.

The facts underlying these goals are clear – the world’s population is growing and graying, boosting demand for healthcare. At the same time, the increasing cost of caring for people around the world is raising pressure on healthcare systems.

The United Nations predicts that the world’s population will continue to grow, with an additional 1 billion people expected to inhabit the planet by 2030, bringing the total global population to about 8.5 billion. Most of this population growth is expected to be in the developing world, where there continues to be tremendous unmet medical need. The world’s population also continues to age rapidly, with the number of people aged 60 or older expected to increase by more than 500 million by 2030, to 1.4 billion people.

At the same time, millions of people are migrating from rural areas to cities, sparking changes in lifestyle and diet that over time can affect their health. More than half the world’s population now lives in cities and towns, and this number is expected to grow to about 5 billion people by 2030.

These trends are fueling a global increase in chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease that may require patients to follow years or even decades of treatment. Cancer and cardiovascular diseases will cause half of all deaths worldwide by 2025, predicts the World Health Organization (WHO).

We have long experience in supporting the United Nations in achieving the development goals. As a leading healthcare company, ensuring good health and well-being (goal 3) is at the core of our business and is aligned with our mission to improve and extend people’s lives. Through our business operations and ongoing activities, we make essential contributions to goal 8 (good jobs and economic growth), goal 9 (innovation and infrastructure), and goal 13 (climate action). We harness the power of partnerships (goal 17) to discover and develop breakthrough treatments and deliver them to as many people as possible.

Ensuring good health and well-being is aligned with our mission.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Our mission is to improve and extend people’s lives. We pursue a combination of approaches to improve access to our medicines for underserved populations. We also work to improve disease diagnosis and management through disease awareness, training and education programs.

Through our business operations and ongoing activities, we make essential contributions to goals 8, 9 and 13.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Novartis employs 123,000 people worldwide. Our products are available in about 155 countries, and they reached nearly 1 billion people in 2016. We are committed to providing decent employment and promoting a diverse and inclusive working environment.

9 INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Innovation is at the core of what we do. We use science-based innovation to discover and develop breakthrough treatments, and we pioneer sustainable business models to deliver them to as many people as possible. Our capability-building efforts focus on patient care, research and development, and business skills, aiming to improve health outcomes and strengthen healthcare systems.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change threatens development and disproportionately burdens the poorest and most vulnerable, while posing clear health risks. We strive to reduce our carbon emissions and minimize our overall environmental footprint.

Partnerships are at the heart of everything we do.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Novartis seeks effective partnerships to deliver treatments and quality care to as many people as possible. We partner with governments and the public sector, nongovernmental organizations, local communities and health workers, and research and academic institutes.