About this report

For the fifth consecutive year, Novartis is publishing an annual Corporate Responsibility (CR) Report. This report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: Core option. The report supplements the CR chapter in the 2017 Novartis Annual Report (see pages 66-76). The previous CR Report was published on January 25, 2017.

As a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), we are fulfilling our commitment through this report to produce a UNGC Communication on Progress – a public disclosure outlining our progress in implementing the 10 principles of the UNGC (see page 58). On page 10, we discuss our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, both the UNGC principles and the SDGs are clearly mapped versus the GRI indicators on page 49.

This year we have made changes to the structure of the report based on feedback from users and a detailed gap analysis to comply with the GRI Standards. The report is divided into four chapters based on our CR material clusters: access to healthcare, innovation, patient health and safety, and ethical business practices. In each chapter, readers will find more focused and contextual information about the topics contained within each CR material cluster. Our materiality assessment is a key part of our CR strategy and provides much more than a list of priority CR topics to report against. It is part of a regular four-year cycle we have established to help us better understand the issues that matter most to our internal and external stakeholders, the impact these issues have on our current and future business, and the associated risks and opportunities for our company. The methodology and results are detailed on page 11. Further, selected views from external stakeholders on our CR material issues can be found in the relevant sections of this report.

As in previous years, the Governance, Nomination and Corporate Responsibilities Committee of the Board of Directors, which is the highest CR body in Novartis, has reviewed this report.

This report covers all regions and divisions from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017. All information reflects the continuing operations of the Novartis Group, including the various changes in the Group’s portfolio of activities in prior years. Environmental data is based on nine-month actual data (January to September 2017) plus three-month estimates. This data will be restated with actual figures on our website during the first half of 2018. Where data has been restated from previous reports, it is noted in an appropriate footnote in this report. The scope of the report has changed to take account of the results of our 2017 CR materiality assessment. Additionally, GRI Aspect Boundaries have been replaced by GRI Topic Boundaries to show where we as a company have impact and create value. Using the CR materiality assessment, we have analyzed all topics within the four CR material clusters in the context of our value chain.

This report aims to meet the needs and expectations of CR professional audiences by offering easy access to our performance on key topics raised by our CR materiality analysis. The GRI Content Index on page 49 provides links to content within this report, the 2017 Annual Report, the 20-F report and novartis.com.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG has provided independent assurance on specific CR data and on our materiality assessment outlined in this report. For more detail, see the Independent Assurance Report on page 60.


See all our CR publications.
Receive the Novartis CR e-newsletter via email.

For feedback and suggestions, contact Jill Gregson, Head, Corporate Responsibility Reporting: jill.gregson@novartis.com or go to the feedback survey.

Ratings and recognition