About this report

For the sixth consecutive year, Novartis is publishing an annual Novartis in Society report (formerly our Corporate Responsibility Report). This report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: Core option. The report supplements the CR chapter in the 2018 Novartis Annual Review (pages 40-43) and the 2018 Novartis Annual Report. The previous report was published on January 24, 2018.

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. We will also publish a more detailed UNGC Index on our website in the first quarter of 2019. On page 12, 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 51.

The report is divided into four chapters based on our CR material clusters and GH&CR priorities: holding ourselves to the highest ethical standards, being part of the solution on pricing and access, addressing global health challenges and being a responsible citizen. In each chapter, readers will find more focused and contextual information about the priority topics arising from our materiality assessment. 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. Download the 2017 Corporate Responsibility Materiality Assessment.

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, 2018, to December 31, 2018. 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 2018) plus three-month estimates. This data will be restated with actual figures on our website during the first half of 2019. Where data has been restated from previous reports, it is noted in an appropriate footnote in this report. GRI Topic Boundaries show where we as a company have impact and create value.

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 51 provides links to content within this report, the 2018 Annual Review, the 2018 Annual 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.

Learn more about our CR activities.
See all our CR publications.
Receive the Novartis CR e-newsletter via email.

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

Ratings and recognition