



SDC Health Network

The Private Sector as a partner in Health

Engagement modalities, limits and perspectives

Switzerland's Strategy on International Cooperation 2021–24 aims to expand cooperation with the private sector and unfold its potential to promote sustainable development in low and middle-income countries, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings. To this effect, private sector engagement (PES) is not a goal in itself, but a means to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In February 2021, the SDC published a [Handbook on Private Sector Engagement](#), which provides operational guidance on the specific modality of Private Sector Engagement.

The SDC Health Network organizes a series of webinars on the **Private Sector Engagement (PSE) in health**, every month (10.00-11.45 CET), between March and September 2021.

MODULE 4

Teaming-up to improve access to health technologies – Part II: Ensuring *quality* of affordable products in lower-income settings

June 16, 2021; 10.00 – 11.45 (Swiss time CET)

[Join meeting](#)

More way to join:

<https://eda-ch2.webex.com/eda-ch2/j.php?MTID=m8dd33eddf08914488c519f4cb9c0ea77>

During the last two decades, the international community has undertaken enormous efforts to improve *access* to affordable health products for people in lower-income settings, especially against HIV, TB, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and childhood illnesses. Yet, for a long time, the *quality* aspect of health products was neglected. This has changed over time as evidence has revealed the harmful effect of substandard or falsified products on people's health and the waste of their scarce financial resources. The private sector plays a pivotal role in the research, development, production and supply of *quality* products.

In its new Strategy on International Cooperation 2021-24, Switzerland places strong emphasis on the provision of *quality* key services, including health products. In this context, SDC has been supporting partnerships that pay particular attention to the quality aspect in order to make sure Swiss tax payers' money is effectively invested and people's health improved and not harmed.

Objectives of the webinar

Participants will get a better understanding of

1. the different factors that affect the quality of health products
2. the role of the private sector in ensuring quality
3. approaches to promoting the production and supply of quality health products through the private sector.

Key questions



- Why is important to look beyond mere access to affordable health products and keep the quality aspect in mind?
- What can I do as donor or implementing agency to promote production and supply of quality products through the private sector?
- What can the State and the pharmaceutical industry do to ensure the quality of health products?

Guest speakers

Karin Wiedenmayer – Senior Pharmaceutical Public Health Expert, Swiss TPH

Charles Gore – Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool

Ed Vreeke – Executive Director, QUAMED

Lodovico Paganini – Scientific Officer, Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products:

George Jagoe, Chief of Access, MMV

Time	Content
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The PES in health series journey: looking back at Module 3- Introduction to Module 4 (programme & objectives)
10.10 - 10.30	Part 1: Keynote speech on the quality aspect of health products and the role of the private sector
10.30 – 11.00:	Part 2: Zoom-in on specific partnerships (7 min presentation each) Medicine Patent Pool: <i>Ensuring quality and affordability of generic medicines through public health-oriented voluntary licenses</i> QAMED: <i>Quality Medicines for all</i> SwissMedic: <i>Strengthening capacities of African Medicines Regulatory Authorities to accelerate access to quality medicines</i> MMV: <i>Access policy & quality production from local pharma manufacturers based in Kenya and Nigeria.</i>
11.00 – 11.30:	Part 3: facilitated round table Charles Gore – Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool Ed Vreeke – Executive Director, QUAMED Lodovico Paganini – Scientific Officer, Swissmedic George Jagoe, Chief of Access, MMV
11.30 – 11.40	Wrap-up & closure