



SDC Health Network

## The Private Sector as a partner in Health

Engagement modalities, limits and perspectives

Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021–24 aims to expand cooperation with the private sector and exploit 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 fulfill 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 second Wednesday of the month (10.00-12.00 CET), between March and September 2021.

### MODULE 3

## Teaming-up to improve access to health technologies – Part I: Strengthening collaboration towards needs-based R&D for lower-income settings

May 12, 2021; 10.00 – 11.30 (Swiss time CET)

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<https://eda-ch2.webex.com/eda-ch2/j.php?MTID=mf5cac47105b8f33f1226b8f34462faf6>

Equitable access to innovative, affordable quality health technologies is key for improving health of people in lower-income settings. Yet, in many cases, the needed products are not even researched and developed as the investment incentive for the private sector is limited, due to the lack of purchasing power and small markets in these settings. The global COVID-19 crisis has revealed that R&D activities targeting specific needs of lower-income settings are critical in order to respond effectively to the pandemic, e.g. rapid tests, one-dose oral treatments or vaccines that do not require strong cooling.

For more than a decade Switzerland has been supporting various Products Development Partnership (PDP) for boosting R&D of and access to such health technologies. The PDP business model builds on alliances and collaboration between the academic, research, public and the

private sector. It creates incentives for all sides to engage in needs-based R&D for lower-income settings.

The global response to COVID-19 known as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) was launched in April 2020. Building on the existing model of the Products Development Partnership (PDP), the ACT-A gathers public and private actors to boost R&D of new health technologies.

## Objectives of the webinar

1. Analyse the multiple dimensions of access: from R&D funding to patient uptake.
2. Understand the added value of public-private partnership for R&D of and access to new health technologies;
3. Get to know the importance of public-private partnership for the pandemic response to COVID-19

## Key questions we will focus on for this webinar session



- Why shall we engage in public-private collaboration for the development of new health products?
- What are the respective roles of PDPs, private companies, research institutions and public donors in such partnerships?
- Why does the private sector engage in such partnerships?
- What are the major opportunities and barriers for R&D of new health products?

## Guest speakers

Representatives from Products Development Partnerships (PDPs), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the private sector (pharmaceutical companies).

## Program

Time	Content
10.00 – 10.10	Opening - Introduction
10.10 - 10.30	<b>Part 1: keynote speech</b> on access to health technologies the role of public-private partnership.
10.30 – 11.00:	<b>Zoom-in on specific partnerships</b> <b>Flagship examples of public-private collaboration for a new health product</b>
11.00 – 11.30:	<b>Part 3: facilitated round table</b>  <b>Block 1: R&amp;D and need-based approach</b>  <b>Block 2: Access and product delivery to end user</b>  <b>Block 3: Responding to the needs and aiming for greater sustainability: local capacity strengthening in LMICs</b>
11.30 – 11.40	Wrap – up & Closure