



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative | DNDi

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) is a collaborative not-for-profit drug research and development (R&D) organisation that is developing new treatments for patients affected by neglected diseases, such as Leishmaniasis, Hepatitis C, Sleeping Sickness, Chagas Disease, Filial Diseases, Paediatric HIV, Hepatitis C and Mycetoma. The organisation was founded in 2003 by four publicly-funded research institutes from Malaysia, India, Kenya and Brazil, along with the Institut Pasteur and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the UNDP / World Bank / WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). DNDi uses and strengthens existing capacity in disease-endemic countries, as well as raises awareness and advocates for increased public awareness in this field. Acting in the public interest, DNDi bridges existing research and development (R&D) gaps in essential medicine access and innovation by initiating and coordinating drug R&D projects in collaboration with the international research community, the public sector, the pharmaceutical industry, and other relevant partners. In pursuing these goals, DNDi advocates for a global R&D framework that ensures both innovation and equitable patient access to health technologies.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Drug research and development
- Access to medicines
- Advocacy for increased research and development for neglected diseases
- Digital health and innovation

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

DNDi operates through a collaborative model with industry partners and all of its research and development activities are outsourced. While working towards discovering treatments to the neglected diseases, the organisation operates within short and long-term strategies to firstly make better use of existing treatments by creating combination-drugs, and secondly as identifying new medical compounds and developing new, safer and more effective drugs with wide field access, storability and affordability. DNDi also seeks to accelerate the start of clinical trials and the transition from trials to the field as soon as reliable medicines are discovered, in order to make sure treatment reaches those in need of it. Strengthening R&D networks built on South-South and North-South collaborations in Asia, Africa and Latin America is part of the strategy, and these regional networks gather information on available regional expertise, capacity and patients' needs, and also actively advocate for DNDi. Regarding digital strategy, DNDi and Atomwise (a biotech company) started a collaboration

to advance drug development using AI for neglected diseases, in a programme to develop first-in-class treatments for Chagas disease.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

DNDi has approximately 200 employees globally. It is headquartered in Geneva with regional offices in Brazil, the US, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, India, Malaysia and Japan. DNDi is governed by Board of Directors (chaired by Marie-Paule Kieny) and a Scientific Advisory Committee. The executive director of DNDi is Bernard Pécoul.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

DNDi receives funding from both public and private sectors, and from generous individuals. Several European governments and development agencies along with the European Union, Médecines sans Frontières and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have provided key funding. Total Social Mission expenditure in 2016 amounted to EUR 43,011,582. The current estimate of needed funds until 2023 is 650 million Euros, of which approximately 61% has been raised so far.

PUBLICATIONS

See: <http://www.dndi.org/media-centre-overview/publications/>

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