

WHO Insulin Access Workshop Joint IDF, JDRF and NCD Alliance Statement

2021 marks the centenary of the development of therapeutic insulin and 2022 the centenary of the first successful use of insulin to treat a person with type 1 diabetes, historic events which have since saved and improved the lives of millions of people with diabetes. Nevertheless, 100 years after these milestone events this life-saving treatment remains beyond the reach of many who need it.

This week's WHO Workshop has highlighted that universal access to affordable insulin remains a global challenge. The barriers to access and affordability are complex, reflecting the many steps involved in the manufacture, supply, pricing and appropriate use of insulin. It has also underlined the scale of the challenge and the extent of the resulting public health and human crisis.

Responding to these challenges requires the development and implementation of a comprehensive and ambitious plan with wide-ranging and cross-sectoral collaboration to improve equitable access to affordable insulin, related supplies and support.

The plan should:

- acknowledge, connect and extend existing initiatives already working in this space
- focus effort on key areas of need including:
 - o global humanitarian and donor action, especially where the long-term or temporary lack of insulin is life-threatening, helping provide access to quality-assured affordable insulin and associated products and consumables
 - o strengthening of healthcare delivery and supply chain management systems for diabetes care and access to insulin and associated products and consumables in conjunction with national capacity and infrastructure
 - o coordinated multinational action including public-private partnerships to increase transparency and affordability in the procurement of insulin and related supplies
- recognize that global solutions can only be achieved by collaboration and contributions from all stakeholders (global agencies, governments, NGOs, academic and service providers, industry, partnerships, and humanitarian agencies)
- advocate for the inclusion of insulin and associated products and consumables within Universal Health Coverage commitments
- support and promote locally adapted sustainable solutions
- include the voices of people with diabetes, and develop the role of diabetes associations and civil society as advocates for people with diabetes
- document, monitor and regularly report on progress including against WHO NCD targets, Sustainable Development Goals, and other relevant goals and treaties

A meaningful and agreed 10-year program of activity is required to develop and implement solutions to tackle the barriers to insulin access and affordability.

Call to action

Interested parties are invited to contribute to the development and implementation of a shared action plan to deliver for universal and sustainable access to affordable insulin, related supplies and support.

This call is designed to complement the 2019 WHO Technical Report on The Selection and Use of Essential Medicines, the proposed 2021 WHA resolution on insulin access and the WHO Global Diabetes Compact.

This call is intended to be broad-based and inclusive. It is initially endorsed by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) in conjunction with the NCD Alliance (NCD Alliance). Other organisations and bodies are invited to contribute to the development, promotion and implementation of this plan.

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