



WORLD **DIABETES** FOUNDATION

## **MEDIA BACKGROUNDER**

### **World Diabetes Foundation**

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The establishment of the World Diabetes Foundation was announced by its founding father Novo Nordisk A/S on World Diabetes Day 2001. The Foundation was legally established in February 2002. A donation programme by the founding company of a maximum of DKK 650 million over a period of ten years was approved by its General Assembly and shareholders in March 2002.

In March 2008, the shareholders of Novo Nordisk A/S approved an additional endowment of a maximum of DKK 575 million over another ten-year period, bringing the two endowments from Novo Nordisk A/S up to a total maximum of DKK 1.2 billion in the period 2001-2017, i.e. the equivalent of USD 255 million (exchange rate of 4.8). The Foundation is registered as an independent trust and governed by a board of six experts in the field of diabetes, access to health and development assistance.

The Foundation is presently chaired by Prof. Pierre Lefèbvre (IDF president 2003-2006). Other members of the Board include Mr. Leif Fenger Jensen, Prof. Ib Bygbjerg, Dr. Ida Nicolaisen, Mr. Lars Rebien Sørensen and Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya.

#### **Mandate and objectives**

The aim of the World Diabetes Foundation is to alleviate human suffering related to diabetes and its complications among those least able to withstand the burden of disease.

The Foundation operates with a strong poverty focus, meaning that support can only be granted to developing countries. In effect, this means that only countries listed on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipient countries are eligible for WDF support.

Potential areas of support include:

- Awareness about diabetes
- Prevention of diabetes and its complications
- Education and training for people with diabetes and healthcare professionals
- Detection, treatment and monitoring of diabetes

#### **Achievements to date**

To date, WDF has funded 236 projects in 90 countries. In addition, 15 projects emanating from fundraising initiatives primarily within Novo Nordisk A/S have been commenced.

During its eight years of existence, the World Diabetes Foundation has established project-related partnerships and collaboration with organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), the World Health Organization Regional

Office for South-East Asia (SEARO), the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the World Bank Group and the Danish International Development Assistance Agency (DANIDA); various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including DanChurchAid, the Insulin Foundation and Fundación para la Diabetes. In addition, the Foundation partners with ministries of health in developing countries as well as with local diabetes associations and other local non-governmental organisations.



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### **Global awareness and advocacy**

As part of the global awareness initiatives the World Diabetes Foundation initiated the Global Diabetes Walk on World Diabetes Day 2004. In 2009, more than 300,000 people joined the walk to create global advocacy and awareness about diabetes in countries worldwide.

Please visit [www.globaldiabeteswalk.net](http://www.globaldiabeteswalk.net)

### **Approach**

The World Diabetes Foundation seeks to act as a catalyst to help others do more. Out of a total project portfolio of USD 223.7 million, only USD 76.6 million have been granted by WDF. The remaining balance constitutes co-funding either cash or in-kind by project partners. Thereby it is possible to make a much greater impact than the Foundation's size would suggest. Significant emphasis is placed on long term sustainability of project activities. To achieve this, focus is on strong local ownership, presence of a local champion to drive the project process, ensuring that a project builds on already established structures and that local authorities assume responsibility for all costs associated with the continued implementation of activities after project completion. Projects may have a global, regional or local focus.

Examples of each category include:

#### **Global**

Diabetes Action Now seeking to raise global awareness of diabetes, implemented by WHO and IDF and the Diabetes Atlas in collaboration with IDF.

The "Unite for Diabetes" campaign led by the International Diabetes Federation, with the aim to secure a United Nations Resolution on Diabetes which was successfully achieved in 2007.

In June 2009, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the World Diabetes Foundation entered an agreement to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on issues of common interest in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

#### **Regional**

Diabetes Practice Guidelines for Africa aiming at establishing standard treatment guidelines for the region. Implemented by IDF-Africa.

**Local**

Access to diabetes care in Tanzania which has established more than 225 diabetes clinics; thereby bringing diabetes care to all areas of the country. Implemented through the Tanzania Diabetes Association and with the Ministry of Health.

**Follow-up on projects**

The World Diabetes Foundation has developed a number of general procedures for monitoring and evaluating projects. These procedures aim to maximise the impact and lessons learnt and to minimise the risk of project failure.

Upon Board approval of support to a project, a contract is signed with the project partner.

The contract stipulates specific milestones to be achieved for the entire duration of the project and all payments to the project are directly linked to the achievement of these tangible results. Typically, a project has 6-10 such milestones to be met during project implementation. No funds are released unless agreed results are delivered.

Project partners are required to submit on a semi-annual basis a narrative report describing progress in terms of achieving expected results as well as a financial report detailing expenditure on the agreed budget. Annual audited accounts and final audited accounts also form part of this process. All payments to a project are subject to submission of satisfactory reports.

In addition to written reports, the World Diabetes Foundation funded projects are visited by the Secretariat on an annual basis. The purpose of the visits at field level is to obtain a first hand impression of project achievements in relation to the project plan and to have a close dialogue with the partner on project progress and obstacles. Focus is on learning best practices, sharing experience and finding solutions in collaboration.

Application form and more information on the World Diabetes Foundation and its operations are available on [www.worlddiabetesfoundation.org](http://www.worlddiabetesfoundation.org)

For further information please contact

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**The World Diabetes Foundation**

The World Diabetes Foundation is dedicated to supporting prevention and treatment of diabetes in the developing world through funding of sustainable projects. The Foundation creates partnerships and acts as a catalyst to help others do more and strives to educate and advocate globally in an effort to create awareness, care and relief to those impacted by diabetes. The World Diabetes Foundation has funded 236 projects to date in 90 countries with a total project portfolio of USD 223.7 million, of which USD 76.6 million were donated by the Foundation.

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