



In kind donation programs assessment of pharmaceutical companies in the overall AIDS care in ten French-speaking African countries: the nevirapine and fluconazole cases

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Issues

The public-private partnerships may constitute a new model able to broaden access to AIDS treatment in developing countries. Since 2000, the pharmaceutical industry has organized In Kind Donation (IKD) programs for the antiretroviral Viramune®, the screening test ABBOTT Determine® HIV-1/2 and the antifungal Diflucan®. Were these programs a true contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS in developing countries compared to the use of generic medicine? Have they not prevented more sustainable plans to access care?

Description

A survey conducted by two leading NGOs, ReMed and AIDES with ten African countries enabled to assess the impact of these programs on access to care and health systems.

Lessons learned

The IKD programs may offer a short term benefit, allowing an increase in the number of patients having access to care. In Cameroon, the IKD program of Viramune® was the only source of medicine supply for the mother-to-child prevention program. But, other results of the study have shown that, in the long term perspective, IKD programs of pharmaceutical companies may disorganize health systems. These programs may be the cause of logistic problems and have an organizational impact, in particular when they are not integrated into national ones. Moreover, information flow problems do not allow an overall assessment of these programs.

Country of research

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Mali, Niger, Senegal.

Support programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission

Abbott laboratories donated their rapid test Determine® and the Boehringer Ingelheim laboratory donated its antiretroviral nevirapine Viramune® to be used in one dose during childbirth.

Programme for the donation of fluconazole

Pfizer has given its antifungal medicine, free of charge, to sub-Saharan African organisations and other developing countries where medicines are the most needed. These drugs are distributed freely and without limit to public health clinics. Fluconazole is given to treat the two opportunist infections Cryptococcal Meningitis and Oropharyngeal Candidiasis.



AIDES, a French NGO

Set up in 1984, AIDES is the largest HIV/AIDS community-based organisation in France, with centres in over 70 cities. We support partner organisations in Central and Eastern Europe, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

Our main goals:

- To inform vulnerable people about HIV/AIDS prevention and testing
- To support PLWHAs, (social & professional integration, therapeutic education)
- To advocate for the rights of PLWHAs.



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