PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS (PDPs)
Leaders in Health Innovation and Global Development

PDPs DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR DISEASES OF POVERTY
Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and HIV/AIDS affect more than one billion people globally. However, because these diseases predominantly impact the world’s poor, there’s little financial incentive for for-profit pharmaceutical companies to invest in developing diagnostics, vaccines, drugs, vector control products, and other new technologies to combat them.

Only 1 in 100
Only 16 out of 1393 medicines developed between 1975 and 2000 addressed neglected diseases that are most prevalent in low- and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).

HOW PDPs WORK
Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) are non-profit organizations that develop new products for people who suffer from diseases and health threats underserved by traditional markets by building partnerships between the public, private, academic, and philanthropic sectors. Since PDPs were established, they’ve emerged as the leading engines of innovation for diseases of poverty. PDPs’ unique attributes enable them to consistently develop products at costs below that of the private sector that are affordable, equitable, sustainable, and field-adapted to respond to patients’ needs.

PDPs work across all stages of product development, from discovery to market access. Most PDPs engage in virtual product development, retaining direct management, scientific overview, and strategic oversight of research programs though much of the laboratory and clinical work is performed through partners.

The PDP model is highly cost-effective. For example, the PDP, DNDi, estimated the full costs for its research and development of a new chemical entity at US$70–225 million, while the pharmaceutical industry pegs such costs at US$1Billion or more.

Impact of PDPs
2.4 billion people reached by PDPs’ products since 2010
65 new health technologies delivered by PDPs in the last decade
375+ new health technologies in development by PDPs

PDP Activities include:
Discovery Development Delivery
Cross-cutting activities
i.e. policy advocacy, resource mobilization, quality assurance, etc.

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FURTHERING GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Health is a prerequisite to development. The products PDPs develop are essential to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) Constitution, and the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty, ensuring lives and promoting well-being for all, achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment for all, and reducing inequality within and among countries.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

The PDP model of collaborative medical innovation helped enable a rapid and effective global response to COVID-19.

Labs, instruments, and scientific expertise in LMICs, supported by PDP work, were critical to identifying COVID-19 variants.

PDPs are developing COVID-19 vaccine candidates and therapeutics, as well as providing support and scientific leadership on COVID-19 product development.

PDPs have granted access to their chemical libraries to be tested for efficacy against COVID-19.

ADVANCING MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Many PDP products most benefit women and children, groups disproportionately affected by diseases of poverty. Examples include:

Dapivirine vaginal ring
Long-acting method designed specifically for women, which they can control to reduce their HIV risk (developed by International Partnership for Microbicides).

Pediatric TB therapy
Doses and formulations of TB medicines suitable for children; a million treatment courses ordered across 116 countries (developed by TB Alliance).

4-in-1 HIV treatment for children (under FDA review)
New easy-to-administer, strawberry-flavoured heat-stable combination of four antiretroviral medicines, after decades of poor options (developed by DNDi).

DRIVING HEALTH SECURITY & RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

PDPs play critical roles in supporting top global health security priorities, such as pandemic preparedness and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as in building infrastructure and expertise that strengthens local health systems.

Identify, prevent, and respond to epidemics.
PDPs were critical in responding to outbreaks including the 2018 Ebola outbreak in DRC, and COVID-19.

Combat antimicrobial resistance.
New therapies for TB, malaria, and other diseases are critical to addressing the threat of AMR.

Capacity building.
PDP work develops scientific capacity and leadership in LMICs.