The Belgian commitment to pharmaceutical quality:
a “best practice” to assure the quality of medicines available through humanitarian and development programs
Responsibility & regulation

WHO estimates that only 20% of countries have adequate medicines regulation.

“The reality is that many regulatory authorities don’t have the full capacity to perform all regulatory functions, due to chronic shortages of human, technical, financial and other resources” WHO 2010
Belgian DG Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)

**Objectives:** Sustainable human development & Eradication of poverty and inequalities

**Values & approach:** Rights based approach, aid effectiveness, context adapted

**Budget (2018):**
- Development Cooperation: 1.8 billion € (0.41% of GNI)
- DGD: 1 billion €

**Accountability:** Report to the federal Parliament

**Implementation:**
- 3 cooperation channels
  - Governmental cooperation: 14 partner countries
  - Non-governmental cooperation: 113 partner Belgian non-governmental actors
  - Multilateral cooperation: 15 partner international organizations, European Union, OECD
- Other instruments: Humanitarian aid, etc.

**Health is a priority** in governmental cooperation (Health system strengthening)

Sources: Belgium’s Law on Development Cooperation 2013, Infocycle 2016, www.dg-d.be (ODA.be 2018)
22% of Belgian ODA for health sector to purchase medical products

Incidents by Belgian actors (responsibilities & tenders)

Moral responsibility to avoid double standard in quality assurance when we operate overseas

To avoid incidents and/or mitigate risks: "Commitment" of all Belgian stakeholders to quality assurance of medical products available through development and humanitarian programs (ODA)
Belgium: « Commitment » to QA, 2017

Commitment of all stakeholders (Oct. 2017)

- **Deputy Prime Minister** and Minister for Dev. Cooperation
- **19 Belgian implementers of development and humanitarian programs** (NGOs, etc.)
- Financial controllers of the Administration

Implementing actors are final responsible

Objectives

- Ensure quality of essential medicines and medical products in Belgian-funded development and humanitarian programs (no double standard)
- **Build local capacity**
- Provide quality-assured medical products to recipients

Sources:
Belgium: « Commitment » to QA, 2017

2 main components:

- Quality assurance system
- Local capacity building

Pragmatic financial and administrative rules:

- Budgeting in programmes
- Networking (pooling financial, technical, human resources)
- Stepwise approach

Commitment to QA for medicines in Belgian development and humanitarian programs
Be-cause Health Conference – 20 Nov 2018
Harmonisation of policies and practices?

Inspiring approach...

If more donors and international actors join forces in requiring quality-assured products, they would create a “market incentive” to quality that could in the long-term lead to broader availability and lower prices of such products.

Ongoing...
Thank you!

Catherine Dujardin
DG Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)
Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium
Catherine.Dujardin@diplobel.fed.be