THE CHALLENGE

The Ebola outbreak of 2014-15 and other recent pandemics have highlighted the urgent need for centralized information at global level to guide and improve coordination of efforts to develop new health products for neglected diseases and populations.

Until now, less than 5 percent of new products that have been submitted for regulatory review have referenced product profiles in the R&D process. This has contributed to uncoordinated and ineffective research and development in these areas.

THE OBJECTIVES

- Provide a repository for existing health product profiles
- Introduce standardization in the description of health product profiles
- Enable high-level landscape analyses of R&D activity
- Emphasize access, equity and affordability as integral to the innovation process

HEALTH PRODUCT PROFILE DIRECTORY

For smarter, more efficient R&D to tackle global health priorities

The Health Product Profile Directory is an online resource that guides the development of new health products for which there are limited markets or incentives for research and development. An essential tool for realizing universal health coverage, the Directory aims to promote research and development for products to combat neglected diseases and threats to global health, including antimicrobial resistance and diseases with pandemic potential.

The Health Product Profile Directory is a free-to-use online resource created and developed by TDR on behalf of WHO as a global public good. It provides a searchable database that outlines the 8-10 key characteristics used to describe desired health products, including medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical equipment. Links are provided to access the full product profile document where this is publicly available.

The Directory includes profiles developed by WHO and other entities. The Directory can also be accessed through the WHO Global Observatory on Health R&D, where other key resources in this area can be found.

KEY COMPONENTS OF PRODUCT PROFILES

- Indication
- Intended use
- Target population
- Measures of efficacy
- Safety
- Dosage

World Health Organization

For research on diseases of poverty

UNICEF / UNDP / World Bank / WHO
WHAT ARE THE INCLUSION CRITERIA FOR A HEALTH PRODUCT PROFILE TO BE LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY?

NEW HEALTH PRODUCT PROFILE

Authored by World Health Organization?

YES

NO

Authored by product development partnerships, commercial companies & other organizations

COMBATS:
- The poverty-related neglected diseases
- Diseases identified as having the potential to cause pandemics (e.g. Ebola)
  - Antimicrobial resistance
- Health issues in low- and middle-income countries
- Health issues prioritized by WHO for global action

INCLUDED FOR DIRECTORY LISTING

Breakdown of product profiles as of May 2019

- Vaccine: 62
- Diagnostic: 64
- Other: 17
- WHO: 63

Examples of defined product characteristics that have successfully guided R&D

MENINGITIS VACCINE

KEY PRODUCT CHARACTERISTIC
The price must be less than US$0.50 per dose.

OUTCOME
The Meningitis Vaccine Project identified the Serum Institute of India as the manufacturing partner who agreed to develop the vaccine (MenAfriVac) at less than US$0.50 per dose.

LASSA FEVER VACCINE

KEY PRODUCT CHARACTERISTIC
The vaccine should provide protection for five years after a single dose.

OUTCOME
CEPI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, is following the WHO target product profile in developing the vaccine.