



**A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE CAN
LEAD A HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIFE**





Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg- Haverkamp
Chairman of Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG
Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation

Message from **Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg- Haverkamp**

We at Merck, the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company, know that acting responsibly is key for long-time entrepreneurial success. Therefore, we do a lot for the communities in which we operate in.

I strongly believe that it is crucial to have a real economic transformation with a social dimension that will ensure not only all basic needs a better quality of life for everyone. This can never be achieved except with capacity building and the empowerment of women and youth.

The size and complexity of the task is so large that no single organization can manage on its own, so integration of effort is necessary to realize our vision for a world where everyone can lead a healthy and fulfilling lives. The private sector has an important role to partner with Governments, Academia and communities; it is time to take an action now.

Therefore, we will consolidate many of our centrally driven corporate responsibility activities under one single roof: the Merck Foundation. This new philanthropic organization will allow us to considerably expand the scope, reach and effectiveness of our projects. It puts us in a better position to address some of the most pressing health, social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

We strongly believe that together we can make a significant contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals. With Merck Foundation, our long term commitment to the communities in which we operate will remain strong and consistent as it was throughout generations.

OUR VISION

**A World Where Everyone Can Lead
A Healthy And Fulfilling Life**



Merck Foundation: Who We Are

The Merck Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people and advance their lives through Science and Technology.

Our efforts are primarily focused on improving access to quality & equitable healthcare solutions, building healthcare, scientific research & media capacity and empowering people in STEM* with a special focus on women and youth in under-served communities.

*STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Merck Foundation Strives to



work closely with partners that are African First Ladies, Ministries of Health, Education, Information & Communication, Gender, Academia, Research Institutions, Media and Art in building healthcare capacity and addressing health, social & economic challenges in developing countries and under-served communities.



Dr. Rasha Kelej
CEO of Merck Foundation,
President of Merck More Than a Mother
One of the 100 most influential Africans 2019

Message from **Dr. Rasha Kelej**

It is extremely gratifying to be the CEO of Merck Foundation and work together with all of you to realize our vision of a world where everyone can lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

Through this Foundation, we will continue to execute many impactful programs and will considerably expand its scope to address health, social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

With the Merck Foundation, we continue our commitment towards improving access to innovative healthcare solutions in developing countries and underserved communities, building healthcare and scientific research & media capacity, empowering women and youth in education with a special focus on STEM and advancing people's lives through science and technology.

Merck Foundation together with its partners touch people's lives and make a difference every day.

OUR MISSION



What We Do

Together with its partners, the Merck Foundation aims to:

- Expand professional capabilities in healthcare, research and media.
- Improve access to innovative and equitable healthcare solutions.
- Empower women and youth in education with a special focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- Build advocacy to address health, social and economic challenges.
- Raise awareness of disease prevention and early detection through access to information, health and change of mind-set.

The Merck Foundation focuses on activities that will contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as outlined by the United Nations.



MERCK MORE THAN A MOTHER

No to Infertility Stigma

“Merck More Than a Mother” is a strong movement that aims to empower infertile and childless women through access to information, education and change of mind-sets. This powerful campaign supports governments in defining policies to enhance access to regulated, safe and equitable fertility care. It defines interventions to break the stigma around infertile women and raises awareness about infertility prevention, management and male infertility. In partnership with African First Ladies, Ministries of Health, Information, Education & Gender, Academia, policy-makers, International Fertility Societies, media and art, this Initiative also provides training for fertility specialists and embryologists to build and advance fertility care capacity in Africa, Asia and developing countries.



With “Merck More Than a Mother”, we have initiated a cultural shift to de-stigmatize infertility on all levels: By improving awareness, training local experts in the fields of fertility care and media, building advocacy in cooperation with African First Ladies and women leaders and by supporting childless women in starting their own small businesses. It's all about giving every woman the respect and the help she deserves to lead a fulfilling life, with or without a child.

Our Ambassadors of “Merck More Than a Mother” are:

H.E. NEO JANE MASISI

H.E. DENISE NKURUNZIZA

H.E. BRIGITTE TOUADERA

H.E. HINDA DEBY ITNO

H.E. ANTOINETTE SASSOU-NGUESSO

H.E. DENISE NYAKERU TSHISEKEDI

H.E. FATOUMATTA BAH-BARROW

H.E. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO

H.E. DJÈNÈ CONDÉ

H.E. CLAR MARIE WEAH

H.E. PROFESSOR GERTRUDE MUTHARIKA

H.E. Dr. ISAURA FERRÃO NYUSI

H.E. MONICA GEINGOS

H.E. AÏSSATA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU

H.E. AISHA BUHARI

H.E. FATIMA MAADA BIO

H.E. ESTHER LUNGU

H.E. AUXILLIA MNANGAGWA

The First Lady of Botswana

The First Lady of Burundi

The First Lady of Central African Republic

The First Lady of Chad

The First Lady of Congo Brazzaville

The First Lady Democratic Republic of Congo

The First Lady of The Gambia

The First Lady of Ghana

The First Lady of Guinea Conakry

The First Lady of Liberia

The First Lady of Malawi

The First Lady of Mozambique

The First Lady of Namibia

The First Lady of Niger

The First Lady of Nigeria

The First Lady of Sierra Leone

The First Lady of Zambia

The First Lady of Zimbabwe



18 African First Ladies are Ambassadors of "Merck More Than a Mother"



Merck Foundation has so far
Educated & Trained

180+ fertility specialists
and embryologists from **35**
countries

Partnership with

42 African Ministries of
Health, Education, Gender
& Information and Academia

Trained 1200
Media Representatives
From **20** Countries

To raise community awareness, creating
a culture shift and breaking stigma around
infertility and infertile and childless women

Millions
of women benefitted From



Merck More Than a Mother
Community Awareness Campaign

CREATED
MORE THAN 20 Songs

Addressing the cultural perception of
infertility and how to change it

MORE THAN
2 Millions
Followers
on our Social Media





Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation with H.E. First Ladies of Burundi, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Niger, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Ghana, Namibia, Botswana, Liberia and Former First Lady of Mauritania.

Merck Foundation is making history in many African countries where they never had fertility specialists or specialized fertility clinics before ‘Merck More Than a Mother’ intervention, by training the first fertility specialists and embryologists such as; in Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Niger, Chad, Guinea, Burundi and Malawi. Merck Foundation supported training of the First public IVF centers in Ethiopia and Rwanda.

Merck Foundation launched new initiatives to sensitize local communities about infertility prevention, male infertility with the aim to break the stigma of infertility and empowering infertile and childless women as part of **Merck More Than a Mother** COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, such as;

- Merck More Than a Mother Media Recognition Award and Health Media Training
- Merck More Than a Mother Fashion Award
- Merck More Than a Mother Film Award
- Local songs with local artists to address the cultural perception of infertility and how to change it
- Children storybook, localized for each country

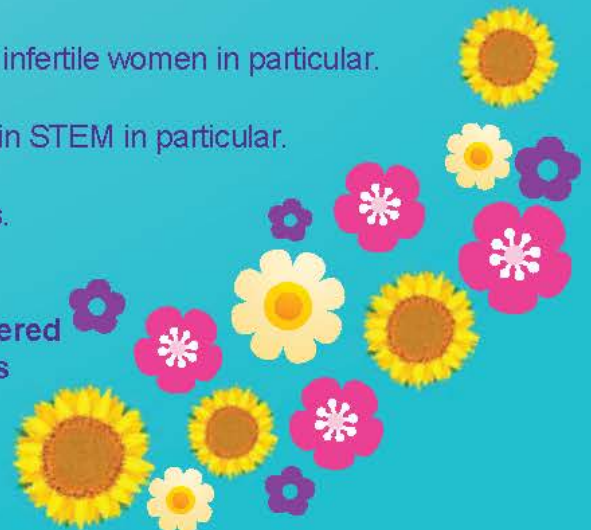


Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative - MFFLI Summit

MFFLI - SUMMIT is the Merck Foundation platform of African First Ladies and “Merck More Than a Mother” Ambassadors established with the aim to discuss challenges, define solutions, measure impact and share experience to ensure continuous improvement and exchange variable aspects of different cultures in order to localize and/or standardize specific messages that can raise awareness and create a culture shift across Africa with regards to the below objectives:

- Breaking the Stigma around infertile couples in general and infertile women in particular.
- Empowering Girls and Women in Education in general and in STEM in particular.
- Improving access to quality & equitable healthcare solutions.

First Ladies of more than 18 Countries have partnered with Merck Foundation to lead and execute the initiatives in their respective countries as Merck More Than a Mother Ambassadors.





"Merck More Than a Mother" Fashion Awards It's time to empower infertile women

Who can apply?

All Fashion Designers and Fashion Students from Malawi are invited to create a design with the aim to deliver strong and influential messages to empower infertile women and say "No to Infertility Stigma".

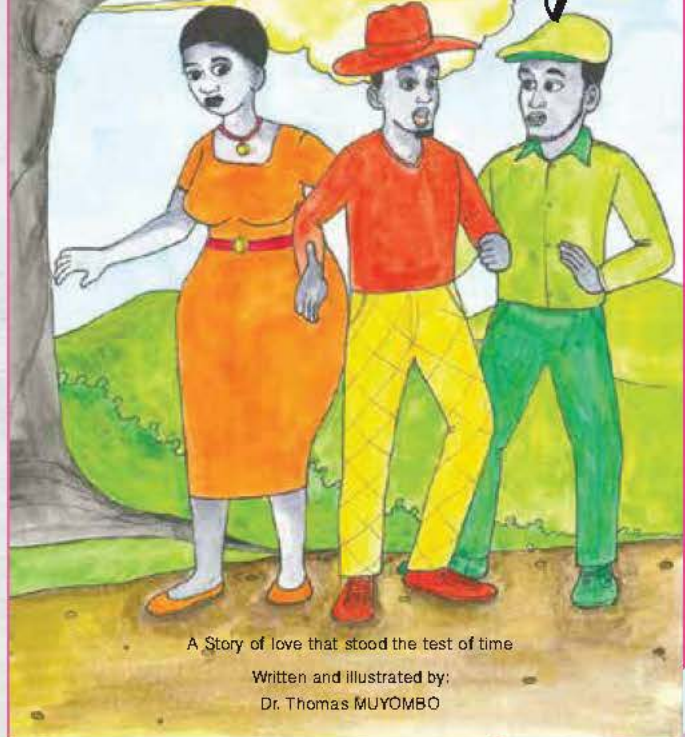
Designs Ideas can also deliver messages to encourage men to speak openly about their infertility, because 50% of infertility causes are due to male factor..



www.merck-foundation.com



Kofi's Story



A Story of love that stood the test of time

Written and illustrated by:
Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO

MERCK COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM

Together We Create a Cultural Shift

We strongly believe that art and media play significant roles in raising awareness about health and sensitive topics like infertility, hence will contribute significantly to break the stigma around infertile and childless women in Africa, if utilized properly.

Therefore, we launched new initiatives to sensitize local communities about this sensitive topic such as; starting Health Media Training, Media Recognition Awards, Fashion Awards and Film Award, we have also partnered with local artists to create songs in English, French and local language to sensitize communities to respect women whether they are mothers or not. More than 20 songs have been created. We have also created children stories localized for each country to address this topic in order to develop strong family values of love and respect from young age.



More than **1200** media representatives from **20** countries benefited from this program

- **Health Media Training** to provide training to media representatives and student to benefit them in understanding the infertility issues in African communities and to learn the best media practices` to cover such issues and raise awareness and be the voice of the voiceless by following international standards of reporting and media ethics.
- **‘Merck More Than a Mother’ Media Recognition Awards** to encourage media to write about the sensitive topic of infertility
- **‘Merck More Than a Mother’ Fashion Awards** to involve local fashion industry with the aim to deliver strong and influential messages to empower infertile women and say **‘No to Infertility Stigma’** and to create meaningful fashion trends to educate their communities that **‘Fertility is a Shared Responsibility’**.
- **‘Merck More Than a Mother’ Film Awards** to involve the local film industry to remind our communities that **Women are more than Just Mothers and Men are more than Just Fathers**.
- **Children’s Storybook** to be launched in 16 countries to address this topic in order to develop strong family values of love and respect from young age.
- **Working with local artists** to create songs and video clips addressing the cultural perception of infertility and how to change it. More than **20** songs have been created in English, French and local languages.

Sierra Leone, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Burundi, Rwanda, Gambia, Malawi, Liberia

Special two songs have been created , composed and sang by the First Lady of Burundi, H.E DENISE NKURUNZIZA and The President of Liberia, H.E. Mr. GEORGE WEAH for Merck More Than a Mother campaign to sensitize our African community about this sensitive topic.

Moreover, The Community Awareness Program ensures easy access to knowledge about diseases like cancer, infertility, hypertension and diabetes with educational materials in many languages. In addition, a broad social media campaign for prevention and early detection including videos and posters amplifies the outreach of our life saving messages.





MERCK CANCER ACCESS PROGRAM

Together We Can Fight Cancer Every Day



The Merck Cancer Access Program is part of Merck Foundation commitment to improve patients' access to quality and equitable cancer care in underserved communities.

The lack of financial means is not the only challenge in Africa and developing countries, but a scarcity of trained health care personnel capable to tackle the prevention, early diagnosis and management of cancer at all levels of the health care systems is even a bigger challenge.

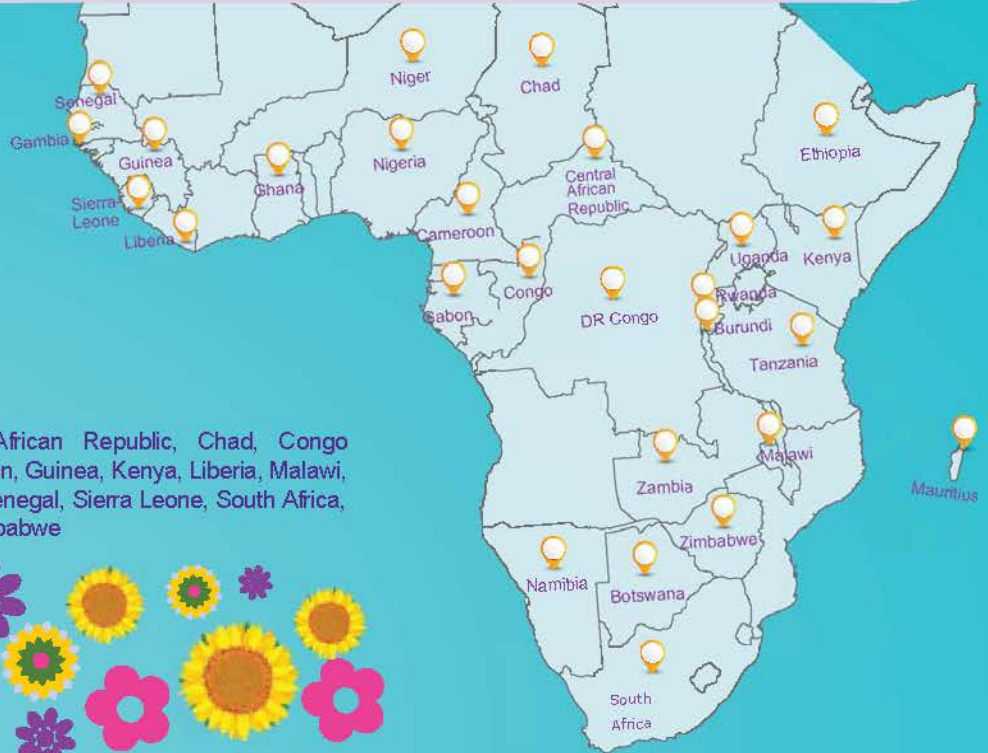
Therefore, the program consists of three Initiatives to enhance cancer care on all relevant levels:

- **Merck Oncology Fellowship and Master Degree Program** focuses on building professional cancer care capacity with the aim to increase the limited number of Oncologists in Africa. Oncology Fellowship Program of one year, one and half years, two years in India, Malaysia, Kenya and Master Degree in Medical Oncology for three years in Egypt in partnership with African Ministries of Health, Local Governments and Academia.
- **Merck More Than a Patient** empowers women cancer survivors to reclaim their lives by reintegration into society.
- **Merck Community Awareness** shares accurate cancer information to help in tackling myths, misconception and stigma through medical camps and social media.

Merck Foundation has trained more than **80** new oncologists from **26** countries* to build cancer care capacity

Merck Foundation has provided training for the First Local Oncologist in many countries such as: The Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi

*Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Merck Foundation CEO meets the Oncologists trained by Merck Foundation
Our Alumni from Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and Namibia



MERCK CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Together We Advance People's Live

Through our Merck Capacity Advancement Program, we are striving to improve access to better Diabetes, Cancer and Hypertension Care in underserved communities.



By educating and training Medical graduates, we want to basically strengthen the local capacities and enhance the clinical management processes. The goal is to raise awareness for these health conditions as well as to support healthcare systems with the measures to prevent, diagnose and manage them effectively.

As a part of the Merck Capacity Advancement Program, the **Merck Diabetes and Hypertension Awards** were introduced in more than 30 African and Asian universities. Open to all medical graduates, the aim of the awards is to establish a strong platform of specialized diabetes and hypertension experts in developing countries. The winners are granted enrolment into an internationally recognized one-year Online Postgraduate Diploma in English or Online Mastercourse on Clinical Management of Diabetes in French and Portuguese of 3 months duration that advances their clinical knowledge in tackling these chronic diseases.

The program then evolved to the **Merck Diabetes Blue Points Project** in partnership with African First Ladies, Ministries of Health and Academia to help improve access to equitable and quality diabetes care nationwide in African countries. Candidates from different provinces, countries or districts of the respective countries are provided with one-year Online Postgraduate Diabetes Diploma in English for English Speaking countries, or an Online Mastercourse on Clinical Management of Diabetes in French and Portuguese for 3 months duration, for French and Portuguese speaking countries respectively, ensuring geographical coverage of the whole country to help improve the landscape of diabetes care in Africa.



30,000 students from Medical Universities have benefitted from clinical Diabetes and Hypertension Management Program

from 2012 – 2016 in **9** countries:
Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia,
Ghana, Angola, Mozambique, India and Indonesia.





Merck Nationwide Diabetes Blue Points Project

Building nationwide Diabetes Care Capacity.

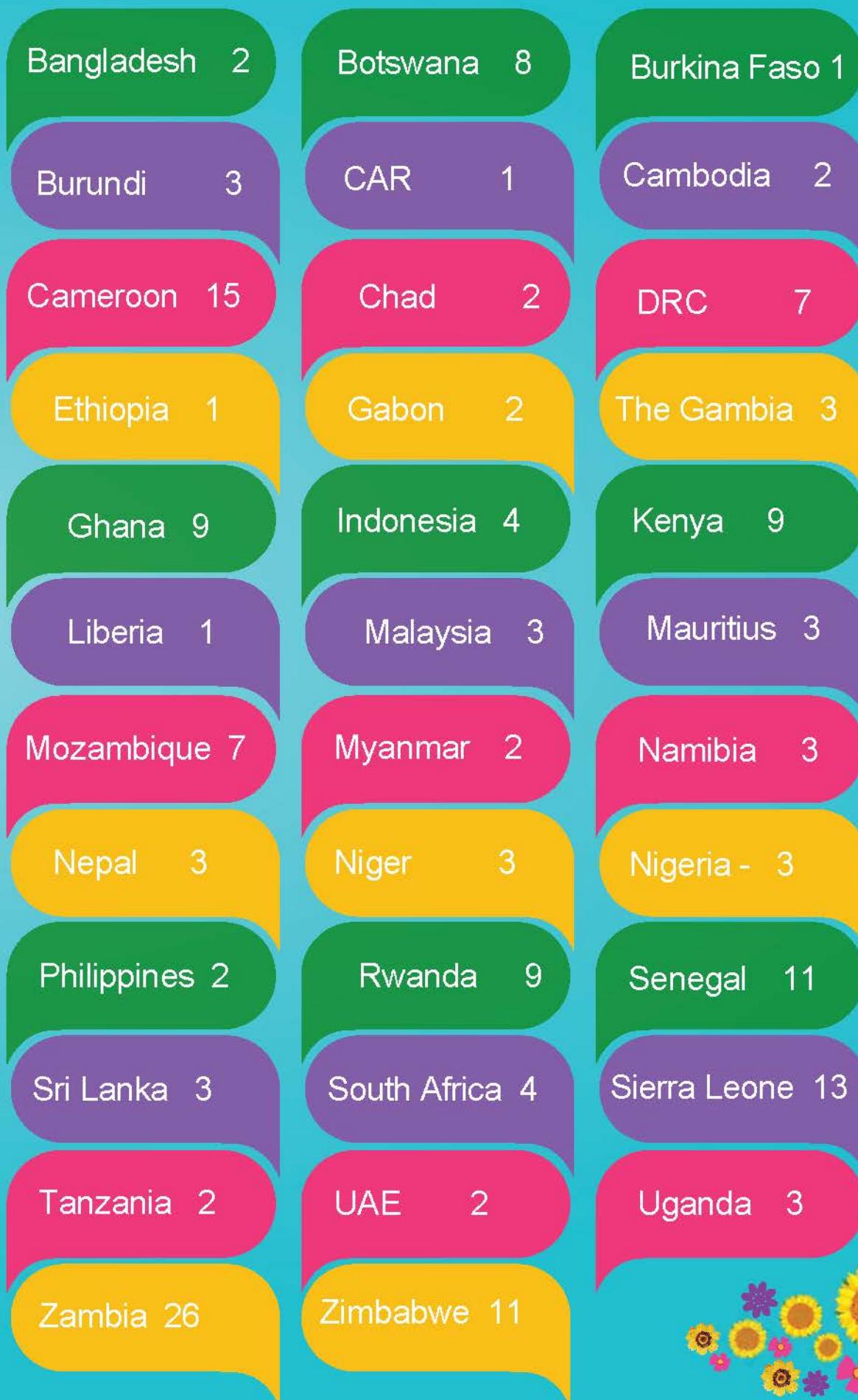
Launched in 2019, Merck Diabetes Blue Point Project aims to help improve access to equitable and quality diabetes care in Africa, through providing a **one-year online Postgraduate Diabetes Diploma from, UK**, to doctors from different provinces, counties or districts of respective countries, **ensuring geographical coverage of the whole country**



Moreover, French, Portuguese and Spanish speaking candidates will be enrolled on a **3-months online “Foundation Course in the Clinical Management of Diabetes”** Endorsed by Diabetes UK Cymru, in the respective languages.

On completion of course, clinicians will be able to setup diabetes clinics within public sector setting nationwide.

183 Medical Graduates from 35 Countries enrolled





MERCK STEM PROGRAM

**Together We Empower Women and Youth
in Science and Technology**



We believe that empowering women through education is an important factor in promoting the economic well-being of Africans. Many literatures have shown that there are strong links between educating women and girls and positive outcomes for economic empowerment, social mobility and maternal health. It is also believed that women's unemployment in a nation's workforce is a waste of valuable human capital that has a negative impact on economic prosperity and national development.

Our STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) partners with global and local institutions and organizations to empower women and young people in the areas of science and technology. We see education as an important factor in promoting economic well-being in Africa.

As part of Merck Foundation STEM Program for Women and Youth,

Merck Foundation has conducted 3 editions of "UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit" in partnership with African Governments, UNESCO and African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission. UNESCO MARS brings together researchers and policy makers from across Africa to prepare for the road ahead in Africa's development as an international hub for excellence in scientific innovation and define interventions to empower women and youth Through education in general and in STEM in particular.

As part of our contribution towards improving access to healthcare solutions and hence to the social and economic development of Africa, we have launched Merck Foundation's "Best African Woman Researcher Award" and "Best Young African Researcher Award". In cooperation with Ministries of Science and Education, UNESCO and African Union Scientific , Technical and Reseach commission. the Merck Foundation's target is to empower girls and women through various initiatives, including providing training for female & young researchers & medical graduates and supporting the education of best performing Girl students in Africa.





EDUCATING LINDA PROGRAM

Empowering Girls through Education

Merck Foundation has launched '**Educating Linda**' in 2019 to help young girls who are unprivileged but brilliant to continue their education. The spirit of the project is to provide an opportunity to such girls to pursue their dreams and reach their potential through access to education. It has been seen that many girls drop out of school due to lack of basic necessities such as fees and uniform.

Merck Foundation will be supporting education of some of the high performing girls by providing scholarship and grants that can cover school fees, school uniforms and other essentials including notebooks, pens and mathematical instruments, so they can reach their potential and pursue their dreams.

Educating Linda program will be contributing to the future of these girls as part of 'Merck More Than a Mother' campaign in Africa.



Merck Foundation strongly believes that Education is one of the most critical areas of women empowerment. It is also an area that represents some of the clearest examples of discrimination women suffer. As evident in UNICEF's declaration that in Africa , among children not attending school there are twice as many girls as boys, and among illiterate adults there are twice as many women as men.

Girls' education is not a luxury. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women establish it as a basic human right.

Studies show that, in areas where there is high poverty and decades of conflict, girls face enormous challenges that limit their ability to get the education they deserve.



A few of these challenges include:

- Girls face pressure to fulfill traditional roles as housekeepers and mothers rather than go to school.
- High bride prices are set for girls who are 'kept safe' at home.
- Early and forced marriages increase when poor families need the bride price.
- Limited available money for education is typically invested in boys and men.
- Harmful practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation, are still being practiced in Somalia and some parts of Kenya.
- Schools do not provide proper facilities, including sanitation facilities, for girls.
- Girls are at risk of sexual assault on the way to school, or from male peers or teachers.
- Continued rape and assault of girls in areas of armed conflict.



Merck Africa Asia Luminary Objectives:

- Contribute to Social and Economic Development in Africa and Asia.
- Advance Healthcare Capacities and Capabilities.
- Improve Access to High Quality and Equitable Healthcare Solutions.
- Providing scientific programs particularly designed to serve the unmet healthcare needs of Developing Countries with special focus on disease prevention and early detection and nutrition awareness.
- Engaging Healthcare providers, policy makers, Academia and Researchers in an open dialogue to explore the educational gaps with the aim to inform the successful implementation of MerckFoundation Programs.
- Meeting of Merck Foundation Alumni, the future experts of Africa and Asia, to exchange experience and discuss challenges and solutions of their training programs.
- Address the stigma and social perception of infertility and define intervention to improve access to regulated, safe and effective fertility care and break the stigma around infertile and childless women in Africa.
- Assist in developing and implementing comprehensive cancer control and prevention programs and Oncology Fellowship program that will improve access to cancer care in Africa.
- Networking opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience across Africa, Asia and beyond.

6 Editions conducted in **6** countries; Germany, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Senegal and Ghana

More than **6,000** Healthcare providers, policy makers, Academia, Researchers benefitted from

60 countries.





MERCK AFRICA ASIA LUMINARY

Together for A Better Future

Annual Scientific Educational Conference of Merck Foundation, is conducted to contribute to the social and economic development of Africa and Asia. It is attended by more than 1000 Healthcare providers, policy makers, Academia, Researchers and health media from Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 60 English, French and Portuguese speaking countries annually, to benefit from valuable educational and social development sessions by top International experts in Diabetes, Fertility, Oncology, women health, Cardiology and Health Media training with the aim to raise health awareness and improve disease management, early detection and prevention, build healthcare capacity and improve access to quality and equitable healthcare solution. It is an Annual platform during which Merck Foundation conducts all their programs in parallel sessions.



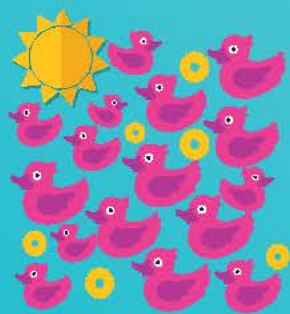
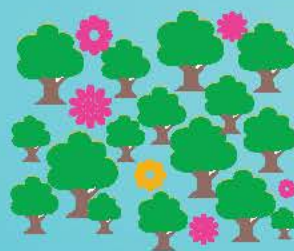
MERCK FOUNDATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Sustainability is a Shared Responsibility

We strongly believe that young people have numerous untapped capabilities. We wish to unleash such capabilities which would empower and enable them to lead the Sustainable Development and Green Environmental Agenda of their countries in order to adapt to the impact of climate change. The aim of this Initiative is to educate, engage and empower youth and young entrepreneurs through access to information and change of mindset in order to enrich their understanding of Sustainability as well as support their new innovative businesses in the Sustainability Space.

Launched in 2020, The Merck Foundation sustainability initiative plans to focus on capacity building and raising awareness in order to accelerate sustainable solutions to urban sustainability challenges through four pillar programs:

1. The Sustainability Ambassadors (SA): Esteemed profiles of The Sustainability Ambassadors will enable them to build advocacy and raise awareness amongst young people via media, social media and at different global and regional platforms in order to encourage youth to lead a sustainable life style with the aim of protecting the environment from further climate change.



2. Sustainability Education and Training Programs: Sustainability Education and Training Programs for students, community members, media, young professionals and entrepreneurs to improve access to information and change of mindset in order to strengthen their knowledge as Sustainability future leaders in their societies. These programs will encourage them to sensitize their communities and to work together to find their own solutions to mitigate impact of climate change in their small but significant ways.



3. Networking and Partnership Opportunities: With the aim to accelerate transition to a more sustainable world, Merck Foundation will collaborate with local and global stakeholders, including Academia, Research Institutions, Multi-sectoral Businesses, Governmental and Non-Governmental Entities, as well as community organizations, media and artists.

Join the conversation on our social media platforms below
and let your voice be heard

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