

RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR HEALTH PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION



The deployment of pharmaceutical innovation as a strategy to increase access to medicines develops along a continuum of complexity, from short term actions to increase access, to the local manufacture of drugs, to the development of novel drugs suited to the local context.

This guide will assist in establishing national priorities for pharmaceutical innovation, identifying actions to take to meet those priorities, and ultimately developing a national pharmaceutical innovation strategy. Depending on national priorities and current innovation potential, strategies could be developed to:

- Achieve greater access to pharmaceuticals in the short term, or
- Support the local manufacture of pharmaceuticals, or
- Invest in research & development

Dual Benefit

Before embarking on a pharmaceutical innovation strategy, consider what national policies and capacities are in place, and what the national access and equity needs are. Deciding to invest in pharmaceutical innovation can deliver both increased access to medicines and a stronger, more innovative economy. It is important to be clear what these objectives are: delivering greater access to medicines, or economic, for example manufacturing pharmaceuticals for export in the longer term.

Developing Strategies for Innovation

Each strategy can build upon the one before it. A manufacturing approach should be embarked upon once basic actions to improve access are taken, while research & development builds upon the expertise and infrastructure developed through a manufacturing strategy.



IMPROVING ACCESS

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS FOR IMPORT, QUALITY CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION

Policies and procedures

- Support and strengthen medicines regulation
- Implement appropriate trade and tax policies
- Implement procurement strategies
- Establish adequate intellectual property laws

Infrastructure and capacity

- Increase reliability of essential infrastructure to facilitate community-based delivery
- Build human resources for logistical processes, drug administration and regulation

MANUFACTURING

DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY, STAFF AND FINANCE FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION

Policies and procedures

- Engage in technology transfer
- Implement relevant industrial policies
- Manage intellectual property arrangements
- Implement post-market quality control
- Forge relevant partnerships
- Assist local manufacturers with prequalification
- Work to achieve needed economies of scale

Infrastructure and capacity

- Ensure appropriate training to produce the skills needed
- Build regulatory capacity to ensure safe, high quality medicines

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORTING THE INNOVATION OF LOCALLY APPLICABLE MEDICINES

Policies and procedures

- Align with national research for health strategy
- Develop effective research contracting strategies
- Strengthen clinical trials ethics review
- Implement investment strategy

Infrastructure and capacity

- Create and support human resources for research for health
- Promote public private partnerships to build capacity in novel drug discovery