Aiming for a Society in Which All People Receive Appropriate Health Care

Around the world, people are unable to receive appropriate health care for many reasons, including poverty and insufficient healthcare environments and systems. Access to healthcare is one item targeted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Being a healthcare company, Sysmex considers this an important issue. To ensure that as many people as possible have access to appropriate healthcare, we engage in healthcare enhancement initiatives by cooperating with local governments, international institutions, medical institutions, companies and other entities, and by promoting the provision of healthcare opportunities.

Relation to the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations consist of 17 goals to be met by 2030. Goal 3, to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages,” targets the following objectives.

- Reduce maternal mortality
- Reduce the mortality of children under five years of age
- Eradicate AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and tackle other communicable diseases
- Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases
- Ensure access to essential healthcare services, medicines and vaccines
- Develop the skills of and conduct training for health workers in developing countries
Aiming to Improve Healthcare Levels in Emerging Markets and Developing Countries

Sysmex is leveraging its accumulated technologies and expertise to provide an external quality assessment service* aimed at delivering accurate test results. Through methods such as these to support quality control at clinical laboratories, we are working to enhance local levels of healthcare.

* A method under which the same specimens (such as artificially produced blood) are distributed to multiple clinical laboratories, and the measurement results obtained are analyzed using statistical methods, thereby allowing the accuracy of individual laboratories’ measurement results to be evaluated. The results are provided as feedback to these laboratories, helping to increase the quality of testing.

Case study [Republic of Namibia]

Collaborating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Promote Quality Control Support at Clinical Laboratories to Match International Standards

In Africa, the Republic of Namibia faces shortages of healthcare personnel and healthcare infrastructure. At the same time, ensuring the quality of healthcare is an issue.

For instance, although in vitro diagnostics involving the sampling and testing of blood and urine are essential to disease diagnosis and treatment, the environment required to conduct such testing is not in place, hindering the provision of appropriate test results to patients. To improve this situation, the Namibian government is introducing quality improvement measures based on the certification of clinical laboratories under the ISO 15189*1 standard for quality management systems.

Under this operation, Sysmex is providing a mentorship*2 program that makes use of the Sysmex Quality Guidance Manual—a quality control system operational manual for clinical laboratories—to facilities under the jurisdiction of the Namibian Institute of Pathology, which is overseen by the Namibian government.

To date in Africa, we have already been engaging in the same type of initiatives to support increases in laboratory quality by working with the health ministries of Zambia and Zimbabwe.

We aim to use our track record in Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe as a steppingstone to enhance the quality of testing in Africa and promote horizontal development into surrounding countries.

*1 An international standard that ensures clinical laboratories are operating quality control systems, that they are technically competent and that they have the ability to deliver technically appropriate results. The standard requires all procedures within a laboratory related to testing and control to be documented and calls for evaluations of efficiency and ongoing improvements within the organization.

*2 Rather than simply managing people, mentorship is the concept of seeking the growth and success of all people related to a business after making the organization’s directions and values clear. This concept encompasses management that motivates people, provides guidance on position and skills that leads toward enhanced capabilities, and provides a framework to invigorate an organization.

Comment from a Member of Staff Affiliated with the Namibia Institute of Pathology

This was an effective program for achieving improvements in laboratory quality.

Under this program, training on laboratory quality enhancement was provided to us as members of staff at the Namibia Institute of Pathology. Our institute has been assigned by the Namibian government to control the management of clinical laboratory operations.

We had the opportunity to learn about quality control systems for clinical laboratories that match international standards, which was very meaningful. We also learned about accurate operations and applied knowledge, and reconfirmed the objectives and significance of testing, which raised the overall level of staff interest in hematology testing. I think this program will help raise the level of quality in clinical testing.
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Case study [Various Asian Countries]

Conducting Scientific Support Activities to Standardize and Raise the Quality of Clinical Testing

To date, Sysmex has entered into agreements with government institutions in China, Mongolia and Cambodia to conduct scientific support activities aimed at enhancing the quality of clinical testing.

In Mongolia, we have conducted external quality assessments on testing in the fields of hematology and clinical chemistry and supported the configuration of a standard laboratory. In addition, in March 2016, we entered a new agreement to provide the same type of support activities on testing for infectious diseases, and as part of government-led efforts to put healthcare infrastructure in place we are setting up standard analyzers in national hospitals.

In Myanmar, we have been proposing scientific support activities since 2014. In October 2016, we signed an agreement with the National Health Laboratory (NHL), a Myanmar government institution, to conduct scientific support activities with the aim of enhancing the quality of clinical testing in the country. Under the agreement, we are providing control support to enhance the reliability of measurement values on Sysmex instruments that have already been delivered to the NHL. At the same time, we are supporting the configuration and operation of a national external quality assessment scheme for clinical laboratories within Myanmar. We are also providing technical and scientific expertise to local healthcare professionals. Going forward, Sysmex will continue with initiatives aimed at standardizing and increasing the quality of clinical testing in emerging markets and developing countries.

Comment

Comment from an Employee Involved with Scientific Support Activities

I work with local people to help improve the quality of clinical testing.

Having actually been to developing countries and seen how clinical testing is performed locally, I was surprised by the differences compared with advanced countries. At the same time, I have understood how essential it is to increase the quality of clinical testing and to boost the level of knowledge about test reliability and the need for testing. The opportunities to meet people engaging in initiatives to increase the level of testing has given me a great deal of courage. I feel it is a great honor for us to support these activities, and I look forward to continuing to be involved in efforts to increase the quality of clinical testing.

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Scientific Affairs Division
Aiming to Provide Healthcare in Regions with Underdeveloped Infrastructure

Sysmex provides products and services that take into account the world’s various healthcare environments and are tailored to the needs of regions and their people. Through this approach, we endeavor to create opportunities for as many people as possible to receive proper medical care.

Case study [Kenya]
Providing Healthcare Opportunities through the Donation of Mobile Laboratories

Regions lacking electrical equipment and other infrastructure cannot make immediate use of the products and services provided in advanced countries, pointing to the need to provide products and services suited to the needs of those regions and their people. In some regions, knowledge of healthcare is insufficient, and there exists a lack of understanding about the effects of testing and treatment. Patient education and awareness are important issues in such areas.

In the past, Sysmex has provided CyLab mobile laboratories containing Sysmex instruments, primarily in Africa, and compact, portable and inexpensive products to facilitate testing in regions where healthcare instruments are sparse.

In August 2016, at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Kenya, we unveiled a mobile lab developed in collaboration with Toyota Tsusho Corporation and Hino Motors, Ltd., that contains Sysmex instruments for diagnosing and monitoring the treatment of infectious disease. We donated the vehicle to the Beyond Zero Campaign*, which is working to raise awareness of maternal and child health and measures to address infectious diseases. As part of an effort to eradicate the three leading infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria), the project began with the concept of providing healthcare in areas where healthcare access is difficult. We saw introducing a mobile lab as a way to offer a regular traveling clinic, as well as to educate and promote awareness among patients. Through initiatives such as these, we are aiming to reduce the percentage of deaths from infectious diseases by contributing to their early detection and treatment.

Sysmex will continue working to provide appropriate healthcare to as many people as possible and aims to help resolve the world’s healthcare issues by enhancing awareness of healthcare among patients.

Annual Deaths from the Three Major Infectious Diseases in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
<th>Annual Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV / AIDS</td>
<td>36.7 million people</td>
<td>1.1 million people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>10.0 million people</td>
<td>1.4 million people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>210 million people</td>
<td>430,000 people</td>
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</tbody>
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*This awareness campaign on maternal and child health and measures to address infectious diseases was launched by the wife of Kenya’s President Kenyatta in January 2014. In addition to spurring government efforts and raising awareness among the people, the campaign aims to distribute mobile laboratories throughout the country and includes such activities as a charity marathon supervised by Ms. Kenyatta.