UNIVERSAL NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
HEALTH CASE STUDY
AstraZeneca

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COMPANY OVERVIEW

A global, science-led biopharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca discovers, develops and commercialises prescription medicines. AstraZeneca’s medicines primarily treat diseases in three therapy areas: oncology; cardiovascular, renal and metabolic diseases; and respiratory. It is also active in other disease areas – autoimmunity, neuroscience and infection.

AstraZeneca leads with health. Its pioneering medicines, investments, and partnerships touch the lives of millions of people, giving the company the opportunity to connect to the wellbeing of patients, their families and their communities. Recognising the links between a healthy environment and human health, AstraZeneca believes its environmental stewardship will prevent diseases and strengthen access to healthcare. It also embraces an ethical and transparent approach for its workforce and how it operates, to support a more equitable and prosperous society. On its sustainability journey, AstraZeneca aims to be as ethically and environmentally aware as possible and understand how to make a meaningful impact on health, society, the environment and its business.

CASE: NO. 1

BUSINESS CASE FOR COORDINATED HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

In 2019 AstraZeneca launched its new environmental health strategy coined “Healthy Planet, Healthier People.” This new strategy connects the company’s core business of health with its work to protect and improve the environmental resources we all share. The strategy revolves around the understanding that there is a strong connection between human health and the health of the planet; when we work towards a healthy planet, we enable conditions for healthier people. More specifically, AstraZeneca aims to prevent disease and improve health
outcomes by addressing environmental determinants of health such as the built environment, air quality, water pollution and availability, and climate effects on changing disease patterns, allergens, and heat-related illness and deaths.

AstraZeneca believes that, as a healthcare company, it has a responsibility to act and produce its products in a way that promotes healthy environmental conditions. The company aims to improve human health by addressing its environmental determinants throughout and beyond the value chain including (see diagram below):

“In a complex world, a siloed approach to sustainability is not an option. We manage our value chain across the many facets, with the intention of promoting human health and wellbeing, encouraging inclusive working environments, creating growth and development opportunities, managing our environmental impacts and developing a wide range of programmes for our patients and communities.”

1. **Pipeline**: understanding the environmental impacts on key therapy areas
2. **Production**: improving environmental performance to protect human health
3. **Products**: taking life-cycle considerations of products
4. **Programmes**: taking targeted approaches to improving health through healthy environments
5. **Partnerships**: participating in cross-sector work to develop environmental health indicators.

The company aims to implement this strategy and act directly through all its activities as well as through key partnerships in the healthcare sector. But working only within the healthcare sector is not enough to fully implement Healthy Planet, Healthier People. The company looks to raise awareness and contribute to advocacy across the public and private sectors around the connection between environment and health, especially when it comes to preventative solutions.

AstraZeneca understands that investing in innovation for greater environmental outcomes is good for business. Furthermore, investing to create a healthy planet for healthier people will make the company resilient to challenges of limited natural resources and severe weather effects of climate change. The following cases demonstrate how a coordinated strategy on environment and health can help AstraZeneca take ambitious leadership action.
“As a sustainable organisation, our commitment to society, people and the planet lies at the heart of all that we do, including environmental protection. AstraZeneca is science-led and so is our approach to combating climate change and its impact on health.”
- Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive, AstraZeneca

CASE: NO.2

HEALTHY LUNG PROGRAMME

Air pollution is one of the greatest threats to human health. In 2016, 91% of the world’s population lived in areas where WHO ambient air quality guidelines were not met, causing approximately 4.2 million deaths annually. With a presence in Asia including China, Japan, Indonesia, and India, AstraZeneca has a large stake in influencing illness and mortality attributed to air pollution.

“We look forward to contributing to the improvement of health of Vietnamese people, especially the issues of good management of chronic respiratory diseases, by supporting activities to raise awareness about the diseases, improve the management capabilities for asthma and COPD, and support the improvement and establishment of asthma and COPD management units”
- Nicholas Jones, Country President at the time Healthy Lung Asia was launched in Vietnam in 2017.

In 2017, AstraZeneca launched the Healthy Lung Programme to systematically address high levels of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in South-East Asia. The programme aims to take a systematic approach through capacity building of healthcare professionals, medical infrastructure support, and advocating for improved respiratory policy. The project takes a three-pillared approach:

1. **Partnership and Awareness**: Partnerships with societies, patient groups and Governmental bodies to raise the profile of respiratory burden in multiple Asian countries, and to motivate for positive policy change with the ultimate goal of optimizing the management of respiratory patients.

2. **Understanding and Skills**: develop and provide medical education with the clear objective of disseminating evidence-based practices at scale

3. **Capacity and Access**: establishing interventions through key partnerships to resolve systematic issues in education, infrastructure and access.

Since its inception, the programme has provided education, treatment and diagnosis for Asthma and COPD patients and, has helped train more than 28,000 healthcare professionals. As shown below, the programme has achieved significant progress:

The program was originally launched in nine Asian countries, and has since been expanded to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Egypt, Turkey and Mexico.
In Mexico, the programme has collaborated with the Mexico Public Health representatives to specifically focus on addressing key barriers to implementation of the National Programme for Respiratory Diseases. This work is especially pertinent in Mexico where asthma and COPD prevalence is estimated at 7.5% and 7.9% respectively. Furthermore, COPD goes undiagnosed in 86% of the time.

Plans are in place to expand the Healthy Lung programme to Algeria, Jordan, Kenya and South Africa in 2019.

**CASE: NO.3**

**SETTING SCIENCE-BASED EMISSIONS TARGETS**

AstraZeneca understands that all the advances made in global health in previous decades can be undermined by the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, all the great work for human health done by the Healthy Lung programme and Dunga Beach pilot could be undone by the negative health impacts of climate change. When seen in an optimistic manner, addressing climate change represents one of the greatest health opportunities of the 21st century with solutions that can lead to improvements in air pollution and diet. In addition, AstraZeneca emphasizes that addressing climate change is imperative to the business, stating:

> “Sustainable business is about addressing the impact of our activities on both the planet and on people’s health and this needs to be a joint effort. We should all work together in partnership on climate action.”
> - Katarina Ageborg, Executive Vice President, Sustainability and Chief Compliance Officer, AstraZeneca

The company therefore aims to minimize its greenhouse gas emissions throughout the value chain. In 2010 AstraZeneca launched its first set of carbon emissions targets. The company set a 2015 target to reduce its operational greenhouse gas footprint by 20% from 2010 baseline levels. Originally, the main reasons for setting these emissions targets were environmental. After setting this initial target, the company took greater initiative on climate action by contributing to the working groups convened to create the Science Based Targets Initiative. Through their collaborations on these efforts as well as the company’s progress towards meeting their 2015 emission targets, the company began to realize that addressing climate change was more than just to protect the environment, but also to protect human health. At the time, evidence was beginning to surface about the health impacts of climate change including respiratory risks of air pollution due to fossil fuels presented in the Lancet Commission on Climate and Health.

As a corporate leader on climate action and on-track to achieve the 2010-15 strategy, AstraZeneca raised its ambition in preparation for the 2015 Paris Climate Summit by setting company emissions targets for 2025. The company set out to reduce scope 1 emissions by 20%, scope 2 emissions by 95%, and total scope 3 emissions intensity by 25% from 2015 to 2025. AstraZeneca was one of the first companies to have its targets verified by the Science Based Targets initiative in 2016 and since then the targets covering greenhouse gas emissions from AstraZeneca’s operations (scopes 1 and 2) have been approved as consistent with reductions required to keep warming to 1.5°C, the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement and what the latest climate science states is needed to prevent the most damaging effects of climate change.

In establishing the 2025 strategy, the company was additionally motivated by the co-benefits climate action could have on health, including their key areas of COPD and other respiratory diseases. The company discovered that linking climate action to health has also strengthened its internal and external case for action. Describing the human health component of climate change resonated within the company. This connection between climate change and health was a strong component of the new Healthy Planet, Healthier People environmental health strategy.
The linkages within this strategy - such as the one between climate and health - has helped the company break down organizational silos. As part of environmental and health strategies, the company involves a wide group of teams including safety and health, procurement, product development, manufacturing, research, commercial, real estate, natural resources and sustainability. These teams work together to align internally and align communication externally.

“The in-depth materiality assessment carried out by AstraZeneca has helped it find a powerful focus in its aspiration to be a leader in global sustainability. AstraZeneca’s resulting focus includes preventative healthcare through environmental actions. For example, our collaborative project at Dunga Beach in Rural Kenya has real potential to build the evidence base needed to accelerate the switch to clean cooking fuel, for both community and environmental improvement.”
- Dame Polly Courtice, AstraZeneca Sustainability Advisory Board

The company has expanded its effort on climate action by joining the RE 100 and EV 100 Campaigns and establishing an annual resource efficiency fund:

1. RE100 - committing to 100% renewable power use by 2020 in Europe and US, and globally by 2025;
2. EV100 – committing to 100% electric vehicle use for all AstraZeneca owned and leased vehicles by 2030 in Europe, North America and Japan, which represents 12,500 vehicles, with remaining geographies achieving this as close as local conditions allow, to a total of 16,000 vehicles;
3. Natural Resource Efficiency Fund – since initiating this dedicated fund in 2015 to support achievement of their 2025 goals it has invested $71 million into projects at their sites that save energy, emissions, water and waste, with a further $15 million committed in 2019.

CASE: NO.4
DUNGA BEACH PROJECT

In 2016, household air pollution caused 3.8 million deaths, contributing to 7.7% of global mortality. Africa has the highest level of mortality of all regions, with over 130 mortalities per 100,000 people. To begin tackling this problem at a local level, AstraZeneca launched an 18-month pilot project at Lake Victoria’s Dunga Beach in Western Kenya, in collaboration with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), to transform waste into clean energy.

The goal of the pilot is to prevent exposure to air pollutants by offering a substitute to wood-burning cookstoves. The project has introduced an innovative biogas technology to a peri urban community in Dunga Beach, in partnership with a local firm called Biogas International Ltd. It addresses two initiatives: 1) the installation of 50 flexi-biogas domestic-scale digesters, which provides the daily energy needs to some of the poorer households living in the area surrounding the lake and; 2) the installation of two community scale biodigesters that produce gas on the Dunga Beach lake shore for commercial use by fish fryers and fish processors, using the invasive water hyacinth plant species and local waste produce.

The biogas generated from the digesters can be used as cooking fuel to replace solid fuels such as wood, charcoal and dung for household energy and cooking needs. The co-benefits of this project go beyond health, environment, and ecosystem quality to social benefits. By providing a substitute for solid fuels, the project reduces the time and effort dedicated by women and children to collecting firewood. The time saved can be invested instead in schooling and income-generating activities. Substituting the use of wood as solid fuel also protects local forests from overexploitation.

Key learnings from this pilot will inform potential next steps for partnerships and future programmes.