



Medentech brings safe water to millions of people in Pakistan

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed three Memorandums of Understanding. Medentech joins Unilever, the multi-national manufacturer of leading brands in foods, home care and personal care and Mobilink, the leading provider of mobile phone and text messaging services in Pakistan in undertaking this initiative.

"USAID is helping Pakistani communities to have access to clean water and adopt sanitary practices that save lives," said Ms. Kathleen McDonald, Director Health, Democracy and Governance, USAID/Pakistan. "We look forward to finding new avenues with this innovative partnership with the corporate sector while we serve our common objective of helping the citizens of Pakistan live a better and a healthier life."



Signed through the USAID-funded Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project, these agreements will help leverage the strengths, expertise and resources of the private sector to aid Pakistan in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of significantly reducing the incidence of diarrhoea through safe drinking water and hygiene promotion.

Aquatabs launched in Nepal



The centre for Socio- Economic Development (CSED) launched Aquatabs Water Purification Tablets in Nepal. Dr Yasho Vardhan Pradhan, Director of Child Health Division said "These tablets can help prevent deaths of adults and children due to water borne diseases". He says that consumption of safe drinking water prevents more than 90% of water borne diseases.

CSED have said that Aquatabs have proved effective in all water variations including PH levels, hardness and turbidity. Suraj Kaki, Project Administrator for CSED said that the tablet will be available in 72 districts. He will be co-ordinating with Humanitarian organizations to distribute the tablets free of charge to rural under privileged and urban poor."

(Ref: Himalayan News Service, Kathmandu, August 14th 2008)

Benin

Benin is one of the poorest countries in Africa ranking 163/177 in the UN's Human Development Index. Only 65% of the population has access to improved sources of drinking water and the prevalence of diarrheal disease is high.

POUZN is introducing a chlorine water treatment tablet, Aquatabs into the private sector market. This is a new, easy to transport product manufactured in Ireland by Medentech. It is being marketed through Population Services International's (PSI's) extensive network of both public and private sector distributors, concentrating on catchment areas surrounding seven major urban centres located throughout the country.

POUZN is partnering with USAID's Integrated Support for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Family Health (IMPACT) project – which focuses on socially marketing HIV prevention, family planning, and maternal and child health products, as well as USAID's public sector health support project, Projet Intégré de Santé Familiale (PISAF). These projects and their partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are integral partners in the training of both MOH and NGO personnel and in the delivery of community outreach through information, education and communication (IEC) programs".

(Ref: USAID Newsletter October 2008)



Government, NGOs urged to fight waterborne diseases

"Governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as private institutions should work in partnership to prevent waterborne diseases", the Ministry of Water Resource (MoWR) said.

Speaking at the official launching of Aquatabs Water Purification Tablets, on Thursday, Water Resource Administration Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Department Head with MoWR, Yohannes Gebremedhin, said "all concerned bodies need to work to alleviate waterborne diseases that result from unclean water."

"Efforts of all members of the society are fundamental in preventing waterborne diseases that occur due to lack of safe drinking water and purification tablets have a significant contribution to get rid of this problem", he said.

About 1.1 billion people worldwide have no access to safe drinking water and the supply of this tablet to the market will help reduce the mortality rate of children under age five.

ETMEDIX General Business plc General Manger, Minasie Kifle, on his part said that the company has begun supplying sufficient Aquatabs to the public at a reasonable price.

Representative drawn from the ministries of health and water resources, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as pertinent bodies were in attendance at the launching ceremony, it was learnt.

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