

Summarised Impact Assessment Report

Submitted to,

GlaxoSmithKline

Pharmaceuticals Limited (India)

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited (GSK), an Indian subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline plc, is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies known for manufacturing pharmaceuticals drug used in the diseases such as anti-infectives, dermatology, nutrition, and respiratory diseases etc. In 2010, GSK's facility in India was dedicated to upscale the initiative of eliminating lymphatic filariasis (LF) from India and other endemic tropical countries. As on December 2020, GSK has reported to donate around 10 billion albendazole tablets to the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be used in 92 countries¹.

LF – being a 'Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)', impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to the abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability, as well as social stigma. '863 million people in 50 countries worldwide remain threatened by this disease'².

As a part of the commitment to end LF in India, GSK has donated Albendazole tablets as per required medicinal dosage for mass drug administration (MDA), since 2012. In India, GSK's approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been focusing on helping people do more, feel better and live longer. With the help of WHO, GSK distributes albendazole tablets in India to 272 endemic districts.

The Government of India, in 2004, had launched nationwide MDA, home-based morbidity management, scaling up hydrocelectomies in hospitals and CHCs in the identified endemic areas. 'During the year 2004, 202 districts were covered resulting in a coverage rate of 72.6% which rose to 272 districts in 2019'³. The administration of triple-drug therapy in the endemic districts of India was introduced over the past two years. The target to eliminate LF has been extended to 2030.

This assessment was undertaken by Goodera to assess the impact of GSK's contribution of Albendazole tablet towards the mission to eliminate LF. Hence, the study has emphasised on MDA (Mass Drug Administration) component of the intervention and does not include assessment of MMDP (Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention) component. This impact assessment provides insights on:

1. Programme design and effectiveness in the elimination of LF as a public health issue
2. Key factors leading to the programme outcome
3. Key challenges and improvement areas of the programme

While most of the information was collected from desk-based research, Goodera virtually interacted with representatives of key stakeholder agencies of the programme. Through the assessment we could state that the Albendazole tablet distribution programme by GSK India has been one of the important contributors to the mission of LF elimination from endemic zones in India. Till 2020, through this CSR intervention, 186 million patients have been treated.⁴

Overall, the programme has been successful in terms of design and delivery to address a challenging public health issue in India. As per the latest published data on the WHO portal, a total of 180,036,248 people were treated in FY 2020-21 through MDA rounds since 2004 in India. There has been a

¹ <https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/responsibility/improving-health-globally/pricing-and-access-strategies/the-little-pill-that-could-one-medicine-taking-on-two-neglected-diseases/>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lymphatic-filariasis>

³ <https://nvbdcp.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1andlevel=1andsublinkid=5777andlid=3691>

⁴ <https://india-pharma.gsk.com/media/6212/annual-csr-report-2019-20.pdf>

continuous support from the implementing agencies, partner NGOs and medical institutions to provide morbidity management by carrying out hydrocele surgeries and providing the MMDP care kits.

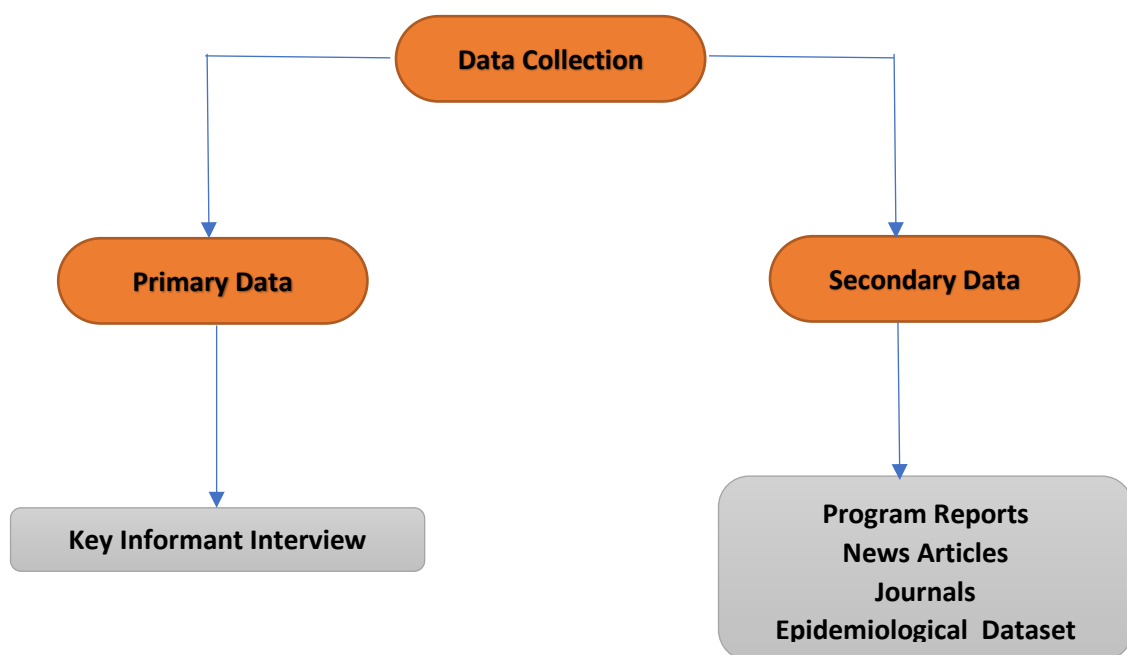
The NTD coordinators from WHO and the government departments along with the frontline healthcare workers has been implementing MDA rounds timely with a robust monitoring mechanism in place to track the programmatic outcomes.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 METHODOLOGY

This assessment is undertaken by engaging with supply side stakeholders of the programme to highlight the impact created by the Albendazole donation programme. The approach of the study is highly qualitative in nature.

Qualitative methods are used to help build a storyline for the achievements and gaps in the programme from the lens of immediate stakeholders involved in the programme implementation. A qualitative study gives substantiated evidence to better understand the processes involved in the programme implementation. Key informant interviews (KIIs) were used as a tool for qualitative data collection.



2.1.1. Data Collection

- **Secondary Data:** We referred the external reports in the likes of journals, articles and newspaper reports were studied to understand the tablet distribution process and its relevance in the Indian context to other players in a similar space. Secondary data were collected through publicly available resources.
- **Primary Data:** Primary data collection is key to collecting evidence from the stakeholders on the intervention, the benefits and challenges, and the analysis for recommendations to assess its impact. The stakeholder sample has been selected to ensure factors are captured to derive qualitative insights to generalise the findings.
- **Sample Size:** The total sample size for conducting KIIs is based on the availability of key SPOCs from the stakeholder groups - WHO and GSK. 2 KIIs were conducted to assess the distribution of the

Albendazole tablet project. Key Informant Interviews were conducted by Goodera Investigators virtually through G-meet.

- **Key informant Interviews:** Questionnaires are designed for each stakeholder interview, although only the most relevant questions to the subject were asked, and corresponding responses were captured. Stakeholders were selected through **Purposive Sampling**.

	Stakeholder Designation	No. of Interviews
1	Director (NTD Programmes), GSK Global	1
2	National Programme Officer, WHO India	1

3. PROJECT SUMMARY

3.1 Distribution of Albendazole



Sch. VII Sec. 135, Companies Act, 2013

Key elements of the assessment

Year of Implementation	Project Location	Total Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries Covered	Stakeholders Covered
FY 20-21	• Pan India	186 million as on Dec.2020	• 25 million tablets distributed	• GSK Global SPOC • WHO India

Key Findings

Program Design

- The Albendazole distribution programme by GSK is highly relevant to the Indian context.
- GSK in partnership with WHO India has worked in harmony at the local, national, and international levels to facilitate the distribution.
- The programme has been well implemented and successful in conducting MDA trials with 96.2% coverage in the FY 19-20⁵

Program Delivery

- Post manufacturing of the tablets from the facility they are sent to the Central Govt. warehouses, state government ensures storage capacity, sent to district for sub-zonal distribution. On ground, tablets are distributed door-to-door.
- In the year 2020, the total number of LF patients treated in India, dropped by ~40% from 312 million in 2019, to 186 million in 2020, owing to the pandemic
- Overall, the programme delivery appears to be in congruence with last mile delivery for the elimination of LF.

Impact & Sustainability

- ₹ **543.22 lakhs**⁶ spent in distribution of albendazole.
- **25 million tablets** distributed in **FY 20-21**⁷
- **96 districts**⁸ targeted for implementation of preventive chemotherapy.
- **180,032,248 people treated for LF** in 2020
- According to WHO India and GSK global SPOC **50 % districts in India have stopped MDA** for LF.

Recommendations

- WHO can initiate talks with the respective state governments from southern India to further advocate the need for MDAs in the endemic locations.
- Effective strategies for effective administration of the dosage and 100% adherence to be evolved with a relevant partner.

⁵ <https://india-pharma.gsk.com/media/6212/annual-csr-report-2019-20.pdf>

⁶ <https://india-pharma.gsk.com/media/6890/annual-csr-report-2020-21.pdf>

⁷ <https://india-pharma.gsk.com/media/6890/annual-csr-report-2020-21.pdf>

⁸ https://apps.who.int/neglected_diseases/ntddata/lf/lf.html

- The Government (central and state) should exempt the lockdown regulation for the distribution of Albendazole tablets
- Along with GSK, the availability of manpower could have been ensured by providing additional incentives while following the Covid-19 protocols.