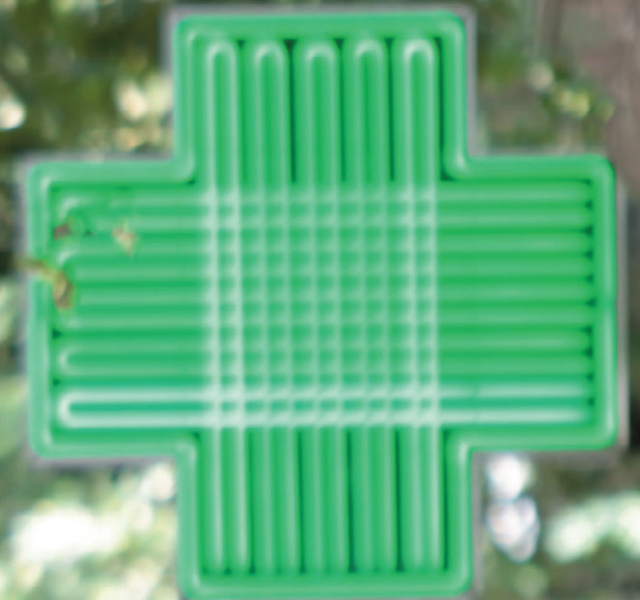
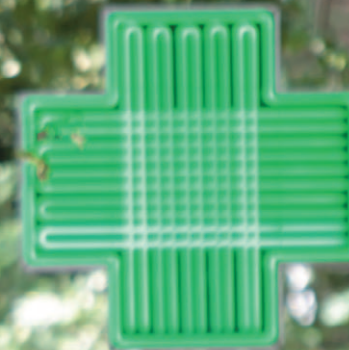


Pharmaceutical distribution in Africa: challenges and prospects





Pharmaceutical distribution in Africa: challenges and prospects

Par By Abderrahim Derraji, Pharmacist – Traduction : by Hajar Hanine

The African Pharmaceutical Distribution Association (APDA) organised its first post-Covid in-person Meetings and General Assembly on June 24, 25 and 26 2022 in Dakar.

This meeting, which was keenly followed by APDA members and their guests, allowed several experts to describe the current state of pharmaceutical distribution in Africa. They also made several recommendations as to the role pharmaceutical distributors should play.

As stated by several speakers

during the two sessions programmed by the Organising Committee, the Covid-19 pandemic showed that nations with efficient and proactive industries coupled with effective distribution networks were able to meet the needs of their populations in terms of medicines and health products during the pandemic.

Lahcen Senhaji and Ken Accajou, respectively, president and vice-president of APDA, indicated that their association has set an objective of putting in place mechanisms to ensure a high level of convergence among

stakeholders in the health sector, both public and private, and particularly the pharmaceutical sector.

The role of distributors is essential in guaranteeing the supply of medicines and health products to pharmacies, making them as well as pharmacists essential partners whose dynamism conditions the success of any health policy.

Of course, this role can only be played if the upstream supply is regular and efficient. This is undoubtedly what has led many African nations to set up

a pharmaceutical industry to reduce their dependence on foreign countries as much as possible.

The implementation of Universal Health Insurance Schemes (UHS) is increasingly becoming a challenge for African countries. However, its generalisation cannot have the desired effect without rational management of resources and the introduction of tools to generate the reliable indicators needed for close monitoring of, among other things, the income/expenditure ratio of health insurance funds.

Editorial

And as the president of APDA, Lahcen Senhaji, recalled, a country that cannot manufacture its medicines can still import them. On the other hand, no nation can do without a distribution network adapted to its specific circumstances.

Distribution involves several aspects, starting with the availability of medicines and health products, cost-efficient distribution and coverage of all regions of a country.

The perspectives presented during this day point to a dynamic that will undoubtedly have favourable repercussions on patient care. However, optimising this care can only be envisaged if health policies

take into consideration the viability of all stakeholders. A policy that considers lowering drug prices as the only lever to improve access is bound to fail.

Before parting ways, APDA members pledged to continue to collaborate and work together to ensure that distribution meets the expectations of their respective countries. The involvement of policy makers and donors, South-South partnerships and the implementation of best practices are essential elements in achieving this goal.





Lahcen Senhaji, President of APDA



Ken Accajou, Vice President of APDA



Jules Kebe, CEO of DUOPHARM: "Challenges and opportunities of the distribution of health care and social action in Senegal"



Aboubakrine Sarr,
Technical Advisor of the ministry of health - Senegal



George Bray, IFPW Vice President:
"Value of Associations – View point of IFPW"



Alexandre De Carvalho, CEO West Africa - IQVIA:
"Tendencies of the global & African market"



Ibrahima Diawara, PCA CIPHARM:
"The challenge of producing medicines in Africa"



Razi Meliani, CEO COGEPHA:
"Digitalisation in healthcare"



Yolande Djomo, CEO SIAP PHARMA



Presence of public sector pharmacists



ADPA members and their guests

Laborex Senegal visit

