



Roche Diagnostics South Korea Sustainability Report 2020/21

The Frontlines
of Healthcare

Overview

“ *Sustainable healthcare is high quality healthcare, made affordable and accessible to everybody.* ”

Lance Little
 Managing Director,
 Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific



Home to 60% of the world’s people, Asia Pacific (APAC) is a large and diverse region with a mix of markets at different stages of their healthcare journey. But hearteningly, the region is making progress toward providing greater health coverage to citizens, improving public infrastructure and services, and making healthcare more affordable and accessible to all, particularly the marginalised communities.

While the healthcare challenges facing the APAC region are myriad, so are its opportunities. Developed, high income markets are seeing rapidly ageing populations, with rising costs increasingly becoming core concerns. Yet this can be a catalyst for the healthcare industry to innovate, adopt new and more efficient technologies, and boost preventive health programmes. For developing or low-income markets that face rapid population growth and low access to essential health services, programmes to build capacity and establish basic healthcare access, particularly in rural areas, is the first step forward. Meanwhile, in medium-income markets, their unique

circumstances call for a targeted approach to tackle high burden diseases and underserved communities to plug potential gaps in a maturing healthcare system.

The impact of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 on healthcare systems across APAC cannot be underscoring enough. The devastating effect of the pandemic not only cost nations thousands of lives but placed immense stress on hospitals and infrastructure. Overwhelmed and struggling with limited funds, many healthcare systems restricted or postponed access to essential services for patients, creating a shadow healthcare crisis that may plague the region in the years to come.

To overcome these challenges and create truly sustainable healthcare, APAC’s healthcare systems must embrace both diagnosis and testing, as well as equitable access to these services. As COVID-19 has shown, identifying infections early and preventing them from spreading is the best way to protect the health of a population. These key preventive tools

raise people’s overall health awareness, improve treatment outcomes, and reduce the strain on healthcare resources. In our partnerships with governments across APAC to strengthen healthcare systems, we worked to show how diagnostics can both be a powerful tool in creating better healthcare systems, as well as how it should be inclusive and accessible to all patients, including the poor, rural communities, and those at risk.

Roche Diagnostics works closely with its pharmaceuticals division to search for better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and make a sustainable contribution to society and improve patient access to medical innovations through partnerships with key stakeholders.

Health is the bedrock for societies and economies to thrive and prosper. In advocating for sustainable healthcare, we are collectively strengthening the foundation of socioeconomic growth and development, while ensuring that no patient gets left behind.

Our Commitment to Sustainability



Sustainability has been an integral part of the Roche business for 125 years. We are now moving towards simpler, more focused sustainability goals that align with both business objectives as well as environmental, social, and governmental imperatives shared by the international community.

We have built up trust and repute among our customers and successfully reached patients through total regulatory compliance. We can – and are – going far beyond simple compliance to proactively embrace and pursue greater impact in economic, societal and environmental areas.

We mapped our desired impacts of the business’ four key pillars of sustainability – patients, society, environment, and people – to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals to ensure these objectives are fully integrated into our business strategy. Given our status as a global healthcare company, we resonate strongly with the goal of ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all.



PATIENTS

We are always innovating for patients, ensuring quality products, increasing accessibility to healthcare with improved distribution of our solutions, furthering scientific discovery with clinical trials, and operating at the forefront of personalised healthcare.



SOCIETY

We want to improve the societies in which we operate, meeting the highest standards of business ethics and compliance, protecting human rights, supporting communities in need with humanitarian and social projects, and being a responsible and trustworthy partner.



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental sustainability is central to humanity’s future. We seek to minimise our carbon footprint in all our operations and products, protect the climate through recycling and waste reductions initiatives, and deliver robust corporate responsibility reporting.



PEOPLE

Making Roche a great place to work is our goal. We strive to build up our people, ensure diversity and inclusion in our workforce, champion employee wellbeing, encourage open dialogue, cultivate leadership skills and promote women in leadership roles.

APAC: Our Impact In The Fight Against COVID-19

“ *The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for public and private sectors across the globe to work together. In these unprecedented times, we are more than ever committed to work in close collaboration with all global health actors to ensure that medicines and diagnostics reach the people who need them.* ”

Since the global outbreak of Covid-19 in January 2020, Roche has been at the forefront of Asia Pacific’s battle against the coronavirus, working shoulder to shoulder with governments, frontliners and researchers to test, trace and contain the spread of infections.

As a partner to governments, we stepped up as a pillar of support, doing everything we could to support testing capacity by delivering a full portfolio of reliable diagnostic solutions and instruments in record time to meet urgent national needs. Together with other global pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies, we pledged to ensure that poorer countries could afford

the COVID-19 diagnostic products they need through donations and the distribution of products.

We worked tirelessly to obtain solutions approvals within days, moved quickly to obtain assay shipments ahead of official requests, supported research around efficacy testing, rapidly installed testing instruments in public healthcare facilities, and shared expertise with the industry and government officials. Combined, these efforts contributed significantly to the creation of an effective pandemic response and timely scale up and rollout of testing, ultimately bringing the COVID spread under control and preserving the lives of thousands.

Severin Schwan
CEO, Roche



Our Approach to Sustainability

PATIENTS

While COVID-19 efforts were front and centre from 2020 to 2021, we did not let up on our commitment to improve the lives of patients amid these challenging times. In particular, our sustainability initiatives continued to address the most pressing non communicable diseases plaguing the Asia Pacific region, particularly cancer and cardiovascular disease, often the leading causes of death in nearly every APAC market.

With our systemic approach to raising awareness of these pressing diseases and establishing partnerships with government bodies to deliver medicines and diagnostics, we helped our affiliates create stronger, more sustainable healthcare systems where patients benefit from improved testing, treatment and care.

SOCIETY

We believe in supporting the communities in which we operate, especially the most vulnerable groups, to strengthen our connection to local communities. In 2020 and 2021 our initiatives concentrated on women, children, and the elderly, with our people rallying as OneRoche to raise funds and marshall assistance for these groups in need.

Together, these philanthropic donations and humanitarian projects helped those most in need across Asia Pacific better tide through the turbulent changes wrought by COVID-19 and emerge stronger.

ENVIRONMENT

At Roche, environmental commitments are at the centre of our sustainability goals for the coming decades. Across the region, our offices are working to minimise waste, reduce energy intensity, and slash our carbon footprint in ways large and small.

Our offices are migrating to paperless operations, promoting waste recycling with designated waste bins, switching to sustainable catering, and eliminating single-use plastics. As climate change and environmental pollution continue to be the world's most pressing concerns, we remain determined to responsibly operate green offices and supply chains through the entire product life cycle to be a truly zero emissions company by 2050.

PEOPLE

At Roche, we view diversity and inclusion as an engine of innovation and key to our success. As one of the first major corporations in Europe to state our diversity and inclusion goals publicly, we have made substantial progress in achieving them – particularly around female representation, which is a notable achievement for the APAC region.

To look after the wellbeing of our people, the majority of our APAC offices rolled out wellness programmes amid COVID to protect their mental and physical health. This is part of our commitment to create a workplace where each individual is given the support they need to fully contribute their skills, experiences and perspectives.

Our Impact in South Korea

Addressing Korea's shadow healthcare crisis amid COVID-19



SOUTH KOREA IN 2020/2021

South Korea has a rapidly ageing population that is exerting increasing pressure on its healthcare system due to a rise in chronic diseases. In 2019, there were 295,110 deaths, over half of which were attributed to the three leading causes of death: cancer, heart disease and pneumonia. Apart from boosting its birth rate, the nation's healthcare strategy is now focused on promoting and investing in preventive health.

Korea's budget for its Health, Welfare, and Employment area was 180.5 trillion won in 2020 and 199.9 trillion won in 2021, or 12.1% and 10.7% of GDP respectively. These sums were spent on various initiatives including expanded senior healthcare insurance support.

OUR COVID-19 CONTRIBUTIONS

Our high throughput instruments for nucleic acid purification made routine screening in Korea possible from the beginning of

pandemic's spread. From January 2020 to April 2021, the nation performed about 8 million COVID-19 PCR tests, over half of which we supplied. In collaboration with the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, other government agencies and societies of lab medicine, we provided thousands of test kits to help execute prevalence surveys, determine vaccine efficacy, conduct screenings and perform automated molecular testing at central labs, contributing to Korea's success and subsequent recognition as one of countries with the best COVID-19 response worldwide.

PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING KOREA'S SHADOW HEALTHCARE CRISIS WITH BIOMARKER TESTING

As the coronavirus spread, many Koreans missed their health and cancer screenings, delayed preventive procedures, and received fewer prescriptions. To address this shadow healthcare crisis, our efforts for Korea's healthcare system involved advocating for the use of biomarkers for

quicker diagnosis of leading diseases. We focused in particular on cancer and heart disease, which are Korea's leading causes of death and are the nation's greatest healthcare burdens.

Early detection of cancer is important to boost patients' chances of treatment and recovery, yet the importance of cancer surveillance, including through biomarker testing, tends to be underestimated in Korea due to limited reimbursements during the surveillance period. We aimed to educate the healthcare community on the value of biomarkers to detect hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) – the most common type of primary liver cancer – more efficiently. In particular, we aimed to boost the use of PIVKA II, a biomarker particularly useful for diagnosing HCC in patients with large tumors.

We appointed and developed six key opinion leaders around HCC surveillance to drive new patient guidelines involving the use of PIVKA II tests, as well as to understand the barriers to adoption. In 2021 we started several activities to register specific guides on the use of our Elecsys PIVKA-II tests during HCC surveillance in the revised version of the Korea Liver Cancer Association guidelines, so as to supply healthcare practitioners with more information on the biomarker's cost efficiency, sensitivity, and specificity, enabling them to make better patient decisions.

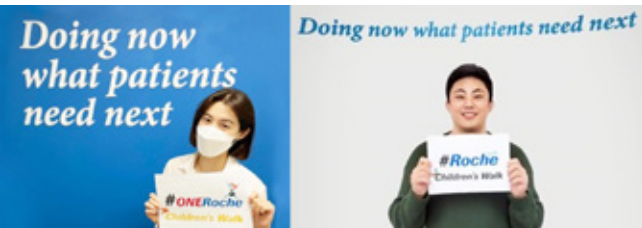
Similar to these efforts to counter cancer, we also sought to boost the use of biomarker testing to promote earlier and more accurate diagnosis and surveillance of heart disease. Previously, it was possible to add more value to predictive prediction of heart failure patients. Now, a new biomarker GDF-15 has been launched on the back of our studies with the Korean Society of Heart Failure.

We held an Experts Meeting with nine key opinion leaders from the organization to define the patient's unmet needs and engage them on the value of biomarkers in predicting risk and improving patient outcomes. As part of the meeting, the society launched a study in 2020 to generate localised data from the Korean population on the clinical utility of GDF-15 in hospitalised patients. The results of the study is expected to build confidence in policymakers for the reimbursement of GDF-15, making it more accessible to patients.

Furthermore, we also sought to improve cardiac healthcare by improving awareness of the value of the European Society of Cardiology 0/1-hour algorithm for rule-out and rule-in of heart attacks using, which benefits patients with quicker treatment decision-making at hospital emergency departments.

In 2021, we ran a digital masterclass for cardiologists and laboratories to increase awareness of the 1-hour algorithm, which





is not commonly used in Korea due to low awareness of the practice, to address the knowledge hurdles around clinical application and help clinicians better interpret results.

TRAINING PATHOLOGISTS TO BETTER DIAGNOSE TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

In Korea, breast cancer is the most common among all cancers in women, accounting for 23.7% of all new cases in 2020, or 25,814 women. Among the different types of breast cancer, one of the most aggressive types is triple-negative breast cancer, which does not respond to medicines that can be used to target more typical types of breast cancer. To improve awareness of triple-negative breast cancer and enable pathologists to more accurately diagnose the disease, we conducted a pathologist training session with MDS Medical, to increase awareness of the utility and value of the PD-L1 (SP142) assay for triple negative breast cancer as a companion



diagnostic. PPD-L1(Programmed Death-Ligand 1), is a protein that controls the body's immune response. In all, we reached out to 114 pathologists on triple negative breast cancer via a training session on how to accurately interpret the results of triple negative breast cancer tissue samples with PD-L1 (SP142) assays. Moving forward, we plan to train 70% of the pathologists in the Breast Pathology Research Community of the Korean Society of Pathologists (KST) on triple negative breast cancer, and advocate for the use of the PD-L1 (SP142) assay as a diagnostic tool to aid earlier and more accurate detection, ensuring timely treatment for more women in the nation.

Highlights *in Numbers*

SOCIETY



US\$22,900

raised for Roche Children's Walk from 259 participants

ENVIRONMENT



4.5 tonnes

of waste recycled in 2021

PATIENTS



800

blood glucose screening devices donated to patients with diabetes

PEOPLE



14

young engineers trained under Young Meister's programme

4 million won

worth of self-monitoring glucose strips donated to Seoul National University Hospital

What's Next

There is still much more that can be done before sustainable healthcare becomes a reality for each APAC citizen. We know this is a huge undertaking that cannot be achieved alone. That is why we have always partnered with stakeholders and engaged in open, constructive dialogue with industry and peers to collectively advance innovation, refine processes, and make progress.

Partnership is at the heart of our sustainability strategy. Our strong and deep relationships with governments, public healthcare institutions, industry associations, research partners, and non-governmental organisations have seen us co-create frameworks for sustainable healthcare and strengthen national health systems. As the world emerges from COVID-19, now more than ever do we need public and private stakeholders to work together to ensure healthcare access for all, and good health and wellbeing for every person a reality, both now and in the future.

Together, we can craft solutions crucial to closing inherent gaps in the standard of care in the APAC region, and help it address its most pressing challenges, without sacrificing the interests of the planet or people.

*Join us in doing
now what patients
need next.*





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