

Eli Lilly and Company

Lilly Corporate Center
Indianapolis, IN 46285
U.S.A

September 30, 2024

Joan Tubau
Médecins Sans Frontières Access Campaign
Route de Ferney 140
P.O. Box 1224
CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

RE: Access to diabetes medicines for people living with diabetes in humanitarian and resource-poor settings

Dear Mr. Tubau,

Thank you for your letter regarding access to critical diabetes medicines in resource-limited countries. MSF and Lilly share a common goal of expanding access to essential care to those in need around the world and we appreciate this opportunity to respond to some of your concerns.

Throughout our nearly 150-year history, Lilly has worked to address some of humanity's most pressing health challenges. Today, more than 55 million people are estimated to use Lilly medicines. However, our impact on health extends beyond the medicines we develop and manufacture. We work across industry boundaries to support leading health organizations globally, regionally and locally to ensure patients receive the medicines that they need.

Then why are your insulin pens not available in LMICs?

Lilly is deeply committed to equitable and affordable access to our medicines globally— including insulins – so that our breakthroughs **help as many people as possible** We are also dedicated to addressing complex U.S. and global health challenges that impact communities with limited resources. Through initiatives like Lilly 30x30, we aim to improve access to quality health care for 30 million people in underserved communities annually by 2030. We will continue to do our part to spur multisectoral action, bringing together industry and stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable, scalable solutions that strengthen health systems and remove barriers to accessing medicines.

To achieve our goal, we leverage partnerships with companies like EVA Pharma, as you mentioned, to enhance sustainable access to affordable human and analogue insulin in Africa, with the goal of reaching at least 1 million people living with diabetes in LMICs by 2030. We also recognize the high prevalence of diabetes in Africa and from a manufacturing standpoint, with EVA we are working to strengthen capacity and build self-reliance through knowledge and technology sharing for insulin manufacturing within Africa, which will provide a more sustainable supply long term. In fact, EVA has submitted both insulin glargine and human insulin regular cartridges for Egyptian Drug Authority approval. Lilly has engaged with the WHO to enable use of a master file for human insulin active substance to facilitate WHO prequalification of human insulin formulations, with the aim of supporting expedited approvals.

Great!


Building on our work with EVA on insulins, earlier this month Lilly announced a voluntary licensing agreement (VLA) for baricitinib, which EVA will make available in 49 LMICs by 2030. We will learn from this experience and aim to continue to consider various mechanisms to expand access for our products in LMICs. Lilly has also made unprecedented investments to increase manufacturing and supply capacity around the world in record time to ensure people have access to the medicines they need. We understand that ~~some~~ ^{MOST} patients prefer pens to vials, which is why we included both cartridges and vials in technology transfer with EVA. We remain committed to our various partnerships to ensure we are successfully distributing quality human and analog insulins to patients in LMICs, through collaboration like Life for a Child where donated Lilly products were delivered to 53,129 children and youth during 2023.

Cool, but what about pens? \$1/pen, please!

Donations are NOT sustainable

Additionally, as part of our commitment to meet the global demand for people with type 2 diabetes and obesity, we are commercializing different presentations of tirzepatide, including single-dose vials and the multi-dose KwikPen in some countries. However, manufacturing the medicine and its device are just two factors in addressing the surge in global demand. Our ability to get our medicines to patients depends on multiple steps, including regulatory requirements, local laws and shipping logistics.

How about licensing to generic companies to meet the demand?

At Lilly, we remain focused on and inspired by our purpose to create medicines that make life better for people around the world as we urgently advance science to solve some of the most significant health challenges today. We invite you to follow our progress on global health efforts that we report annually in our [Sustainability Report](#).



Let me thank you again for your dedication to delivering healthcare services in some of the most challenging environments. The impact your organization has made saving lives serves as a beacon of hope for so many communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Cardona". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Cynthia Cardona

Vice President, Social Impact, Eli Lilly & Company



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