

GILEAD PARTNERS WITH THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS TOURNAMENT TO KICK OFF NEW HEPATITIS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

FOSTER CITY, Calif., June 20, 2019 – Gilead Sciences, Inc. today announced that it has become an official partner of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations – Africa’s biggest football competition. During the tournament, Gilead is working in partnership with local organizations

to launch a new hepatitis B and C awareness campaign, called Kick Virus B & C.

The Kick Virus B & C campaign is designed to raise awareness across Africa of the threat posed

by viral hepatitis and to provide information on how to get tested. As an official partner of the

Africa Cup of Nations, the campaign will be visible to millions of football fans through branding at stadiums across Egypt, a campaign website and the tournament’s official website,

social media content, and an interactive display at the Cairo International Stadium.

“We are excited to be kicking off this important public health campaign at the Africa Cup of Nations. Too many people are unaware that they are living with hepatitis B or C, putting themselves and their loved ones at risk of serious complications and even premature death,”

said Clifford Samuel, Senior Vice President, Access Operations and Emerging Markets, Gilead Sciences. “Working with our partners across the continent, we want to encourage people to get

tested and if diagnosed, to access the appropriate healthcare.”

Chronic viral hepatitis affects more than 70 million Africans (60 million with hepatitis B and 10 million with hepatitis C) and kills more people in Africa each year than tuberculosis, malaria

or HIV. The disease often affects the most youthful and productive members of the African population.¹

The new campaign will look to address the fact that few people with viral hepatitis have been

diagnosed due to limited awareness and access to testing. This is a problem in Africa, but also

globally, where only 20 percent of the estimated 71 million people living with hepatitis C have

been diagnosed. For the estimated 257 million people living with hepatitis B around the world,

this figure stands at only nine percent.²

¹ World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa. <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/hepatitis>

² World Health Organisation, Hepatitis B and C Factsheets. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c>
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-b>

In 2016, the World Health Assembly (the decision-making body of the WHO) adopted the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, which called for elimination of viral hepatitis

as a major public health threat by 2030. This strategy set targets to reduce the number of new

infections by 90 percent and mortality rates by 65 percent.³ This new campaign is designed to support local healthcare and community organizations across Africa to help meet these targets.

“The Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF) is pleased to partner with Gilead on this campaign and believe it will help to build greater awareness of the need for Hepatitis B and C

screening and testing across our continent,” said CAF President Ahmad Ahmad.

“The 2019 Total Africa Cup of Nations will commence with a new 24-team format, increasing

the size of its reach. The tournament is therefore the ideal platform to help this campaign communicate across the entire continent,” he concluded.

Further details on the Kick Virus B & C campaign can be found at www.kickthevirus.com.

The

2019 Africa Cup of Nations is the 32nd edition of the tournament and takes place in Egypt from

June 21-July 19, 2019, with a total of 24 nations competing.

About Gilead Sciences

Gilead Sciences is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and

commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. The company strives to

transform and simplify care for people with life-threatening illnesses around the world.

Gilead

has operations in more than 35 countries worldwide, with headquarters in Foster City, California. Gilead’s Africa headquarters is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

For more than 15 years, Gilead’s dedicated business unit - Access Operations and Emerging Markets (AOEM) - has focused on executing the company mission to increase access to medicines for people who can benefit from them, regardless of where they live or their economic status. In more than 140 low-and middle-income countries, Gilead works with public

health officials, community advocates, researchers, doctors and patients to break down barriers

and create opportunities for communities impacted by HIV, viral hepatitis and visceral leishmaniasis.

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³ World Health Organization, Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021. June 2016.

<https://www.who.int/hepatitis/strategy2016-2021/ghss-hep/en/>