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## News Release

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### Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Supports Schistosomiasis Education in Mozambique

- **Around 80% of Mozambicans suffer from the parasitic worm disease**

Namaacha, Mozambique, March 21, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for innovative, top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials, is fighting schistosomiasis in Mozambique. Today in Namaacha, together with German Bundesrat President Volker Bouffier, Executive Board member of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Kai Beckmann presented 20,000 brochures aimed at educating children on the causes of the tropical worm disease to Mozambique's Deputy Health Minister Mouzinho Saíde. The contribution is part of the the company's Praziquantel Donation program: Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is partnering with the World Health Organization (WHO) to fight schistosomiasis in Africa. The partnership is a central initiative of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, within the scope of its responsible corporate governance, to improve access to health for underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries.

"Together with WHO we want to eliminate schistosomiasis in Africa. Thus we are not just donating tablets, but also taking a holistic approach," said Beckmann. Since 2007, we have supplied WHO with more than 200 million praziquantel tablets free of charge. So far, this has enabled the treatment of around 54 million patients. "Millions of children suffer from this insidious disease – here in Mozambique as well. The disease prevents them from learning and weakens the country's development potential. With our education program, we want to ensure that less children contract the disease. We want to give children new opportunities, while at the same time promoting economic growth and

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making a brighter future possible," continued Beckmann. After Malawi and Senegal, Mozambique is the third African country to benefit from the education program. So far, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has provided schools with a total of one million brochures and 75,000 posters. The material is available in English, French and Portuguese.

The donation was presented in Namaacha in the south of Mozambique during German Bundesrat President Bouffier's trip to South Africa and Mozambique from March 13 to March 23. Beckmann is part of a delegation of representatives from the worlds of science and business that is accompanying Bouffier. Bouffier welcomed the company's commitment: "Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is engaged in various initiatives in Africa in order to improve the quality of local health care. In doing so, the company, headquartered in Hesse, is not just taking responsibility in its home market, but also everywhere it operates."

Deputy Health Minister Saïde thanked Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany for the donation, "In terms of disease burden and economic impact, schistosomiasis is considered one of the most devastating neglected tropical diseases. The company's commitment not only helps infected children, but also supports our public health care system."

Schistosomiasis is widespread in Mozambique: According to WHO estimates, more than 18 million people – around 80% of the total population – require treatment. In 2009 and 2010, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany supplied WHO with more than 8.7 million praziquantel tablets for Mozambique. Since 2011, in agreement with WHO, the country in southern Africa has been receiving tablets from the British Department for International Development (DFID). The distribution of the tablets is jointly coordinated by the British Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI) and the Mozambican Ministry of Health. As members of the Global Schistosomiasis Alliance, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and SCI are currently developing a joint concept to fight schistosomiasis in Mozambique in the future.



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### Notes for editors:

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