



Press Release



Sanofi & Akhuwat Foundation bring diabetes education to schools

Karachi, June 13, 2022. Sanofi Pakistan has signed an MoU with Akhuwat Foundation to educate children and teachers of Akhuwat owned/adopted schools across Punjab, on understanding and management of Type 1 diabetes and prevention of type 2 diabetes risk factors, under the banner of the KiDS (Kids and Diabetes in Schools) program.

KiDS is a global collaborative project of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and multiple partners, supported by Sanofi. The KiDS project aims to foster a safe and supportive school environment for children with diabetes to manage their condition and prevent discrimination while raising awareness about diabetes and the benefits of healthy eating habits and physical activity among school-age children. The KiDS program has already reached more than 340,000 children and 19,800 teachers and school staff worldwide.

"KiDS is a global project primarily developed for school children, school staff, and parents. The program attracted global media attention at the recent Dubai Expo 2020. In Pakistan, we have rolled out this program with multiple partners over the years. Recently, we engaged schools in Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) in collaboration with National Education Foundation (NEF). I am delighted with our new partnership with Akhuwat Foundation and certain they will also implement the KiDS program in its true spirit over the next two years, changing habits in young children and mindset of school staff so they can provide more structured support to children with diabetes", said Asim Jamal, General Manager and Managing Director, Sanofi Pakistan.

Type 1 diabetes primarily develops in children. Albeit small in numbers, children with Type 1 diabetes often face discrimination in school and social life due to lack of understanding of their condition. The KiDS program addresses these issues in addition to building awareness of the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle and eating habits at an early age to prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes when children embrace adulthood.

"School plays a key role in developing behaviours and beliefs of impressionable minds. Implementation of a well-structured program - like KiDS - focused on promoting healthy lifestyles and prevention of type 2 diabetes and obesity in the younger population is the need of the hour. Akhuwat Foundation will not only introduce KiDS program in its schools but will also take necessary steps to include the KiDS educational material in school curriculum." said Izhar -ul- Haq Hashmi, Director, Akhuwat Foundation.

About KiDS Program

Sanofi co-created the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) program, a partnership with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) that aims to support children with type 1 diabetes manage their disease and avoid their discrimination in a school setting, and raise awareness on the benefits of healthy lifestyle among all schoolchildren. This educational program is based on a global KiDS toolkit, primarily targeted at teachers, school nurses and other staff, school children (6-14 years old) and their parents.

The program is implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, and UAE.

About Akhuwat

The journey of Akhuwat started 21 years ago as an interest free microfinance program with the passion of alleviating poverty and becoming a ray of hope for the poor. By the grace and endless blessings of the Almighty, Akhuwat has grown from one branch in Lahore and a first loan of **PKR 10,000** to the disbursement of Qarz-e-Hassan (interest free loans) totaling **PKR 170 billion**, helping more than **5.3 million** families through a network of over **854 Branches** all across Pakistan. This is now world's largest interest free small loans program, Alhamdulillah.

About Sanofi

We are an innovative global healthcare company, driven by one purpose: we chase the miracles of science to improve people's lives. Our team, across some 100 countries, is dedicated to transforming the practice of medicine by working to turn the impossible into the possible. We provide potentially life-changing treatment options and life-saving vaccine protection to millions of people globally, while putting sustainability and social responsibility at the center of our ambitions.

Media Relations

Laila Khan | + 92 21 35060221-29 EXT 2468 | laila.khan@sanofi.com