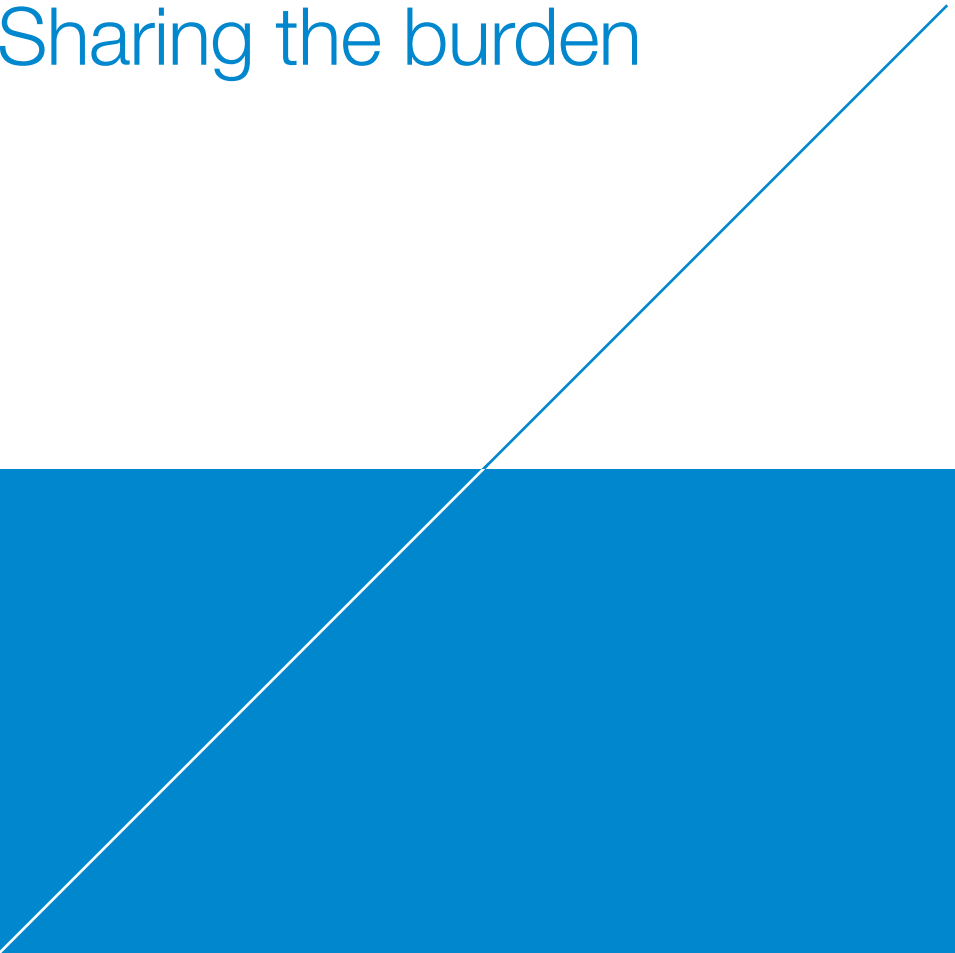
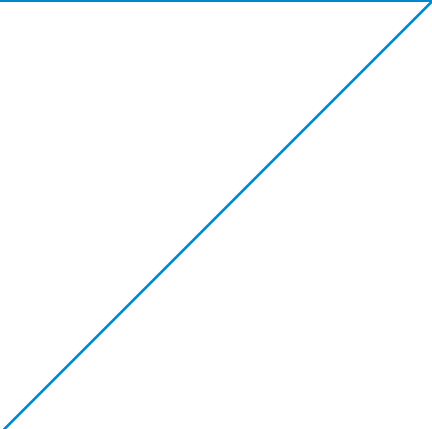


This is an interactive eBrochure. Click on the arrow to the right to start.

Sharing the burden



AICF Governance



The AICF is a Section 21, public benefit organisation, managed by an independent board of directors and members. The AICF has been awarded PBO status and is authorised to issue 18A tax certificates. Companies who partner through the CSI arm may earn BBBEE points in line with their financial contribution.

The AICF governance structure brings together legal, medical, commercial, and key government thought leaders and patient representation – this ensures objectivity.

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ACCESS TO
INNOVATIVE CARE
FOUNDATION



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www.aicf.org.za

Business Card

Click to get in touch

Our Vision

is to share the burden of
innovative care of highly
specialised diseases

We Are

A non-profit organisation that aims to share the burden by improving patient access to innovative care.

Equal access to health care is a constitutional right for all South Africans. The health care system in South Africa inadvertently discriminates against some patients, and as is relevant here, to patients being treated with innovative medicines.

Oncology nursing is a highly specialised field of nursing but not recognised as such in South Africa. There is an urgent need to enhance oncology nursing in both state and private to ensure patients have the best nursing care possible. For private cancer patients, the cost of treatment can be unaffordable to many patients, depending on the treatment and what medical aid benefits the patient enjoys, if any. Innovative medicines can be reimbursed by funders, but are also either partially funded or not funded by medical schemes.

Many patients are not prescribed the optimal treatment due to cost, and if they insist, can end up in financial difficulty, requiring the treatment to cease mid-way. As a result, patients' healthcare is compromised.

Both situations are sub-optimal and certainly contravene the patients' right to access to healthcare.

The Innovative Cancer Care Foundation (ICCF) was established in December 2010 to address these challenges and its name changed in 2016 to the Access to Innovative Care Foundation (AICF) to allow for the inclusion of treatments for other diseases.

The Need

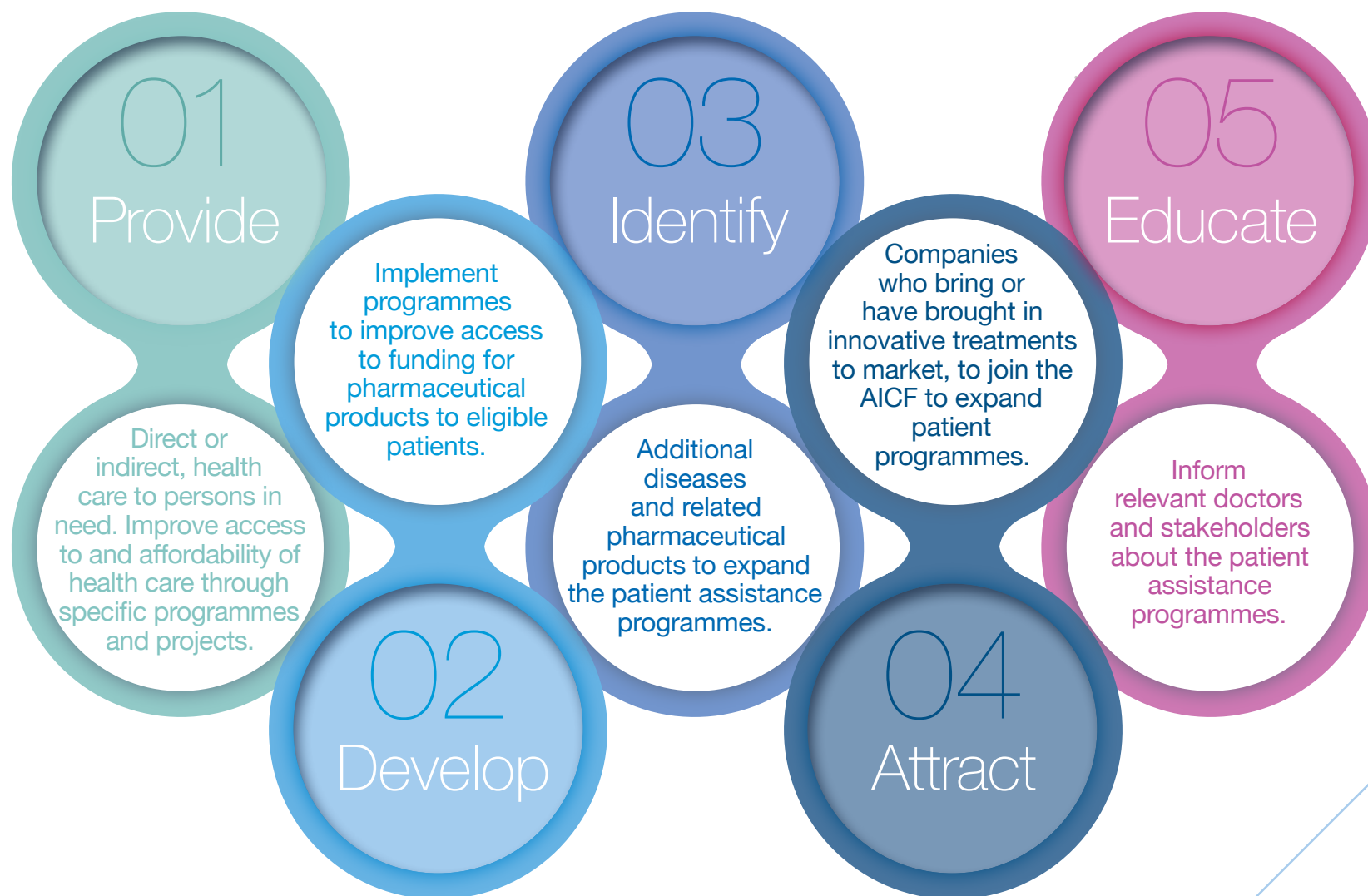
The AICF has two strategic imperatives pertaining to patients' access to cancer treatments in both the public and private sectors. These imperatives are addressed through the two arms of the AICF.

01. Corporate Social Investment:
Oncology nursing skills enhancement
02. Patient Programme Arm

Our Aim

- Enhance oncology nursing skills in the state and private sectors
- To share the patients' financial burden by giving them access to the drugs and facilities their need
- To share the health care providers' burden of the treatment decision, often based on the 'cost to treat' rather than the effectiveness of treatment. Our goal is to allow for the most appropriate treatment to be given and mitigate the treatment choice being primarily a financial decision
- To share the burden of the medical aid scheme by reducing the funding risk and facilitating patient access to innovative care
- To share the pharmaceutical companies' burden of patient access to innovative and effective medication

Our Purpose



Our Mission



Success

Success for the AICF means that patients who have highly specialised diseases are treated in private and provincial facilities that are of a high standard, fully equipped and staffed with skilled, multidisciplinary teams.

Success for the AICF means that patients who have highly specialised diseases receive uninterrupted treatments selected on clinical evidence.

Financial Burden



The cost of innovative treatment is a financial burden for all role players. The reality in South Africa is that not everyone can afford a medical aid - and even for those who can, it is often not enough to cover the cost of the most effective treatments.

This results in patients either not being given the treatment of choice, or in them incurring significant debt in order to continue the treatment that may save their lives or allow them more time with families and loved ones.

By sharing the financial burden we are able to relieve the patient and their families of the burden of despair.

This is where the AICF offers a solution.

Through patient access programmes, we are able to offer patients who have started treatment, some assistance should any of the following have arisen:

- their medical aid benefits are depleted; or
- their medical aid declines to reimburse in part or in full; and
- where there is an affordability challenge

Resources Burden



Healthcare resources are stretched to address the needs of patients in South Africa. Whether it be the hospitals in the state, or the ability of medical aids to cover treatment costs, resources aren't enough to meet the needs of patients and healthcare providers.

The AICF was previously known as the ICCF where the focus was on cancer care. This was expanded to include other specialised diseases where access to innovative care is a challenge. The corporate social investment focus of the AICF will continue to be in oncology but may expand at some time going forward.

The AICF, together with our partners, is developing an oncology nursing curriculum to enhance oncology nursing skills in the state and private sectors.

By instilling confidence in our oncology nurses through education, the AICF is impacting on staff morale and patient outcomes.

From repairing units that have been neglected for years; supplying essential equipment; organising effective transport for patients; to assisting with oncology nursing skills development, the AICF is making a difference in the lives of patients, their families, nurses and caregivers.

Treatment Burden



Research and development pharmaceutical companies invest massively to find innovative treatments for highly specialised diseases. The reality is that when a new molecule or drug goes to market, it does so with a high price tag.

Medical schemes are often unwilling to re-imburse these drugs or treatment programmes, in part or in full, based on financial obligations to their members.

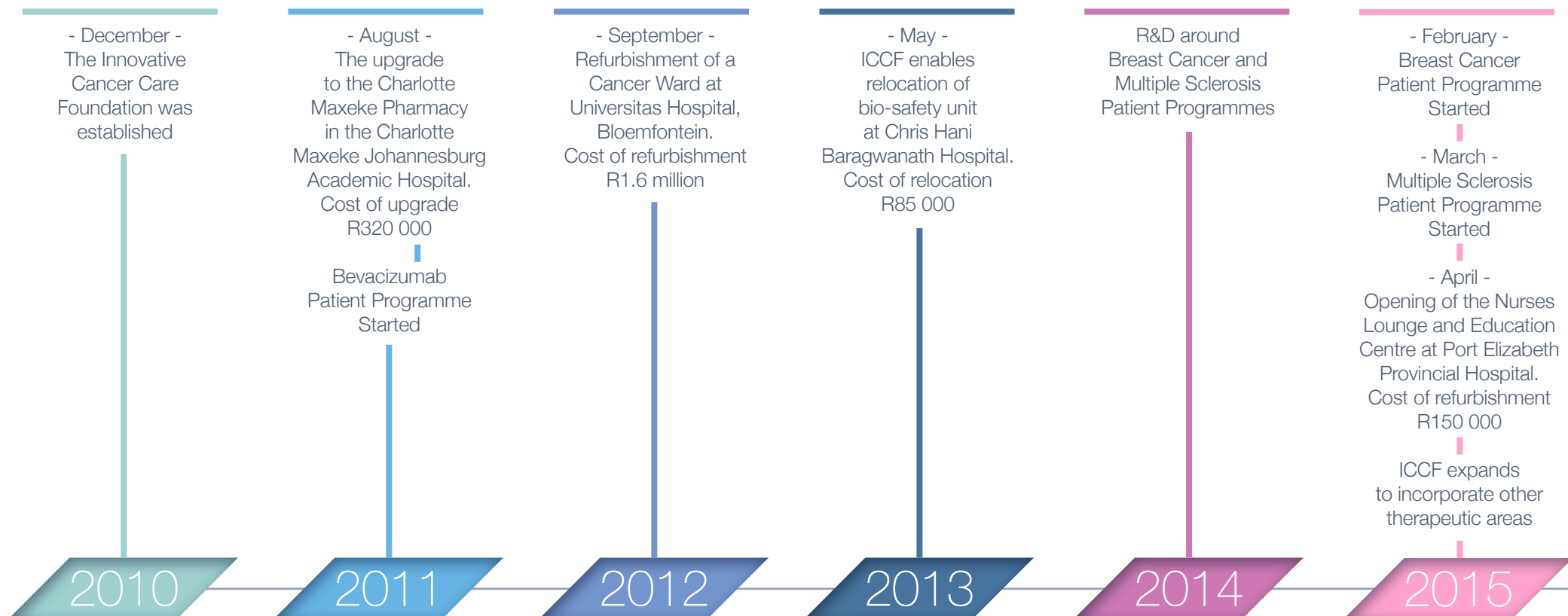
The AICF shares the pharmaceutical companies' burden of patient access to innovative medicines, and the medical schemes' burden of the financial obligation, by providing financial assistance for defined periods, thereby facilitating patient access to innovative care.

Action

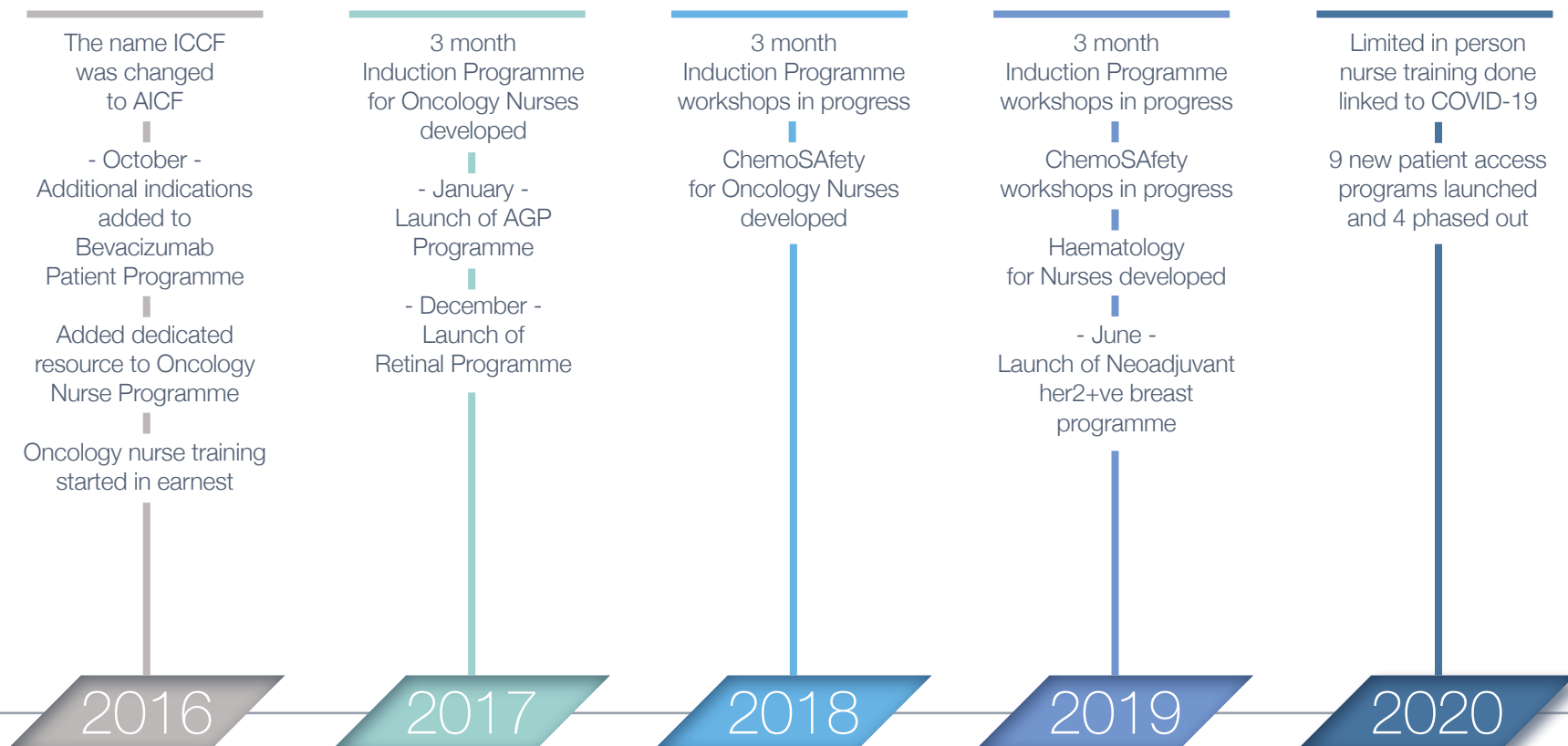
Reaction

Our Achievements. Our CSI. Programmes.

Our Achievements



Our Achievements



Our CSI



Modernisation of Public Sector Cancer Facilities

Public sector patients and staff alike face significant challenges in terms of the facilities in which a patient is treated. Much needed maintenance and upgrades are required to allow for patients to be cared for in an appropriate way. Examples exist where both staff and patient's health and safety is being compromised through inadequate facilities.

The AICF had aimed to modernise all existing provincial tertiary cancer facilities but in October 2012, realised there is a desperate need to enhance oncology nursing skills, so the focus has shifted to address this need.

Four projects had been completed by April 2015 with the focus now on the oncology nursing skills project.

**Make an impact.
We need you to join the fight.**

Contact us by calling or clicking below

Upgrade to Charlotte Maxeke Pharmacy

The upgrade to the Charlotte Maxeke Pharmacy in the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, was completed in August 2011 at a cost of R320 000.

Roche Pharmaceuticals were the main sponsor for the project, and provided a donation to the Innovative Cancer Care Foundation, for the purpose of renovating the pharmacy. This initiative provided a state-of-the-art facility to dispense cancer treatments for patients, thereby improving access to cancer care.

Refurbishment of a Cancer Ward at Universitas Hospital, Bloemfontein

Roche Pharmaceuticals provided a donation to the Innovative Cancer Care Foundation for the refurbishment of one of the oncology wards at the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein.

The new facility provided a sophisticated and new environment for those cancer patients undergoing hospital stays for treatment of their cancers. The impact on staff morale is evident and has engendered a sense of pride.

The cost of the refurbishment was R1.6 million and was completed in September 2012. There are three other wards needing to be upgraded, allowing scope for interested partners to share the burden.

Before



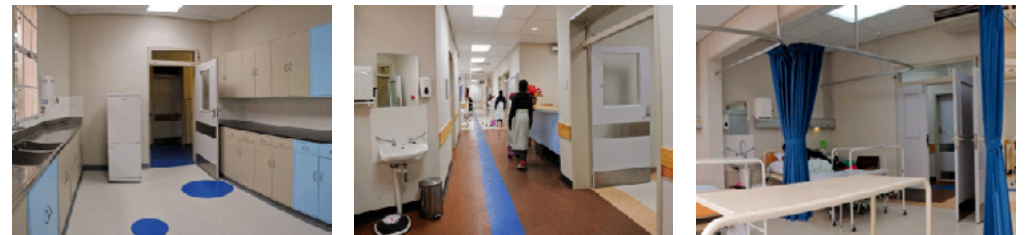
After



Before



After



ICCF enables relocation of bio-safety unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

A bio-safety glass cabinet is necessary for the safe preparation and mixing of cytotoxic drugs. It protects the operator from the toxicities associated with the various drugs and prevents the medication from becoming contaminated. This is a very crucial piece of equipment in an oncology pharmacy. At the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital, the pharmacy at the oncology

department has been inactive for over two years. A lack of funding prevented the hospital from relocating this bio-safety unit into their new building.

In May 2013, the ICCF provided R85 000 to relocate this unit to its new building where it can bring healthcare to oncology patients, who can now benefit from a newer, cleaner and better maintained pharmacy.



Opening of the Nurses Lounge and Education Centre at Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital

Cipla Medpro (Oncology) provided a donation to the Innovative Cancer Care Foundation to create a beautiful lounge and education area for the Oncology and Haematology nurses at Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital.

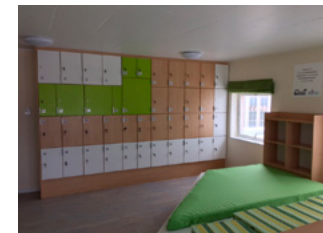
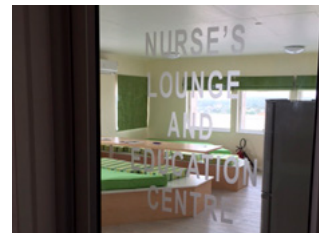
The space that was used was an abandoned lift shaft and through exceptionally clever architectural design, has been transformed into a luxurious, quiet environment to allow the nurses to unwind, as well as access trainings. The room will also be used for education of other professionals within the unit. The investment into this area has had a significantly positive impact on the team, and one of the nursing sisters admitted to wanting to leave, but said "When I see the care this room means for us (nurses), I will now stay."

The cost of the refurbishment was R150 000 and was opened in April 2015.

Before



After





Nurse Programme

The Need

South Africa's healthcare system is predominantly nurse-based and requires nurses to have the competence and expertise to manage the country's burden of disease and to meet South Africa's healthcare needs.

Nurses play an important role in cancer treatment delivery, patient information and symptom management, as well as psychological and supportive care. Nurse education needs to respond to the changing nature of the disease.

South African Nursing is in crisis, marked by nursing shortages and a radical decline in quality of nursing in both public and private sectors.

There is a desperate need for an affordable oncology nursing program, accredited by Council on Higher Education and South African Nursing Council and sufficiently flexible in its design to allow for maximum accessibility for Staff and Registered nurses working in both state and private sectors.

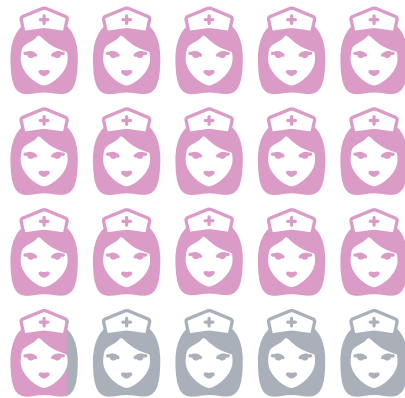
The ICCF Oncology Nursing Programme aims to:

- facilitate the development of specialist knowledge and professionalism within the discipline of oncology nursing in South Africa and ultimately, Sub Saharan Africa
- up-skill and /or remediate oncology nursing practices through input from nurse experts in both clinical and academic settings
- enable nurses to provide excellent quality oncology care
- facilitate the development of nursing leadership
- advance oncology nurse research understanding and research practice

As of October 2020

1590

State and Private Sector nurses working in adult and paediatric oncology and haematology centres



attended workshops sponsored in full by the AICF



Positive response
staff desperate for training

Pre and post questionnaires tell consistent story:

- need for training is there • very basic requirement (entry/induction level at this stage)

1 x  = 100 nurses

We have developed a 3 month Induction programme which 1351 have completed; development of the ChemoSAfety for Oncology Nurses was completed in 2018 and training started in 2019 - 239 trained thus far

Interested in finding out more
about our Nursing Programme?

Contact us by calling or clicking below

Vivien Katzav

Patient Programmes



Medical aid benefits provided by funders often do not adequately cover the costs of innovative treatments. The result is either that the patient is not started on the treatment of choice, or there is a depletion of benefits before the patient has completed the required therapy.

Affordability challenges result in a patient not being able to pay out of pocket for on-going treatment and the result can be early termination of treatment or the patient doesn't start at all. The objective of the Patient Programme arm of the AICF is to bridge this gap between benefit depletion and new benefits commencing, and / or to cover the costs of treatment where an affordability challenge exists.

In light of the access to treatment challenge in South Africa, one can easily consider that any company that provides treatment to a patient could become a partner company e.g. the companies that provide fluids, scanning machines, pathology laboratories, etc; as all of these test and support products and procedures add to the cost and affordability challenge of a patient, and are capped at funder level.

The AICF is set up to assist in the design and to manage Patient Programmes for partner companies until a patient's new benefits commence or ongoing where no reimbursement exists, and in accordance with current pricing and medical schemes legislation.

The ultimate would be to have all companies who provide these treatments in South Africa as partners to the AICF. This would allow for treatments to be prescribed based on the scientific merit and for patients to have uninterrupted optimal care.



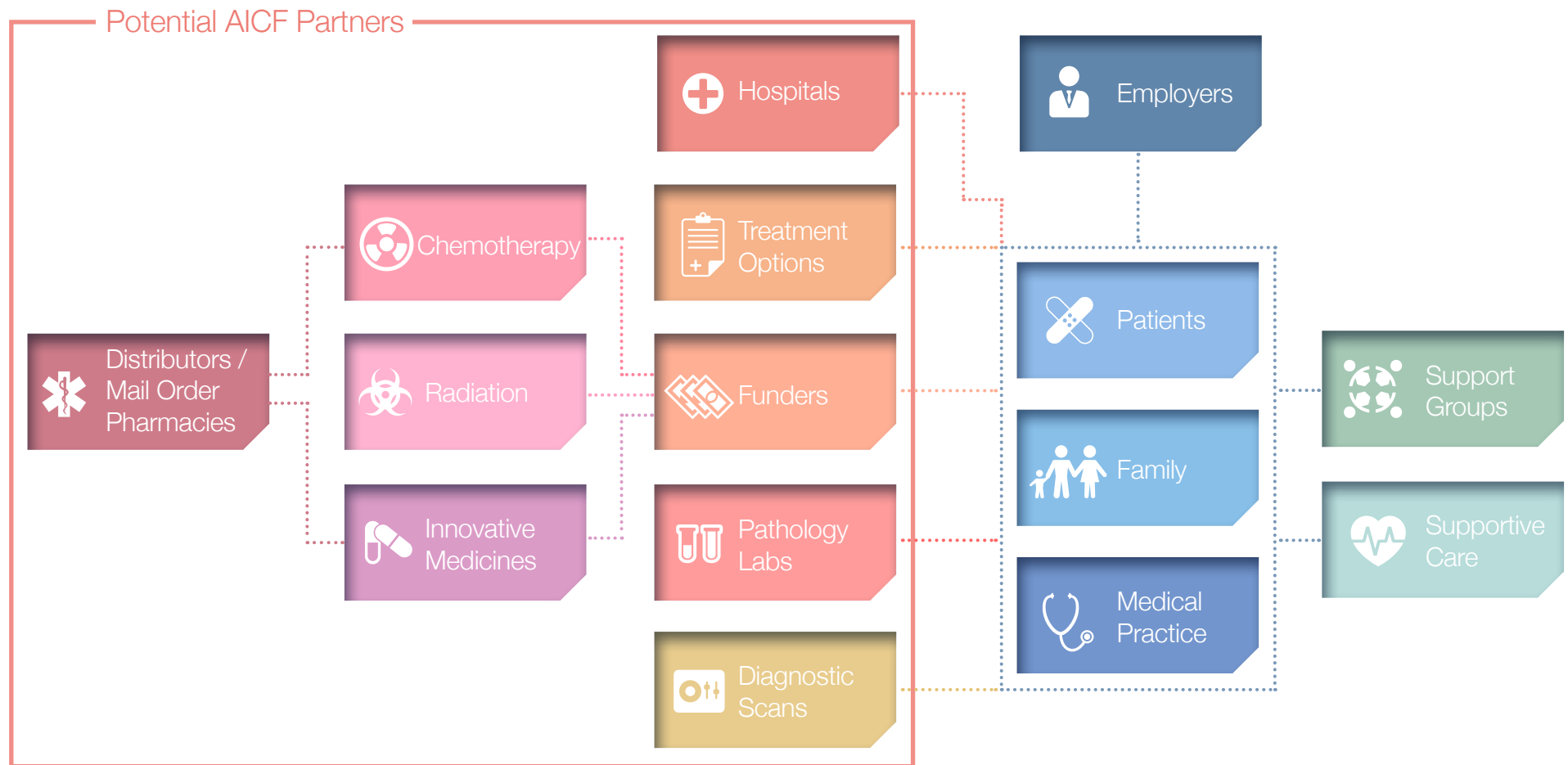
Common to our Patient Programmes is that

- the decision to treat is made by the doctor prior to AICF involvement
- protocols are followed and patients would have failed on previous treatments
- they are for highly specialised diseases where innovative medicines are available but may not be fully reimbursed or available in the public sector
- there must be an affordability challenge such that treatment would be interrupted / stopped without AICF support
- they are for registered indications of the drug
- **drugs sold at the single exit price**

The AICF currently has 10 active patient access programmes in the disease areas of:

- immunology
- oncology
- haematology
- rare diseases
- dermatology
- gastroenterology

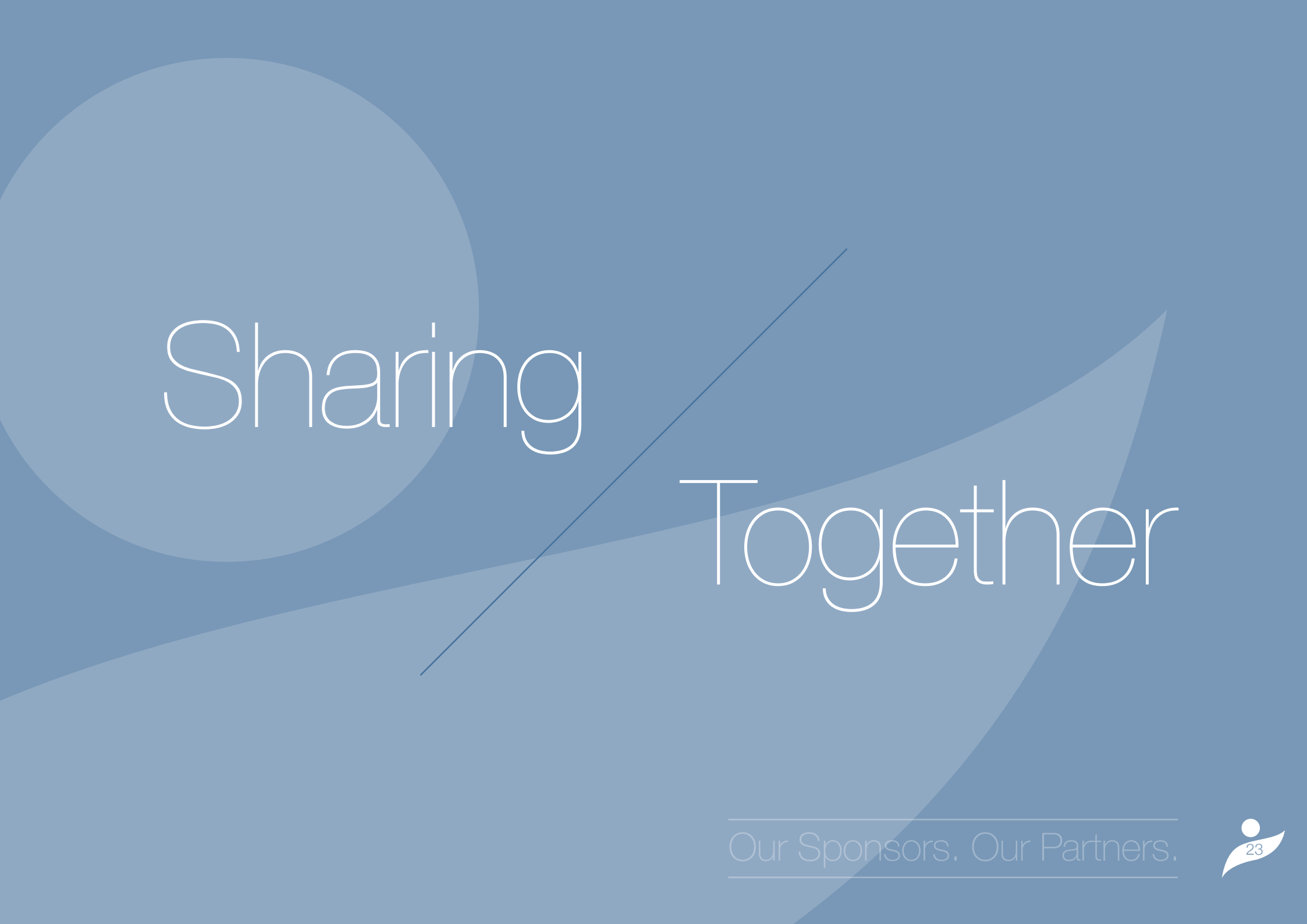




Are you a doctor applying for patient support?

Need assistance?

If you are a non-health care professional, enquire with your doctor or contact us by calling or clicking [here](#)



Sharing

Together

Our Sponsors. Our Partners.



abbvie



We depend on the generous support of all our sponsors and donors and have benefited tremendously from organisations who have either provided donations or partnered with the AIFC.

We can't do it alone.
Contact us if you'd like to be a sponsor.

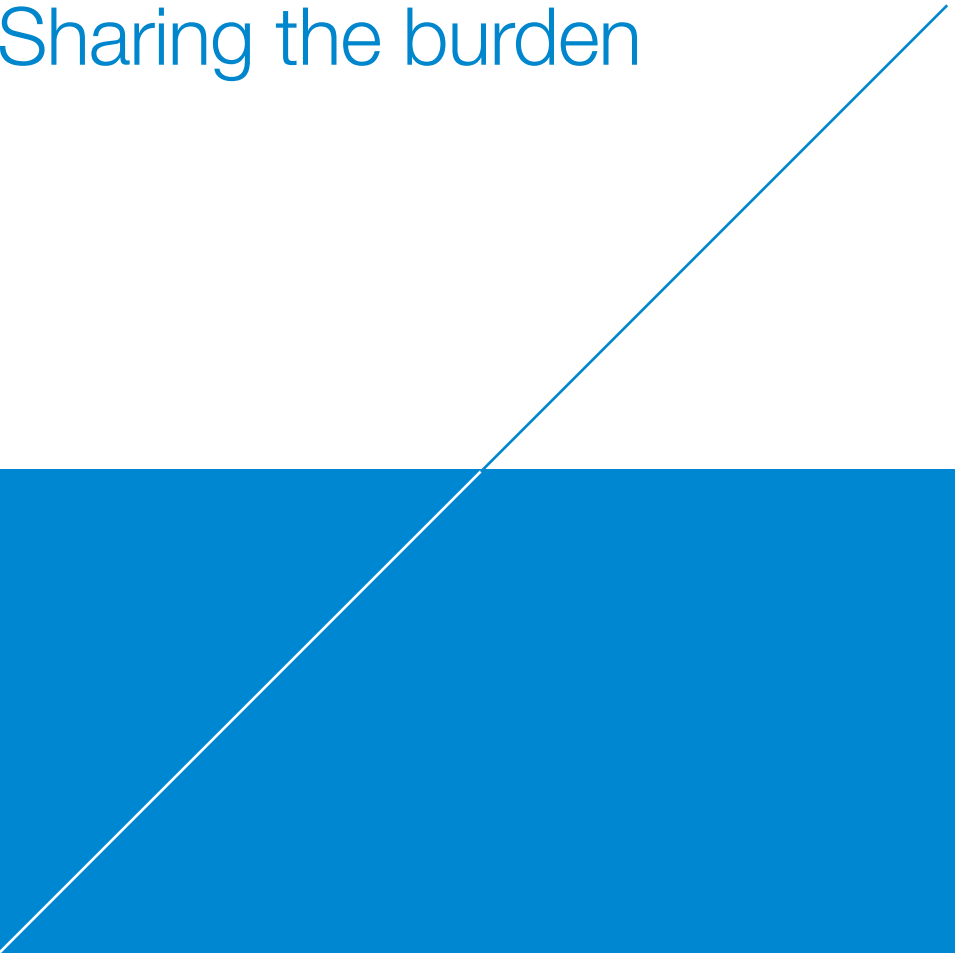


We depend on the generous support of all partners and service providers and have benefited tremendously from organisations who have either partnered with the AIFC or have assisted either pro bono or at cost.

We can't do it alone.
Contact us if you'd like to assist.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact us

Sharing the burden



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