

Merck Foundation brings together 15 African First Ladies to break the stigma of Infertility

NAIROBI, KENYA, April 18, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Merck Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany conducted Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative (MFFLI) – Summit in on 30th -31st March and 1st of April 2019. The MFFLI Summit 2019 was attended by 15 African First Ladies.

Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG and the Chairman of Merck Foundation Board of Trustees emphasized, “Merck through its foundation is committed to support the social and economic development of Africa, Asia and developing countries by building healthcare capacity. Our aim is to improve access to quality & equitable healthcare solutions across African continent”.



Family photo of Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative (MFFLI) Summit 2019 (L to R) H.E. First Ladies of Burundi, Mauritania, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Niger, Malawi, Merck Foundation CEO, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, Cong

Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President, Merck More Than a Mother explained, “I am very proud to partner with the African First ladies to become “Merck more than a Mother” ambassadors and partner with them to build healthcare capacity , break the stigma of infertility and empower women and girls in education with special focus on STEM . During our strategy meeting, we shared experiences, discussed challenges and defined solutions to ensure continuous improvement and exchange variable aspects of different cultures in order to localize specific messages that can raise health awareness and create a culture shift to empower women and girls across Africa.”

The Summit was attended by:

H.E. NEO JANE MASISI, The First Lady of Botswana;

H.E DENISE NKURUNZIZA, The First Lady of Burundi
 H.E. BRIGITTE TOUADERA, The First Lady of Central African Republic
 H.E. ANTOINETTE SASSOU-NGUESSO, The First Lady of Congo;
 H.E. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO, The First Lady of Ghana;
 H.E. FATOUMATTA BAH-BARROW, The First Lady of The Gambia;
 H.E. CONDÉ DJENE, The First Lady of Guinea Conakry;
 H.E. CLAR WEAH, The First Lady of Republic of Liberia;
 H.E. PROFESSOR GERTRUDE MUTHARIKA, The First Lady of Malawi;
 H.E. MARIAM MINT AHMAD TEKBER, The First lady of the Mauritania;
 H.E. DR. ISAURA FERRÃO NYUSI, The First Lady of Mozambique;
 H.E. MADAM MONICA GEINGOS, The First Lady of Namibia;
 H.E. AÏSSATA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADO, The First Lady of Niger;
 H.E. FATIMA MAADA, The First Lady of Sierra Leone;
 H.E. AUXILLIA MNANGAGW, The First Lady of Zimbabwe



Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO Merck Foundation & President of Merck More than a Mother with H.E. First Ladies of Mauritania, Namibia, Guinea Conakry, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Botswana, Niger, Central African Republic, Burundi, Mozambique, C

H.E DENISE NKURUNZIZA, The First Lady of Burundi said, “Thanks to Merck Foundation for inviting me. We recently launched their programs in my country, and they are proving to be very substantial. They will be proving clinical training on fertility and oncology to our doctors. We also provided together the Health Media Training to the journalists to understand the infertility issues and to break the stigma attached to infertility”



Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO Merck Foundation & President of Merck More than a Mother with H.E. First Ladies of Malawi, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, C

H.E. BRIGITTE TOUADERA, The First Lady of Central African Republic explained, “I am very proud to work closely to advance healthcare sector and empower infertile women in my country”.

H.E. ANTOINETTE SASSOU-NGUESSO, The First Lady of Congo emphasized, "I am happy to know that Merck Foundation will help train our doctors and media to raise awareness about health issues and improve patient care in my country . This will prove to be very beneficial for our citizens."

H.E. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO, The First Lady of Ghana explained, "Through Rebecca Foundation, we have been working closely with Merck Foundation to empower women and youth. Also, we have also launched together unique initiatives like media recognition, Film and Fashion Awards in our country to break stigma around infertility. I am sure that our partnership will go a long way towards benefitting the people of my country."

H.E. FATOUMATTA BAH-BARROW, The First Lady of The Gambia emphasized, "Merck Foundation has provided training to first fertility specialists and first oncologists in The Gambia. We are making history together. We will continue this program in partnership with my foundation and Ministry of Health to improve access to cost effective and quality fertility and cancer care in the country."

H.E. CONDÉ DJENE, The First Lady of Guinea Conakry said, "I am proud of our association with Merck Foundation. They supported the establishment of First IVF Centre in our country by providing expert. They also trained the first fertility specialists and specialized oncologists in Guinea. This is a great milestone. Together we will Change the landscape of Fertility and cancer care in the country."

H.E. CLAR WEAH, The First Lady of Republic of Liberia emphasized, "I am happy to partner with Merck Foundation. They will provide specialized training to our doctors in the field of Fertility, Oncology and Diabetes Management. They will also train media to break the infertility stigma and will launch initiatives to empower women and girls in education. We hope that our partnership will continue to benefit the people of our country."

H.E. PROFESSOR GERTRUDE MUTHARIKA, the First Lady of Malawi said, "I am very proud and happy to be a part of MFFLI Summit and look forward to a long term partnership with Merck Foundation. We will closely work together on all their initiatives to build healthcare capacity and train our media to sensitize our communities on sensitive issues like infertility stigma."

H.E. DR. ISAURA FERRÃO NYUSI, The First Lady of Mozambique emphasized, "I am excited to be a part of MFFLI Summit. I welcome all the initiatives of Merck Foundation in my country."

H.E AÏSSATA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADO, The First Lady of Niger emphasized, "I am the Ambassador of "Merck more than a Mother" in my country to help raise awareness about infertility prevention, management, male infertility and to break the stigma around infertile women to empower them, as they are not just child bearers. Merck Foundation has provided clinical training to our doctors in the field of Fertility, Oncology and Diabetes. I would like to thank them

for this and hope they continue to support us.”

H.E. AUXILLIA MNANGAGWA, The First Lady of Zimbabwe said, “I am very excited to be the ambassador of Merck more than a Mother Ambassador and welcome Merck foundation to our country. We hope that we will soon launch their programs in together so that the people of Zimbabwe can also benefit like other African Countries.”

Diana Mbaluka
Digisphere Consulting
+254 736466513
[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/482564368>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.