

The cancer crisis in the developing world

- Cancer is set to become the newest epidemic in the developing world.
- Cancer already kills more people worldwide than HIV, TB and malaria combined.
- By 2020, it is predicted that cancer rates will double to 16 million new cases per annum, 70% of which will occur in the developing world.
- In the developing world, one-third of cancers are potentially preventable, and another third are treatable if detected early.
- **5.** Currently, a cancer diagnosis in the developing world often means a painful and distressing death in most cases.

Laying the foundations of sustainable healthcare

- The Africa-Oxford Cancer Consortium (AfrOx) is a new organisation whose mission is to use a multidisciplinary approach to improve cancer prevention and control in Africa (web site: www.afrox.org).
- AfrOx was established following the African Cancer Reform Conference, which was held in 2007 and organised by Professor

David Kerr of the University of Oxford. The conference was attended by 23 African health ministers or their representatives, charities, cancer specialists and doctors, the pharmaceutical industry, the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and UK MPs.

- AfrOx is working with African partners to co-ordinate the development of affordable and sustainable cancer control programmes.
- **9.** AfrOx is a vehicle for delivery and a catalyst for change: it brings together different partners to facilitate and fund cancer initiatives in Africa.

The chance to make an extraordinary difference

- **10.** The UK business community has a key role to play through its network of contacts across Africa.
- Business can also make a critical contribution through fundraising, and by helping to 'make the argument' on the ground for tackling Africa's cancer crisis.
- On their own, African countries will simply not be able to deal with the coming cancer epidemic. By working together, we can prevent a tragedy.