

# novo nordisk backgrounder

employs around  
**42,700** people

Affiliates in **80**  
countries

Strategic **production sites**  
in Brazil, China, Denmark,  
France, US

**30** million people use our  
diabetes care products

**R&D** centres in China,  
Denmark, India, UK and US

Supplier of nearly **half**  
**of the world's insulin**

## About us

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity and rare blood and endocrine disorders. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/about-novo-nordisk](https://novonordisk.com/about-novo-nordisk)

## Innovative medicine is our key contribution

We collaborate with patients and partners to transform bold ideas into life-saving and preventive medicines. We make long-term investments in novel treatments and technologies, including stem cell-based therapies, and continually advance the development of medical devices and digital health solutions. In 2019, Novo Nordisk invested 11.7% of its sales in R&D, and had more than 70 research partnerships worldwide. Around 32,000 people took part in 125 clinical trials across approximately 5,000 investigator sites globally. Our pipeline includes new insulin products and GLP-1 analogues and new treatments for obesity, haemophilia and other serious chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease (CVD) and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/research-and-development.html](https://novonordisk.com/research-and-development.html)

## Access to affordable care

Millions of people rely on us for their life-saving medicines. Yet, only a fraction of patients are being treated because treatment is either not affordable or not available. We commit to providing access to affordable medicines for vulnerable patients in every country, and we support capacity building within healthcare systems for the future.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability.html)

## Preventing the rise of type 2 diabetes and obesity

It takes more than medicine to defeat serious chronic diseases. That is why we engage with partners globally to address the root causes of disease and develop interventions to prevent the rise of type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/preventing-type-2-diabetes.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/preventing-type-2-diabetes.html)

## Sustainable business approach

Our ambition is to be a sustainable business that adds value to society. We think long-term and understand that our future is dependent on a healthy environment, society and economy. By aspiring to defeat disease whilst having zero environmental impact, we address some of the biggest threats to human health and prosperity.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business.html)

# HOW WE DRIVE CHANGE

It takes more than medicine to defeat serious chronic diseases. That is why we work in partnerships with patients, policymakers, healthcare professionals and non-governmental organisations to build awareness, advance prevention, and expand access to care.

## Cities Changing Diabetes

Cities Changing Diabetes is a partnership programme bringing together global and local partners with the aim of putting 'urban diabetes' at the top of healthcare agendas and on the agenda of those designing and managing cities for the future. By now we have 25 partner cities.

Learn more at [citieschangingdiabetes.com](https://citieschangingdiabetes.com)

## Access to Insulin Commitment

Through our Access to Insulin Commitment we provide low-priced human insulin to governments in low- and middle-income countries and to humanitarian organisations. In 2019, close to 3 million patients received human insulin through this commitment.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability/our-access-to-insulin-commitment.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability/our-access-to-insulin-commitment.html)

## Changing Diabetes® in Children

The programme provides access to care, including human insulin free of charge, to children with type 1 diabetes in 14 low- and middle-income countries. In total, more than 25,000 children have received care, 208 clinics have been established and more than 15,000 healthcare professionals have been trained since 2009.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability/programmes-and-partnerships.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/commitment-to-access-and-affordability/programmes-and-partnerships.html)

## Team Novo Nordisk

Team Novo Nordisk is a global all-diabetes sports team spearheaded by the world's first all-diabetes professional cycling team. Their mission is to inspire, educate and empower people affected by diabetes.

Learn more at [teamnovonordisk.com](https://teamnovonordisk.com)

## The World Diabetes Foundation and Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation

Novo Nordisk has established the World Diabetes Foundation and Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation with the aim of expanding access to diabetes and haemophilia care in less-developed countries.

Learn more at [worlddiabetesfoundation.org](https://worlddiabetesfoundation.org) and [nnhf.org](https://nnhf.org)

## Partnership with UNICEF

In 2019, we entered a partnership with UNICEF to develop interventions that can help prevent childhood overweight and obesity, with an initial focus on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/preventing-type-2-diabetes.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/preventing-type-2-diabetes.html)

## Embracing a circular mindset

Our environmental strategy, Circular for Zero, sets an ambitious direction for our organisation: to have zero environmental impact. To get there we are embracing a circular mindset – designing and producing our products so that they can be recovered and reused, and reshaping our business practices to minimise consumption and eliminate waste by turning it into new resources.

Learn more at [novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/zero-environmental-impact.html](https://novonordisk.com/sustainable-business/zero-environmental-impact.html)

## Unique ownership structure

The Novo Nordisk Foundation is Novo Nordisk's main shareholder. The foundation's purpose is to provide a stable basis for the commercial and research activities of the Novo Group of companies, and also to support scientific, humanitarian and social projects. This unique ownership structure enables long-term planning and ensures that the company remains in Danish ownership.

Learn more at [novonordiskfonden.dk/en](https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en)