

## PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS

### Pharmaceutical manufacturing in Kenya

#### MEMBERS OF THE KENYAN ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS

According to the web-site of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, they have 615 member companies, of which 455 are in Nairobi and surrounding areas, and 23 in Nakuru.

The association reports 20 member companies described as Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Manufacturers, these are listed on the right column.

Of the 20 companies listed, 5 had web-sites that were accessible from the KAM web-site. A brief description of each company follows.

**Alpha Medical Manufacturers Limited** manufactures syringes. It has an installed capacity of 72 million syringes (1, 2, 5, 10, and 20mL) with ready stocks of over 8 million disposable syringes with disposable needles. According to their website (<http://www.amml.net>) they additionally trade and stock medial surgical supplies, bandages, gloves, fluids, IV cannulas and IV sets.


**Dawa Limited** manufactures analgesics, anti-allergics and respiratory agents, antibiotics, penicillin derivatives, antimalarials and artemisinin combination therapies, central nervous system-acting drugs, gastrointestinal, nutritional supplements, surgicals and veterinary products plus antihelminthic agents, corticosteroids, skin agents and hormones. Their address is Baba Dogo Road, Kenya. On their Company Information page on their web-site (<http://www.dawalimited.com>) they state "Dawa Limited ... (is) manufacturing the whole range of quality pharmaceutical products for both human and

*Table 1. Member companies of Kenya Association of Manufacturers described as Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Manufacturers. Factories are mostly in or near Nairobi.*

1. African Cotton Industries Limited
2. Alpha Medical Manufacturers Limited
3. Beta Healthcare International Limited
4. Biodeal Laboratories Limited
5. Bulk Medicals Limited
6. Cosmos Limited
7. Dawa Limited
8. Elys Chemicals Industries Limited
9. Gesto Pharmaceuticals Limited
10. GlaxoSmithKline Kenya Limited
11. KAM Pharmacy Limited
12. Laboratory & Allied Limited
13. Manhar Brothers (K) Limited
14. Medivet Products Limited
15. Novelty Manufacturing Limited
16. Pharm Access Africa Limited
17. Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co (K) Limited
18. Regal Pharmaceuticals
19. Revital Healthcare (EPZ) K
20. Universal Corporation Limited


livestock purposes (to) exacting WHO GMP standards. Dawa Limited is an established QZA/GMP compliant manufacturing facility that is both efficient and has a high production capacity."

**Glaxo Smithkline Kenya Limited** web-page clicks to the international website at <http://www.gsk.com>. An article on the GSK web-site



**PHARMACY & POISONS BOARD**  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, KENYA

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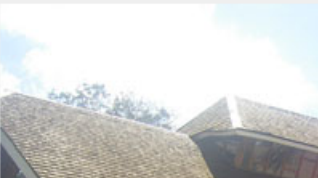



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Welcome to Pharmacy & Poisons Board

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board is the Drug Regulatory Authority established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Chapter 244 of the

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was written by Elana Stolpner MD (MJoTA2008,2(3)).

**Laboratory & Allied Limited** was "incorporated in November 1970 as a private trading company dealing mainly in general healthcare sundries, toiletries, laboratory chemicals and glassware, and other related products" according to their web-site at <http://www.laballied.com>. And, they "took calculated advantage of the government policy of supporting local entrepreneurs in the pharmaceutical sector, to increase manufacturing capacity and capability, by investing heavily in pharmaceutical manufacturing. L&A grew to become one of the leading suppliers of quality-approved pharmaceutical products to the government's Essential Drugs Programme." Their range of drugs includes analgesics and antipyretics, antacids, antiulcer agents, antiamebics, aerobocidals, antiasthmatics, antibiotics, antifungals, antihelminthics, antihistamines and antiallergics, antihypertensives, antimalarials, antirhematics and antiinflammatories, chemotherapeutics, cough expectorants and antitussives, dermatological preparations, eye, ear, nose and throat preparations, local vaginal reactants, over-the-counter products, tranquilizers, vitamins and hematopoetics and verterinary products.

**Pharm Access Africa Limited** does not appear from their web-site to manufacture drugs, they appear to link donor and investment agencies with need. Their web-site is <http://www.pharmaccessafrica.com>.

Companies that have websites which are not accessible from the KAM web-site are listed below.

**African Cotton Industries Limited** (<http://www.africacotton.com>) was started in 1954, and now has over 450 employees in Nairobi. They make cotton wool, toilet paper, feminine towels, serviettes (napkins), facial tissues, pocket tissues, kitchen towels, petroleum jelly, hair conditioner, surgical gauze in factories in Mombasa and Nairobi. They have some testimonials for the toilet paper on their web-site, they are clearly very proud of their success in manufacturing and selling toilet paper.

**Beta Healthcare International Limited** did not have its own web-site. From various web-sites, this company appears to be a subsidiary of an Indian company, which appears to make and distribute pharmaceutical products in Kenya. The current Head at Beta Healthcare International Limited Kenya was trained in management in Mubai, India.

**Biodeal Laboratories Limited** is an Indian company that manufactures drugs in India and distributes them in Kenya. No evidence was found for manufacturing in Kenya. Senior management in the company in India are listed on the web-site,

Alpha Medical Manufacturers  
Aventis Pasteur SA East Africa  
Bayer East Africa Limited  
Beta Healthcare (Shelys Pharmaceuticals)  
Cosmos Limited  
Dawa Pharmaceuticals Limited  
Didy Pharmaceutical  
Diversey Lever  
Eli Lilly (Suisse) SA  
Elys Chemical Industries Limited  
GlaxoSmithKline  
High Chem East Africa Limited  
Ivee Aqua EPZ Limited Athi River  
Mac's Pharmaceutical Limited  
Manhar Brothers (Kenya) Limited  
Novartis Rhone Poulenc Limited  
Novelty Manufacturers Limited  
Pfizer Corp (Agency)  
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co (K) Limited  
Pharmaceutical Products Limited  
Phillips Pharmaceuticals Limited  
Regal Pharmaceutical Limited  
Universal Pharmaceutical Limited

**Table 2. List of manufacturing companies in Kenya, from Kenya's Pharmaceutical Industry 2005. All have factories in Nairobi except Ivee Aqua EPZ Limited, which is in Athi River.**

<http://www.biodealindia.com>, as 3 medical graduates with postgraduate qualifications.

**Bulk Medicals Limited** has a post office box and phone and fax numbers listed next to their geographic address, which is Nairobi Kenya. In the web-site <http://www.pharmacyboardkenya.org>, this company is listed as having manufactured a registered drug, 100mg carbocisteine on 16 June 2005. They are listed in the Nairobi phonebook as being manufacturers, agents and distributors.

**Cosmos Limited** has drugs registered by the Ministry of Health Pharmacy and Poisons Board: these drugs include antimalarials, antibiotics and analgesics and antiretrovirals, see box at lower right.

GlaxoSmithKline ... agreed to a voluntary license with the Kenyan-based generic pharmaceutical manufacturer Cosmos to produce generic forms of the antiretroviral drugs zidovudine and lamivudine.... Cosmos will be able to sell the drugs in Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda..

**23 Sep 2004, <http://www.theglobalfund.org>**

## PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS

**Universal Corporation limited** is based in India. It manufactures drugs near to Nairobi, according to its web-site (<http://ucl.co.ke>), a total of 42, which include antimalarials, analgesics, antibiotics, antifungals and antiretrovirals.

**Revital Healthcare (EPZ) K** makes surgical instruments in Mombasa, web-site is <http://revital-healthcare.com>.

**Regal Pharmaceuticals** is a wholly Kenyan owned pharmaceutical company <http://regal.regalpharmaceuticals.com> that manufacturing analgesics, antacids & antispasmodics, anthelmintics, antibiotics, antihistamines, antimalarials, corticosteroids, cough preparations, cold remedies, multivitamins & tonics, topicals.

**Elys Chemicals Industries Limited** does not have a web-page. The Pharmacy and Poisons Board lists it as a manufacturer, and as having registered drugs including vitamins, pain relievers, antibiotics and cold medicines.

### KENYA'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY 2005

*Kenya's Pharmaceutical Industry 2005*, prepared by the Export Processing Zones Authority, was downloaded from <http://www.epzkenya.com>. It lists what it calls "some of the leading pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in Kenya", they are given in Table 2.

From the list from the Kenya Manufacturing Association site, and the list from the Export Processing company, the conclusion MJoTA makes is that of these pharmaceutical companies, only Dawa Pharmaceuticals Limited and Regal Pharmaceuticals are wholly owned and operated by Kenyans, and in both companies, the Kenyans are of Indian ancestry. The only other company that is wholly Kenyan-owned is the African Cotton Company.

The second conclusion is that several companies

### Table 3. From the United States Health and Human Services Clinical Trials Database at *ClinicalTrials.gov*:

In Feb 2009, 38,248 clinical trials were reported in the US, 81 clinical trials were reported in Kenya.

In Kenya:

- 32 studies tested therapies for preventing and treating malaria
- 33 studies tested therapies for preventing and treating HIV/AIDS
- 2 studies were for treating tuberculosis
- 21 studies were funded by industry
- 7 studies tested the efficacy of vaccines
- 0 studies of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer

manufacture drugs elsewhere, mostly in India, and have ethical drugs registered with the Kenyan Poisons and Control Board which they distribute throughout Kenya and East Africa. These companies are registered in the Nairobi telephone book, are members of the Kenya Manufacturers Association and are certainly complying with national and international laws. However, they do not meet the MJoTA definition of a Kenyan pharmaceutical manufacturer making drugs in Kenya.

Several of the companies listed in the Nairobi phone book are in Kenya less to distribute drugs which are made elsewhere, but more to run clinical trials in Kenya, although they are employers in the United States, where MJoTA is produced. These companies include Aventis Pasteur (which is now Sanofi-Aventis), Bayer, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis Rhone Poulenc, Pfizer. Clinical trials of pharmaceutical products ongoing in Kenya are given in Table 3.

*By the Editor-in-Chief*

### Businesses in Nakuru, in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Photos by the Editor-in-Chief.

