Enabling health care
Sustainability Update 2019
Sometime in life, we all need to seek health care. At Getinge, we have a long tradition of creating innovations that improve people’s quality of life – and save lives. We think it is the most important job in the world.

This is Getinge

The world is facing major challenges, one of which is the ability to provide the increasing world population with safe and effective health care. People are living longer and, according to WHO, lifestyle diseases such as cardiovascular diseases are one of the primary causes of death globally.

Getinge is committed to work to ensure that all people and societies have access to the best possible health care. The company helps its customers to meet their challenges in health care and life science institutions by providing knowledge, technology and resources to achieve optimal clinical outcomes and, ultimately, to save lives.

25,000
No. of customers

26.6 BSEK
Net sales 2019

90%
of sales are made to hospitals and 10 % to pharma companies and research institutes

130
Sales in 130 countries

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For more information about our sustainability work, governance and GRI Index, see our Annual Report 2019.
Enabling health care for more

Getinge’s products and solutions contribute to a more effective and sustainable health care for patients and customers. This is also beneficial for employees, shareholders and society in general.

Getinge’s company strategy conveys an expressed ambition to help customers to improve and save patient’s lives, and to create sustainable development for the company’s various stakeholders. In order to do this, quality and sustainability are top priorities in the strategy.

To secure long-term value-creation and competitiveness, sustainability is an integral part of the organization, actively working to minimize the negative environmental footprint.

Getinge’s contribution to health care
Together with its customers, Getinge contributes to more effective health care, which frees up resources for the treatment of more patients. One goal is to improve the use of operating rooms so that one more operation can be conducted per day per operating room. Getinge’s products are part of the solution to a decrease of the number of health care related infections.

Production and products
Getinge is committed to contribute to a more sustainable society and the goal is to reduce its products’ environmental impact across their total life cycle. New and updated non-financial goals are set and the progress is continuously monitored.

Our relations
Getinge’s value creation rests on long-term relationships with shareholders, customers, distributors, suppliers and employees.

At Getinge we enable:

- **Reduced risks**
- **Improved effectiveness**
- **Improved clinical outcomes**
Creating added value for our customers and society

Sustainability is a top priority at Getinge. To us sustainability is not simply an initiative from the senior management, but instead forms an integral part of the operations and something that we must all focus on. During the year, we have implemented our Sustainability Program 2019–2024 with updated non-financial targets, that will help us secure that we move in the right direction.

We saw many good results during 2019, such as a continued reduction in our carbon emissions from production. Another positive aspect is that customer inquiries for sustainable products are increasing, entirely in line with our strategic direction.

Our organization is driven by the passion to help customers and patients, as we do in the current fight against the Covid-19 virus – but also by developing the leading products of tomorrow. By using the EcoDesign principles in our product development, we minimize the use of materials, make sure that products are recyclable and help customers reduce their consumption of energy, water and other resources. One example is the steam sterilizer GSS610H, that was launched during the year, which brings consistent and reliable results at a low and predictable total cost of ownership and at the same time enables lower consumption of cooling water.

Going forward our focus is on continuing the implementation of our strategy in a structured manner, strengthening the operations and continue to create added value for customers and society.

Gothenburg, April 2020
Mattias Perjos,
CEO & President

Getinge’s commitment is to conduct business that is socially, ethically and environmentally sound across the entire value chain. Our strategy includes an expressed ambition to help customers save lives, while creating sustainable development for the company’s different stakeholders.

Our sustainability goals – such as reducing energy use and CO₂ emissions as well as improving gender equality and workplace safety will help us secure that we move in the right direction. In 2019 Getinge evaluated its sustainability performance through EcoVadis for the first time.

To further increase transparency and ease the evaluation process over time, Getinge now reports on its sustainability efforts in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

Furthermore, our sustainability efforts are closely related to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and we have identified which of the 17 goals best correspond to our impact.

Our commitment
- Continuous implementation of ISO 14001 certifications or recertification of our manufacturing sites
- EcoDesign standards for product development
- Following Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- UN Global Compact member
- Getinge Code of Conduct
- Policies regarding environment, working conditions, anti-corruption and human rights
- Supporting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals
3 key trends impacting Getinge’s business

Getinge’s products are used in hospitals worldwide and demand increases by 2–4% per year. But what is behind this trend and what does the future look like for the company’s customers?

1. Demographic changes require increased clinical and cost efficiency
Global demographic changes are leading to an increase in the need for advanced health care. There is a strong increase in the number of elderly people needing care, which is evident, for example, in more cases of cardiovascular diseases. Ultimately, this means major strains on national budgets throughout the world. Increased demands for care are accompanied by price pressure and demands for increased clinical efficiency.

2. Gradual change of health care systems in order to create more value
At the same time as pressure is increasing on health care regarding efficiency, higher demands are being placed on quality and the total value contributed by various forms of treatment in relation to the cost for the forms of treatment in question. This is often referred to as value-based health care.

3. Innovation and digitalization as enablers for efficiency and value creation
The digital development is having a major impact on the demand for products and services in health care. In addition to demands related to individual products, therapies and processes, there is an extensive need to develop solutions for the secure and effective transfer of information. For the health care system, the major benefits of digitalization are to be found in the flow of data between machinery, work groups and hospitals. Connections between various patient systems and products is becoming increasingly important, as is the possibility of transferring clinical data for better diagnostics, which leads to increased efficiency and patient safety.
An offer that saves lives

As a medical device company, Getinge creates products and solutions that help its customers to improve and save lives and to find the cures of today and tomorrow. Patient and user safety is key, and all products have to live up to the highest quality standards in compliance with national laws and regulations.

For Getinge, acting sustainably means that the company conducts business that is ethically, socially and environmentally sound across the entire value chain. Sustainability is an elementary part of Getinge’s company strategy to meet customer challenges and health care market needs globally.

To be able to offer products that minimize the negative environmental impact through the product life cycle all starts with R&D. Getinge’s R&D teams have implemented its EcoDesign Standards in global research centers for all new products. The approach of creating a sustainable health care market offering is in line with an increasing demand from customers for responsible sourcing and product environmental purchasing programs.

It’s all about creating value
Along with Getinge’s products and solutions comes tailor-made clinical training, on-site consultation, installation, service and technical support. It is their role as a trusted knowledge provider that makes Getinge’s offering complete.

Valuable customer dialog
Getinge’s customer centricity focus means close relationships and dialogues with its customers, but also to act upon their wishes, complaints and claims to deliver valuable products and services. To further improve and standardize the customer complaints response process, Getinge has during the year worked on a cross-functional Lean Six-Sigma project including members from Global Sales, Business Areas, and Quality Regulatory Compliance. So far, the team has developed suitable response letters. The next steps are to set up and execute a pilot program for a few selected production sites to trial the process.

Designing products for a sustainable health care
Through the EcoDesign principles, the products’ environmental impact over the product life cycle is taken into account: from extraction of raw materials to production, distribution and use, all the way to recycling and disposal.

This approach is becoming increasingly more important as the market requirements were changing towards product environmental aspects in purchasing by acute care hospitals, laboratories and larger industries. In this regards EcoDesign offers an opportunity in making a meaningful customer contribution and providing a competitive advantage for Getinge’s sustainable product offerings to the markets globally.
Getinge’s non-financial targets apply to the material topics defined in the company’s strategy and Sustainability Program 2019–2024.

### Non-financial targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Customer satisfaction</strong></td>
<td>&gt;25%</td>
<td>The goal is to achieve &gt;25% Net Promoter Score higher than the competitor average. The latest customer satisfaction survey was performed in 2018 with a result of 27%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hazardous waste</strong></td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>The goal is to reduce the amount of hazardous waste from production by 10% (kg/MSEK) within the program period. In 2019, the amount of hazardous waste increased, mainly due to the phase-out of some production lines and chemical clean sweeps undertaken at several production sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-hazardous waste</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>All non-hazardous waste from production is to be recycled within the program period. In 2019, the recycling ratio was 80.3%. A continued work to increase recycling fraction is undertaken at production sites. Further, the implementation of EcoDesign also contributes to increased recycling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emissions from production</strong></td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>The goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions from production by 5% (ton CO₂/MSEK) within the program period. In 2019, emissions were reduced by 6.7%. The use of oil has almost been phased out at production sites. Many sites have contractual arrangements on green energy, and other sites have invested in solar panels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emissions from company cars</strong></td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>The goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions from company cars by 10% (gCO₂/km) within the program period. In 2019, emissions from cars decreased by 5.9%. A strict car policy has been introduced during 2019, which over time will substantially reduce climate impact from the vehicle fleet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy in production</strong></td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>The goal is to reduce energy consumption in production by 10% (MWh/MSEK) within the program period. In 2019, energy consumption decreased by 7.6%. All production sites have ongoing activities to optimize the use of energy. Many sites have undertaken energy audits using external consultants to identify improvement areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safe workplace</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>The goal is to have zero occupational accidents. For 2019, the total number of accidents per 100 employees was 1.96. No serious accidents were reported during the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employee engagement</strong></td>
<td>&gt;70%</td>
<td>The goal is to achieve &gt;70% as the index for employee commitment. The latest employee survey was done in 2019, with a result of 64%, and will be followed up by a number of targeted Pulse Surveys in 2020.</td>
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Getinge is currently reviewing its environmental non-financial targets, with the aim to achieve increased relevance and impact.
Getinge supports all of the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for environmental, social and economically sustainable development, but has identified a number of goals that best correspond to the company’s impact on its business environment. These goals are:

Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
As a company in the medical device industry, Getinge contributes its therapeutic innovations to considerably improve health and well-being as an integrated part of its business strategy. This includes own employees, as well as suppliers, distributors and customers.

Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Receiving high-quality education is a basis for a more prosperous life. Getinge contributes continuously to partners within health care organizations, universities and medical schools to educate and train health-care professionals, as well as students starting their medical training. In addition to involvement in medical training, Getinge also actively supports the Pratham Sweden Project in India to employ education in the fight against poverty.

Goal 8 – Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
Getinge endeavors to give all employees productive employment and decent work. This includes the protection of employee rights, assurance of a safe and secure work environment, equality and equal conditions in working life. As a global player, Getinge works to promote economic growth, a higher productivity level and technical innovation.

Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Getinge works to achieve more sustainable consumption and production that is anchored in environmental sustainable goals and corresponds with international norms, standards and certifications such as ISO 14001. Getinge addresses defined goals and indicators related to CO₂ emissions, energy efficiency, EcoDesign, waste and recycling.

Our non-financial targets will help us secure that we move in the right direction.

Mattias Perjos, CEO
Shaping the sterile workflows of tomorrow

In 2019 Getinge introduced several innovations within sterile reprocessing. The GSS610H steam sterilizer was launched and an updated version of the 46-series mid-sized washer-disinfectors was presented to the market.

Sterile reprocessing continues to be an important part of Getinge’s portfolio; with focus on designing, implementing and maintaining world-class sterile workflows for hospitals around the world. “In order for our customers to improve more people’s lives, it’s crucial that the sterile instruments they use are at the right place at the right time. They need to be cleaned, disinfected and sterilized – ready in time for each surgery,” says Stéphane Le Roy, President Surgical Workflows at Getinge. “A huge challenge for hospitals is also to make sure their patients avoid catching hospital acquired infections, and our easy-to-follow solutions for infection control help reduce the risks.”

Combinations of equipment, consumables and digital traceability solutions are uniquely tailored by Getinge in collaboration with the customers, to serve each specific health care facility’s needs, allowing the best possible care.

One example is the GSS610H; a new steam sterilizer engineered in close collaboration with Central Sterile Supply Departments worldwide.

“We want to contribute to an efficient and sustainable health care, and with nearly 90 years’ experience in steam sterilization, our GSS610H is built on a broad foundation of trust. Just like our other steam sterilizers it integrates with existing sterilization departments to optimize throughput,” tells Karolina Olofsson, Product Manager Steam Sterilization at Getinge.

In 2019 a new version of Getinge’s 46-series mid-sized washer-disinfectors was also introduced. It brings efficiency and a fresh look to the market and focuses even more on function and reliability; especially when it comes to improved quality, accessories and ergonomics. It’s designed to meet current regulatory requirements which have been revised since the series was launched.

“The new look of the washer-disinfectors is pleasing to the eye, looking better than ever before. But there is more to it as the medical staff who get to operate these latest machines will immediately feel the difference. From an ergonomic point of view we have taken big steps forward,” explains Marcus Samuelsson, Product Manager Cleaning and Disinfection at Getinge.

Those are two of the latest examples of Getinge innovations within sterile reprocessing. Stéphane Le Roy, concludes: “Our absolute aim is to help offer the safest and most productive hospital environments, with the highest level of infection control. Together with our customers, we are shaping the sterile workflows of tomorrow.”
All employees acting as role models

Doing business responsibly in all relations, in the company’s own organization and in external contexts, is a key part of Getinge’s strategy. Responsible leadership at Getinge means involving all employees to set the standard and acting as role models for ethical behavior and professional integrity.

Getinge has signed the UN Global Compact and supports the ten principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. All Getinge employees are to follow the company Code of Conduct and accompanying policies, which stipulates how the company does business and describes, as well the company’s, and the employees’ responsibilities to its stakeholders.

The Legal & Compliance Office at Getinge provides with employees support and guidance on how to act to ensure compliance with applicable laws when doing business. A close collaboration between Ethics & Compliance and the business is fundamental to achieving a responsible business conduct.

Ethics & Compliance Program

Getinge has identified four main risk areas; Bribery and Corruption, Antitrust, Data Privacy and Trade Compliance. Dedicated Ethics & Compliance Programs for each of the four risk areas were designed and implementation begun during the year.

The Ethics & Compliance work is structured according to this model:

Responsible leadership

Getinge’s work within Ethics & Compliance is centered around Responsible Leadership. The Board of Directors has the overall responsibility for the implementation of an effective Ethics & Compliance program. The Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer reports regularly to the Board and the Audit Committee.

Risk Assessments

During the year Getinge conducted a combined Anti-Bribery and Corruption and Antitrust Risk assessments in Mexico, Dubai/MEA and Germany. In Germany, Ethics & Compliance conducted a joint risk assessment together with Internal Audit, covering all the various risk assessment needs. With this approach, Getinge will create a more efficient process with the aim to continue this collaboration going forward.

The Legal & Compliance Office also performed a global overall risk assessment on Trade Compliance during 2019.

Organization

The Ethics & Compliance Office is headed by the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer who reports to the CEO. To further strengthen Getinge’s global Ethics & Compliance function, several positions have been appointed during the year:

- Global Ethics & Compliance program Manager, based in Gothenburg.
- Ethics & Compliance Officer for Middle East & Africa and India with responsibility for the global Trade Compliance Program, based in Dubai.
- Ethics & Compliance Officer for Russia and Eastern Europe with global responsibility for the Anti-Bribery and Corruption program, based in Stockholm.
- Head of Ethics & Compliance in North America.
- Ethics & Compliance Special Investigations.

Policies & Procedures

During the year Getinge has implemented a new business steering document framework, with 14 global policies applicable for all employees.

All Getinge employees must know and comply with all company policies and directives relevant to their work. The new Global Policies are translated into 12 languages and are available for all employees on the intranet and in Getinge’s quality management system.

Training & Communication

Training and internal communications are important parts of Getinge’s work with Ethics & Compliance, which includes targeted training for specific groups at all levels of the company including employees, the Board of Directors and all members of the Executive Management Team.

The Ethics & Compliance training is done on a regular basis and during the year training on topics such as Ethical Blindness, Lessons Learned, Anti-Trust, Anti-Bribery & Corruption, Data Privacy and Money laundering & fraud has been held. During 2019, 1513 employees have been trained face-to-face.
As of 2019 Ethics & Compliance has been included as an integral component of all Getinge’s Leadership Programs. Since October 2019, 65 managers from different parts of the company have participated in the face-to-face training on Responsible Leadership focusing on trust and integrity as part of the Leading People Leadership Program. This will continue with more programs for all managers and future leaders during 2020.

Speak-Up and investigations
The Ethics & Compliance team assesses all reports of suspected misconduct and Code of Conduct violations. The process is governed by the Getinge Internal Investigations Directive and Ethics Committee. Getinge has a policy of non-retaliation, which means retaliation is not accepted against anyone who speaks up, expresses concerns or opinions in good faith or who participates in an investigation of an issue.

In 2019, 36 reports were recorded and investigated by the Ethics & Compliance team. 15 reports were received through Getinge’s reporting tool (Speak-Up Line), and 21 reports trough other channels. Following investigations disciplinary actions, including employee dismissals and termination of contracts, were taken in 12 cases.

Remediation, Disciplinary and Corrective actions
An Ethics Committee has been established for the review and monitoring of Code of Conduct case investigation and remediation. The Ethics Committee is a subset to the Getinge Executive Team (GET). The Ethics Committee provide guidance on major cases, including involvement of external counsel, remediation and disciplinary action.

Third Parties and Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestitures (M&A&D)
To manage third party representative risk, Getinge has established a Third Party Risk Management Office in its Shared Service Center in Krakow. A new mandatory third party engagement process has been set up and a pilot implementation project started during 2019.

The process will be implemented in phases, starting from sales intermediaries based in LATAM countries. Over a period of time and in a manner of prioritization deemed acceptable by the CFO and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, the organization must bring all Third Parties within the process and up to the level of due diligence required.

Improvements
With a promise to always act with honesty, fairness and integrity, Getinge shows responsible leadership every day.

To ensure the effectiveness of the Ethics & Compliance program, Getinge is working with an external consultant to uncover any possible gaps in the program, its implementation and to establish KPIs for program effectiveness.

All Getinge employees are to follow the company Code of Conduct and accompanying policies, which stipulates how the company does business and describes, as well the company’s, and the employees’ responsibilities to its stakeholders.
Getinge wants to contribute to a more sustainable society by working actively and strategically in the environmental area. The company is committed to optimize its use of energy and natural resources, minimizing emissions to air and reducing the environmental impact of waste handling.

Getinge is continuously working to minimize its environmental impact and wants to contribute to the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement. During the coming years, Getinge will evaluate the possibility of developing environmental targets in line with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

In 2019 Getinge evaluated its sustainability performance through EcoVadis for the first time. The EcoVadis rating is an important achievement that illustrates Getinge’s commitment regarding sustainability and the continued improvement in this area.

**Purchasing and Supply Chain**
Getinge provides innovative products and solutions that enable better patient outcomes, while at the same time improve health economy. Having the right set of suppliers is key to succeed, as sourcing and purchasing, is an important part of minimizing the product’s environmental impact throughout its life cycle.

When selecting suppliers, Getinge values quality regulations (QRC), price and environmental standards. All of Getinge’s suppliers have to comply with the company’s Code of Conduct, and both internal and third party audits and follow ups are conducted to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct and accompanying guidelines.

**Manufacturing Excellence in production**
Getinge has 19 production sites in 7 countries. All production sites are required to have management systems that meet the ISO 14001 standards. New operations must have certified management systems in place within two years of being acquired or established. At the end of 2019, 13 of Getinge’s 19 production sites were certified according to ISO14001. The remaining sites have certification audits planned for the beginning of 2020.

The Manufacturing Excellence Program cover production flows in an end-to-end scope in the company’s production site and its interfaces with suppliers and sales and service units.

**Energy**
During 2019 Getinge has continued its activities for energy efficiency at its production sites and warehouses, that was undertaken together with energy auditors in 2017. Several measures have been taken during the year, including changing to electricity produced by hydropower and biofuels where possible.

The company’s own use of energy and water in production and warehouses has decreased during the year through, for example, optimized lighting and heating. Getinge’s goal is to reduce its energy consumption in production by 10% (MWh/MSEK) by 2024.

**Emissions**
As a result of Getinge’s methodical work to minimize its emissions from production, the direct and indirect emissions were reduced by 29% (ton CO₂/MSEK) between 2010–2018. The company’s goal is to reduce its emissions from production by 5% (tonCO₂/MSEK) and from company cars by 10% (gCO₂/km) by 2024.

**Continuous follow-up on environmental targets**
All of Getinge’s production sites report their district heating, gas, fuel and electricity consumption from renewable and non-renewable sources, quantities of waste and hazardous waste and recycling. The reporting is done quarterly, integrated with the consolidated financial statements. This enables Getinge to follow the progress on its environmental goals closely.

**Waste and recycling**
Getinge works methodically to decrease the amount of waste as a part of using the EcoDesign principles in product design. Simultaneously efforts are made to increase the amount of waste sent to recycling in production. For 2019, the total amount of waste generated at production sites remained at the same level as previous year, but the share of waste brought to recycling was 80.3%, compared to 78.8% in 2018. The amount of hazardous waste increased during the year, mainly due to the phase-out of some production lines and chemical clean sweeps undertaken at several production sites during the year.
On a day-to-day business, Getinge is choosing sea or train freight instead of air-freight and actively choose transport routes as a natural part in reducing the company’s CO₂ emissions.
Inspire performance to increase engagement

Getinge has a key objective to make sure all employees feel engaged, empowered and encouraged to contribute, and by that building a proud global organization. During 2019, several initiatives to develop both Getinge and its employees were introduced, including a new Performance Development Process and a People Plan to demonstrate how Getinge can become an even better place to work.

One important part of the company’s commitment to secure and strengthen Getinge as an attractive workplace, is to invite the employees to share their views on a regular basis. An employee survey was conducted in April 2019, with more than 80% of all employees taking part. After thorough analysis each leader in Getinge were tasked to work with their teams to develop and implement action plans. This work has been initiated during the year and will continue to be in focus also for 2020.

Inspiring performance through dialogue

In accordance with the company’s intention to inspire employees to develop and to do their best a new way of inspiring performance was launched at the end of 2018 and implemented throughout 2019. In essence, the new Performance Development Process supports regular feedback and conversations, clear objective setting, performance and development. While inspire performance is key, Getinge is moving away from focusing on rating to a more inspirational approach where the focus is on coaching, dialogue and regular feedback. Digital tools are accessible to support managers and employees throughout this process.

Employee diversity strengthens Getinge

Getinge strongly believes that diversity is a driver of innovation, culture and talent attraction and as Getinge wants to be an attractive employer, today and for employees of tomorrow, one important foundation is to provide equal employment and development opportunities to all employees.

Continuous work to identify and develop the company’s talents, aiming at enabling more employees to progress to new positions took place throughout the year. In 2019, the focal point was to increase the balance in our ratio of female and male leaders as well as increasing the number of young and emerging talent. This focus will continue in 2020.

The work will be run by Getinge’s local HR organizations with support from a Diversity and inclusion toolbox, in which ‘Female coaching’ is one important tool.

In 2019, the division in gender balance for managers was 29/71 (31/69).

A safe work environment

Getinge’s work on health and safety matters is based on national legislation, international regulations and own requirements and policies. In 2019, a new business steering document framework was developed, with updated policies to guide how Getinge should act towards other businesses, customers and employees. Getinge strives to provide a safe and non-discriminatory work environment for the company’s employees worldwide and conducts a continuous, long-term health and safety effort at all facilities.

The number of accidents per 100 employees was 1.96 (2.4). No serious accidents were reported during the year.
One important foundation is to provide equal employment and development opportunities to all employees.
Getinge renews support for the Pratham project

Getinge has entered another three-year engagement in Pratham, which is the first major organization to achieve lasting, wide-scale success in India’s educational landscape. The next three-year project begins this year.

Although 96 percent of Indian children aged 6-14 are enrolled in schools, learning levels are still low. Almost 50 percent of year 5 pupils in the countryside are unable to read texts aimed for year 2.

Pratham’s goal is to reach as many children as possible, without compromising on the quality of the education. The approach is to organize pupils after knowledge levels rather than age. Playful activities based on interaction are combined with repeated, short bursts of teaching-learning activities.

Getinge contributes to these efforts through the initiative ‘Swedish Industry for Quality Education in India.’ Initiated in 2017 and organized by Pratham Sweden, the initial three-year project focused on helping children in the Assam region learn to read and count.

“Social responsibility is part of Getinge’s sustainability approach. The cooperation with Pratham is based on our strong belief that education is a powerful way out of poverty. Assam has a higher poverty level than average in India, and the region lacks large-scale investments in the educational system.” says Ralf Schmitt, Corporate Head of Sustainability.

He adds: “We renew our commitment with the aim to engage more locally over the next three years.”

In 2019, the Swedish initiative reached a total of 41,000 children through learning camps, library activities and activities in the Kokrajhar district.

A Math Olympiad that involving 300 villages and over 11,000 children has also been arranged in Assam. The objective was to change the perception of math among children and their parents.

“The learning levels of the children reach have improved substantially. This year, we have also seen a positive response from government officials. A few district administrations are adopting our model for some of their villages, which means that our educational approach can reach a larger number of children than we can manage ourselves, says Ingrid Eelde Koivisto, Secretary General, Pratham Sweden.”
Enabling advanced health care where it matters the most