Merck in partnership with “Women for Cancer” started this initiative with the aim to empower w

NAIROBI, Kenya, November 2, 2016/ --

- Merck kicks off “Merck More than a Patient” as part of Merck Cancer Access Program in Africa.
- “Merck More than a Patient” aims to uplift women cancer survivors to reclaim their lives and beco
- “Merck more than a Patient” aims to raise awareness about Cancer and tackling myths and stigm

Merck (MerckGroup.com), a leading science and technology company, today from the **“Merck Cancer Access Program”**

Merck will also help in raising awareness about Cancer prevention and early detection and tackling the

“I am very happy that “ **Merck More than a Patient**” has this positive impact on these women’s lives. There

Benda Kithaka and Co-Founder and Chairperson of”Women for Cancer” emphasized: “We are grateful

Read about The women cancer survivors:

“Merck More than a Patient” empowers Rose Chiedo, a cervical cancer survivor - read her story .

Rose Atieno Chiedo, a 46 years old mother of one who lives in Nairobi, Kenya, is a cervical cancer survi

Below is Rose’s story before and after meeting “Merck More than a Patient.”

Rose used to complain of lower backaches and suffered from spotting. She went to Kenyatta National

“When I was diagnosed with cancer in July 2013 the first thing that came to my mind was death,” Rose

Rose corrected the misconception about Cancer saying “Some people think Cancer is as a result of a c

“I shared the news with my brother and he was shocked. He became very worried about my health and

Sad journey of treatment:

“From the beginning to the end of my treatment it was just sad because I didn’t have money and tables

Rose was able to get treatment (radiotherapy and chemotherapy) in March 2014 after waiting for eight

Speaking of her treatment Rose says: “The queues are so long at the hospital. It seems like one is figh

After recovery, Rose has been making jewellery but on a very small scale to sell and support herself an

Rose’s jewellery business expanded:

“Merck More than a Patient” is a new initiative of Merck Cancer Access Program with the aim to empow

“Merck More than a Patient” has helped Rose to expand her jewellery business. Moreover, it has enroll

“What Merck has done is really going to help me to improve my business from small-scale to large-sca

“I would really want to thank “Merck More than a Patient” and really appreciate them because this will h

I am not a patient anymore. I am a survivor and I am a victor! Rose concludes.

“Merck More than a Patient” empowers Esther Muthike, a cervical cancer survivor – Read her sto

Esther Wakabari Muthike is a 75 year old widow from Kirinyaga in eastern Kenya and is a cancer survi

Below is Esther’s story before and after meeting “Merck More than a Patient.”

Esther found out that she had cervical cancer in May 2015 at a medical camp organised by Women4Ca

“When I was told I had cancer, I knew I would die even if I was being treated. The doctors told us that c

Stigmatised by family and community for having cancer:

Esther explains how she was stigmatised by her family and community: “When people heard that I had

“I used to be a small-scale farmer and I also had a cow that provided me and family with milk to sell som

Esther also stopped farming for a while due to the health issues and treatment procedures. However, a

Esther empowered and independent again:

“Merck more than a Patient” initiative aims to empower women cancer survivors in Africa. This initiative

“Merck has really changed my life by giving me a cow.Â I now feel better. I now get milk to drink and se

“Merck More than a Patient” empowers Margaret Njenga, a cervical cancer survivor – Read her s

Margaret Wanjiku Njenga is a cervical cancer survivor from Kiambu, Kenya. Margaret who is 47 years

Below is Margaret’s story before and after meeting “Merck More than a Patient.”

Margaret explains: “My mother was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2010. My sisters and I were advis

Diagnosed with cancer and stops doing business and farming:

At the hospital, Margaret was told she would need to have her uterus removed. “I went home and told r

“I would lock myself in the house after my children go school. I would think a lot and cry. I always saw r

“Before I became sick I used to make and sell home-made soap. I would go to schools to look for order

“A friend who also had her uterus removed loaned me Ksh 10,000 (USD 100) to book for treatment at th

Margaret empowered and uplifted:

When Margaret came from hospital she was unable to continue with the business she used to do befor

“Merck More than a Patient” is a new initiative of Merck Cancer Access Program with the aim to empow

Merck through “Merck More than a Patient” has helped Margaret to buy a cow that will enable her finan

“My cow has a few days before it gives birth. I might be lucky and get a heifer and I will have two cows.

“Merck more than a Patient” empowers Loise Njenga, a cervical cancer survivor – Read her story

Loise Wambui Kimani from Dagoretti, Nairobi was diagnosed with cervical cancer in August 2015. Lois

Below is Loise’s story before and after meeting “Merck More than a Patient.”

“I used to work as a house-help and used to be paid Ksh 6,000 (USD 60) per month which helped me c

“I heard that anyone with cancer dies. I imagined I would die. I was in shock. I told my friends I had can

Rejected by community and life becomes hard:

“People around me rejected me and thought I would infect them with cancer,” Loise says with sadness.

“I eventually had my uterus removed and started radiotherapy in January 2016. When I came back hon

Loise empowered and is now a victor:

Merck through “Merck More than a Patient” has helped Loise establish a shop which is giving her a ste

“Merck has been very helpful because they have opened a shop for me and I am already enjoying the b

“I would like Merck to continue helping other cancer survivors because the disease is financially drainin

“Merck More than a Patient initiative aims to empower women cancer survivors by helping them to esta

Distributed by APO on behalf of Merck.

View multimedia content

About Merck:
Merck (MerckGroup.com) is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and
Founded in 1668, Merck is the world’s oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding fam

All Merck news releases are distributed by email at the same time they become available on the Merck

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Multimedia content

- Download logo
- Image: Benda Kithaka (3rd left standing), Co-Founder and Board Chair of Women 4 Cancer with Patient Navigators
- Image: Rasha Kelej with “Merck more than a patient” women cancer survivors
- Image: Rose Chiedo, a cervical cancer survivor from Nairobi, Kenya displaying some products from her jewellery business that “Merck More than a Patient” has helped her to expand enabling her to generate a better and steady income to meet her needs and re-build her life
- Image: Esther Wakabari Muthike, a 75 year old widow cervical cancer survivor from Kirinyaga, Kenya
- Image: Margaret Njenga, a cervical cancer survivor from Kiambu, Kenya milking the cow that “Merck More than a Patient” has helped to buy that is enabling her financially through selling milk and now she can continue raising her children
- Image: Margaret Njenga, a cervical cancer survivor from Kiambu, Kenya fetching fodder for her cow that “Merck More than a Patient” has helped to buy and now she

is uplifted and is able to meet her needs and those of her family

- Image: Loise Kimani, a cervical cancer survivor from Nairobi, Kenya
- Image: Loise Kimani, a cervical cancer survivor from Nairobi, Kenya at the shop that “Merck More than a Patient” has helped her establish from which she is able to get a steady income to cater for her needs and that of her family
- Video: Watch the story of the transformation of Rose and Esther, two women cancer survivors, after meeting “Merck More than a Patient”
- Video: Watch the story of Margaret and Loise - their new life after meeting “Merck More than a Patient”
- Link: Merck Group