



# THE ACCESS AND DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

*New Health Technologies for TB, Malaria and NTDs*





Tuberculosis (TB), malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are chronic infectious diseases, which have such significant impact on human and sustainable development that they are collectively defined as poverty-promoting.

## NEW APPROACHES AND PARTNERSHIPS TO TACKLE TUBERCULOSIS, MALARIA AND NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Tuberculosis (TB), malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)<sup>1</sup> are chronic infectious diseases that impact human and sustainable development so significantly that they are collectively defined as poverty-promoting.

These diseases occur primarily in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and are usually concentrated in poor urban areas and remote rural areas. They disproportionately affect marginalized populations, and in many countries, they exacerbate marginalization through stigma. These diseases adversely impact child health and development, maternal safety and adult productivity. They kill and debilitate, and together account for 11.4 percent of the global disease burden.<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, of the 850 new therapeutic products registered in 2000–2011, only 37 (4 percent) were indicated for neglected diseases, including 25 products with a new indication or formulation, and eight vaccines or biological products. Only four *new* chemical entities were approved for neglected diseases (three for malaria, one for diarrhoeal disease), accounting for 1 percent of the 336 new chemical entities approved in that period. Furthermore, of the 148,445 clinical trials registered from the beginning of 2000 to the end of 2011, only 2,016 (1.36 percent) were for neglected diseases.<sup>3</sup>

The Government of Japan, in its **Global Health Policy 2011 – 2015**,<sup>4</sup> has called for new approaches and partnerships to tackle the grave global deficiencies in research, development and access to health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs.

To cover the full spectrum of gaps and bottlenecks contributing to these deficiencies, the Japanese Global Health Policy employs a two-pronged health-systems approach. The first prong focuses on promoting innovation and research through the development of drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for TB, malaria and NTDs. The second prong aims at expanding the eventual access and delivery of these health technologies to populations in need.

<sup>1</sup> The World Health Organization identifies 17 diseases as NTDs. These diseases share distinguishing features, including, most notably, their prevalence as some of the most common infections among people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These diseases are Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dengue/severe dengue, dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease), echinococcosis, foodborne trematodiasis, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis (river blindness), rabies, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, taeniasis/cysticercosis, trachoma, yaws (endemic treponematoses). Source: WHO, *Working to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases: First WHO Report on neglected tropical diseases*, WHO Geneva, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> WHO, *The Global Burden of Disease: 2004 update*, available at [www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/2004\\_report\\_update/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/2004_report_update/en/index.html) (accessed 30 January 2014)

<sup>3</sup> Pedrique et al., "The drug and vaccine landscape for neglected diseases (2000–11): a systematic assessment", *The Lancet Global Health*, Volume 1, Issue 6, December 2013, pp. e371 - e379.

<sup>4</sup> [www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/mdg/pdfs/hea\\_pol\\_ful\\_en.pdf](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/mdg/pdfs/hea_pol_ful_en.pdf) (accessed 16 January 2014)

The Government of Japan's initiative reflects renewed global attention to neglected diseases, and the global community's determination to eradicate them. This global resolve is evident in the January 2012 London Declaration on NTDs, which unites disease-endemic and donor countries with other key actors to address the infrastructural deficits that contribute to NTDs.<sup>5</sup>

The health-systems approach in Japan's Global Health Policy is consistent with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Strategic Plan for 2014-2017.<sup>6</sup> The UNDP Strategic Plan emphasizes sustainable human development, and outlines a vision in which UNDP works with countries to support their priorities and needs to eradicate poverty and significantly reduce inequalities and exclusion. The UNDP Strategic Plan calls both for income and for non-income measures, integrating best practices gleaned from sustainable development and human development approaches over the past two decades.

## THE ACCESS AND DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP

The Access and Delivery Partnership is a five-year (2013-2018), approximately US\$ 17.5 million project that aims to help LMICs enhance their capacity to access



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and introduce new health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs. New health technologies are broadly defined as drugs, diagnostic tools and vaccines that are relevant for the prevention, treatment or cure of TB, malaria and NTDs, but are not yet available for market introduction or have not been introduced in LMICs.

The introduction of new health technologies can place a weighty burden on existing health systems. These burdens may include new requirements for drug

regulation, supply and distribution, and health personnel training. Accordingly, the Access and Delivery Partnership will focus on providing LMIC stakeholders with the necessary skills to develop the systems and processes required to effectively access new health technologies, and introduce them to populations in need.

<sup>5</sup> [http://unitingtocombatntds.org/downloads/press/ntd\\_event\\_london\\_declaration\\_on\\_ntds.pdf](http://unitingtocombatntds.org/downloads/press/ntd_event_london_declaration_on_ntds.pdf) (accessed 28 January 2014)

<sup>6</sup> [www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/Changing\\_with\\_the\\_World\\_UNDP\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_2014\\_17/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/Changing_with_the_World_UNDP_Strategic_Plan_2014_17/) (accessed 28 January 2014)



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The costs and pricing of health technologies, as well as the availability of funds to procure health technologies, vitally influence their affordability.

Led and coordinated by UNDP, the Access and Delivery Partnership is a unique collaboration among UNDP, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO/TDR) and PATH. Working together, the partners will leverage the expertise within each organization to provide the full range of technical skills necessary to strengthen capacity in LMICs.

The Access and Delivery Partnership is one of two projects created under the Japanese Global Health Policy 2011 – 2015. The Access and Delivery Partnership emphasizes consultation, collaboration and implementation with partner-country governments and stakeholders, working to develop LMICs' capacities to access and introduce new technologies. The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund works with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to make funds available to stimulate research and development of such technologies. Japanese pharmaceutical companies and specialized research and development institutions are engaged in this effort through global public-private partnerships and product development initiatives.

The Government of Japan invited UNDP, as the global intergovernmental agency with expertise in development, to serve as the facilitating and implementing partner for both the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund and the Access and Delivery Partnership.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Even as the number of new health technologies coming to market for TB, malaria and NTDs slowly increases, their uptake in LMICs has been constrained by limited capacity. Three key determinants can influence LMICs' abilities to access and introduce new technologies:



## Ensuring the appropriate linkages between innovation and access.

PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP/J. SCHYTTE

### INNOVATION

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Health technologies should be developed to meet the specific needs of populations in developing countries. Ongoing adaptive research is also needed to tailor new or improved products to developing country settings, and to ensure that developing country stakeholders have a voice in determining priorities.

### AFFORDABILITY

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The affordability of health technologies is influenced by their costs and pricing, as well as the availability of funds to procure them. It is also important to examine the implications of intellectual property rights and competition on the affordability of health technologies.

### NATIONAL CAPACITY

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Access and delivery depend on the adequacy of national-level health care infrastructure and resources. The policy and regulatory environments, basic infrastructure, adequate human resources, functioning primary and secondary health care delivery systems, and other factors are central to making existing treatments available and accessible.

The Access and Delivery Partnership provides technical and policy advice to LMICs with the aim of strengthening their capacity to access and introduce new health technologies. Ultimately, the partnership seeks to improve the access and delivery of new health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs in LMICs. This will be achieved through a range of activities across the value chain of health services, in collaboration with government and other stakeholders in partner countries.

## THE PARTNERS

### THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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With a presence in 177 countries and territories, UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives. UNDP supports its partners in developing their own solutions to development challenges, and in developing national and local capacities that will help them achieve human development and the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP helps countries attract and use aid effectively, and promotes the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all its activities.<sup>7</sup>

### THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES

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The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) is a global programme of scientific collaboration that helps facilitate, support and influence efforts to combat diseases of poverty. TDR is hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), and is sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, the World Bank and WHO.<sup>8</sup>

### PATH

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PATH is an international organization that drives transformative innovation to save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. PATH works to accelerate innovation across five platforms — vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations — that harness its entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, PATH takes innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Working together with countries, PATH delivers measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health.



PHOTO CREDIT: UN/K. TASE

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<sup>7</sup> [www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about\\_us/frequently\\_askedquestions/#undp](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us/frequently_askedquestions/#undp) (accessed 21 January 2014)

<sup>8</sup> [www.who.int/tdr/about/en/](http://www.who.int/tdr/about/en/) (accessed 21 January 2014)

## THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Access and Delivery Partnership has convened an expert group to provide strategic guidance on project implementation. The Advisory Group for the Access and Delivery Partnership comprises 10 members with multidisciplinary technical expertise, and experience in innovation and access to health technologies.

In its planning, execution, and monitoring and evaluation, the Access and Delivery Partnership is guided by four strategic objectives:

- > **Ensuring the appropriate linkages between innovation and access**
- > **Promoting an enabling environment for innovation in developing countries**
- > **Ensuring sustainable and affordable access to health technologies**
- > **Enabling strategic South-South collaboration**

Successful delivery of the project outputs relies on these strategic objectives to guide the project, effective partnerships at the regional and national level, and expert advice from all sectors implicated in the achievement of the project goals.

These strategic objectives can only be achieved in collaboration with national-level policymaking and implementing agencies in partner countries, in accordance with the obligations, responsibilities and partnerships in place at both the national and regional levels. These include interministerial competency overlaps, regional research partnerships, and intergovernmental regional political and economic commissions.

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