About the Access and Delivery Partnership

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes ambitious targets to promote healthy lives and well-being. The unifying pledge to “Leave no one behind” inspires scrutiny of global health initiatives through the lens of equity, calling for analysis from the perspectives of fairness, social justice and universality.

Achieving universal health coverage (UHC) - a specific target of the Sustainable Development Goals - requires national health systems to be sufficiently robust to deliver essential health services, particularly to those who are most vulnerable. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Strategic Plan: 2018–2021 and its HIV, Health and Development Strategy 2016–2021 similarly recognize resilient and sustainable health systems as the building block of health and development.

Despite recent progress, UHC remains a distant goal in many low- and middle-income countries, many of which lack the coordinated policies and systems needed to guide the selection, introduction and scale-up of health technologies. To help countries achieve UHC by 2030, the Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) supports the strengthening of the policies, systems and capacities needed to ensure medicines and other health technologies for tuberculosis (TB), malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) reach the people in need.

ADP is a collaboration between UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and PATH. Working across a range of sectors and disciplines, ADP partners draw on their unique areas of expertise to help countries strengthen health systems and achieve health for all. ADP is funded by the Government of Japan.

What We Do

Drawing on achievements and lessons from 2013–2018, ADP helps countries develop the policies, human capacities, systems and regulations to ensure effective access to, and delivery of health technologies such as medicines, vaccines and diagnostic tools. Three collaborative approaches include:

**Strengthen policy, regulatory harmonization and coherence**
A harmonized policy and regulatory environment enables multiple functions within national frameworks to work in tandem, for the successful introduction, use and delivery of new health technologies. While a robust regulatory system is vital, policies related to the selection, prioritization and use of health technologies must be also be aligned, in addition to effective procurement and supply chain management systems.

**Strengthen institutions for accelerating health technology introduction and access**
In many countries, an urgent need exists for targeted capacity development within national institutions and mechanisms in order to support the effective introduction of new health technologies. Tailored to meet country-specific needs, ADP leverages expertise through a targeted capacity strengthening approach to help address critical capacity gaps in targeted national health systems.

**Establish and contribute to regional and global platforms for health technology preparedness**
ADP collaborates with the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and other product development partnerships (PDPs) to identify and ‘crowd in’ key actors within the health technology R&D and delivery fields. The resulting learning and exchange enables identification and design of effective interventions to address major barriers to technology introduction at the country level.
Achieving impact at the country and regional level

Over the past five years, ADP has collaborated with stakeholders in a set of focus countries – Ghana, Indonesia and Tanzania – to implement a range of capacity-building interventions. The implementation process at the country level has focused on integrated capacity strengthening in people and institutions responsible for core functions related to access and delivery of new health technologies.

The ADP approach to facilitating South–South cooperation focuses on learning and exchanges on policy, programmatic and technical issues that comprise some of the most common challenges across different health systems. ADP has sought to harness the power of regional and South–South collaboration, as well as strategic, technical and policy partnerships that enable capacity strengthening and the transfer of a range of technical knowledge among stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

ADP has established strategic partnerships with relevant regional institutions in the regions of Africa and Asia-Pacific, including the African Union, NEPAD, the East African Community (EAC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Through these partnerships, ADP is actively engaged in regional policy processes and collaborates on initiatives with potential for improving innovation, access and delivery of new health technologies.

Ghana

- National Health Research Agenda 2015–2019 focuses on capacity strengthening within health research centres in all ten regions of the country.
- ‘Safety Watch’: Online individual case safety reporting and data management system improves early detection, reporting and management of adverse drug reactions. Country-wide training on use of ‘Safety Watch’ for over 1,000 health care professionals.
- Health Technology Assessment priority-setting mechanism introduced and piloted, providing policy recommendations on a change in treatment regimens that can potentially save up to $14 million.
- Supply chain for medicines for treatment of NTDs strengthened through introduction of new standard operating procedures for community-based health workers who deliver mass drug administration (MDA) to 25 million at-risk people.
The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

**Indonesia**

- National level cross-sectoral decision-making and policy coherence strengthened to foster innovation, competition and value for money.
- Active safety monitoring of bedaquiline (MDR-TB treatment) established at 3 pilot sites, with nearly 200 health care providers and pharmacists trained on pharmacovigilance.
- Institutionalization of Health Technology Assessment enables cost-effective priority-setting and selection of new health technologies.
- Strengthened planning for and procurement of medical devices and laboratory equipment helps ensure timely and accurate diagnosis of TB, malaria and NTDs. Related training module to be used by provincial and district staff in over 700 hospitals across Indonesia.

**Regional and South-South Cooperation**

- Over 700 policy-makers, technical experts, academics and other stakeholders from 38 countries brought together to foster South–South learning and collaboration.
- Strategic and technical partnerships with 12 regional and global institutions.
- Systematic priority-setting through Health Technology Assessment strengthened in ADP focus countries. South–South sharing of knowledge and experience extended through global knowledge products, policy briefs and reports.
- *Implementation Research (IR) Toolkit* enables countries to identify and address barriers to the effective use and scale-up of new technologies, and the development of national IR strategies and agendas. Over 2,000 users from 26 countries accessed this comprehensive multimedia toolkit in first six months after launch.
- South–South exchanges facilitated among pharmacovigilance experts from 13 countries in Africa and Asia Pacific regions.

**United Republic of Tanzania**

- National multisectoral forum addresses critical issues related to regulatory capacities and handles inputs for the next *National Five-Year Development Plan*.
- National agenda for health systems research and training of national researchers addresses bottlenecks in introduction and delivery of health technologies.
- Drug safety monitoring systems and capacities were strengthened in facilities across 20 districts, enabling the training of 500 health care providers in safety monitoring and a two-fold increase in the national reporting rate of adverse drug reactions.
- Health Technology Assessment recommendations resulted in revision of Standard Treatment Guidelines and National Essential Medicines List to ensure maximum cost-effectiveness and coverage of the national health insurance benefits package.
- Strengthening of the supply chain of NTD medicines for MDA campaigns through rolling out guidelines and training tools to over 3,000 health workers in 20 regions.
The ADP approach is multisectoral, collaborative and integrated

As important advances take place in health research and product development, it is crucial to ensure that promising new pipeline technologies can be successfully brought to market through continued and strategic investments. Through multisectoral capacity strengthening, ADP supports low- and middle-income countries to ensure that once new technologies are available, they can be swiftly introduced and made available to people who need them.

Between now and 2023, ADP will scale up its work. This will be done through deepening its impact in its three focus countries. ADP will also seek to expand its country coverage beyond the current focus countries, by working with a larger group of interested countries.

With four core partners – UNDP, WHO, TDR and PATH – consolidating their broad scope of experience and expertise, ADP is well-positioned to provide expanded policy and technical support to strengthen capacities and institutions for the introduction and scale-up of health technologies.

For additional information about the Access and Delivery Partnership, please contact:

**Tenu Avafia**  
Team Leader: Human Rights, Key Populations and Treatment Access  
HIV, Health and Development Group  
United Nations Development Programme  
304 East 45th Street, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
tenu.avafia@undp.org

**Cecilia Oh**  
Programme Advisor, HIV, Health and Development Group  
United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok Regional Hub  
3rd Floor, UN Service Building  
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok, Thailand  
cecilia.oh@undp.org