The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a specific health goal and a target on universal health coverage (UHC), which underscores the vital contribution health and well-being make to sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals further highlight the importance of promoting innovation and research and development (R&D) on new health technologies for diseases primarily affecting the poor, and the concurrent need to enable affordable access to these treatments.

Many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have taken significant steps to expand coverage of health services, but progress is gradual and variable: millions of people still have limited access to quality-assured health technologies. Achieving UHC requires national health systems to deliver essential health services, particularly to the most vulnerable people and communities. Fragmented systems for innovation, access and delivery of health technologies increase the strain on health systems’ ability to provide affordable, quality health care, impeding overall progress.

The transformative aim of UHC is an opportunity to promote comprehensive and coherent approaches towards building resilient and sustainable health systems, which are vital to protect health, well-being and contribute to the economic productivity of populations.

With this aim in mind, the Government of Japan is partnering with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to accelerate innovation, access to and delivery of new health technologies in LMICs.

What We Do

Leveraging the combined expertise of its partners, ADP helps countries develop the policies, human capacities, systems and regulations to ensure access and delivery of health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by and within each country. Drawing on past achievements and lessons, ADP is scaling up its work by deepening its impact in focus countries and expanding country coverage. The approach of the ADP is bound together by three elements:

**Strengthening policy, regulatory harmonization and coherence**

An enabling policy and regulatory environment enables health technologies to reach people who need them faster. A coherent approach towards the selection, prioritization and use of health technologies is central to an enabling environment. The regulatory system must also function in alignment with the procurement and supply chain management systems. ADP works in focus countries and across regions to enable coherent and harmonized approaches in these areas.

**Strengthening institutions for accelerating health technology introduction and access**

In many countries, there is an urgent need to strengthen the skills, capacities and functions within institutions to support the effective uptake of new health technologies. Working with countries to identify specific needs and priorities, ADP partners draw on their expertise and experience to strengthen these capacities and to help address critical gaps within national health systems.

**Establishing and contributing to regional and global platforms for technology delivery preparedness**

ADP in-country implementation experience provides a source of learning, enabling partners to identify opportunities for South–South exchanges and for countries to learn from each other. In addition, ADP collaborates with the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and other partners involved in promoting health technology innovation to collaborate and build synergies that address bottlenecks in the uptake of new health technologies and promote country preparedness.
AMPLIFYING IMPACT at the country and regional levels

Snapshot of key results achieved (April 2018–March 2019)

**Senegal**
- Initiated technical support to the national regulatory authority on the domestication of the *AU Model Law on Medical Products Regulation* to promote systematic and speedier approval of new health technologies.
- Conducted training on pharmacovigilance best practices for the National Pharmacovigilance Centre to address challenges in adverse drug reactions reporting and data entry.
- Supporting the identification and integration of health research priorities into the Health Research Strategic Plan for Senegal (2019–2024), using the national multi-disciplinary platform, established by the Ministry of Health and Social Action.

**Ghana**
- Developed integrated plan for the roll-out of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine across all 275 districts.
- Strengthened drug safety monitoring and identification of implementation barriers for the mass drug administration of preventive chemotherapy (azithromycin) for yaws, targeting 90 percent of the at-risk population.
- Supported roll out of ‘MedSafetyApp’, a new mobile application by Ghana Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enable reporting from smartphones/tablets to increase the ease of reporting adverse drug reactions.

**Tanzania**
- Developed integrated workplan to fast-track adoption and deployment of the paediatric formulation of praziquantel for children under the age of five, once approved.
- Continued to support Tanzania FDA, which has met the criteria for a ‘maturity level 3’ agency; the first in Africa to achieve a stable and well-functioning regulatory system for medical products.

**Malawi**
- Supported the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to develop multi-sectoral platform to recommend relevant enabling policy reforms and ensure policy coherence across innovation, access and delivery.
- Developed benchmarking to identify capacity gaps and guide regulatory system strengthening activities in 2019–2020, including support to the National Pharmacovigilance Centre for capacity strengthening on safety monitoring.
- Developing a training module for the national medicines procurement agency to improve medical equipment procurement planning and technical specification development.
India

- Formulated an institutional development plan for continuous improvement and strengthening of the regulatory system, including the strengthening of ‘good manufacturing practice’ risk-based inspection.
- Leveraging the policy and programmatic experience of India as a resource country to facilitate South–South technical exchange with other ADP countries, including through the collaboration with UNDP India to replicate the success of implementing ‘eVIN’ in India.
- Developing an institutional framework to enhance use of health technology assessment (HTA) in selection of new health technologies in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Regional and South–South cooperation

- Supported establishment of the Global Coalition of Interested Partners, with regional chapters of regulatory authorities in Africa, South-east Asia and Western Pacific, to improve coordination of capacity strengthening support to national regulatory systems.
- Contributed to capacity strengthening of the African Medicines Quality Forum – a network of experts and leaders from quality control laboratories across 36 African countries – through technical support and training on key aspects of quality control of medicines.
- Promoted safe and efficient introduction of new oral treatments for drug-resistant TB through training of national TB programs and pharmacovigilance units from 44 African countries to conduct active TB drug safety monitoring and management, and use implementation research to maximize efficacy and safety of new TB treatment strategies.
- Established an HTA knowledge platform to strengthen HTA capacities and support efforts to institutionalize HTA at national level through South–South exchanges between policymakers and technical experts.
- Convened, in collaboration with the Government of Japan and the GHIT Fund, the Global Dialogue on “Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery”, which brought together over 100 global thought leaders and key stakeholders involved in R&D, funding, innovation and access of health technology. This provided a platform to enable sharing of experiences, best practices and strategies that will ensure returns on R&D investments and to promote country preparedness to maximize the opportunities for access and delivery of new health technologies.
- Continuing support to the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to accelerate the domestication of the African Union (AU) Model Law on Medical Products Regulation towards achieving the AU and AUDA-NEPAD target of its adoption by 25 AU Member States by 2020.

Thailand

- Identified specific capacity needs through the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool, and institutional development plan, to guide regulatory system strengthening.
- Supported training of FDA personnel on best practices for clinical trials inspection to ensure data quality and safety of human subjects.
- Leveraging policy and technical expertise in Thailand as a resource to facilitate South–South exchanges with other ADP countries, including partnering with the Health Intervention Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) to provide technical support to LMICs on the use of HTA.

Indonesia

- Strengthened cohort of national HTA experts to reinforce institutionalization of HTA as a priority-setting tool for the national health insurance scheme.
- Developed and implemented the curriculum for the training of trainers on procurement of medical and laboratory equipment in partnership with the National Public Procurement Agency of Indonesia.
- Successfully piloted the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) to increase efficiency of the vaccine cold chain in two districts, reducing data errors, vaccine stock-outs and wastage by over 70 percent.
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 LMICs to ensure that once new technologies are available, they can be swiftly introduced and made available to people who need them.

Acknowledging that multiple disciplines and partners are critical across the value chain of access and delivery, ADP promotes three principles: country ownership to ensure long-term sustainability and address priorities defined by country stakeholders; cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborations to represent various perspectives from multiple sectors that are critical across the value chain; and South–South learning and cooperation to ensure mutual knowledge exchange and learning.

Moving forward, ADP will continue to scale up its work. This will be done through deepening its impact in its focus countries and expanding its country coverage.

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. ADP’s work is also in alignment with the UNDP Strategic Plan: 2018–2021 and the UNDP HIV, Health and Development Strategy 2016–2021, both of which acknowledge the integrated nature of health and development and the role of resilient and sustainable health systems as the foundation for achieving health and development.

ADP has scaled up in different ways to maximize its impact; including the following:

**Extending the range of technical expertise**

By increasing its core and technical partnerships, ADP has extended its technical assistance and capacity-strengthening offerings, in order to meet country needs and address capacity gaps that pose ongoing challenges for access and timely introduction of quality-assured essential health technologies.

**Expanding the number of focus countries**

Since 2013, ADP has collaborated with three focus countries: Ghana, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania. While work continues in these countries, to deepen and consolidate ADP’s engagement, we have also started working with India, Malawi, Senegal and Thailand. Within all ADP focus countries, country stakeholders and ADP partners jointly develop work plans, identifying key ADP interventions in each context.

**An increased focus on South–South collaboration**

To complement its in-country activities, ADP facilitates South–South learning and exchanges on policy, programmatic and technical issues that represent common challenges across different health systems, to scale up the partnership’s reach and impact.