



## Cosponsor Update: UNDP

### Forty-sixth session of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board

15 June 2023

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# 2023-2024: Pivotal Years for Health

- **Opportunities**

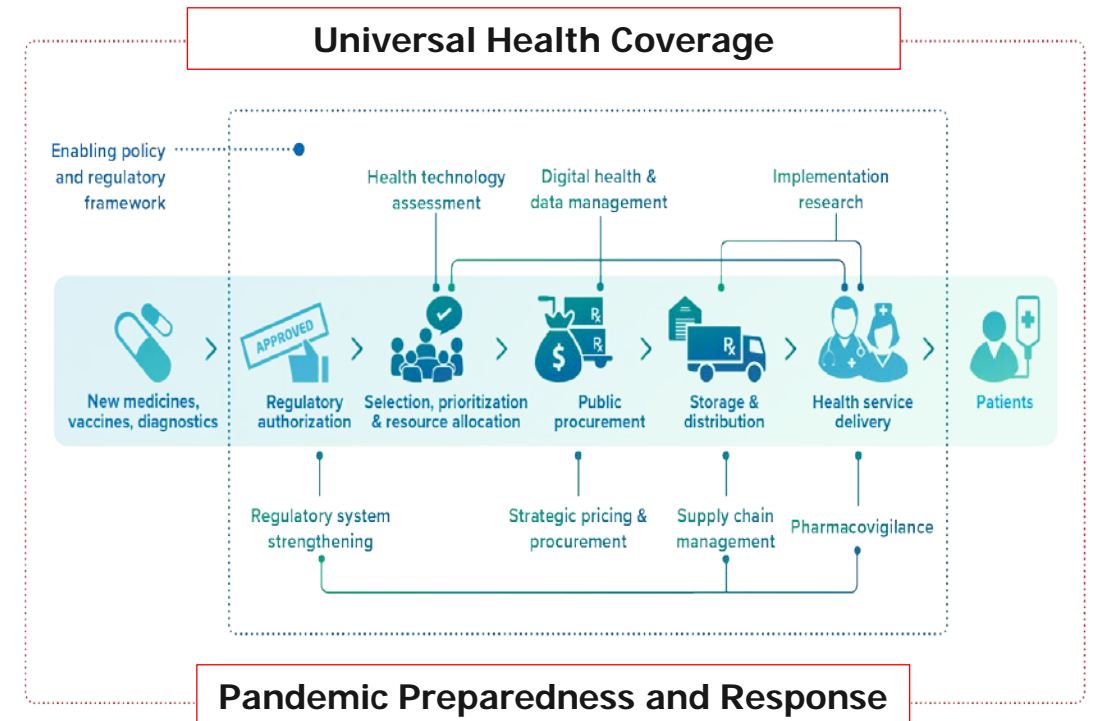
- UNGA HLM on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response; UHC; and TB, coupled with on-going negotiations on the WHO Pandemic Accord and amendment of the IHR regulations.
- These are important opportunities to advance health equity, including through strengthened R&D for health technologies and countermeasures as well as access and delivery to patients in need

- **Applying the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic**

- For the protection of health and human security, a global approach towards effective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response is needed, coupled with accelerated national efforts for equitable and sustainable UHC
- This underscores the importance of a strong ecosystem of collaboration on science and R&D, with concurrent efforts to build robust and resilient national health systems able to deliver essential health services and technologies
- Successful introduction of new health technologies, such as vaccines, depends on well-functioning national institutions, enabled and coordinated to adopt an end-to-end approach that links essential components of access, procurement, and delivery

# Connecting the dots: Health systems strengthening for UHC and PPR

- The long-standing partnership between UNDP, TDR, WHO and PATH – as the **Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP)** – centres on integrated, multisectoral support for health system strengthening.
- ADP has long focused on two components of system strengthening: enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, and strengthening capacities within national institutions and agencies.
- In combination, these help ensure that once new technologies are available, they can be swiftly introduced and made available equitably.
- Earlier investments in health system strengthening by ADP contributed to focus countries' capacity to respond to COVID-19.



# Results and impact: A snapshot

## Health system strengthening and capacity development

- ADP has conducted policy, regulatory and systems capacity strengthening in **9 focus countries** - Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand, Bhutan & Burkina Faso – but through its South-South knowledge exchange initiatives ADP has also reached over **67 countries**
- **Strengthened national multisectoral, cross-disciplinary coordinating platforms** have enabled integrated approaches to planning for the introduction and roll-out of health technologies, incl. RTS,S vaccine (malaria) and azithromycin (yaws) in Ghana, and pediatric praziquantel (schistosomiasis) in Tanzania
- **South-South and regional collaboration initiatives** have facilitated transfer of knowledge and tools, including:
  - Research methodologies and analytical models to assess operational efficiencies, cost-effectiveness, acceptability and impact of digital health technologies. Innovative tools include the IR toolkit for TB digital technologies and an evidence standards framework for HTA of digital health
  - Transfer of knowledge and technology on CoWIN digital vaccine system towards implementation and use of digital vaccines systems in other LMICS, including Indonesia and Bhutan
  - COVID-19 Diagnostics Procurement Resource aggregates technical specifications, regulatory status, and supply of diagnostic tests, to facilitate selection, procurement and rapid scale-up of COVID-19 testing
  - Regi-TRUST; a global digital framework to enable safe and seamless exchange of health information across borders; with a pilot as part of the WHO initiative on establishing a global network for existing COVID-19 digital certification systems



# Results and impact: A snapshot

- ADP partners have collaborated with country stakeholders to strengthen institutional and human capacities across health system functions, spanning the value chain of access and delivery
- **Improved regulatory system strengthening and harmonization**, including:
  - Regulatory systems benchmarking; ADP contributed to NRAs reaching ML 3 in: Ghana (vaccines and medicines), India (vaccine), Indonesia (vaccine), Tanzania (medicine and vaccine), Thailand (vaccines).
  - Vigilance and safety monitoring systems through national action plans and digital tools (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal and Tanzania)
- **Improved implementation of national disease control programmes**, including:
  - Active TB-drug safety monitoring (aDSM) for safe rollout of new treatment regimens for DR-TB in 27 countries across West & Central Africa
  - Implementation research to address gender-related factors affecting health care of skin-related NTDs (e.g. Buruli Ulcer, Yaws) in Ghana, to inform the integration of gender-sensitive NTD care into basic health services.
- **Scaling up digitization of health programmes to improve the prevention and treatment of TB, malaria and NTDs:**
  - **Indonesia** (expanded the use of SMILE digital system beyond logistics management of vaccine stock, to the tracking of all health commodities within the national malaria programme)
  - India (introduced digital platform (eVIN/CoWIN) to support distribution of rabies vaccine across 5 States Mass Drugs Administration for soil-transmitted helminthes in 2 states)
  - Ghana study to promote the effective implementation of mHealth technologies for enhancing the delivery of primary health services in rural communities in 2 regions.

# Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery

<https://www.unitingeffortsforhealth.org/>

- A global platform launched in 2019 and convened by UNDP/ADP, GoJ and the GHIT Fund to promote preparedness for access and delivery of health technologies for neglected diseases by bringing together R&D funders, innovators, governments and other access partners. It is also increasingly, a venue to explore how lessons from COVID-19 can inform changes to innovation, access and delivery approaches.
- UE has currently two main workstreams:
  - **Financing for access and delivery, including a toolkit for NTD national investment cases** (a collaboration with WHO NTD Department) to provide support on improving financing options for NTD interventions at national level. Phase I of the toolkit developed with Ministry of Health of Ghana presented in a public consultation on April 3. UE/WHO currently discussing feedback received.
  - **Planning for access and delivery in the R&D process:** UE has undertaken a review of key access policies and practices of major R&D funders and innovators, to identify lessons and good practices for policy recommendations to enhance the planning for access and delivery of health technologies during R&D process. The review and recommendations are anticipated to be ready in Q2 2023.
- Upcoming priorities: Increase global partnerships and collaborations (exploring opportunities with WHO Science Department & others), focus on access for specific technologies and diseases, & promote country-impact and country-driven strategies.



**ADP priorities**

- Over 2023-2027, ADP partners will build on systems and processes established to enable access and delivery of new health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs coming off the product pipeline, including collaboration with the Medical Countermeasures Delivery Partnership
- Informed by emerging needs and demands, ADP will prioritize integrated technical and capacity support in four priority areas:
  - Digital transformation of the health sector
  - Regulatory systems strengthening harmonization
  - Safeguarding and contributing to the scale up TB, malaria and NTD responses
  - Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access and Delivery – a platform to facilitate multistakeholder and end-to-end approaches to innovation, access and delivery of health technologies

