



Accelerating sustainable, equitable access

Access to Medicines Update 2023

Introduction

Events in the last year have dispelled any remaining doubts that we are entering a new era of radical uncertainty, across multiple dimensions: the resurgence of armed conflict, intensifying extreme weather events, rising geopolitical friction and the acceleration of technologies such as generative AI.



The implications for the delivery of health care are profound and are likely to compound the challenges of ensuring adequate health care for the world's most underserved populations. Given these growing challenges, accelerating programs to drive equitable access to medicines and improve health outcomes globally is more critical than ever.

In essence, access to medicines is about better health – for patients everywhere, regardless of their ability to pay. It's about respecting our common human dignity and putting the patient at the center of everything we do. This focus is embedded across our organization, ensuring that our programs are designed to equip communities with the tools and systems needed to enable long-term access, and allow us to continue to drive a sustainable business.

To drive access, we focus not only on getting our medicines to those who need them most, but work with local partners to address barriers to access. After all, a medicine is only as good as the system that delivers it.

In our 2022 report, we highlighted programs that address barriers to access across the patient journey, collectively aimed at building sustainable capacity within the health care system, bridging affordability barriers and collaborating with policymakers to enable broader, sustainable access to medicines and vaccines.

In the same report, we also set out the three priorities we are focussing on to drive equitable and sustainable impact: 1) broadening access; 2) partnering for societal value; and 3) continuing to integrate into our business approach.

Over the course of the last year, we've broadened access by working at the local level to expand the breadth and depth of access through affordability-based Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), tailored to patients' unique circumstances, and through concerted, collective action to address barriers to access.

We've unlocked societal value by partnering with governments, international bodies and private insurance firms to tackle the growing dengue threat through our first-of-its-kind vaccine as well as through a wider, integrated approach that encompasses prevention, disease awareness and monitoring.

We continue to make Access to Medicines part of our business by mobilizing resources and expertise across Takeda, with clear ownership and responsibility for creating impact at all levels of the organization.

Ultimately, everything we do is guided by our purpose of accelerating sustainable and equitable access to health care. It's how we define and measure success. That's why we take a focused approach to addressing the unique challenges in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and countries with evolving health care systems, where barriers to access are especially numerous and complex.

Engaging with local authorities is critical, which is why we empower our local teams to drive initiatives and programs that effectively bridge the unique gaps in access faced by a specific health care system.

Moreover, we are incredibly proud to have signed onto the World Economic Forum's Global Equity Network Zero Health Gaps Pledge to take joint efforts to advance health equity globally.

I invite you to read this report for a snapshot of progress we've made in the last year - and to join us in realizing our purpose: to create better health for people and a brighter future for the world.

Michelle Erwee
Global Head of Access to Medicines
Growth and Emerging Markets
Takeda

Bridging the affordability gap

Despite rising incomes around the developing world, affordability remains the most significant barrier to accessing innovative medicines. The most effective and sustainable way to tackle this is through national reimbursement programs, however, these systems can take years to mature. Takeda's programs are intended to bridge the affordability gap for registered therapies through a sustainable approach.

“The assistance program will help more patients have access to new medicines and efficient targeted therapy and improve the overall quality of malignant lymphoma treatment in Vietnam.”

Dr. Bach Quoc Khanh, President of the National Institute of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, one of many stakeholders involved in the implementation of the program.

Case study

Aligning with national funding policy priorities to drive breadth and depth of access in Vietnam

Takeda launched its first Patient Assistance Program (PAP) in Vietnam in January 2023 to bridge the affordability barrier to innovative treatment options for Hodgkin lymphoma, a rare cancer that affects the lymphatic system. This PAP, the first of its kind in the country, provides tailored financial support for patients who would be otherwise unable to afford treatment. This has been key to providing pathways to treatment by determining support required on a patient-by-patient basis, allowing eligible patients to access the complete course of treatment prescribed by their physicians, regardless of their ability to pay. Importantly, eligible patients are able to receive the optimal treatment duration despite financial limitations.

This is especially important in a country like Vietnam, where the cost of health care services average 60-70% of household income¹, which often puts life-changing medicines out of reach.

Drawing on third party population data, we can see that for many LMICs, including Vietnam, up to 90% of patients require additional financial support to access the full course of innovative medicines, underscoring the importance of affordability-based support in driving equitable access.²



As the PAP sponsor, Takeda worked together with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health and a diverse set of implementation partners to conduct needs-based assessments of patients' financial circumstances, allowing us to provide tailored and flexible financial support for eligible patients with a medical need. And we are proud that through sustained engagement with Vietnam's Ministry of Health over several years ultimately paved the way for the approval to implement our PAP.

We continue to collaborate closely with the government as well as a diverse set of stakeholders within the health care community to enable sustainable access to innovative life-transforming treatments.

Bridging the affordability gap continued

Case study

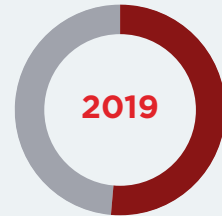
Paving the way to sustainable access in Mexico

Our PAPs are designed as a bridge to more sustainable, equitable access in the long term - eventually ensuring that patients living in LMICs can access full courses of treatment which they would otherwise not be able to afford. This has been the case in Mexico, where we launched our PAP in 2017. When we first launched our ADCETRIS® PAP in Mexico in 2017, we initially worked with health care practitioners and public health institutions to understand their requirements and expectations.

This helped us show the critical role PAPs could play in providing a bridge for nearly 300 patients unable to afford treatment. In 2020, the government of Mexico made innovative treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma more widely available, allowing the majority of patients to access it through the National Public Health System.

From the inception of the PAP through to 2020, the PAP resulted in a 40% increase in access to treatment for eligible patients.

Today, our PAP in Mexico continues to support a much smaller group of patients who still require financial assistance.



■ ADCETRIS® patients on PAP in Mexico¹

■ ADCETRIS® patients not on PAP in Mexico¹

¹Based on Takeda's own internal data



“When I received the first dose, I immediately began to see a response. After a year of treatment, my body became stronger. Thank you, Takeda, for giving me the opportunity to keep living.”

Pablo Álvarez Calderón
The first PAP patient in Mexico

Individual patient experiences may vary

Unlocking barriers across the patient journey

While a critical factor, affordability is only one of many barriers to access patients in LMICs face today. Efforts must be made to strengthen local health care systems to scale impact across the entire patient journey – from disease prevention, screening and diagnosis, to high-quality treatment and patient support.

We piloted a three-year initiative to address this challenge in 2019, through our Blueprint for Innovative Healthcare Access Program (Blueprint) in Meru County, Kenya³. Following the overview of outcomes and impact provided in our [2022 Access to Medicines Progress Report](#), the learnings and systems established from the initiative are being further integrated into local systems and communities, and applied across other counties to complement local government priorities.

We have also partnered with local experts in Nigeria to focus on an often overlooked barrier to access: the performance of local supply chains. Critical medicines can be delayed getting to patients if distribution networks are inefficient, if cargo is not handled properly or if local infrastructure is unreliable. In the last two years since the program launched, Takeda and its partners have studied supply chain vulnerabilities and together, we've distributed essential medicines. As a complement to these activities, we've run capability building programs to raise awareness of local barriers to access among health care professionals.

We're proud of the impact we've had so far through our Blueprint-inspired programs across three different countries in Africa:

Current outcomes of ongoing health care systems strengthening programs in sub-Saharan Africa since inception in 2019

Rwanda, Tanzania & Uganda	
Population reached through awareness campaigns	119,000
Number of health care providers trained	631
Number of physicians trained	237
Patients screened	17,878
Patients diagnosed	4,697

3. <https://www.innovationsinhealthcare.org/Blueprint%20Impact%20Report%20Dec%202022.pdf>



Unlocking barriers across the patient journey continued

Building on our impact in sub-Saharan Africa to strengthen health care systems globally



At the heart of our Blueprint approach is working with partners to drive real impact on the ground, based on identified gaps across local health care systems. The overarching ambition was to ensure the entire ecosystem involved in the program was aligned on what we, collectively, were setting out to achieve – and on how we were going to measure our progress.

As part of our efforts, we created an [Access to Health Guidebook and Framework](#), which consolidated our learnings and allowed us to make continuous improvements over time, and to adapt the approach for future programs.*

This three-year initiative taught us that efforts need to be hyperlocal, targeted to address local realities, and driven by collective action. Aligning with national priorities and conducting a thorough gap analysis with local partners at the outset enabled us to uncover specific pain points across the patient pathway that needed to be solved. This allowed us to co-create solutions that could be integrated within existing systems.

For example, by working closely with the Meru County government in Kenya and local public health care system leaders, the program generated significant momentum and buy-in to continue support for Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) prevention initiatives in Meru, and empowered individuals and health system leaders to continue to advance NCD activities and awareness.

“Right now, for a population of 13 million Rwandans, we have about 12 oncologists. We’ll be starting an oncology fellowship – the first here. There is a lot of will to address the challenge of rising cancer rates, but we’re not there yet. There’s still room for improvement.”

Dr. Achille Manirakiza

Clinical Oncologist

King Faisal Hospital, Kigali, Rwanda

Seeing the impact in Meru County and learnings from the pilot, we continue to integrate the approach across our business and identifying opportunities to apply the framework in other contexts. By empowering our LOCs (local operating companies) in these countries to apply this framework locally, we are deploying global best practice in ways that are fit-for-purpose in their markets.

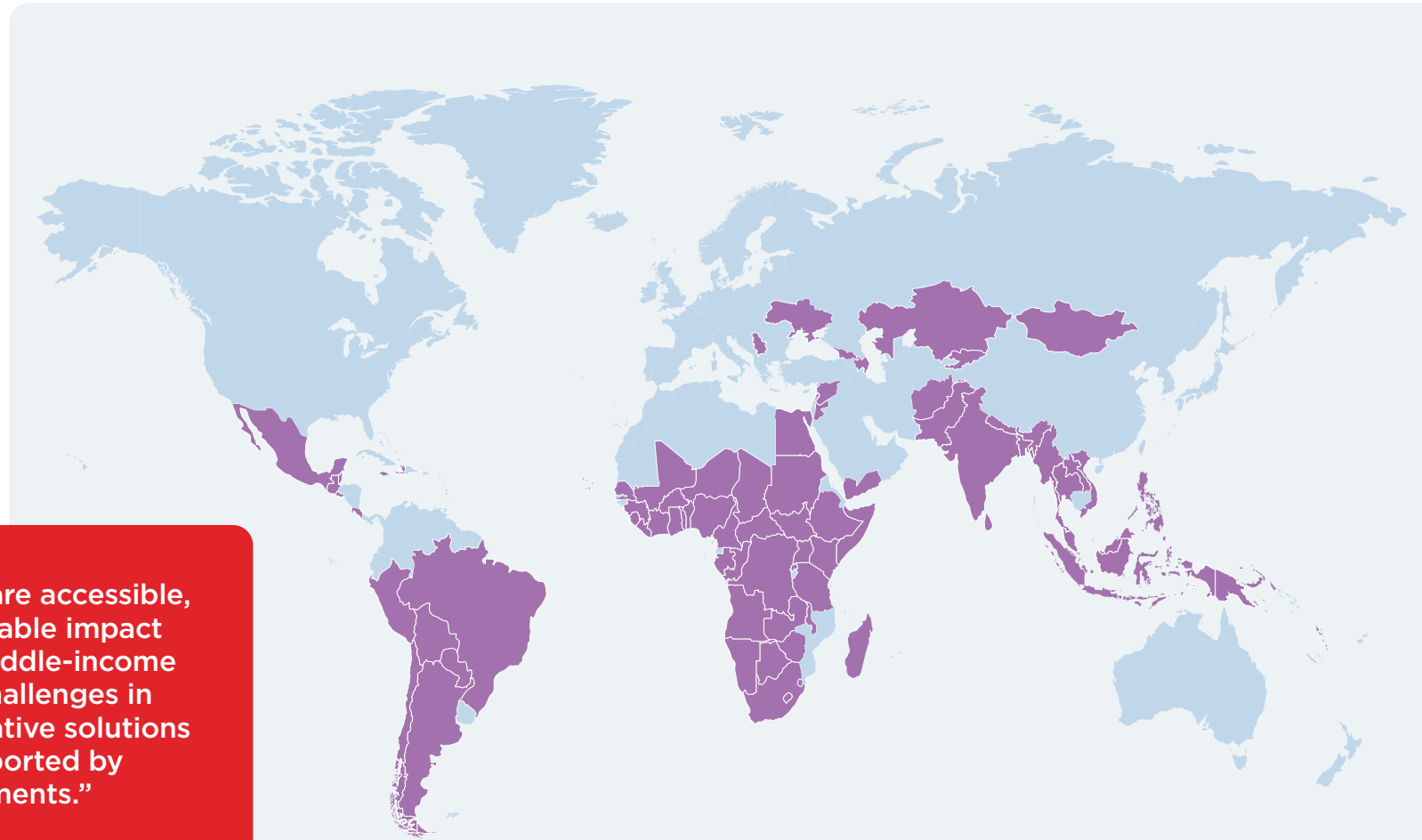
By leveraging the Blueprint framework across Takeda’s geographies in this way, we are ensuring delivery of an “end-to-end” access approach that strengthens entire health care ecosystems, supporting better outcomes for patients.

* For more details on the learnings and outcomes from the Blueprint program in Meru County, please read the [Collective Impact report](#) [here](#)

Unlocking barriers across the patient journey continued

Takeda's active health care systems strengthening programs in LMICs

Ensuring sustainable and equitable access requires a holistic approach. It's not just about the medicine itself, but the broader systemic challenges that prevent patients from living longer, healthier lives. That's why we put a strong emphasis on working together with partners to strengthen local health care systems to scale impact across the entire patient journey – from disease prevention, screening and diagnosis, to high-quality treatment and patient support. While Takeda's commitment to accelerating access is truly global, we recognize that barriers to access are especially numerous and complex in countries with fewer resources. As a result, we focus our efforts on strengthening health care systems in LMICs, where there is the greatest unmet medical need.



● Takeda has active health care systems strengthening programs in **82** countries (shaded purple)

“When it comes to making health care accessible, there are rarely quick fixes. Sustainable impact takes time. We work in low- and middle-income countries to tackle global health challenges in enduring ways, encouraging innovative solutions beyond commercial products, supported by robust, long-term funding commitments.”

Toshie Ando

Head, Global CSR and Partnership Strategy
Global Corporate Affairs
Takeda

Partnering to bring societal value

Given the scale of the global health care challenge, no single entity can be effective acting alone. That's why we believe an optimal way to ensure patients have timely access to life-transforming medicines is by building trusted, effective and sustainable local partnerships.

Managing the threat of dengue through a partnered and integrated approach

Dengue was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the top 10 threats to global public health in 2019. This painful and potentially fatal virus infects an estimated 390 million people worldwide, leading to 500,000 hospitalizations and to the deaths of thousands of patients each year.⁴

It's obvious why this has become such a potent threat. Because of urbanization, travel and climate change, dengue has gone, in a single generation, from being present in nine countries to now more than 125 – 90% of which are middle-income countries (MICs).⁵ Takeda has made a concerted effort to ensure that MICs in Latin America and Asia, which experience the highest burden of dengue, are at the center of our launch planning for our recently approved dengue vaccine, QDENGA®. As of November 2023, the vaccine has received health authority approvals and has been rolled out in several endemic countries, including Indonesia, Argentina, Brazil and Thailand, with more MICs set to follow.

Over time, our aim is to make the vaccine accessible to as many eligible people as possible in endemic countries through government-funded national immunization programs.

While an effective vaccine is essential to tackle dengue, it's not enough. Ensuring that it is embedded in a wider, integrated approach encompassing prevention, disease awareness and monitoring, and that the communities that most need it are able to access it, is critical. But this is not something we can do on our own. It is only through working closely with governments, international bodies, private organizations and the wider health care ecosystem on vaccine coverage that we are able to build sustainable delivery programs.

In recognition of the importance of supporting local health care systems' readiness to respond to the spread of dengue, we have also implemented equity-based pricing through our tiered-pricing model. Moreover, we are working with policymakers to support broad implementation of vaccination programs and collaborating with central procurement agencies and NGOs to enable broader and swifter access in endemic countries.

4. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40475-019-00192-z>

5. World Health Organization. Fact Sheet. Dengue and Severe Dengue. January 2022.



Partnering to bring societal value continued

In recent years, we've scaled up our partnerships around the world with the aim of reducing the risk of dengue infections among vulnerable populations. In this way, we are helping people around the world to lead healthier and longer lives.



Driving public awareness of dengue risk in THAILAND

Public education partnerships:

- Partnering with 11 entities to raise public awareness
- Ing-Ma virtual human video campaign launched: >35 million views
- Collaboration with Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Kao, a leading consumer company, to educate the public about risks of dengue and ways to prevent and control the disease



Building awareness in dengue prevention in BRAZIL

Consumer engagement Initiatives:

- UNICEF partnership to educate 428,000 people to reduce the transmission of water and vector-borne infectious diseases
- Dengue prevention social media campaign
- Public exhibition at the Japan House in São Paulo to raise awareness and encourage prevention



Expanding capabilities to manage dengue in INDONESIA

Public-private partnerships:

- Public-private partnership with the Ministry of Health to stop the spread of dengue through government-led campaigns to educate front-line doctors and local communities and to strengthen prediction modeling



Enabling data-driven strategies in SOUTHEAST ASIA

Predictive analytics:

- Predictive AI-powered tool ready to be rolled out in a number of markets to provide risk assessment and better manage dengue spread
- User-friendly website provides real-time visibility of dengue spread

Looking ahead

As a company we are focused on improving people's lives by researching, developing and bringing to market new and better medicines and vaccines that help to address the world's most pressing health care needs. We are also committed to playing our role in ensuring that these medicines can be accessed by eligible patients across the world in a way that is both equitable and sustainable.



That's why our Access to Medicines ambitions are integral to our wider corporate strategy. We've embedded our access approach across every aspect of our business – from the early stages of drug discovery to clinical development and commercialization – to deliver real impact for the nearly two billion people around the world who still lack access to medicines.⁶

It's clear however that the challenges to sustainable, equitable access are growing: A warming climate poses new threats, such as the expansion of mosquito habitats, which is giving pathogens such as dengue new footholds, to cite just one example. Demographic trends such as aging populations and the increasing displacement of communities due to climate-related challenges will place growing pressure on health care budgets.

Despite these multifaceted challenges, we are not resigned. On the contrary, the scale of the challenge only adds urgency to our efforts to drive meaningful progress.

We should aspire to a world where no one is faced with the impossible choice between their health and their financial well-being, where access to life-transforming medicines is a fundamental human right – not a privilege. Achieving this vision will require continual focus on our core priorities: building sustainable capacity, implementing innovative affordability programs and active policy-shaping.

It will also require us to fundamentally rethink the fee-for-service paradigm that characterizes the health care industry today. As an industry, it is our firm conviction that we need to take concrete steps towards value-based health care, in which practitioners are paid based on outcomes achieved rather than services provided. This is a big ambition, but alongside our existing programs, we are actively driving efforts to move in this direction.

We look forward to sharing future updates on the progress of our Access to Medicines programs. In the meantime, we remain focused on strengthening our partnerships around the world and acting on our shared commitment to overcome barriers that stand in the way of global, sustainable and equitable access to medicines.

Gamze Yuceland

Gamze Yuceland
President
Growth and Emerging Markets
Takeda

6. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/255355/9789241512442-eng.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=1>

