

President and CEO message

Over the past two years, and perhaps more directly than ever before, the world has had a firsthand view into just how disproportionate the effects of the burden of disease are on different geographies and populations. As a result, patients have experienced even more challenges in getting access to the medicines they need most. Still, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound impact that has further widened the inequities that many are faced with daily. Unfortunately, this has long been the case, as any given crisis bears the greatest suffering in the most fragile communities.

While the events of the past several years have created global turbulence and challenged health resilience, they have had a more severe impact on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) - further constraining health care infrastructures and limiting their ability to invest in broadening access to innovative medicines. In fact, two billion people are still not able to access the medicines they need, and those facing the highest burden of disease most often live in LMICs.

As a purpose-led, science-driven, digital biopharmaceutical company, Takeda is committed to discovering and delivering life-transforming medicines and vaccines to

patients regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay. That's why we are embedding our access strategy in every aspect of our business - from the early stages of drug discovery to clinical development and commercialization. And we are accelerating our end-to-end access work to address the longstanding and widespread barriers to accessing care.

But it's clear that a single company, or even the entire global biopharmaceutical industry working together, cannot provide all the answers. That's why we believe the best way to ensure patients have timely access to life-transforming medicines is by building trusting, effective and lasting local partnerships. Experience shows us that we're most effective when we combine our resources and expertise with on-the-ground knowledge and relationships, to address the unique needs of individual communities. Our 240-year old heritage has also taught us that we need to take a long-term approach to create lasting value for patients, communities and systems. By strengthening health systems together, we can support the patient journey through health promotion and prevention, diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care.

Our 2022 Access to Medicines Progress Report highlights the progress we've made,

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the partnerships we've forged and the measurable impact we've had on patients in low- and middle-income countries. Inside, you'll learn about a variety of programs, ranging from supporting the rare disease infrastructure in South Africa, to policy-shaping initiatives in Vietnam that increase disease awareness and deliver potential treatment options.

Each program contributes to long term societal value by driving better patient outcomes and creating learnings that can be replicated, tailored to or expanded elsewhere. Perhaps most importantly, you'll hear directly from our partners, both leaders on the global stage and in local communities who we are working with to help build capacity, foster greater trust and remove barriers to care.

Our work is ongoing and can only succeed through purposeful collaboration, so I invite you to read our report and join us in realizing our purpose - to create better health for people and a brighter future for the world.

 [Takeda annual integrated report 2022](#)

Christophe Weber
President and CEO, Takeda

