UNDP ISSUE BRIEF

Annotated Outline

**An integrated approach to the development and delivery of new health technologies:**

**A case study of Tanzania**

**1. Introduction**

Context-setting section: focus on TB, malaria and NTDs, with data/statistics on significant human and sustainable development impacts, and the need for innovative approaches to develop and deliver appropriate health technologies. Key points:

* The Sustainable Development Goals explicitly calls for the elimination of TB, malaria and NTDS as a development priority. Further, the SDGs set a 2030 target for the “end of the epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and NTDs, and advocate for a systemic approach to tackling these diseases, underlining the importance for health systems strengthening and universal health coverage. To meet this target, the SDGs call for support for R&D of vaccines and medicines for diseases that primarily affect developing countries, in order to provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines.
* As initiatives to stimulate greater innovation in health technologies for TB, malaria and NTDs begin to show results, now is the time to focus on how the introduction of these new technologies can be optimally introduced into the health systems of LMICs with significant burdens of disease
* From innovation to sustainable delivery: description of the rationale and premise of the GHIT Fund and the Access and Delivery Partnership to demonstrate how such linkages can effectively be made to ensure positive health outcomes; i.e., between drug discovery, product development, with the strengthening of country-level capacities for efficient delivery of health technologies

**2. Tanzania: Implementing an integrated approach**

This section describes the implementation of the integrated approach in Tanzania, with country-specific context and background. Key points include:

* Human and economic burden of TB, malaria and NTDs; e.g., annual NTDs incidence of around 5 million cases – in a country of 43 million people – exacts huge social and economic toll. National strategic plans, including the *Tanzania Development Vision 2025*, have identified need for a sustainable health delivery system as a national development priority. *Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) III (2009-2015)* highlights the challenge of “affordability of medicines and medical supplies, especially to the poor and vulnerable groups” and accordingly, identifies the need for strategies to ensure access; strengthen control of safety; enhance harmonization and coordination of procurement, stocking and distribution; as well as promote domestic production of pharmaceuticals.
* An integrated approach should take account of the links between a range of factors, including those that (i) facilitate the **availability** of the needed health technologies (through promoting innovation); (ii) ensure **affordability and accessibility**; and (iii) influence processes for **effective introduction and integration** of new technologies within the health system for use by target communities.
* Availability of new health technologies: focus on product development and clinical trials related to priority diseases in Tanzania, with relevant information from PDPs, including GHIT Fund.

[INFORMATION REQUIRED: relevant information/data to be incorporated on new technologies/products; e.g., praziquantel pediatric information for schistosomiasis, clinical trial on BPaz regimen in Tanzania, etc.]

* Country-specific information on challenges to addressing and eliminating TB, malaria and NTDs [E.g., for TB: multidrug resistance, treatment compliance and integration of surveillance system with health management system; for malaria: reporting delays and inaccurate data; etc.] Hence, in Tanzania, the strategy has focused on crucial components for strengthening capacity to enable introduction of new technologies; namely, the systems/processes to ensure enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, active safety monitoring; and efficient pricing, supply, and delivery systems.
* Text Box/ Diagram: Illustration of the relationship between GHIT Fund’s discovery and development work, with ADPs strategic pathways towards access and delivery.

[E.g., the ADP 6 Pathways “wheel” from ADP project brief can be adapted for this purpose.]

**3. Pathways towards access and delivery**

This section describes the ADP’s technical assistance and policy support within the individual pathways that form the continuum of the health delivery system, and illustrates how each relates to the introduction of new health technologies.

* AU Model Law on Medical Products Regulation and Harmonization: consolidation of best practices and streamlining of regulatory requirements to facilitate efficient regulation and marketing approval of new health technologies.

[INFORMATION REQUIRED: Information on new technologies/products to go on clinical trials or to be submitted for marketing approval, including data on clinical trials funded/supported under GHIT Fund]

* National implementation research agenda: while the role of implementation research in health is to pinpoint country- and community-specific issues to be addressed, a national agenda for health systems research will set priorities in addressing the major impediments, gaps and bottlenecks in the delivery and use of health technologies in the country. Spearheaded by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), the “national agenda for health system research for tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases” has identified priority research issues for TB and leprosy, malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

[INFORMATION REQUIRED: Information needed on new technologies to be introduced, and identifying the IR issues/questions related to them.]

* Safety monitoring and pharmacovigilance systems: with the introduction of new health technologies, corollary surveillance and safety monitoring systems are needed. Focus has been on the increasing capacity of Tanzania Food and Drug Administration to respond to safety issues of newly introduced health technologies, through training on pharmacovigilance, as well as through active engagement within regional and global pharmacovigilance networks, including collaborations with WHO Collaborating Centres and the WHO EMP Safety and Vigilance Group.

[INFORMATION REQUIRED: needed on new technologies to be introduced and specific PV issues for monitoring.]

* Supply chain and delivery systems: as new health technologies come onto the market, more choices are created and additional decisions need to be made across the supply chain disciplines of planning, procurement and distribution. Efforts in Tanzania have focused on training and guidance materials, particularly with respect to the mass drug administration for soil transmitted helminthes, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis and trachoma. The aim is to reduce wastage and increase efficiency of supply chain management, across key actors at the central-level and health professionals from the district, facility and community level.

**4. Conclusions**

Final section to reiterate key messages on the necessary relationship between drug discovery and product development, with the strengthening of country-level capacities for efficient delivery of health technologies, to facilitate effective and efficient introduction of new health technologies.