

# Unitaid and Japan:

## A strategic partnership for global health impact

As global health challenges evolve, partnerships like the one between Japan and Unitaid are proving essential to advancing equitable access and resilient health systems worldwide.

### A shared commitment to health equity

Unitaid and Japan share a deep commitment to ensuring that everyone, everywhere, can access the health products they need. Together, we are driving tangible progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by strengthening health systems, tackling market barriers, and advancing equitable access to life-saving health innovations.

### About Unitaid

We save lives by making new health products available and affordable for people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). We work with partners to identify innovative treatments, tests and tools, help tackle the market barriers that are holding them back and get them to the people who need them most – fast. Since we were created in 2006, we have unlocked access to more than 100 groundbreaking health products to help address the world’s biggest health challenges, including HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria; women’s and children’s health; and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Every year, more than 300 million people benefit from the products we’ve helped roll out.

### Demonstrated impact

Unitaid delivers exceptional impact with limited resources. Over the past two decades, our investments have accelerated the introduction of groundbreaking tools for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, helping countries deliver better, more affordable care to millions of people. Some key achievements made possible with support from Japan include:

- **Dolutegravir (HIV):** halved the cost of annual treatment to about ¥6,000 (US\$40), reaching over 20 million people and saving an estimated ¥1.2 trillion (US\$8 billion) by 2030.
- **Pediatric formulations:** developed reference treatments for HIV and tuberculosis now used globally; 124 countries have adopted the child-friendly formulation of bedaquiline, the first new TB drug developed in 40 years.
- **Seasonal malaria chemoprevention:** protected 53 million children across the Sahel region at an average of ¥520 (US\$3) per child per season.

Every ¥150 (US\$1) invested in Unitaid generates an estimated ¥6,900 (US\$46) in health and economic benefits, according to the 2025 CEPA evaluation – clear evidence of its strong return on investment and value for money.

**We invest in high-potential treatments, vaccines, diagnostics and health products to address some of the world’s biggest health challenges, and invest in cross-cutting areas that strengthen health systems and support the global health goals:**

-  **HIV and coinfections**
-  **Tuberculosis**
-  **Malaria**
-  **Women’s and children’s health**
-  **Global health emergencies**
-  **Medical oxygen**
-  **Regional manufacturing**
-  **Climate and health**
-  **Universal health coverage**

### Japan’s strategic contribution

Japan’s partnership with Unitaid exemplifies its leadership in global health and commitment to human security. Japan has served on Unitaid’s Executive Board since 2020 and supports Unitaid’s mission to accelerate access to quality-assured health interventions in LMICs. In Japan’s most recent Official Development Assistance (ODA) evaluation (2025), Unitaid received an A- rating, highlighting high alignment with Japan’s global health priorities, strong performance, and sound organizational management.

This endorsement demonstrates Japan’s recognition of Unitaid’s unique market-creator role and its contributions to pandemic preparedness, equitable access, and health system resilience — all areas central to Japan’s international development agenda.

### Partnership beyond funding

Japan’s engagement with Unitaid reflects a commitment that goes beyond financial support. It is a partnership rooted in the shared principles of innovation, sustainability, and equity. Japan’s diplomatic leadership in platforms such as the G7, G20, and the World Health Organization (WHO) reinforces

Unitaid’s role in translating innovations into access for countries and communities that need them most. Together, we catalyze equitable supply chains, strengthen local manufacturing capacity, and enhance regional health security.

### A forward-looking collaboration

This collaboration stands as a model for impact-driven, inclusive partnership — one that values the contributions of governments, civil society, and the private sector alike. Japan and Unitaid will continue to work side by side to confront emerging global health challenges with evidence-based, equitable solutions.

Through our joint efforts, we reaffirm a central message: when shared leadership meets shared purpose, progress in global health accelerates — for all.

**Photo:** We helped bring to market two innovative, low-cost devices that enable newborns and young children to access oxygen therapy: an oxygen blender – a machine used to deliver the right amount of oxygen to young children; and a bubble continuous positive airway pressure (bCPAP) device (photo) – a non-invasive way of ventilating newborns who are struggling to breathe. © Vayu Global Health Innovations/Unitaid



## Japanese industry engagement: driving innovation and access through public-private partnerships

Japan's world-leading science and technology sector plays a pivotal role in advancing Unitaid's mission to ensure equitable access to lifesaving innovations. Through Japan's collaboration with Unitaid, several partnerships are setting global examples of how public-private cooperation can accelerate impact across the health value chain -from research and development (R&D) and manufacturing to market access and scale-up.

### • **Nikkiso – Expanding oxygen access across East Africa**

Unitaid and Nikkiso Co., Ltd. are implementing the East African Program on Oxygen Access (EAPOA) to establish state-of-the-art liquid medical oxygen plants in Kenya and Tanzania. The initiative aims to triple regional oxygen production and reduce prices by up to 27%, potentially saving 154,000 lives in the next decade.

**“Expanding local oxygen production is a crucial step toward ensuring no patient goes without this lifesaving resource. This investment enhances our ability to meet growing demand, making our supply more self-sufficient and reducing reliance on external sources. Now more than ever, building long-term capacity within our region is essential.”**

— Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania

### • **SORA Technology – AI-driven vector control and climate health innovation**

Through Japan's emerging tech ecosystem, SORA Technology is collaborating with WHO and Unitaid on drone and AI-powered malaria control. The system integrates drone-based surveillance, AI analytics, and precision larviciding – detecting mosquito breeding sites four times more efficiently and at 50% lower operational cost. Pilots in Ghana and Kenya have demonstrated success, and scale-up in Mozambique is currently underway.

### • **Shionogi – Transforming HIV treatment globally**

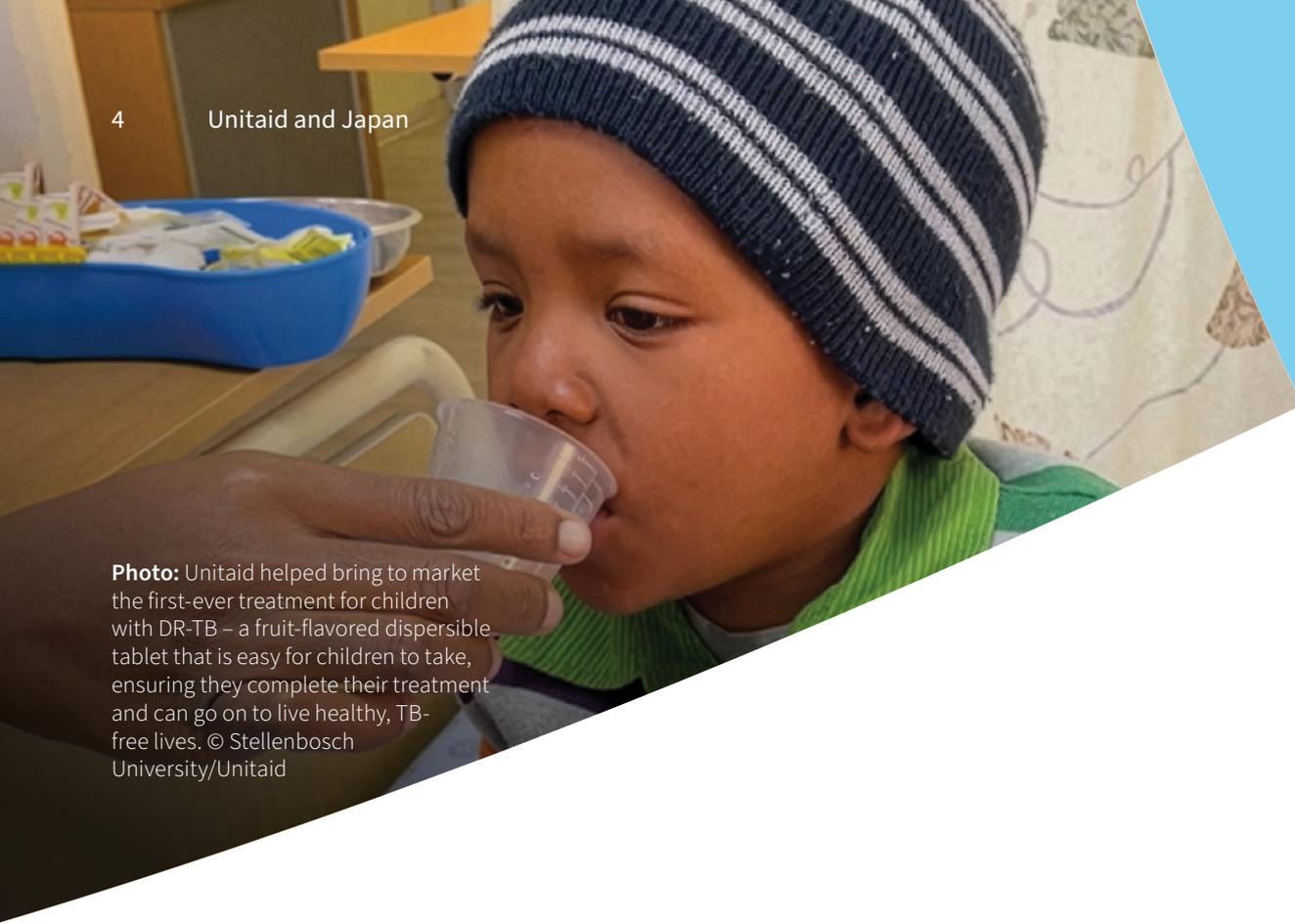
Shionogi & Co. developed dolutegravir (DTG), licensed through ViiV Healthcare and the Unitaid-founded Medicines Patent Pool, enabling generic production and fast access in LMICs. Unitaid-funded studies confirmed DTG's safety in women and children, influencing WHO guidelines. Today, over 25 million people across 100+ countries use DTG-based regimens – representing 95% of adults on treatment in LMICs – at a cost below ¥5,550 (US\$37) per patient per year.

### • **Fujifilm – Bringing innovative TB diagnostics closer to patients**

Fujifilm is pioneering a urine-based point-of-care TB test for people living with HIV, enabling people to be tested and diagnosed at their local health center or even at home – helping find and treat the millions of people with TB that are undiagnosed and untreated every year.

### • **Cervical cancer elimination – Partnership with WHO and the National Cancer Center of Japan**

With support from Japan, Unitaid and WHO regional offices are implementing a cervical cancer screening and treatment project across Asia-Pacific and Latin America. Key milestones include HPV test price reductions benefiting all countries in these regions, regional provider training in Mongolia, and the 2025 Global Forum on Cervical Cancer Elimination in Bali, which convened over 300 participants and generated ministerial commitments. The project includes technical collaboration with Japan's National Cancer Center to leverage Japanese expertise in oncology and capacity building.



**Photo:** Unitaid helped bring to market the first-ever treatment for children with DR-TB – a fruit-flavored dispersible tablet that is easy for children to take, ensuring they complete their treatment and can go on to live healthy, TB-free lives. © Stellenbosch University/Unitaid

## The way forward

Unitaid and Japan will continue to deepen collaboration to accelerate equitable access to lifesaving health innovations and strengthen the foundations of UHC. Guided by Japan's global health strategy, this partnership places UHC, health system strengthening, and human security at its core, ensuring that every person can receive essential health services without financial hardship.

By building on Japan's long-standing leadership in innovation and public-private partnership, Unitaid and Japan aim to translate cutting-edge technologies into tangible health impact for people in LMICs countries. Together, we are advancing a model of collaboration that not only saves lives but also reinforces global solidarity, resilience and trust through global health.