

# Contribution to Global Health | FY2023 Archive

## | Our Basic Approach on Global Health

Despite the rapid progress in technology and knowledge of modern medicine, unmet medical needs remain in a wide range of therapeutic areas, and every R&D-based pharmaceutical company is charged with the mission of addressing these issues by creating innovative new medicines. Furthermore, there are many countries and regions where people are unable to equally access adequate medical treatment due to inadequate medical systems and poverty as well as disruption caused by natural disasters or conflicts, etc.

Sumitomo Pharma has set “Improving access to medicines and advocacy” as a material issue to be addressed utilizing our various capitals (strengths). In addition, we have set the goal of “Contribute to the betterment of the healthcare system in countries/ regions that struggle with equal access to necessary healthcare, by developing healthcare professionals, raising awareness of the public, and making policy recommendations through collaboration with the industry, governments, and NPOs/ NGOs.”

We believe that working on establishment of healthcare systems in developing countries, training and developing human resources, and educating the public will not only contribute to achieving the SDGs, but also lead to an increase in our presence as a global pharmaceutical company.

For more information on our initiatives to improve access to medicines, please see ["Initiatives to Improve Access to Medicines."](#)

## | Our Strategy in Global Health

We formulate long-term strategic plan on global health and implement our initiatives by focusing the following points.

- Considering the feasibility and efficiency of social implementation, we prioritize and invest our resources in infectious disease areas where we can leverage our strengths (specialty, technical capabilities, networks) and where we can synergize with our business.
- Recognizing that global health issues are to be addressed through global scale partnership, we work toward solving issues by developing sustainable systems in multi-platform collaboration with international organizations, government agencies, research institutions, and civil society.
- Referring to the designated as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) <sup>\*1</sup> defined by the United Nations or Low Income Countries (LICs) <sup>\*\*2</sup> and Low & Middle Income Countries (LMICs) <sup>\*\*3</sup> defined by the World Bank, we decide the area we

prioritize to address.

\*1 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> 

\*2 <https://data.worldbank.org/income-level/low-income> 

\*3 <https://data.worldbank.org/income-level/low-and-middle-income> 

## Priorities in Addressing Global Health



Based on the "Basic Approach on Global Health" and "Our Strategy in Global Health," Sumitomo Pharma aims to support the achievement of Goal 3 of the SDGs: Good Health and Well-being. We prioritize the following four targets of Goal 3 and thereby strive to contribute to solving issues of global health.

### SDG Goal 3 Targets prioritized by Sumitomo Pharma

Targets		Initiatives
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health improvement program for mothers and children in Cambodia</li> </ul>
3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health improvement program for mothers and children in Cambodia</li> </ul>
3.3	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research and development for a universal influenza vaccine</li> <li>● Research and development for malaria vaccines</li> <li>● Participation in GHIT Fund</li> <li>● Research and development for pharmaceuticals to treat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) infectious diseases</li> <li>● Initiatives for appropriate use of antibiotics</li> <li>● Drug susceptibility surveillance study in Vietnam</li> </ul>
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research and development for therapies in the psychiatry &amp; neurology and</li> </ul>

Targets		Initiatives
	through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	oncology areas

## Provision of Health Improvement Program for Mothers and Children

As an initiative for improvement of healthcare infrastructure in developing countries, Sumitomo Pharma provides an NPO-led health improvement program for mothers and children by NPO People's Hope Japan. In Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia from July 2016 to March 2023, and in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia from July 2023 to September 2024, the Company engaged in initiatives to promote health checkups for infants and pregnant women, regular education and training on nutrition and hygiene, and home-visit childcare support in collaboration with NPOs, local governments, local health centers, and communities.

In fiscal 2023, we conducted capacity-building training for 43 health volunteers, including former TBAs (traditional birth attendants), in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. The trained health volunteers provided health education to 765 local residents, and the health center staff provided health education to 1,450 local residents through outreach services for preventive vaccination. These efforts aimed to promote prenatal checkups, raise awareness of proper nutrition during pregnancy, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

### Support Program in Kampong Cham Province

Year	Trained health volunteers	Conducted home visits	Held cooking workshops	Developed or donated materials
2017	15	202 visits (antenatal 95, postnatal 107)	3 workshops, 93 participants	Original textbook to train health volunteers
2018	19	154 visits (antenatal 91, postnatal 63)	3 workshops, 93 participants	Original anime-textbook for local mothers (nutrition, healthy growth, dental health)
2019	55	648 visits (antenatal 350, postnatal 298)	5 workshops, 124 participants	Bicycles for health volunteers
2020	2	867 visits (antenatal 467, postnatal 470)	11 workshops, 310 participants	COVID-19 educational posters and pamphlets, masks, disinfectant solution
2021	5	1,061 visits (antenatal 591, postnatal 470)	33 workshops, 691 participants	Original anime-textbook for local mothers (nutrition, healthy growth, dental health)

Year	Trained health volunteers	Conducted home visits	Held cooking workshops	Developed or donated materials
2022	39	1,350 visits (antenatal 863, postnatal 487)	43 workshops, 1,315 participants	Development of baby food recipes for children under 2 years, nutrition training for health center staff, education on nutrition and cooking practice for local residents

## Support Program in Siem Reap Province

Year	Trained health volunteers	Educated pregnant women through outreach services	Educated local residents	Developed or donated materials
2023	43	35	2,215	Notebooks for maternal and child health volunteers, medical equipment, and more.



Ministry of Health staff training nutrition to health center staff



Baby food cooking practice and education on nutrition for children under 2 years

## Efforts for Creation of Universal Influenza Vaccine

For influenza, we are working on the development of a "universal influenza vaccine" that provide protection against a broad range of influenza viruses, through joint research with the National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition. In May 2024, the company initiated a Phase 1 clinical study of a universal influenza vaccine candidate formulation in Europe.

The joint research group, for the first time, has demonstrated that their novel universal influenza vaccine candidate formulations adjuvanted with the toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist, provide a strong protection against heterologous strains (cross-protection), elucidated the mode of action of the formulations, and indicated the significance of the TLR7 adjuvant. The research results have been published in the online edition of the international academic journal 'Vaccine'. This joint research has been selected as a general R&D-type project under the Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment (CiCLE) Program conducted by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

## Efforts for Eradication of Malaria

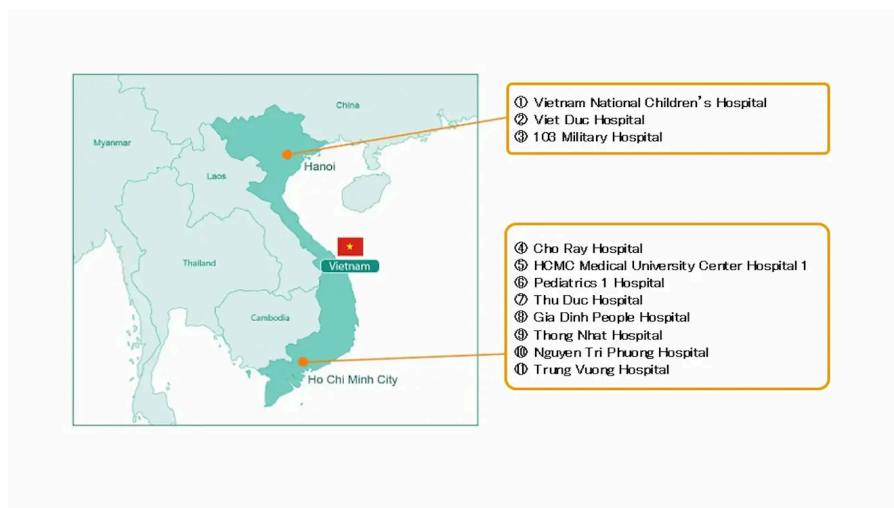
HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, the three major infectious diseases, are global problems that cannot be solved by one country alone and which need international cooperation to address them. Sumitomo Pharma is continuing collaboration with Ehime University, the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI), and Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnológica (iBET) on a vaccine to prevent clinical malaria, and with Ehime University and PATH in the United States on malaria infection-blocking and malaria transmission-blocking vaccines. Each of these projects has been selected for funding by the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund).

## Strengthening of Public-Private Collaboration on Countermeasures against Antimicrobial Resistance and Appropriate Use of Antibiotics

In recent years, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been recognized as a social problem requiring international initiatives. Sumitomo Pharma is conducting joint research with a drug discovery group of Kitasato Institute led by Dr. Satoshi Omura, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Kitasato University and the 2015 laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the purpose of creating drugs for the treatment of AMR infectious diseases. This joint R&D initiative has been selected by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) for its Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment (CiCLE) grant program. In January 2022, we started Phase 1 study in the U.S. for a new compound discovered through this collaboration for the treatment of carbapenem-resistant bacterial infections, which were completed in October 2022. In Vietnam particularly, it has been reported that the resistance rate to antibiotics of various gram-negative rods, typically *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Acinetobacter* spp., is especially high. In June 2019, as a partnership initiative with the ministry of Health of Vietnam, Sumitomo Pharma and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine jointly commenced an antibiotic susceptibility surveillance study in Vietnam in collaboration with major local hospitals in order to contribute to AMR countermeasures and promote the proper use of antibiotics in Vietnam. The study is a detailed cohort investigation into the development of resistance to the antibiotics used as a main treatment option for severe and intractable infections in Vietnam.



In 2020, we completed the data analysis of the 1st antibiotic susceptibility surveillance study, which covered 10 hospitals, reported detailed results and exchanged opinions with each hospital. In 2021, we presented the results at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) with the aim of widely disseminating our research results. In 2024, we completed the 2nd antibiotic susceptibility surveillance study, which covered 11 hospitals, including the establishment of a central laboratory to improve testing capabilities within Vietnam, and provide support for the establishment of a self-sustaining system.



Vietnam's 11 major hospitals participating in the 2nd surveillance study

## Participation in the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)

Through our participation in the GHIT Fund, we seek to improve access to medicines by exploring the possibility of utilizing our innovative drug discovery technologies to tackle neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and other diseases with significant unmet medical needs.