



As a top donor to the World Health Organization (WHO), Japan invested US\$ 234 million to support the Organization's work for the 2018-2019 biennium: US\$ 93 million as assessed contributions; US\$ 141 million as voluntary contributions; and maintained significant contributions to the contingency fund for emergencies (CFE) of US\$ 22 million. During the meeting between the WHO Director-General and Prime Minister Shinzō Abe at the 2017 UHC forum, Japan pledged 50% of its voluntary funding to universal health coverage (UHC) and about 40% of voluntary funds for emergencies. Japan second national staff at WHO and brings Japanese expertise to various technical committees.

## Global health as key to generating sustainable growth

Japan's presidency of the 2019 G20 Summit placed global health at the centre of sustainable economic growth and social equity, and convened the first joint meeting of Ministers of Health and Finance. The G20 Health and Development Partnership issued a call to invest in health innovation and deliver Sustainable Development Goal 3 and UHC by 2030. The country leads the political mobilization and works with WHO towards UHC.

## Maintaining a high level of contributions

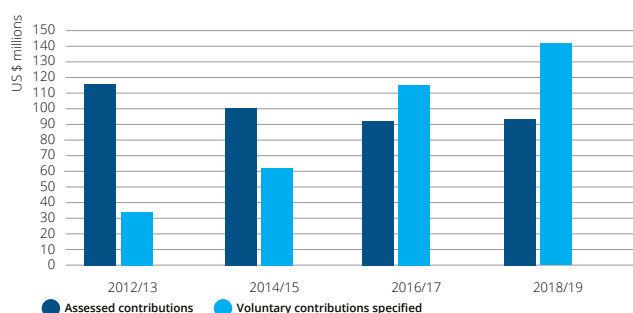
Japan has maintained a high level of voluntary contributions since the Kobe Communiqué (G7 Health Ministers' Meeting 2016). Joint priorities with WHO include: Global Health Architecture for Public Health Emergencies, UHC, ageing, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), dementia, and research and development. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries all contribute funding. Japan has been a pioneer on thematic funding for WHO, giving a degree of flexibility that allows WHO to be more effective and efficient in allocating funds to key priorities.

The WHO Centre for Health Development in Kobe brings together local and global initiatives, generates new research, builds evidence and capacity towards UHC and identifies best practices in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Health Regulations.

## Key funding facts

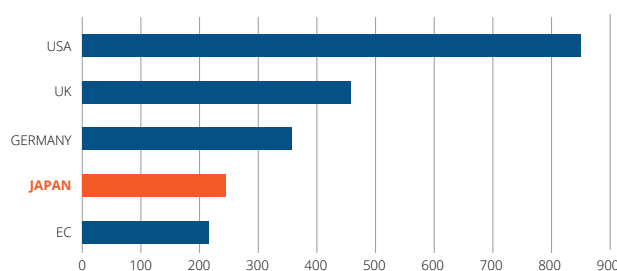
- Voluntary contributions for 2018-2019 increased from US\$ 115 million in 2016-2017 to US\$ 141 million – over one and a half times its assessed contributions of US\$ 93 million
- Japan was the second largest contributor to the CFE in 2018-2019 doubling its contributions from 2016-2017 to US\$ 22 million in 2018-2019
- Contributed US\$ 47 million (14% of total) thematic funds in 2018-2019, one of the top donors of softly-earmarked funds for the biennium

### Significant increase in contributions since 2012-2013



### Japan is the fourth largest governmental donor to WHO

2018-2019 Revenue, in US\$ million (CVC only)



**Disclaimer:** The areas of work and achievements shown below are a selection and not a comprehensive report of the use of contributions provided by Japan for 2018-2019. More information: <http://open.who.int/2018-19/contributors/contributor> and select 'Japan'. The budget portal reflects funds which were available for implementation during the biennium, while the overall financial information above reflects contributions of signed and recorded agreements during the financial period, some of which will be used in the future.

# Health funding in action

Japan leads the political mobilization and works with WHO towards UHC

## 1. Health systems strengthening / Universal health coverage (UHC)

Japan prioritizes strengthening health systems across the world, ensuring equity in access to health for all, protecting societies and saving lives.

UHC is a moral, economic and security imperative, driven by leadership. As WHO Director-General said at the 2019 G20 Summit hosted by Japan: “Health is a political choice”. Japan and WHO worked together closely at the UN high-level meeting on TB in 2018 and UHC in 2019. In the same year, the country also hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V11).

Mr Keizo Takemi, global health advocate and Member of Japan’s House of Councillors, was appointed as WHO ambassador for UHC.

### Impact highlights

- India and Kenya rolled out ambitious programmes to expand health care
- China, Egypt, and the Philippines adopted legislation to promote UHC
- Ukraine increased financing of primary health care
- Contributed towards availability of accessible, affordable medicines, which are key to UHC, through the prequalification of:
  - A life-saving drug for breast cancer
  - An Ebola vaccine critical for response efforts and
  - A biosimilar insulin for diabetics
- Egypt, Georgia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Rwanda were supported to scale-up their hepatitis response
- More hepatitis antivirals registered and approved, for low- and middle-income countries to:
  - Reduce prices of a full treatment to under US\$ 100
  - Strive for hepatitis C elimination
  - Include hepatitis medicines in health insurance schemes



Credit: WHO

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## 2. Global health emergencies

Japan supports WHO's crucial role in preparing for health emergencies and coordinating and implementing an effective response. Japan is the second largest donor to the contingency fund for emergencies (CFE) and has also provided considerable funding to emergency appeals through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' supplementary budget (US \$23 million in 2018; US\$ 19 million in 2019).

### Contingency fund for emergencies

#### Impact highlights

Japan's contributions enabled WHO to better respond to 58 health emergencies and investigate 500 events in 140 countries (66% were infectious outbreaks) including:

- Natural disasters such as Cyclone Idai in Mozambique
- Cholera outbreaks in war-torn Yemen
- Global outbreaks of measles
- Large-scale, protracted emergencies in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic
- Preventing the spread of Ebola from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Uganda

### Preparedness and response

#### Impact highlights

- Enhanced capacities through real-life simulations to test emergency response readiness in 125 countries
- Development of national action plans to respond effectively in 65 countries

The International Health Regulations (2005) constitute the only international legally binding framework for protecting against, and responding to, the international spread of diseases



Credit: WHO

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## 3. Ageing

Rapid population ageing is an unprecedented global phenomenon. As the world's leading aged society - people aged 65 and older in Japan, make up over a quarter (28%) of its total population. Japan has demonstrated many lessons for all countries to achieve healthy longevity.

Advocacy during the G20 Health Ministers Summit in Japan in 2019 strengthened the call for early action in preparation for population ageing. The Asia-Japan Week of Ageing also highlighted this priority.

Political commitment to healthy ageing has increased dramatically across all WHO regions. Countries have presented case studies, which will be featured in the upcoming Baseline Report on the new *Decade of Healthy Ageing* action plan.

### Impact highlights

- A total of 104 Member States have adopted a healthy ageing strategy
- WHO developed the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030), a global action plan, which aligns its aspirations with the SDGs. Over 89 Member States, across 6 regions, and 16 United Nations agencies and 300 non-state actors provided contributions
- WHO launched the Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE), an evidence-based package of tools for a person-centred model of care. The WHO African Region builds ICOPE capacity in 38 countries
- WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities - addressing barriers to the health and well-being of older people - expanded to 1 000 cities and communities in 42 countries
- Eight countries in the WHO Americas Region adopted the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons into their national law
- Pakistan raised funds for a project to Protect Rights of the Older with Disabilities (PROD) among the Afghan refugees in the country, demonstrating best practices related to older persons in humanitarian settings



Credit: WHO/Y. Shimizu

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## 4. Dementia

Japan considers dementia a public health priority. It helps strengthen data collection and enhances methodologies to improve the national response to dementia through the Global Dementia Observatory (GDO).

### Impact highlights

- Data-collection support provided to 100 Member States; training in 75 countries to strengthen national responses
- Fifty-three countries submitted GDO data, representing 61% of the world's population and covering all WHO regions
- Support to countries in measuring the progress of the Global Dementia Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025
- A dementia status report will mark the five-year anniversary of the First Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia, as well as an updated version of the GDO knowledge exchange platform, with improved design and more functionalities
- WHO, Kings College London in the United Kingdom and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, will publish a new methodology towards estimating dementia burden in 2020

## 5. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Japan supports WHO to safeguard vital medicines, helping the world stay safe.

Awareness and action to tackle AMR and protect the world from AMR is growing. Global efforts resulted in the establishment of the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR, the 2019 Ministerial meeting on AMR, and the launch of the Tripartite Multi-Partner Trust Fund, reinforcing WHO's position as the international authority on AMR.

Collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) aims to address key challenges for AMR in food production and animal welfare.

### Impact highlights

- National action plans to fight AMR were established in 135 out of 194 Member States, with 50 more country plans in development
- Implementation of country plans is being monitored through the annual Tripartite AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS) to which 159 countries have already responded (representing 92% of the global population)
- The Essential Medicines List - Access, Watch, Reserve (AWaRe) framework was launched to guide policy-makers on the optimal use of antibiotics to reduce resistance; 22 countries have adopted the AWaRe classification of antibiotics
- Eighty-nine countries have enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), with 66 countries providing resistance data collected from more than 9 000 surveillance sites—a three-fold increase since 2017, when only 23 countries submitted data on AMR
- World Antibiotic Awareness Week was recognized by over 100 countries, and 720 events highlighted the responsibility of individuals and institutions to safeguard the existing global supply of antibiotics



Credit: Amelia Mateos

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## 6. Research and development

The Health Product Profile Directory was launched in May 2019 by WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) to improve efforts to develop new products. The directory is a searchable database of product profiles for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other products, mostly for HIV, TB and malaria, as well as Ebola, Zika and Lassa. Work with the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership yielded results in new antimicrobials as well.

### Impact highlights

#### Ebola

- The first Ebola vaccine was prequalified in November 2019. Deployed a week after the August 2018 outbreak, this was the fastest ever vaccine prequalification process
- A trial, conducted during the previous Ebola outbreak, showed that two investigational treatment drugs can decrease mortality, especially if given early
- GeneXpert polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology was used in 11 laboratories to support patient care, surveillance, and research and development. Results were often available in 24 hours and national staff were trained in the diagnosis of Ebola virus disease. Laboratories were also equipped to diagnose other diseases

#### New antimicrobials

- A study on sepsis in newborns in 11 countries
- A new treatment for drug-resistant gonorrhea (now in phase III clinical trials)
- Monitoring the antibacterial and anti-tuberculosis pipeline annually against the global priority list of resistant bacteria; these bacteria pose the greatest public health threat and require urgent research and development efforts for new treatments
- Catalyzing innovative financing for research and development with partners such as the European Investment Bank



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WHO results report:  
**Driving impact in every country**