

Japan's Global Health Innovative Technology Fund secures \$20 M pledge from Wellcome

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GHIT Fund was formed between the Government of Japan, multiple pharmaceutical companies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



The Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund has secured a pledge from global charitable foundation Wellcome for GHIT Fund's third five-year plan, GHIT 3.0 (from FY2023 to FY 2027) of \$20 million (approximately 2.7 billion yen) over five years.

Since its inception in 2013, GHIT Fund has been investing in new drug development and portfolio management to contribute to global health, supporting Japanese technology and innovation to combat infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that affect the world's vulnerable and underserved populations.

In 2023, the 10th anniversary of its founding, GHIT aims to streamline and accelerate research & development for malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and other infectious diseases.

Professor Gordon Dougan, Director of Infectious Disease at Wellcome, said "Infectious diseases are one of the greatest health threats facing the world, with people in low-and-middle-income countries continuing to suffer the most from diseases such as TB, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases. The GHIT fund addresses this enduring gap by investing in product R&D and by leveraging scientific expertise and product development capabilities in Japan."

As of December 5, there are 61 ongoing projects, including 28 discovery, 20 preclinical and 13 clinical trials, including one project that has been submitted for regulatory approval, in the GHIT portfolio. The total amount invested since 2013 is 28.4 billion yen (approx \$204 million). GHIT Fund has 168 partners (58 domestic and 108 overseas) that have participated in product development to date, and the number of Japanese and overseas institutions has increased dramatically over the past 10 years.