

Introduction

Multi-sector partnerships in healthcare through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have de-risked Research and Development (R&D) investments aimed at addressing the medical needs of poorer populations. However, knowledge of access provisions within such PPPs remains minimal. The current study aims at examining provisions and strategies within PPP interventions focused on improving access to medicines in Low-and-Middle Income Countries (LMICs) for malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

Methods

A review was conducted through scrutiny of scientific and grey literature to map interventions and partnerships aimed at malaria and NTDs. The access strategy within such partnerships were mapped along with the provisions included to improve availability and affordability in LMICs using the Access framework from Frost and Reich.

Results

A total of 67 articles targeting PPPs for increasing access to medicine for malaria and NTDs in LMICs were shortlisted. Donation programs have been successful in increasing availability, but sustainability remains a major issue (n=17). Co-development and licensing, and pooled procurement strategies have enhanced availability, affordability and adoptability of treatments (n=11), although distribution mechanisms need strengthening. Supply chains led by non-profit organizations have been more successful in supplying medicines at a lower cost than private groups. Early negotiation of licensing and pricing agreements in the clinical development pipeline for manufacturing and technology transfer were limited. Increasing cases of collaborations between stakeholders based in the Global South (south-south partnerships) were also observed (n=2).

Conclusion

PPPs have increased access to medicines. However, supply chain strengthening and increased global south collaborations can further enhance access.

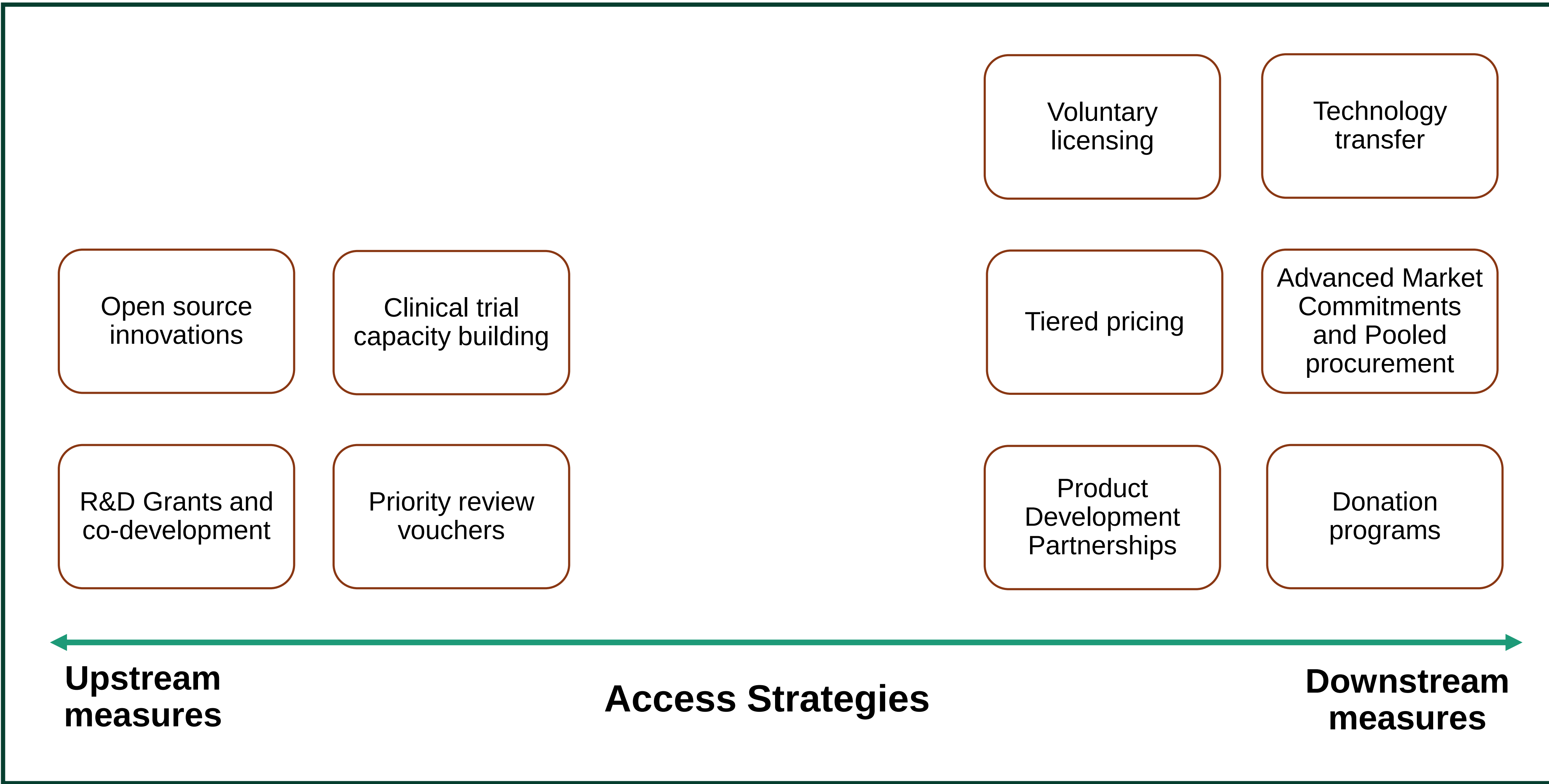


Fig. 1 – Overview of Access mechanisms employed in PPP interventions for malaria and NTDs

¹Institute of Interdisciplinary Innovation in healthcare (I3h), Université Libre de Brussels, Belgium
Email: asangith@i3health.eu