UNITAID: Contributing to the HIV response

UNITAID is engaged in finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV more quickly, more cheaply and more effectively.

- 36.9 million people were living with HIV in 2014, of whom 2.6 million were children.
- 2 million people newly infected in 2014.
- 34 million have died from AIDS-related causes since the 1980s.

Some of our interventions include:

Prevention
- UNITAID funds programmes that test pregnant women for HIV and provide those who are HIV+ with effective treatment to prevent transmission to their babies.
- We are planning investments to improve market shortcomings and support early-adopter countries of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the chances of acquiring HIV for those at substantial risk.

Testing
- $23 million to speed access to self-testing tools for HIV in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- $63 million to enable access to optimized early-infant-diagnosis testing in 9 high-burden African countries.

Treatment
- $400 million to create a healthy market for child-friendly HIV medicines.
- $173 million to make new paediatric HIV treatments available for infants.

Monitoring
- More than $140 million to expand access to centralized and point-of-care diagnostic products for monitoring viral load.
What next?
UNITAID’s grant portfolio for HIV forms the largest part of the organisation’s work. Current planned investments and future calls for proposals will ensure continued commitment to fighting this pandemic.

Some of our partners
Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), Expertise France, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), Lawyers Collective, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Médecins sans frontières (MSF), UNICEF.

HIV is a virus that weakens the immune system. It kills the white blood cells that protect the body from disease. When the immune system becomes so compromised that the patient can no longer fight off infections, they are said to suffer from AIDS.
HIV is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids — blood, semen, or breast milk — of an infected person. It can be transmitted through unprotected sex, transfusions of contaminated blood, sharing needles, or from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.