ACT-A Emergency Oxygen Taskforce Milestones

February 2021 - February 2022

2021

February

• Unitaid announces the ACT-A Oxygen Emergency Taskforce

March

• The Global Fund includes oxygen in their COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)
• EBC releases Open Letter appealing to LMIC decision-makers to leverage ACT-A funding for oxygen supplies
• PATH launches the A202 Resource Library, funded by Unitaid and a grant from BMGF

April

• PATH, CHAI, and EBC release the COVID-19 Oxygen Needs Tracker 2.0 (with costing) as part of the COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project, funded by a grant from BMGF
• EBC launches the Oxygen Crisis “Risk List” to highlight LMICs at risk of shortages
• WHO profiles medical oxygen in “Science in 5”
• WHO launches guidance tools to support oxygen cylinder safety, medical gas piping safety, and fire mitigation
• PATH procures $US5 million of oxygen equipment (cylinders, accessories, pulse oximeters, etc.), funded by Unitaid
• PATH and CHAI request proposals for procurement and supply of oxygen cylinders and accessories to Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia, funded by Unitaid

May

• The Global Fund announces $US75 million oxygen support to India
• EBC releases social medical campaign “ACT-A Oxygen Stories” beginning with UNICEF in Madagascar
• UNICEF announces $US182 million grant from the Canadian Government to finance COVID-19 treatments via UNICEF’s COVID-19 ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility (SFF)
• EBC launches Oxygen Plant “Find & Fix List”
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Financing Guidance to LMIC Health Ministers
• WHO hosts webinar, “Bridging the Gap Between Oxygen Needs and Technical Solutions”
• Save the Children announces new support to Nepal including more than 1,000 oxygen concentrators and other critical oxygen equipment, funded by The Global Fund
• BMGF provides grant financing for oxygen plants in India, with a focus on the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
• UNICEF launches Request for Expressions of Interest for Oxygen System Service Contractors

June

• Unitaid and CHAI announce landmark agreements with medical gas giants Air Liquide and Linde
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Stories about World Bank in Tajikistan, Global Fund in India, and Save the Children in Nepal
• Unitaid and EBC publish oxygen commentary in The Independent
• Unitaid launches Access to Oxygen Social Media Campaign
• The Global Fund releases an Oxygen Crisis Infographic and announces 33% of C19RM health products awards are for oxygen
• CHAI partners with Afrox to supply oxygen to Zambia, funded by Unitaid
• ACT-A profiles oxygen in “The Accelerator” newsletter
• EBC and Access to Medicine Foundation co-host the third Access to Medical Oxygen Roundtable and publish report
• UNICEF supports the procurement of $US8.5 million worth of oxygen equipment to 29 LMICs, funded by UNICEF’s ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility (ACT-A SFF)
• UNICEF expands its global oxygen technical team to support 45 countries with oxygen planning, procurement, product delivery, and programmatic use

July

• The Global Fund approves $US135 million in oxygen and oxygen-related products and tools to 25 low- and lower-middle income countries and encourages countries to consider liquid oxygen in their funding requests
• EBC releases G20 Oxygen Statement
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Stories with WHO in Somalia and UNOPS in Nepal
• i+solutions issues Request for Proposals for oxygen suppliers and equipment, funded by The Global Fund
• WHO publishes Technical Consultation on Oxygen Access Scale-Up for COVID-19
• PATH releases *Sub-Saharan Africa Respiratory Care Equipment Distributors* report and the *Oxygen Generation and Storage* series brief as part of the *COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project*, funded by a grant from BMGF
• CHAI supports Cameroon to develop a five year oxygen plan and the procurement of oxygen concentrators, respirators, pulse oximeters, PSA plants, and cylinders, funded by Unitaid
• WHO released a *draft revision* to the International Pharmacopoeia affirming the safety of medical oxygen 93% generated by Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) and Vacuum Swing Adsorption (VSA) technology
• UNICEF releases Request for Proposals for *Oxygen Generation Plant Repairs and Biomedical Engineering Services*

**August**

• The Global Fund approves ~$US40 million in oxygen and oxygen-related products and tools to 18 low- and lower-middle income countries and reports that oxygen continues to represent a high percentage (21%) of awarded funding - ~$US412 million
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Story with *PATH in Tanzania*
• i+solutions issues Request for Proposals for the supply of oxygen plants and medical oxygen solutions, funded by The Global Fund
• PATH releases *Respiratory Care Equipment Procurement Options* brief as part of the *COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project*, funded by a grant from BMGF

**September**

• EBC and the Platform for Civil Society and Community Representatives to ACT-A co-host *“Africa Oxygen Briefing”*
• National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) in Nigeria issues an *Invitation to Tender* for oxygen plant optimization in government hospitals, funded by The Global Fund
• US Government hosts *Global COVID-19 Summit* announces $US50 million for oxygen support as part of the “Save Lives Now” agenda
• UNICEF secures long-term agreements (LTAs) with two global suppliers for the procurement of PSA plants and accessories
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Story with *CHAI in Zambia*
• UNICEF supports the procurement of $US8.9 million worth of oxygen equipment to 48 LMICs, funded by UNICEF’s *ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility* (ACT-A SFF)
• UNICEF adds PSA plants to the *UNICEF Catalogue* and sends the first *Oxygen “Plant-in-a-Box”* to Uganda
• The Global Fund reports that it has awarded $US163.5 million for new PSA plants and $US60 million for liquid oxygen

**October**

• EBC and Unitaid co-host “Oxygen and the Pandemic, a briefing for Offices of UN Ambassadors”
• Access to Medicine Foundation releases Fortune article, “*With COVID patients gasping for breath, it’s time to close the oxygen gap*”
• EBC and CDDEP co-host “*The Global Oxygen Crisis*”
• WHO publishes interim guidance on *WHO Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for medicinal gases*
• EBC letter campaign to select G20 Foreign Ministers and Departments
• PATH releases *Business Models in Respiratory Care* as part of the *COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project*, funded by a grant from BMGF
• The Global Fund reports it has awarded $US477 million for oxygen and clinical care-related products representing 15.5% of overall health product C19RM spend
• WHO releases an updated *draft revision* to the International Pharmacopoeia affirming the safety of medical oxygen 93% generated by Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) and Vacuum Swing Adsorption (VSA) technology

**November**

• EBC publishes *Project Syndicate* article calling for G20 to invest in oxygen via the ACT-Accelerator
• EBC launches ACT-A Oxygen Story with *BHI and WHO in Guinea-Bissau*
• BMGF announces grant funding to *Build Health International* to repair broken oxygen plants in LMICs
• CHAI supports oxygen training for hospital staff across five cities in Ecuador, funded by Unitaid funding
• CHAI supports the procurement, installation, and logistics for PSA plants and cylinders in Ethiopia, with Unitaid funding
• CHAI launches oxygen training for hospital staff from 13 regions in Zimbabwe, with Unitaid funding
• UNOPS provides an oxygen plant and training for *Kite Teaching Hospital, Zambia*, with financing from UNICEF
• The Global Fund releases a new *Strategy (2023-28)* which includes an Evolving Objective to support countries to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, pandemics
• UNICEF strengthens oxygen systems in 22 countries, with $US4 million of Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) funds

December
• EBC releases Oxygen Statement to Development Ministers
• USAID announces a further $US75 million for additional support for USAID’s Rapid Response efforts which includes investment to help strengthen oxygen market systems to improve reliable oxygen production and delivery
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Story with CHAI and Unitaid in Uganda
• WHO launches guidance and checklists for care, cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of respiratory devices
• PATH supports Malawi’s release of their first National Oxygen Roadmap as part of the COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination project, funded by a grant from BMGF
• CHAI supports oxygen and piping to 11 government hospitals and trains staff in seven hospitals in pulse oximetry and oxygen, funded by a grant from BMGF and Unitaid
• Access to Medicine Foundation releases new Strategic Direction 2022-26, including research and engagement to incentivize medical oxygen companies to bridge oxygen gaps for underserved facilities and vulnerable populations
• The Global Fund reports $US489 million awarded for oxygen and clinical care-related products representing 15.3% of overall C19RM health product spend
• i+ solutions issues Request for Proposals for Oxygen Supplies and Equipment, funded by The Global Fund
• WHO launches video training series on biomedical use, corrective, and preventative maintenance
• CHAI supported a situational analysis of oxygen therapy across 515 health facilities and 15 oxygen plants across nine provinces of DRC, funded by Unitaid
• CHAI supports the procurement and installation oxygen cylinder manifolds and piping across 11 facilities in Rwanda, funded by Unitaid
• UNICEF supports the procurement of $US12.5 million worth of oxygen equipment to 68 LMICs, funded by UNICEF’s ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility (ACT-A SFF)
• UNICEF installs first Oxygen Plant-in-a-Box in Soroti Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda, funded by UNICEF’s ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility (ACT-A SFF) and UK Aid

2022
January
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Story with PATH in Zambia
• CHAI releases Request for Proposals to improve medical oxygen infrastructure across ~12 hospitals in Guatemala and Ecuador, funded by Unitaid
• UNICEF calls for Expressions of Interest from biomedical engineers and/or medical oxygen program experts-for a Roster of Consultants

February
• African CDC and EBC issue a Statement on Access to Medical Oxygen in Africa for the African Union - European Union Summit, with the support of Unitaid, WHO, UNICEF, and the Global Fund
• CHAI supports the government of Cambodia to finalize a one-year Oxygen Preparedness Plan covering all aspects of oxygen systems, funded by a grant from BMGF and Unitaid funding
• EBC releases ACT-A Oxygen Story with CHAI in Nigeria

For the past year, the ACT-A Oxygen Emergency Taskforce has worked closely with many partners and would like to specifically acknowledge the ACT-A Facilitation Council CSO representatives, the ACT-Accelerator Coordination Hub, the ACT-A Communities and Civil Society Platform, ACT-A Therapeutics Pillar leaders and CSO representatives, Friends of the Global Fight, and the Unitaid Board NGO representatives for their strong support of the ACT-A access to oxygen agenda.

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