

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 [A2O2 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 [~\\$U40 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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