

UNITAID

INNOVATING FOR UNIVERSAL  
HEALTH COVERAGE



 **Unitaid**  
Innovation in Global Health

**To achieve universal health coverage, we must innovate, innovate, innovate. We need affordable medicines that cure faster and are easier to administer. We need diagnostic tests that can identify many diseases at a time at lightning speed. We need one-stop care for multiple conditions: tuberculosis treatment in HIV clinics, malaria prevention wrapped into maternal services, and so on. Universal health coverage presents an immense and complex challenge, but through the power of partnerships we can make it a reality.**

## **UNITAID'S WORK ON THE VANGUARD OF HEALTH INNOVATION**

Unitaid is an international organization that turns great ideas into groundbreaking global health solutions. It goes about this by piloting the most promising inventions and approaches from the worlds of science and medicine, then working with countries and large funding partners such as PEPFAR, USAID, and the Global Fund to introduce them on a sweeping scale in lower-resource countries. The innovations range from affordable, accessible medicines and diagnostic tools to prevention measures.

Unitaid's work is highly collaborative. It coordinates closely with countries, with communities, with the World Health Organization, and with the 127 partner organizations involved in implementing US\$ 1.3 billion in Unitaid investments all over the world.



# SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES, FILLING GAPS

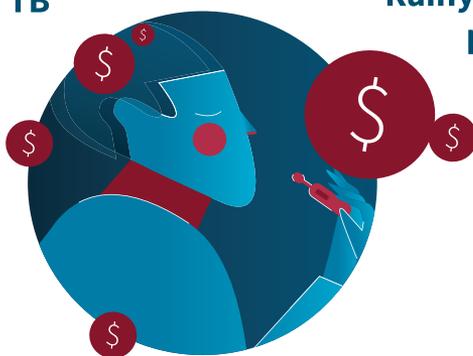
Since its start in 2006, Unitaid has focused on bringing new weapons into the fight against some of the world's most pressing public health challenges. In 2015, Unitaid set about introducing affordable HIV self-testing in Africa; the market for self-testing kits was virtually nonexistent in low-income countries. Today, as the result of Unitaid's investments, 32 countries are piloting self-testing programs. In 2016, Unitaid introduced the world's first child-friendly TB medicine, which is now being used in more than 100 countries. In 2018, Unitaid demonstrated that 18 million pediatric malaria cases could be avoided in the Sahel region of Africa through a few doses of oral medication per child. Countries and partners have taken that result and are widely introducing the preventive medicine.



**Child-friendly TB  
drugs**

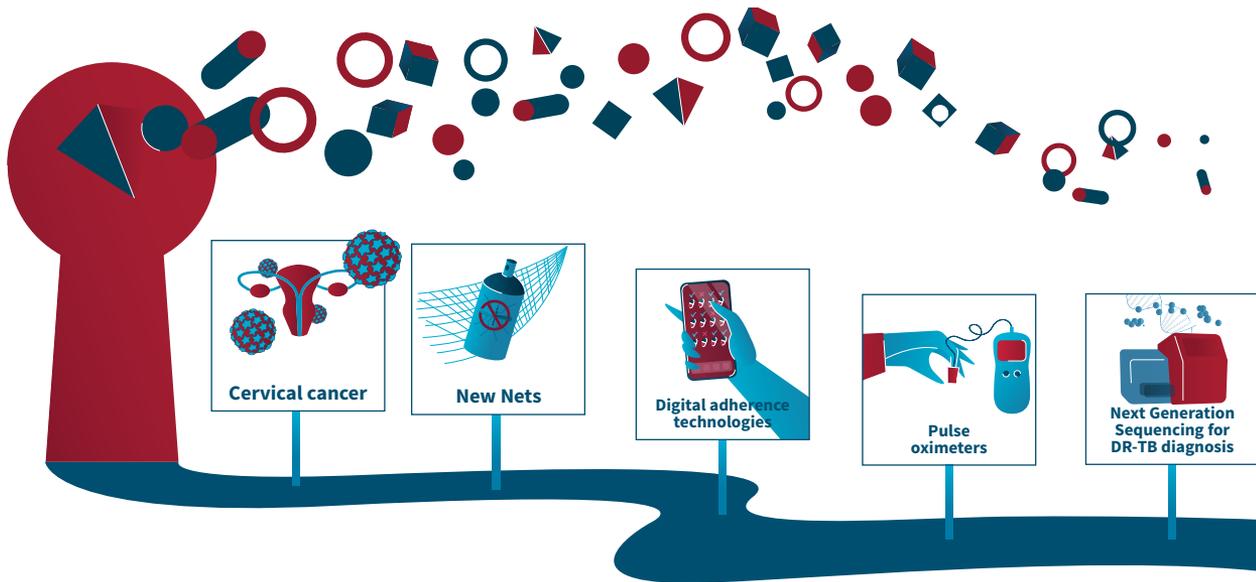


**Rainy season malaria  
prevention**



**HIV self-testing**

Drug-resistant forms of TB, HIV and other diseases are bringing illness, death and financial ruin to many thousands of people and are a threat to every country. In response, global health organizations are forming a united front to stop the advance of drug-resistant microbes. Unitaid's role is to find and bring in innovative drugs, tests and prevention methods to help tackle superbugs. More than 60 percent of the organization's investments are dedicated to projects that fight antimicrobial resistance. Unitaid also invests heavily in innovations to eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitoes that are resistant to insecticides.



Unitaid’s work is supporting the global drive toward universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The bulk of the organization’s projects support new ways to integrate health services—a streamlining seen as essential to meeting the those aims.

Unitaid investments are funding new initiatives to:

- Avert cervical cancer. One-dollar screen-and-treat solutions using artificial intelligence aim to fend off this major killer of HIV-positive women.
- Protect people from malaria in sub-Saharan Africa with new-generation insecticide-treated nets.
- Use mobile technology and “smart” pillboxes to help patients adhere to long TB treatments.
- Equip primary health care workers with easy-to-use devices to measure oxygen in the blood so they can better identify severely ill children.
- Pilot a powerful new technology for TB diagnosis. Next-generation gene sequencing provides fast, accurate diagnosis of drug-resistant TB, helping clinicians prescribe the correct medicine from the outset of treatment

## UNITAID

Global Health Campus  
 Chemin du Pommier 40, 5th floor  
 1218 Grand-Saconnex - Geneva, Switzerland  
 Tel: +41 22 791 12 00

**[unitaid@who.int](mailto:unitaid@who.int) | [www.unitaid.org](http://www.unitaid.org)**

Follow us on Twitter @UNITAID

Unitaid is a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization

