

# Better, faster and affordable health innovations

The case for investing in Unitaid

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It was devastating for me as a mother to find out that my child could not access HIV treatment – until paediatric formulations, supported by Unitaid, came and gave hope to mothers and our children. Thanks to Unitaid’s interventions, more people know their status, have access to treatment and prevention. It is vital to invest in Unitaid if we want to see an end to HIV, TB and malaria.

**Maurine Murenga,**  
Board Member, Communities

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Unitaid works with people and communities affected by key diseases to ensure that innovative health solutions are fit for purpose, affordable and rapidly available for those who need them.

**Unitaid was founded<sup>1</sup> 15 years ago by Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom to battle growing inequities in health.**

**For over 15 years, Unitaid has identified game-changing health innovations and ensured better, faster and affordable access to them.**

**Unitaid's investments in health innovations speed up the overall HIV, TB and malaria response by more than three years.**

Unitaid does this in response to some of the most pressing health challenges facing the world today – HIV, TB and malaria, but also hepatitis C, cervical cancer, fever management, and reproductive, maternal and child health. Unitaid is also a leader in the global fight against COVID-19 under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)<sup>2</sup>.

Health innovations are essential to save lives and to achieve health-related Sustainable Development Goal 3. But they do not automatically become available everywhere they are needed, particularly in low resource settings – this is where Unitaid comes in. For over 15 years, Unitaid has identified game-changing health innovations and ensured better, faster and affordable access to them. Thanks to Unitaid, affected people and communities in low- and middle-income countries today have access to the best ever HIV treatments; the first ever child-friendly TB and HIV medicines; effective malaria prevention tools; and powerful screen-and-treat solutions for cervical cancer – all at affordable prices.

With quicker access, Unitaid's investments in health innovations speed up the overall HIV, TB and malaria response by more than three years. Health products we have supported reach more than 100 million people every year and are projected to save between US\$5 and US\$6 billion dollars between now and 2030.

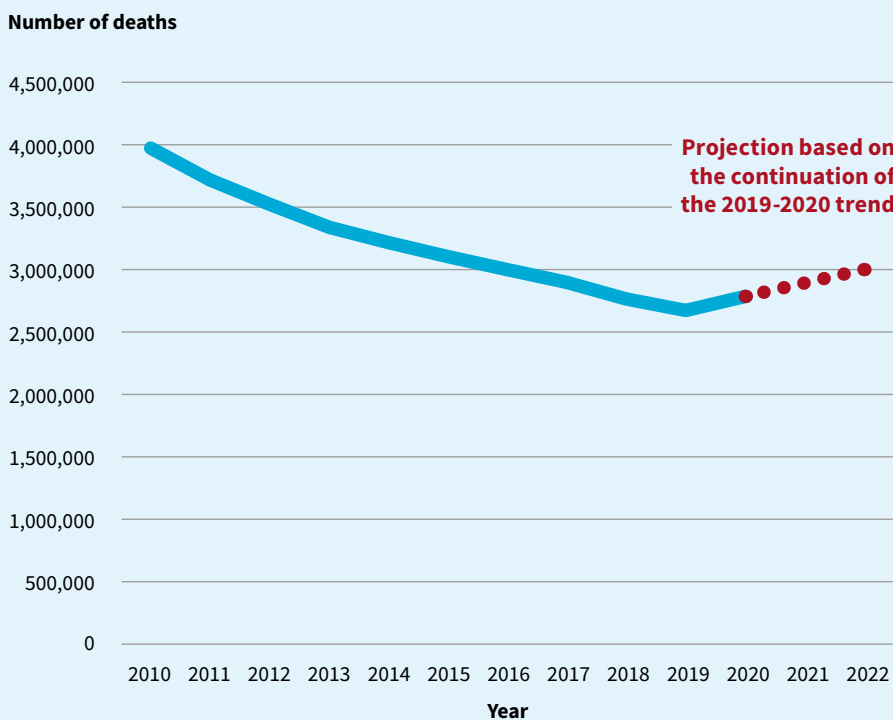
Under our new 2023-2027 strategy, Unitaid will deliver at least 30 more ground-breaking and life-saving health innovations by 2030 and ensure that they are available to people and communities who need them. To do so, Unitaid needs US\$1.5 billion for 2023-2027. This represents less than 1% of the total investment needed in HIV, TB and malaria over the next five years, yet will turbocharge the impact of the remaining 99% invested.

- 1 Today, Unitaid's donors are Brazil, Chile, France, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As part of Unitaid's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and leadership of ACT-A, the organization received additional resources from Canada, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Wellcome.
- 2 The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. Unitaid is the co-lead of the ACT-A Therapeutics Pillar and of the Oxygen Emergency Task Force and supports the Diagnostics Pillar.

# A world off-track...

Today, the world needs Unitaid more than ever. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic upended global health efforts, progress towards global health targets was slowing. Now, hard-fought gains against diseases such as HIV, TB and malaria have stalled and in some cases even regressed, with infections and deaths increasing. Unless a major push is made to reverse the slide, the world will not reach the goals of ending these pandemics by 2030, putting millions of lives at risk.

## Annual deaths from HIV, TB and malaria\*



**Progress towards global health targets is reversing**

\*Source: Estimates from the World Health Organization and UNAIDS.

# Broad access to innovations is essential...

# ...but access to health innovations does not happen by itself.

All global health challenges, old and new, have demonstrated the essential role and power of innovation in addressing these challenges. Unless innovation reaches everyone everywhere with better, easy-to-use and affordable tests and treatments, diseases will continue to spread unchecked.

Billions of dollars are spent each year developing critical new health products. Yet they do not automatically reach those who need them most, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. This is why Unitaid was created.

## As we navigate one pandemic and prepare for the next...

Unitaid has stepped up to the global challenge of COVID-19 by co-leading the **Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Therapeutics Pillar** and the **Oxygen Emergency Taskforce** and by supporting the **Diagnostics Pillar**, to enable low- and middle-income countries to get access to – and make use of – new and life-saving medicines, oxygen and diagnostics for COVID-19.

The way we work – enabling properly tested, effective and easy-to-use health innovations to rapidly reach those who need them, usually at a fraction of their original price – is essential to addressing old and new pandemics, making Unitaid a central tool in the world's arsenal to tackle the next pandemic.

US\$  
**7.9**  
Million

Medicines delivered

US\$  
**187**  
Million

Oxygen supplies delivered

# Unitaid works in partnership to ensure better, faster and affordable access to health innovations for all

**Over the past 15 years, Unitaid has led the way and identified game-changing health innovations and ensured better, faster and affordable access to them for those who need them.**

We do this in partnership with affected people and communities, global health agencies, developers, regulators and implementers and by addressing a number of critical access factors. This includes: working with the Medicines Patent Pool<sup>3</sup> on securing voluntary licenses for quality medicines to create generic markets that drive down prices and increase supply; generating relevant evidence and overcoming regulatory hurdles so products are ready to use and rapidly available; negotiating cost reductions; addressing supply and manufacturing bottlenecks so products are available in the right quantities; and determining how best to deliver products so they can reach as many people as possible as quickly as possible.

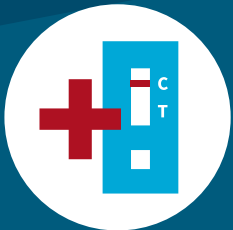
<sup>3</sup> The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) is a Unitaid-backed international organization which aims to lower the prices of life-saving medicines through voluntary licensing and patent pooling.

# 5 ways Unitaid has made a difference



## Developing better products

Until recently, caregivers had to manually break bitter-tasting TB tablets meant for adults into small pieces for children. Thanks to Unitaid and our partners, the first child-friendly TB medicine is now available in 116 countries.



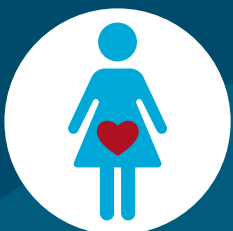
## Simplifying care

Approximately one-fifth of people living with HIV do not know their status. Thanks to Unitaid and our partners, self-testing for HIV has recently become widely available, offering a means to test at home and in privacy, and helping millions of people receive a diagnosis and access care.



## Reaching those most at risk

Children under five account for over 75% of malaria deaths globally. Thanks to Unitaid, and our partners, children now have access to effective and cost-effective malaria prevention tools, which are helping to prevent more than 100,000 deaths per year.



## Advancing women's health

300,000 women die of cervical cancer each year. Unitaid is leading the way in a global effort to eliminate the disease by creating access to a one-stop-shop solution offering affordable and quality screening and treatment services.



## Bringing products faster and more affordably

Thanks to Unitaid, the best available HIV treatments were introduced in low- and middle-income countries only three years after their introduction in high-income countries, a process that can otherwise drag on for up to a decade. The treatments are available at prices as low as US\$60 per person per year – at least 200 times less than in many high-income countries.

# An ambitious new strategy

**This year, Unitaid will launch our strategy for 2023-2027. Under the new strategy, Unitaid will continue to ensure key health innovations become available to people and communities who need them.**

Unitaid will also increase efforts to create lasting conditions for equitable, sustainable access to health innovations, and foster inclusive partnerships for innovation, where communities and countries that need these solutions are part of developing them. The strategy is designed so that Unitaid can help reverse the setbacks of the past two years and achieve the goals the world has set for health under Sustainable Development Goal 3.

## **A reinforced partnership to speed up the HIV, TB and malaria response:**

To better meet the needs of people and communities and to improve disease outcomes, Unitaid and the Global Fund, building on ongoing collaborations between both organisations and other partners, are reinforcing their longstanding partnership to further speed up the introduction and scale-up of life-saving new health innovations.

**The strategy enables Unitaid to help reverse the setbacks of the past two years and achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.**

# US\$1.5 billion for an equitable health response

**With an investment of US\$1.5 billion over five years, Unitaid will deliver dozens of advances – including at least 30 game-changing and life-saving health innovations by 2030 – allowing people everywhere to enjoy the benefits of highest quality health products.**

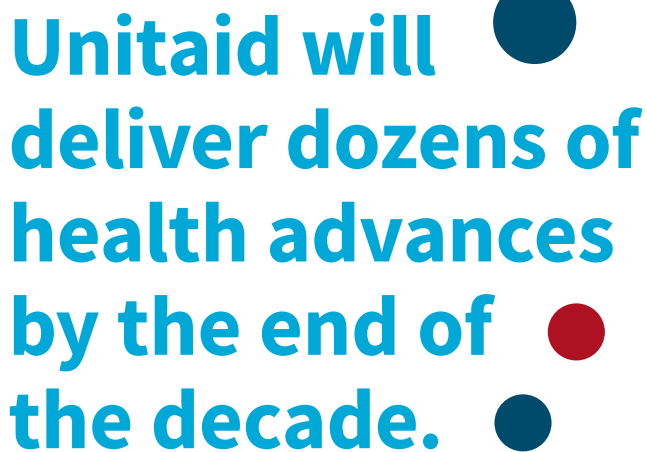
The 30 innovations encompass front-runner prevention technologies for HIV and co-infections, including innovative delivery mechanisms such as long-acting injectables and implants. They cover a number of new HIV, TB and malaria formulations for children, and simpler, more effective TB prevention and treatments for adults. There is also a significant focus on prevention, testing and screening tools, to prevent or ensure early treatment of hepatitis C, cervical cancer, deadly conditions during pregnancy and birth, as well as for HIV, TB and malaria.

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Thanks to Unitaid, more people across Africa have access to the best HIV treatments at a fraction of the original price. Young children have been cured of TB with high-quality formulations that are easy to administer. Millions of young people are better protected against malaria through large-scale seasonal delivery of medicines, an approach that has dramatically reduced child mortality without raising costs.

**António Guterres,**  
UN Secretary General





**Unitaid will deliver dozens of health advances by the end of the decade.**



**30 innovations by 2030**

### **Better health for women and girls**

One third of Unitaid's work supports projects that impact the health of women and girls. Looking to the future, Unitaid aims to continue to deliver critical health interventions that improve the lives of women and girls. These include investments to prevent and treat post-partum haemorrhage and pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, leading causes of maternal mortality, that can save tens of thousands of lives each year.

### **Revolutionising care**

An adult living with HIV can expect to take more than 12,000 pills over their lifetime. When medicines are taken incorrectly, their effectiveness is compromised, leading to illness, disease transmission, drug resistance and even death. Unitaid's investments in long-acting formulations aim to deliver health tools in formats such as patches or injections that can last weeks or months, thereby freeing people from daily regimens of pills, reducing fear of stigma or discrimination and improving adherence, all while revolutionising the prevention and treatment of some of the world's most deadly diseases.

### **Preventing malaria and resistance**

Existing prevention tools are failing to reduce malaria fast enough to reach global targets by 2030 and to stop growing resistance against the most commonly used prevention tools. Unitaid is investing in a host of new vector control tools that are estimated to deliver a reduction in malaria by more than a quarter by 2030 and help mitigate resistance.



**Our health innovations will reach hundreds of millions of people over the next five years**

People who will never be infected with HIV because of prevention approaches we advance, children and communities that are protected by better malaria-control tools, people who will not just survive drug-resistant TB, but thrive, and women who will not die from preventable complications during childbirth or from cervical cancer.

# Our impact



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Unitaid is a triple win for global health – saving lives, time and money – building a more effective and efficient response.

**Marisol Touraine,**  
Chair of the Executive Board, Unitaid

## Our investments speed up the overall HIV, TB and malaria response by more than three years

We estimate that without innovations, achieving the same reduction of deaths from HIV, TB and malaria would take at least 3 more years.<sup>4</sup>

## Our work saves billions of dollars

Unitaid-supported health products are projected to save between US\$5 and US\$6 billion dollars between now and 2030, which can be reinvested into other health services.

<sup>4</sup> With reference to the projections developed by the Global Fund for their 2024-2026 investment case.

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