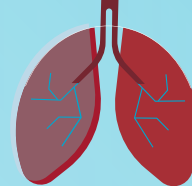




UNITAID & MEDICAL OXYGEN



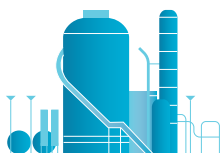
Oxygen is an essential medicine for the treatment of many conditions affecting newborns, children, and adults – including pneumonia, the world's biggest infectious killer of children under 5 years, and severe COVID-19.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) had significant gaps in access to medical oxygen and pulse oximeters – essential portable devices that can detect low oxygen in blood. Challenges for accessing safe and affordable oxygen are multiple and can range from availability, quality, affordability, management, supply, human resources capacity and safety.

With up to **US\$ 130 million of investments to address global inequities in access to oxygen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to expand access to pulse oximeters adapted for children**, Unitaid is spearheading progress through its work on market shaping (improved affordability, increased production capacity and accelerated equipment delivery times), technical support and capacity building.

As chair of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Oxygen Emergency Taskforce since its launch in February 2021, Unitaid is driving the multilateral oxygen support effort which has **mobilized an unprecedented US\$ 1 billion to expand sustainable oxygen access in LMICs**.

MAJOR ADVANCES



OXYGEN NEEDS ASSESSMENTS:

As part of broader partner efforts to assess the oxygen needs of over 100 countries and access funding available through the Global Fund, the World Bank and other partners' funding mechanisms, Unitaid's investments directly supported the assessment work in 51 countries.

SECURED PRICE REDUCTIONS FOLLOWING UNPRECEDENTED AGREEMENT WITH GAS INDUSTRY:

Thanks to Unitaid's leadership, agreements with two major gas companies, Air Liquide and Linde Group, were successfully brokered securing price reductions of 22% for liquid oxygen, and about 43% for cylinders and cylinder filling, paving the way for long term agreements for access to liquid oxygen.

With this agreement, 15 tanks for bulk liquid oxygen for LMICs were reserved and countries such as Zambia and Ghana were able to meet surge demand across several hospitals. These price reductions alongside other market shaping activities are enabling other scale-up partners to secure increased access with the same funding levels.

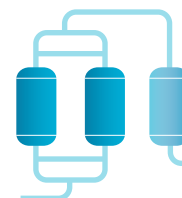


RAPID ACCESS TO MEDICAL OXYGEN IN LMICS DURING COVID-19 SURGES:

Unitaid quickly made provision for flexible financing which has been key to ensuring rapid access to medical oxygen during COVID-19 surges and avert many preventable deaths. More than US\$ 15 million in emergency supplies were procured, delivering nearly 30,000 cylinders, 2,000 concentrators, more than 5,000 pulse oximeters and 3 PSA plants for oxygen production, to 33 countries.

A GLOBAL REPAIR COORDINATING MECHANISM ACROSS FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTERS:

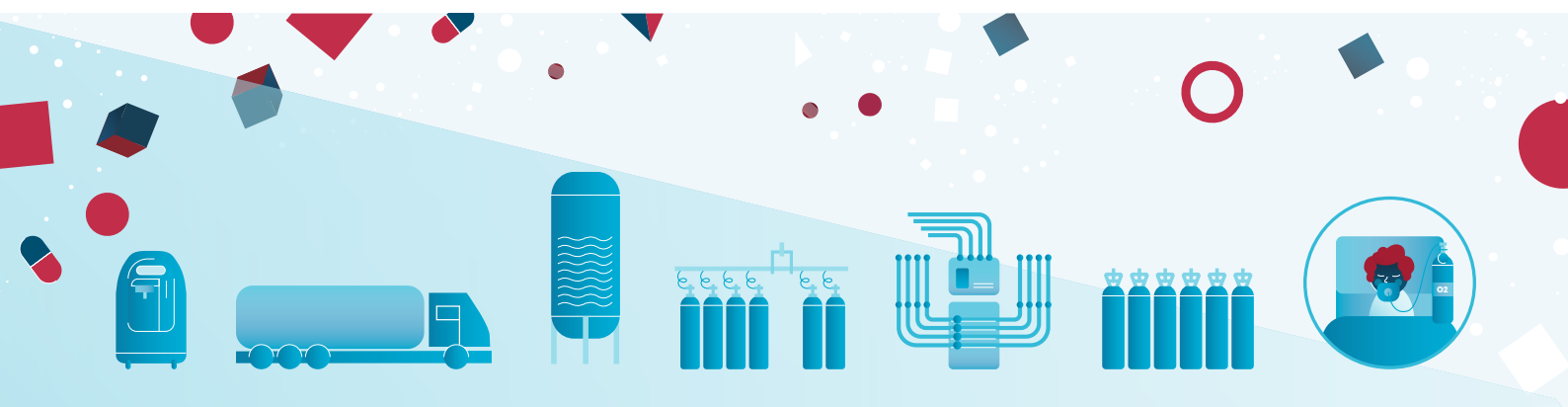
A global PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) oxygen generator tracker was established to track broken plants in real-time and identify key investment gaps, allowing for streamlined interventions in oxygen systems repairs.



OUR PROJECTS

Unitaid's investments are currently supporting work to secure sustainable access to oxygen through a comprehensive and coordinated portfolio, specifically aiming to:

- Procure and supply respiratory care equipment, working in partnership with ministries of health in 51 low- and middle-income countries
- Ensure sufficient oxygen supply by installing oxygen production plants and piping systems, repairing oxygen infrastructure and equipment, and distributing oxygen cylinders
- Support governments to assess their needs, develop national oxygen strategies, guidelines, protocols and roadmaps to increase oxygen access in support of the COVID-19 response
- Establish and coordinate global and national-level market interventions to catalyze donors and long-term sustainable financing for medical oxygen
- Strengthen clinical programmes for appropriate use of medical oxygen and enhance capacity of groundwork staff including training biomedical engineers, nurses, and clinicians to guarantee reliable oxygen supply and adequate oxygen delivery
- Promote the adoption and scale-up of pulse oximeters in primary health care by piloting pulse oximetry and fever management to identify and refer critically ill children to hospitals across nine low and middle-income countries
- Accelerate multimodal device market entry for next generation pulse oximeters with great potential to improve screening for various illnesses and reduce maternal and child mortality
- Advance improved non-invasive ventilation strategies for newborns and oxygen concentrator technologies



GRANTEES AND PARTNERS

This work is delivered in close collaboration with our partners and grantees, who include the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), PATH, the World Health Organization Health Emergencies Programme (WHE), Partners In Health (PIH), Vayu Global Health, the [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology EPFL/EssentialTech Centre](#), and many additional partners who support implementation.

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 the ACT-Accelerator, the organization received additional resources from Canada, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Wellcome.

Unitaid is a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization.