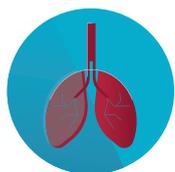


UNITAID AND TUBERCULOSIS

Unitaid is the world's largest multilateral funder of tuberculosis research and development. Its growing list of TB investments are tackling strains of the disease that are resistant to treatment, introducing formulations for children and cutting-edge prevention for the most vulnerable, including people living with HIV.



WHAT IS TB?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that spreads through droplets in the air. When people with TB cough, sneeze, spit, or even just speak, they can propel TB bacteria into the air and infect others. In 2018, an estimated 10 million people worldwide fell ill with TB, and 1.5 million died. TB is the top infectious disease killer worldwide.



WHAT IS DRUG-RESISTANT TB?

Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) does not respond to the two most powerful anti-TB drugs. **Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)** responds to even fewer TB drugs. It has been reported in 117 countries.



OUR PROJECTS

Unitaid is intensifying its commitment to end TB. Today's US\$ 250 million in TB projects is on track to hit about US\$ 300 million by end of 2020. TB is curable and preventable when patients have access to the right tools and treatments.

CONFRONTING DRUG RESISTANCE:

The **endTB project** received a US\$ 21 million boost from Unitaid in September 2018 to expand its research into treatment regimens for MDR-TB. The expanded project includes a new clinical trial on XDR-TB. Partners In Health leads endTB with Médecins Sans Frontières and Interactive Research & Development. Unitaid's total support for endTB stands at US\$ 81 million.

TB PREVENTION FOR HIGH-RISK GROUPS:

The Aurum Institute in South Africa leads a US\$ 59 million **IMPAACT4TB project** to expand short-course preventive TB therapy for HIV-positive people and children under five. The project takes place in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

PROTECTING CHILDREN:

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation's **CaP TB project**, funded by a US\$ 36 million Unitaid grant, is reaching undiagnosed children by integrating TB screening with HIV, maternal, and paediatric health services. The project includes nine African countries and India.

In 2019, Stellenbosch University and Unitaid signed a US\$ 18.9 million grant to develop child-friendly treatments and preventive therapy for MDR-TB. The **BENEFIT Kids project** spans South Africa, India and the Philippines.

MORE ACCURATE TESTS:

Université de Bordeaux is leading an effort to widen the availability of childhood TB diagnosis using fast tests that can be performed even in small remote clinics. Supported by a US\$ 15 million Unitaid grant, the **TB-Speed project** spans six African countries and Cambodia.

The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) leads a US\$ 14.5 million project to pilot genome sequencing for a faster, more accurate diagnosis of drug-resistant TB. The **Seq&Treat project** is being implemented in Brazil, China, Georgia, India and South Africa.

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TECHNOLOGIES TO HELP PATIENTS SUCCEED IN TREATMENT:

The KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation leads a US\$ 13.9 million **ASCENT project** to increase the use of smart pillboxes and mobile technology, aiming to help patients complete their treatments and raise the cure rates for TB. The initiative, implemented in partnership with The Aurum Institute, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and PATH, runs in five countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Unitaid's **LONGEVITY project** with University of Liverpool will develop long-acting versions of medicines for latent TB. Long-acting formulations can deliver medicines in formats such as patches or injections that can last weeks or months, freeing people from daily regimens of pills.

COLLABORATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO):

A US\$ 11.6 million **enabler grant** from Unitaid supports the Global TB Programme as it works to improve the diagnosis and treatment of paediatric, latent and multidrug-resistant TB in high-burden countries. Data from Unitaid's projects is helping shape new WHO guidelines.



MAJOR ADVANCES

CHILD-FRIENDLY MEDICINES TO ADDRESS NEGLECTED CHILDHOOD TB:

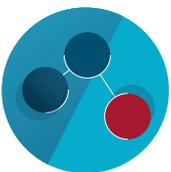
The first high-quality, affordable, properly-dosed, good-tasting TB medicines for children were developed through the Unitaid-funded **STEP-TB project**, with partners TB Alliance and WHO. They are now available to children in more than 80 countries.

FASTER DIAGNOSIS IS KEY TO FIGHTING TB:

Unitaid invested US\$ 30 million to boost the **use of GeneXpert®**, a machine that can diagnose TB, including drug-resistant varieties, in 90 minutes. Common practice has been to culture TB bacteria from a patient's sputum with TB drugs, which takes up to eight weeks and sometimes yields inaccurate results.

MAKING TB PREVENTION SAFE & AFFORDABLE:

Unitaid's IMPAACT4TB project with the Aurum Institute has shown that 3HP, a WHO-recommended regimen for TB prevention is safe when co-administered with DTG, an effective first-line HIV drug. In 2019, Unitaid and partners also negotiated **a groundbreaking 66% price discount** for 3HP, a deal that will broaden access to this lifesaving treatment.



INVESTMENT AREAS

- Widen access to short, affordable high-quality treatments for multidrug-resistant TB. Standard MDR-TB regimens are long, complicated, expensive, toxic and often ineffective.
- Help speed up the adoption of TB treatment for children using the Unitaid-supported paediatric formulations that were launched in 2015. TB is a leading cause of death in children, yet childhood TB is often treated with substandard medicines, if at all.
- Invest in helping vulnerable groups access shorter preventive TB treatment and improve diagnostic approaches for TB in children. Small children and people living with HIV are at high risk of developing active TB.

Unitaid's current main funders are France, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Norway, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Unitaid is a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization