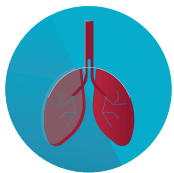


# TUBERCULOSIS

Unitaid is the world's largest multilateral funder of tuberculosis (TB) research and development. Our investments focus on improving treatments for drug-susceptible and drug-resistant strains of the disease, developing, and introducing medicine formulations to treat children, and cutting-edge preventive treatment for the most vulnerable populations, including people living with HIV. New investments launching in 2022 will advance diagnostic tools to find, treat and cure more people with TB globally.



## WHAT IS TB?

**Tuberculosis (TB)** is a bacterial infection that causes more deaths each year than any other infectious disease besides COVID-19 in the past two years. It spreads through the air when a person with TB coughs, sneezes, spits, or even speaks. The bacteria can live in a dormant state in a person's body for years before developing into active disease. Drug-resistant strains of TB are a growing problem making treatment significantly more complicated, toxic, and costly. About one-third of all cases of antimicrobial resistance are from TB.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on TB efforts worldwide with disruptions and delays in services leading to an increase in deaths from TB for the first time in over a decade.



## MAJOR ADVANCES

**Vital medicines that form the backbone of TB programmes across the world today would not be widely accessible without Unitaid's support.**

## CHILD-FRIENDLY MEDICINES TO ADDRESS NEGLECTED CHILDHOOD TB:

Unitaid funded the development of the first high-quality, affordable, properly dosed and good-tasting TB medicines for children. These **formulations, which are now available in more than 116 countries** accounting for 75% of the child TB burden, have transformed TB treatment for the most vulnerable and helped save countless lives.

## FASTER DIAGNOSIS IS KEY TO FIGHTING TB:

**Unitaid secured a 40% price reduction** to grant low- and middle-income countries access to a ground-breaking TB diagnostic technology that enabled faster and more accurate TB detection. This reduced the amount of time required to identify drug resistance to under two hours, compared to up to two months through previously employed methods. Today, 130 countries procure millions of these test cartridges every year at the lower rate negotiated by Unitaid and partners.

## MAKING TB PREVENTION SAFE & AFFORDABLE:

**Unitaid and partners negotiated a nearly 70% price reduction** for more effective TB preventive therapy that cut treatment to once a week for three months, from daily medicines for six to nine months. In addition, Unitaid and partners showed that this new regimen, called 3HP, is safe to administer in combination with DTG, the first-line HIV treatment, helping to surpass UN targets for TB prevention amongst people living with HIV. Unitaid is also working to make an ultra-short one-month preventive treatment, called 1HP, more accessible to all people in need.



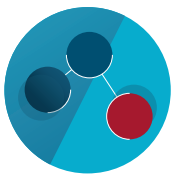
## OUR PROJECTS

**TB is preventable and curable when people have access to the right tools and treatments. With US\$ 240 million currently invested and more to come, Unitaid is working to ensure people everywhere can benefit.**

### **Our current projects are supporting global efforts to end TB:**

- Researching more effective, affordable, shorter, and less toxic treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant TB
- Improving access to more effective TB prevention regimens for high-risk groups including people living with HIV and young children
- Reaching more children at risk of TB infection through optimized integration of services
- Developing child-friendly medicine formulations to treat and prevent MDR-TB
- Implementing genome sequencing technologies to diagnose drug-resistant TB more quickly and accurately
- Improving technology and tools to enable TB diagnosis and treatment for children
- Introducing new technologies that help patients succeed in treatment, including smart pillboxes and mobile apps that issue reminders
- Developing long-acting medicine formulations to prevent TB that free patients from daily pill regimens
- Contributing valuable evidence compiled through Unitaid projects to shape WHO guidance and improve care for people worldwide

The innovative products and strategies demonstrated through Unitaid's work enable partners like the Global Fund and USAID to scale-up these tools and approaches globally.



## GRANTEES

This work is delivered in close collaboration with our partners and grantees, who include: the Aurum Institute, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), FIND, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Partners in Health (PIH), Stellenbosch University, Université de Bordeaux, University of Liverpool, and the World Health Organization (WHO), and many additional subgrantee partners.

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Unitaid is a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization.