

# UNITAID ON THE CUTTING-EDGE: LONG-ACTING MEDICINES TO TRANSFORM HIV CARE



Safe and effective daily oral medicines are available to prevent and treat HIV and key opportunistic infections including tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis C, but when they are not taken consistently, medicines fail, illness spreads, and the risk of drug-resistance increases.

With more than US\$115 million invested or in the pipeline, Unitaid is at the forefront of efforts to advance long-acting technologies that could radically change the way millions of people affected by infectious diseases worldwide receive care.

## UNITAID'S INVESTMENTS ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN

### INNOVATION



Academia, research institutes, PDPs, industry, affected communities and users

### ACCESS



WHO, MPP, industry, regulators, implementing partners, civil society, communities

### UPTAKE



Countries, scale-up partners, WHO, implementing partners, in-country research-based organizations, civil society, communities

LONG-ACTING HIV TREATMENTS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

INJECTABLE PREP (LONG-ACTING CABOTEGRAVIR)

LONG-ACTING TB PREVENTION

DAPIVIRINE RING FOR PREP

SINGLE-SHOT HEPATITIS C CURE

LONG-ACTING OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY\*

\*Investment currently under review

ACCELERATING ADVANCES THROUGH POLICY GUIDANCE, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SHARING AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



## INNOVATION: ACCELERATING LONG-ACTING MEDICINE DEVELOPMENT

Unitaid is funding the development of long-lasting products to advance care for some of the most challenging threats to global health. Products include:

- Injectable combination dolutegravir **treatment for HIV** lasting between one and three months as well as wearable patches to deliver **HIV medicines to children**
- **TB prevention** medicines that could replace daily oral regimens with one or two shots
- A single-injection **cure for hepatitis C**

Through the **Center of Excellence for Long-Acting Therapeutics (CELT)**, Unitaid funds a unique international research consortium to repurpose existing medicines into slow-release formulations fit for use in low-resource settings. As part of the **Global Accelerator for Pediatric Formulations Network (GAP-f)**, Unitaid works to advance other long-acting medicine delivery technologies for children.



## ACCESS: BUILDING EQUITABLE PATHWAYS

In coordination with key stakeholders, Unitaid is advocating for equitable access to emerging products – notably, long-acting PrEP. This work supports a robust and sustainable pathway of affordable, sufficient, and generic supply of products, including through the Unitaid-funded Medicines Patent Pool and CHAI.

By including provisions for access and voluntary licensing in all product development related to these technologies, Unitaid has ensured resulting products will be able to reach those in need without delay.



## UPTAKE: REVOLUTIONIZING PREVENTION

**The latest long-acting technologies create choice in HIV prevention for those at greatest risk of infection.** Unitaid's pioneering investments in South Africa and Brazil are working to develop delivery models to reach people at high risk with cutting-edge prevention technologies that will pave the way for broader implementation.

- **Injectable cabotegravir:** this ground-breaking innovation in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) provides an alternative to daily pills with just six injections a year.
- **Dapivirine ring:** the first completely woman-controlled HIV prevention method provides a valuable additional layer of protection, especially for adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa, who experience a disproportionate burden of infection.

**To reduce the risk of hepatitis C and HIV infection,** Unitaid is reviewing potential future investments to increase uptake of a long-acting harm-reduction medicine that reduces opioid cravings to help curb drug use and subsequent disease transmission.

## ENABLING RAPID AVDANCES FROM START TO FINISH

Unitaid work supports end-to-end processes to help promising innovations clear the various hurdles on their path to wide-scale use. Cross-cutting investments supporting the World Health Organization (WHO) enable the development of policy guidance and supply of quality-assured products, while other efforts help improve local, generic production of key products and knowledge sharing to advance global health efforts.

## PARTNERS AND GRANTEES

This work is delivered in close collaboration with our grantees, who include: the Medicines Patent Pool, WHO, the University of Liverpool, University of Washington, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Foundation for Scientific and Technological Development in Health (FIOTEC), Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, and many additional partners supporting implementation including involvement of civil society and affected communities.

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Unitaid is a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization.