Saving lives faster.

Unitaid saves lives by making new health products available and affordable for people in low- and middle-income countries. We identify innovative treatments, tests and tools, help tackle the market barriers that are holding them back, and get them to the people who need them most – fast.

Since we were created in 2006, we have unlocked access to more than 100 groundbreaking health products, from the latest HIV treatments to the first-ever medicines for children with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) to next-generation mosquito nets to protect families from malaria. Every year, more than 300 million people in low- and middle-income countries benefit from the treatments, tests and tools we've helped roll out.

Addressing today's health challenges

In a world faced with rising health challenges, our solutions are needed more than ever.

COVID-19 contributed to the deaths of nearly 25 million people and reversed progress toward global health goals, and it's only a matter of time before we're faced with the next pandemic. Hotter temperatures and changing rainfall patterns caused by climate change are pushing

300 million people use Unitaid-supported health products every year

100+ groundbreaking products introduced since 2006

Our approach helps reach global health targets three years faster

US$8 billion in savings by 2030

diseases like malaria into new communities. Tuberculosis, HIV and malaria still kill 2.7 million people each year and are becoming increasingly drug-resistant, making them harder to treat. Rising inequalities are blocking access to lifesaving health products for the world's most vulnerable people, meaning millions continue to suffer and die from preventable, treatable illnesses.

To save lives and protect people from deadly diseases, governments, industry and global health partners must develop and roll out new health products faster than ever before.

Photo: Children holding some of the first appropriately dosed, child-friendly pediatric TB medicines funded by Unitaid. © TB Alliance

Why Unitaid?

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred the development of medical innovations, including vaccines, diagnostics, mRNA technologies and monoclonal antibodies. However, more advanced products are often expensive, putting them out of reach for most low- and middle-income countries. Medical advances also rarely prioritize the health needs of the poorest and most marginalized, who already lack access to many existing treatments.

Unitaid was created to help address this inequality. We fulfil a unique and vital role in the global health ecosystem, bridging the gap between the scientists, researchers and companies that make health products and the organizations, governments and health workers that deliver them. Our unique blend of technical expertise and agility allows us to identify effective health products, fast-track their development, and help make them accessible quickly and affordably. A joint study with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria showed our approach helps accelerate progress towards HIV, TB and malaria targets by more than three years.

How we work

We focus on addressing some of the world's biggest health challenges: HIV, TB and malaria; women's and children's health; and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. We also invest in cross-cutting areas that strengthen health systems, including improving access to medical oxygen, increasing regional and domestic manufacturing of health products, addressing the health impacts of climate change, and contributing to the global target of universal health coverage.

We work with a broad range of partners, starting with the countries and affected communities who identify challenges and potential solutions, and the researchers and companies creating innovative new products. Through innovative financing solutions like volume guarantees, we lower prices for those products and help get them to market and to those who need them most. Together with implementing partners, we introduce these health products to low- and middle-income countries while overcoming the various barriers that people may face in being able to access them. Then we collaborate with governments and leading global health organizations like the Global Fund and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to take those products and best practices to scale. Reduced prices and greater efficiencies that come with the products we deliver are projected to generate more than US$8 billion in savings by 2030 – much-needed funding that can be reinvested elsewhere.

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Unitaid supports countries to scale up innovations that save lives. By working to make sure innovations do not get stuck on their path to scale-up, the entire global health system benefits from Unitaid's model.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General, World Health Organization

How we work

Identify health challenges

We work with countries, communities and health agencies to identify challenges that are slowing progress towards global health goals.

Find potential solutions

We work with partners to find promising new health products and solutions.

Invest in innovative products

We work with implementing partners to address market barriers to get the new product to the people who need it.

Test effectiveness

We work with countries, implementing partners and communities to make sure the product works for people in the real world.

Use evidence for policy change

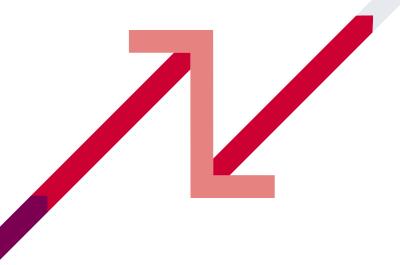The WHO uses evidence from our investments to create policy and guidance so that the product can be used more widely.

Scale up

We partner with donors, countries, communities and health agencies to take the products to scale so people everywhere can benefit.

We are also a key player in global health alliances. Together with the Global Fund and Wellcome, we co-led the Therapeutics Pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, a groundbreaking partnership to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments. We also convened the Oxygen Emergency Taskforce to increase supply and availability to lifesaving medical oxygen during the pandemic. In 2023, we joined more than 20 leading health partners and representatives from communities to launch the Global Oxygen Alliance (GO$_2$AL), which we co-chair with the Global Fund, to continue this critical work to boost access to medical oxygen.

Founded in 2006 by Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom and hosted by the World Health Organization, our current donors have grown to include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Portugal and Spain.

Groundbreaking solutions

We have helped bring to market more than 100 of the most groundbreaking health products since our creation in 2006, then worked with partners to bring them to scale worldwide, including:

- **All first-line medicines for HIV, including dolutegravir, the most effective and affordable treatment to date**
- **Diagnostic testing machines for TB, which can be adapted to test for other pathogens – including COVID-19**
- **HIV self-tests, a critical tool to increase diagnosis and treatment of people with HIV**
- **Easy-to-use thermal ablation devices to treat pre-cancerous cells to prevent cervical cancer**
- **Seasonal malaria chemoprevention, a preventative treatment that now protects 45 million children a year**

Without our interventions, millions more people would be at risk of illness or death from preventable and treatable diseases.

Looking ahead

But more needs to be done. To accelerate progress toward the health targets in the Sustainable Development Goals, we're already looking ahead and supporting the latest game-changing health products in development: front-runner prevention technologies for HIV and coinfections, innovative delivery mechanisms including long-acting injectables and implants, new HIV, TB and malaria treatments for children, advanced screening and testing for cervical cancer and more. At Unitaid, we help make sure those new products make it to the people who need them most, so we can save lives. Faster.

Unitaid
SAVE LIVES FASTER