



## Resolution R17-2021-e

### **Increase to the budget for the COVID-19 Emergency Oxygen Response with funding authorizations for CHAI and the WHO Health Emergencies Programme**

Recalling Board Resolution R5-2021-e, as amended by Resolution R9-2021-e, through which the Board confirmed its support for Unitaid’s engagement in accelerating and catalyzing access to medical oxygen in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (the “Emergency Oxygen Response”) and authorised the Secretariat to initially commit up to US\$ 20 million; and

Recognising the urgent need for additional investments in medical oxygen for LMICs, in order to respond to increasing demand for access to oxygen, driven in particular by new COVID-19 variants, as well as Unitaid’s capacity to respond rapidly to this demand by leveraging existing agreements with partners in the oxygen response; the Executive Board hereby approves the increase of the budget for the Emergency Oxygen Response to US\$ 40 million.

Referring to a Request for Proposals launched by the Secretariat seeking proposals for projects aimed at: *“Enhancing access to COVID-19 test, isolate care and treatment innovations within healthcare systems in LMICs”* and acknowledging the submission by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (“CHAI”) of a proposed project entitled ‘Enhancing access to COVID-19 test, isolate, care and treat interventions within healthcare systems in LMICs’ (the “Project”);

Acknowledging the Secretariat’s further requests, in line with the current priorities of the ACT-A Emergency Oxygen Task Force, to:

1. CHAI to expand the oxygen component of its proposed Project, targeting immediate work on accelerating access to medical oxygen; and
2. The World Health Organization Emergencies Programme (WHO/WHE) to expand, through an enabler arrangement, its emergency commodity sourcing and procurement capabilities for oxygen products and services; and

Noting the recommendations of the Secretariat and the Proposal Review Committee (PRC) in this respect, the Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to commit further additional funding to the Emergency Oxygen Response through CHAI and WHE, as follows:

1. Up to US\$ 10 million for a 12-month duration to CHAI, to implement immediate market and demand-side work on accelerating access to medical oxygen;
2. Up to US\$ 10 million for a 12-month duration to WHO/WHE, to expand its emergency commodity sourcing and procurement capabilities for oxygen products and services.

The Executive Board authorises the Secretariat to go-ahead with the development of full grant agreement packages for each of these Projects. Funding is subject to the satisfactory review of the grant agreement packages by the PRC, together with the availability of funds from within the US\$40 million Board-approved budget for the Emergency Oxygen Response and the signature by the Executive Director of a legal agreement with each of CHAI and WHO .



Marisol Touraine  
Chair of the Unitaid Executive Board

Date: 14 July 2021