

Unitaid and France:

Partners for innovation in global health

A pioneer in supporting innovative strategies to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) in health, France is a key player in global health and an essential partner of Unitaid.

France initiated the creation of Unitaid in 2006 and remains its largest donor, with a cumulative contribution of two billion euros. This demonstrates its commitment to promoting innovation to transform responses to major global health challenges.

With a shared vision and strategic investments, we work together to ensure equitable access to health innovations for all, especially the most vulnerable populations.

Unitaid saves lives by making health products accessible, available, and affordable for people who need them most – fast. We identify challenges that are

slowing progress towards global health goals, find and invest in innovative products and solutions, address the market barriers that are holding them back, and then work with countries and partners to take them to scale so people everywhere can benefit.

Unitaid's key results:



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 from reduce prices and greater efficiencies

Photo: In Rwanda, a health worker explains cervical cancer screening to women who now have access to essential preventive services, December 2022, Kigali, Rwanda. © Unitaid





I know the value of Unitaid’s work because I’ve lived it. I remember what it was like to get diagnosed with HIV and not have access to medicines. To not have treatment for my newborn child. Access is a right. And Unitaid helped make that right a reality for countless people in low- and middle-income countries.

- **Maurine Murenga**,
Kenyan activist and former Unitaid Board member

Photo: A woman performs an HIV self-test in Ivory Coast as part of the Unitaid-funded ATLAS project, which distributed nearly 400,000 HIV self-testing kits in Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal. © Solthis



Common ambitions to meet today’s and tomorrow’s challenges

In a world facing increasing health challenges, Unitaid’s innovative solutions are more necessary than ever.



They align with the core priorities of France’s global health strategy for 2023–2027.

Intensifying the fight against infectious diseases

Innovation is essential to end epidemics globally. Unitaid has enabled access to more than 100 revolutionary health products to combat the deadliest infectious diseases. The results are evident: more lives saved and over three years gained towards achieving targets in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

More innovations are needed to end these diseases. As drug-resistant pathogens become more numerous, infections become more challenging to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread. Over 60% of our investments are dedicated to fighting antimicrobial resistance, one of the most severe global public health threats.

Game-changing products supported by Unitaid:



HIV medications: Dolutegravir already treats more than 24 million adults and children in over 128 low- and middle-income countries.



New dual-action insecticide-treated mosquito nets, up to 50% more effective, now protect about 200 million people annually from malaria.

Seasonal malaria chemoprevention saves over 100,000 lives annually.



Innovative thermal ablation devices are now available in 28 low-resource countries to combat cervical cancer.



Prevention, preparation, and response to public health emergencies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Unitaid played a leading role in the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global initiative launched by France, the World Health Organization, and other partners. By co-leading the Treatments pillar and market-shaping activities of the Diagnostics pillar, Unitaid showcased its expertise and essential role in the rapid introduction of new health products. Together with France and its partners, Unitaid will continue to ensure equitable access to vital diagnostic tools and treatments, such as medical oxygen and monoclonal antibodies, while contributing to establishing sustainable regional production models.



Strengthening regional production

Leveraging its access expertise, Unitaid plays a crucial role in creating favorable conditions for regional production of quality health products at affordable prices. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Unitaid, in partnership with FIND, facilitated technology transfer between a rapid diagnostic test producer and DIATROPIX of the Pasteur Institute in Dakar, enabling the production of quality products in Senegal. Unitaid is currently mapping high-potential health products and local producers to support the establishment of regional markets and strengthen local actors' technical capacities.



Taking action for climate and health

Climate change is a fundamental issue due to its profound impact on diseases, populations, and health systems. The climate-health interface is an integral part of Unitaid's strategy, with three priorities: **1)** making health products greener by ensuring their manufacturing, distribution, and use have minimal environmental impact, **2)** introducing health products that are more resilient and better adapted to climate change, and **3)** reducing the carbon footprint of the organization and its investments, in line with the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

A multifaceted partnership with French actors in global health

Since its creation in 2006, Unitaid has benefited from the excellence of French global health expertise, working with various French actors such as universities and research institutes like INSERM and ANRS Infectious Diseases, development agencies like Expertise France, and civil society organizations. To date, Unitaid has collaborated with 17 French operators, allocating funding for the implementation of twelve projects worldwide, including Solthis, Médecins du Monde, the University of Bordeaux, and others.

These strengthened strategic partnerships demonstrate our shared commitment to overcoming global health challenges.

SUCCESS Project: Unitaid and its partners committed to women's health

With USD 30 million in funding from Unitaid, this project seeks to implement the most effective screening and treatment tools for cervical cancer prevention among at-risk women, particularly those living with HIV. Following a successful first phase in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guatemala, and the Philippines, SUCCESS II, co-financed by Unitaid and Expertise France via the Initiative, with five million euros each for 2024–2026, will be implemented in six new countries: Guinea, Benin, Burundi, Togo, Cameroon, and Ghana, with local, French, and international partners.

Strategic partnerships drive access to health innovations for the most vulnerable

Equitable access to health innovations is a priority for Unitaid, and our work complements the efforts of numerous global health actors.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is a crucial partner of Unitaid. France is also a founding member of the Global Fund and one of its main contributors. France’s support for both organizations highlights their complementarity, with Unitaid’s actions maximizing the Global Fund’s impact. While we make innovative health products more effective, better suited, and affordable, the Global Fund and countries scale them up.

The World Health Organization (WHO) plays an essential role in introducing innovative health products by ensuring that our projects’ results and scientific data are quickly translated into global recommendations or guidelines for national public policy implementation to meet population needs. Thanks to Unitaid’s targeted funding, WHO has accelerated the publication of over 60 new recommendations or policy guidelines.

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), founded by Unitaid in 2010 and supported by France, enables better access to new treatments for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis C through non-exclusive voluntary licensing to facilitate generic drug manufacturing.



To overcome today’s health challenges, we must move faster and be more innovative than ever before. Unitaid is leading the way by finding the most effective new health products and solutions to address the challenges that are holding us back. This is why France is proud to be one of Unitaid’s founding supporters.

- **Emmanuel Macron**, President of the French Republic

Case study: Collaborating for great impact

When the innovative drug dolutegravir (DTG) was approved, we brought together partners, including the Medicines Patent Pool, companies, researchers, communities, and scale-up partners like the Global Fund, to ensure that DTG was affordable and accessible to all people living with HIV who needed it—three times faster than previous treatments.



The Global Fund/David O’Dwyer (photo of the man), The Global Fund/Joubert Loots (photo of the woman)