



**UNITAID AT 10:
INNOVATION
IN GLOBAL HEALTH**



THE ROLE OF UNITAID AND WHY IT MATTERS

Turning the tables on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is one of the biggest favours the world has done itself in a generation. While the three global health pandemics are far from over they are clearly in retreat. Progress since the turn of the millennium has been remarkable and beyond the dreams of even the most optimistic health experts.

Deaths from HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria have halved from 6 million a year in 2000. This turnaround was no accident. It was spurred by visionary political leadership, galvanising a big increase in funding and a surge of innovation that have brought about a dramatic increase in availability of effective new treatments.

Unitaid, often working behind the scenes with its partners since its creation 10 years ago, has been at the centre of this success story. Innovation is written into Unitaid's genetic code.

More than half of its funding comes from a tax on airline tickets levied by 10 countries. The leap in fundraising has given the countries more resources to invest in health. Falling drug prices, better diagnostic tools and a steady improvement in delivery systems, all driven by a laser-like focus on innovation, have done the rest.

Unitaid invests in developing and unlocking markets for health innovations so that they become widely accessible. We do this by funding the final stages of research and development of drugs.

We also help to design guidelines for their use; to conduct operational research; and to break down intellectual property barriers. With the support of Unitaid funding, a new medication or public health technology can reach markets in developing countries quickly at an affordable price.

Once health commodities have been made affordable through Unitaid's work, institutions like the Global Fund and PEPFAR can give countries the support they need so they can tap those commodities.

Bill Gates once summed up Unitaid's role like this: "They look at all the different medicines that are being used for the diseases of the poorest, particularly malaria, HIV and TB and they go and think about: How could the prices be brought down? Or is there a paediatric formulation that's missing?"

Making the best drugs affordable and accessible is a big part of the global success story of the past 15 years in rolling back diseases. Also at the core of Unitaid's work has been simplifying treatments so that people can move to

taking as few pills as possible, thereby helping them to stick to their treatment more easily.

Other priorities have been to formulate child-friendly treatments and come up with diagnostics that can be used in remote places that are far from a hospital or a health clinic.

With 3 million people still dying every year from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, the challenges remain formidable if we are to meet a global commitment to end the pandemics by 2030.

The rate of increase in international investments in these three diseases, which surged over the past 20 years, is slowing considerably. As funding flatlines, squeezing every drop out of available resources is going to be essential to achieve global health goals.

Innovation is the lynchpin of our efforts to be more efficient and cost-effective in our response to disease, especially at a time when resistance to tried-and-tested tools is an emerging danger that threatens to derail progress.

TEN WAYS UNITAID MAKES A DIFFERENCE

1

Expanding HIV treatment for children

By 2014, approximately 750,000 children worldwide received HIV treatment specially adapted to their needs - a 10-fold increase since 2006.

Lead Grantee:
Clinton Health Access Initiative



2



© TB Alliance

Better tuberculosis treatment for children

Unitaid invested in the world's first appropriate medicines for children, following new WHO guidelines that made older formulations obsolete.

Lead Grantee:
TB Alliance

3

Combatting insecticide resistance to fight malaria

Unitaid is creating a market for new insecticides that can be sprayed inside homes to kill mosquitoes. These insecticides are needed urgently to prevent widespread resistance of mosquitoes to older insecticides. By 2020, the US \$ 65 million initiative is expected to reduce the price of a new insecticide by at least one third and protect 37 million people. This will make the new insecticides affordable and drive larger scale adoption.

Lead Grantee:
Innovative Vector Control Consortium



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4



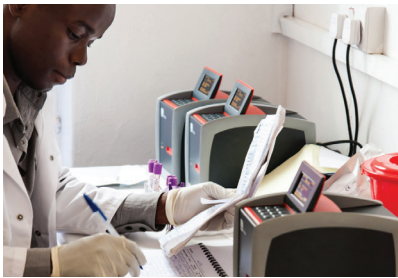
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Making HIV self-testing a reality

Unitaid is funding the largest effort ever to kick-start wider use of HIV self-testing. The US \$ 23 million project will distribute 750,000 HIV self-test kits and evaluate the best ways to enable self-testing in rural areas. Since only 50 per cent of adults living with HIV know their status, this pilot could help reach global testing and treatment targets.

Lead Grantee:
Population Services International

5



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Simpler diagnostics for rural communities

Making new technologies available where people seek care in villages and communities can be a game-changer. Unitaïd is bringing simplified diagnostics that will ensure same-day test results for a wide variety of people, including new borns and infants born to HIV-positive mothers. These diagnostics will also help people who receive HIV treatment and need to know how effective it is by measuring their viral loads.

Lead Grantees:

EGPAF, UNICEF, MSF and CHAI

6

Preventing malaria in rural SAHEL

Unitaid is investing US \$ 67 million million to deliver anti-malarial medicines to the hardest to reach children in rural areas of Africa's SAHEL region. The children will be provided medicines during the most difficult time of the year when infections peak and rain makes it challenging to travel to local health centres. Better access to these medicines could prevent an estimated 50,000 deaths.

Lead Grantee: *Malaria Consortium*



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7

Making HIV medicines affordable



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Thanks to Unitaïd's investment in the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), a key HIV medicine has become more widely available and is used by most of the 15.8 million people on HIV treatment. It has also become more affordable, resulting in savings of US \$ 194 million. With licenses and agreements for 12 other HIV medicines, future impact will be larger still.

Lead Grantee:

Medicines Patents Pool

8



© Medicines for Malaria Venture

Promoting effective treatment for severe malaria

Unitaid helped to introduce injectable artesunate, a treatment for severe malaria that is more effective and safer than quinine. As a result, an estimated 100,000 additional lives will be saved in six African countries. In the future, approximately 200,000 lives could be saved per year once the treatment is available at a larger scale.

Lead Grantee:

Medicines for Malaria Venture

9

Improved treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis

Unitaid has invested US \$ 60 million to speed access to better, shorter treatments for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis – including combinations that use two new drugs, the first to be developed in almost 50 years.

Lead Grantee:

Partners in Health



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10

Ensuring quality drugs and diagnostics for the needy



© Thomas Omondi / The Global Fund

More than 200 quality-assured medicines and 60 diagnostics for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are now available, due to Unitaid's support for WHO's Prequalification programme.

Lead Grantee:

World Health Organization



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