

# Equity. Access.

# Now.

Accelerating access to  
health innovations for all



# Saving lives, time and money



**US\$1.5 billion**

over five years, our work will accelerate the global health response and kickstart efforts towards 2030 targets.

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# Our budget is modest, yet our impact is massive.

## More than **100 million** people each year

already benefit from access to health tools that improve lives. The impact of our work is visible in the lives of countless people. It's the caretakers who no longer have to coax young children to swallow bitter-tasting TB medicines made, and dosed, for adults. The sex worker who, fearing stigma or discrimination, can do an HIV self-test discreetly and access high-quality preventive drugs to avoid infection. The young child and their community, protected by better malaria control tools, effective against growing resistance. And the millions of people worldwide who can affordably access best-in-class medicines for treating and preventing HIV and TB.

We see the impact in the health facilities with sustainable oxygen supplies that finally have the capacity to treat patients literally gasping for air. It is the women who will not die from preventable complications during childbirth, and who will have early access to cervical cancer screening to avoid developing a life-threatening condition.

On a wider scale, greater access to life-saving advances to health technologies accelerates global efforts to diminish the burden of disease. Global plans to achieve 2030 targets for HIV, TB and malaria already assume that the tools we are introducing to the response will be scaled up: **fully enabling Unitaid to deliver our strategy is critical to ensuring those projections are met.**

Joint analysis developed by Unitaid and the Global Fund investigated the impact these key medicines and tools will have on the death toll from HIV, TB, and malaria between 2024-2026. That investigation showed that our investments are essential to reaching global targets more quickly, accelerating the overall response and delivering the same reduction in deaths more than

## **three years faster.**

On an economic level, efficiencies earned by using better, higher-performing health products deliver massive returns. By improving operations, freeing up staff time, and advancing more affordable and more effective tools, access to innovation is projected to

**generate more than US\$7 billion in savings by 2030; much needed funding that can be reinvested elsewhere.**

Through these efforts, we can accelerate the global HIV, TB and malaria responses, improve the health, lives and livelihoods of millions of women and children, and ensure the world is better prepared to respond to global health threats.

Improved health means that more people can get back to their lives, more quickly, supporting their families and contributing to global economies. The broader health and economic gains from every dollar invested in the three diseases are estimated to be

**16% higher with the health innovations like those we support.**

## With US\$1.5 billion

– a fraction of what is needed for global health more broadly – Unitaid will deliver on the ambitious, yet achievable goals set out in our 2023-2027 Strategy. This amounts to US\$300 million for each of the coming five years and is based on extensive analysis of the health technology landscape, an assessment of where Unitaid can best add value and achieve impact, and our experience from investments in similar areas gained over the course of our history.





**IMYANYA MUBARUKIRO  
Y'UMUGORE.**



# Executive Summary

Billions of dollars are spent each year on developing critical health innovations, yet far less is invested to ensure they reach everyone who needs them. The reality is that on their own, high prices, regulatory obstacles, mal-adapted products, evidence gaps, or a lack of quality assurance, among many other factors, keep most health innovations from reaching people in low- and middle-income countries for years – often for more than a decade.

With time running out to reach the health targets set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals and recover progress lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot afford to waste a minute, let alone a decade.

Innovations are critical to advancing health responses – but access is the key to our collective success.

Only by ensuring that everyone has access to better and more effective tests, treatments, and tools – at affordable prices – and by using smarter deployment of those tools, can we connect millions more people to life-saving care, and get our efforts back on track. Only through broad access to innovation can we get ahead of evolving diseases, outpace drug-resistance, build resilient primary healthcare, and increase the effectiveness of the global health response, so that every dollar invested yields a maximum return.

This is where Unitaid comes in. Unitaid is the leading global health agency working to identify and unlock access to game-changing health products and approaches for affected communities in low- and middle-income countries.

We do proof-of-concept for promising new products and interventions, and in the process drive down prices, improve supply chains, generate much-needed evidence, and support regulatory approvals. We invest to ensure medicines and tools are safe and adapted to the needs of those who are often last in line, such as children and pregnant women. Our investments help work out the challenges so scale-up partners like the Global Fund can advance more quickly and impactfully with product roll out.

### Access matters.

The first antiretrovirals to treat HIV/AIDS appeared in the late 1980s but were not in widespread use in low-income countries until the mid-2000s, more than a decade later than in high-income countries.

**As a result of this delay, millions of lives were unnecessarily lost.**

Unitaid's work is critical to confronting the barriers that stand in the way of broad and equitable access to life-saving health innovations.

For more than 15 years we have worked in close collaboration with affected communities and global health partners to ensure people everywhere are afforded the benefits of advances in healthcare.

Today, thanks to these efforts, people have access to more than 100 vital medicines and tools that form the backbone of global health responses – largely available at a fraction of their original cost. These include:

- **All the major HIV drugs currently used**
- **All the core paediatric formulations for HIV and critical paediatric regimens for TB treatment and prevention**
- **The most effective malaria prevention approaches used today**
- **Major diagnostics currently used for TB, HIV, human papillomavirus (HPV), and hepatitis C**
- **Ground-breaking preventive treatments for cervical cancer**
- **Critical technologies to improve access to medical oxygen in low- and middle-income countries**

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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

The impact of our work is visible in the lives of countless people. It's the caretakers who no longer have to coax young children to swallow bitter tasting TB medicines made, and dosed, for adults. The sex worker who, fearing stigma or discrimination, can do an HIV self-test discreetly and access pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent infection. The young child who is protected from malaria through preventive medicines, a vaccine, and bed nets. And the millions of people worldwide who can affordably access best-in-class medicines for treating and preventing TB and HIV.

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, we quickly applied our expertise to the response. Through leadership in the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), Unitaid stepped up to address critical challenges that prevented low- and middle-income countries from accessing new and life-saving medicines, medical oxygen and tests.

And with our sights set to the future, we are heading up multiple efforts to help countries build strong and resilient health systems through the introduction of more effective health products and approaches to healthcare, so we are better prepared to respond to current challenges, and whatever is to come.

## Multiplying global health impact

Unitaid's impact is significant and needed now more than ever. Our efforts save lives, time, and money, and maximize the effectiveness of the overall global health response.

Products introduced and supported by Unitaid now reach more than 100 million people each year. Reduced prices and efficiencies to systems that come with these products are projected to generate more than US\$7 billion in savings by 2030; much needed funding that can be reinvested elsewhere.

Our investments are essential to reaching global targets more quickly. They maximize the impact of investments into the Global Fund and broader HIV, TB, and malaria efforts, accelerating the overall response by more than three years.<sup>1</sup> The health and economic gains from every dollar invested in the three diseases are 16% higher with health innovations like those we support.

Unitaid and its partners, like the Global Fund, work together to save lives. Our partnerships accelerate equitable access to lifesaving health products and bring new methods of fighting the world's deadliest infectious diseases to the people who need them the most.

1 A joint analysis conducted by Unitaid and the Global Fund investigated the difference health innovations will make in reducing deaths from HIV, TB, and malaria over the Global Fund's next replenishment period. The analysis showed that without the innovations piloted by Unitaid and scaled up by partners, it could take more than three years to achieve the same reduction in mortality. [[https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/11798/publication\\_seventh-replenishment-investment-case\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/11798/publication_seventh-replenishment-investment-case_report_en.pdf)]

## Confronting access barriers

Unitaid's 2023-2027 Strategy reaffirms our distinctive and critical role in global health as the driving force behind access to health innovations. This means, first and foremost, identifying the most promising innovations, working with a diverse range of partners to overcome barriers, and laying the groundwork for countries to scale them up wherever they are needed.

### The types of problems we solve:

- High prices
- Inadequate or poorly adapted tools
- Insufficient supply
- Regulatory hurdles
- Evidence gaps
- Intellectual property restrictions
- Supply-chain bottlenecks
- Low demand

Innovations are not a 'nice to have'. We depend on better and more effective health tools to advance towards global goals to end the HIV, TB, and malaria pandemics and reach other equally important targets in women's and children's health by 2030. Equitable access to vital health innovations strengthens our collective power to prevent, prepare for, and respond to new pandemics, while also bringing care closer to people where they live, in pursuit of universal health coverage.

Our work saves lives and transforms health responses. With US\$1.5 billion over the next five years, we can ensure critical advances in health are within reach everywhere they are needed. With a fully funded Unitaid, we will accelerate global health agendas so people – no matter where they live – can benefit from the highest quality care and get back to their lives more quickly.



**US\$1.5 billion over five years to transform access to critical advances in prevention and care for communities in need.**



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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 new-born child. Access is a right. And Unitaid helps make that right a reality for countless people in low- and middle-income countries.

**Maurine Murenga**

Advocate and Unitaid Board Member

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**Time is  
running out**

**Even before COVID-19 emerged and dealt a devastating blow to our joint efforts, progress towards global health targets had been slowing. Now, hard-fought advances against diseases such as HIV, TB and malaria have stalled and, in some cases, even regressed.**

In concrete terms, this means that more people are falling ill with infections that we have the tools to prevent, many are still not accessing life-saving advances to treatments, and countless others are dying from diseases we have been battling for far too long.

We can reverse this trend, but we must act now. Millions of lives are in the balance.

Billions of dollars are spent each year on developing critical health innovations, yet far less is invested to ensure they reach everyone who needs them. The reality is that on their own, high prices, regulatory obstacles, mal-adapted products, evidence gaps, or a lack of quality assurance, among many other factors, keep most health innovations from reaching people in low- and middle-income countries for years – often for more than a decade.

With time running out to reach the health targets set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals and recover progress lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot afford to waste a minute, let alone a decade.

## Innovations are critical to strengthening health responses – but access to them is the key to our collective success.

At the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world was facing several growing global health emergencies. The AIDS pandemic was rapidly expanding and, though treatments were becoming available, nearly all the people who needed these medicines could not afford them. Inroads that had been made to curb TB were being quickly eroded as HIV infection created a dual epidemic. Toxic and lengthy antibiotic regimens made TB treatment difficult to complete and decades of stalled research and development efforts saw drug-resistant strains of TB begin to emerge, further complicating the response. And malaria was spreading largely unchecked, as a scarcity of effective tools and prevention methods left populations across Africa and many parts of Asia unprotected.

But massive mobilized global efforts resulted in historic achievements that reduced the burden of life-threatening health conditions. The creation of several powerful partnerships in the early 2000s, including Unitaid, encouraged investment into developing vital health technologies and transforming access to critically needed medicines and tools. This coordinated global effort transformed HIV from a death sentence to a manageable chronic condition, fueled the development of an arsenal of malaria-fighting tools, treatments and prevention, and advanced new innovations to prevent and cure TB.

## This brought about a leap in life expectancy in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

Since then, the AIDS crisis has been arrested, maternal mortality has decreased, and deaths from malaria as well as other leading causes of child death have reduced. This brought about a leap in life expectancy in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

As the leading global health agency working to identify and unlock access to game-changing health products and approaches for affected communities in low- and middle-income countries, Unitaid has been on the frontlines of these efforts.

Our model delivers proof-of-concept for promising new products and interventions and enables more equitable access by driving down prices, improving supply chains, generating much-needed evidence, and supporting regulatory approvals. Our investments ensure medicines and tools are safe and adapted to the needs of those who are often last in line, such as children and pregnant women. Our investments help work out the challenges so scale-up partners like the Global Fund, among others, can advance more quickly and impactfully with product roll out.

We approach access holistically. We endeavor not only to make healthcare products available in low- and middle-income countries but to consider the way products are designed and delivered so they are adapted to the needs of individual settings to reach people where they live. This helps build stronger health systems, improving our collective capacity to respond to whatever emergency comes next, while advancing efforts towards universal health coverage.

Though the most acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic is, hopefully, behind us, recovery is still a long way off. With adequate funding and attention, we can leverage lessons learned from the global pandemic response to tackle the considerable challenges that remain.

- **1.5 million people were infected with HIV in 2021 – four times greater than the commitment made in the United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.**<sup>2</sup>
- **The global burden of malaria had its most dramatic rise in 20 years between 2019 and 2020. Countries held the line against further setbacks in 2021, but progress remains dangerously off-track.**<sup>3</sup>
- **TB – the leading cause of death by infectious disease after COVID-19 – killed 1.6 million people in 2021.**<sup>4</sup>
- **The global maternal mortality rate in 2021 was more than double the 2030 target.**<sup>5</sup>

The time to act is now. In disrupting access to life-saving care for millions of people, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to an estimated 15 million excess deaths over two years.<sup>6</sup> It also exposed the extremes of inequitable access to healthcare around the world. In high-income countries, people critically ill with COVID-19 were put on ventilators, treated with supplemental oxygen, and given expensive cutting-edge treatments. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of people in low-and middle-income countries lacked access to even the most basic tools or medicines.

In addition, the increasingly acute consequences of climate change are affecting, and sometimes even eroding, previous health gains, creating a perfect storm. Conflict, drought and hunger, rising food and fuel prices, and political instability in many countries and regions are further complicating efforts to improve global health outcomes.

Unless a major push is made to reverse the slide, the world will not reach the Sustainable Development Goal to end the HIV, TB, and malaria pandemics by 2030. Nor will we reach other equally important targets in the areas of women and children’s health, putting the lives of tens of millions of people at risk.

Since the start of this century, major breakthroughs have provided new promise to global health efforts. Unitaid’s investment pipeline has identified products and approaches that have the potential to transform health responses if we can ensure they reach the populations where the needs are the most acute.

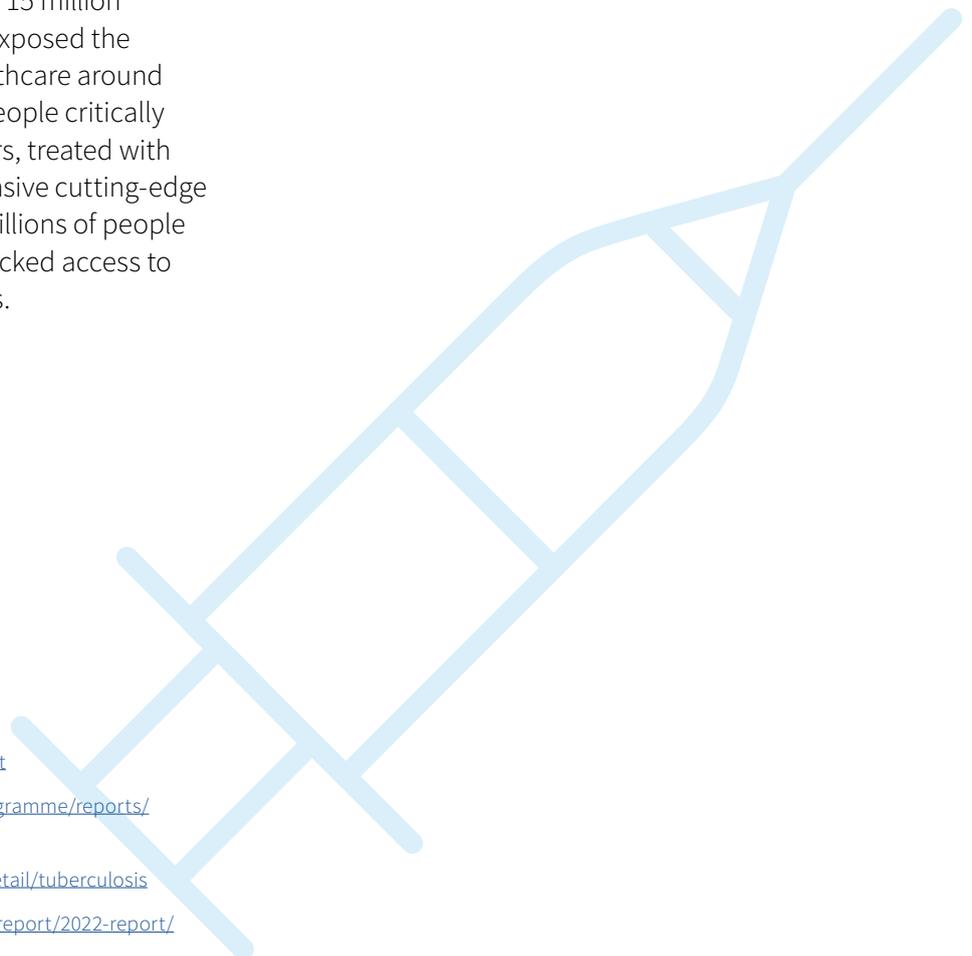
2 <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet>

3 <https://www.who.int/teams/global-malaria-programme/reports/world-malaria-report-2021>

4 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis>

5 <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/report/2022-report/progress-indicators/maternal-mortality/>

6 <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2022-14.9-million-excess-deaths-were-associated-with-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2020-and-2021>



## Leaving no child behind: HIV medicines for kids

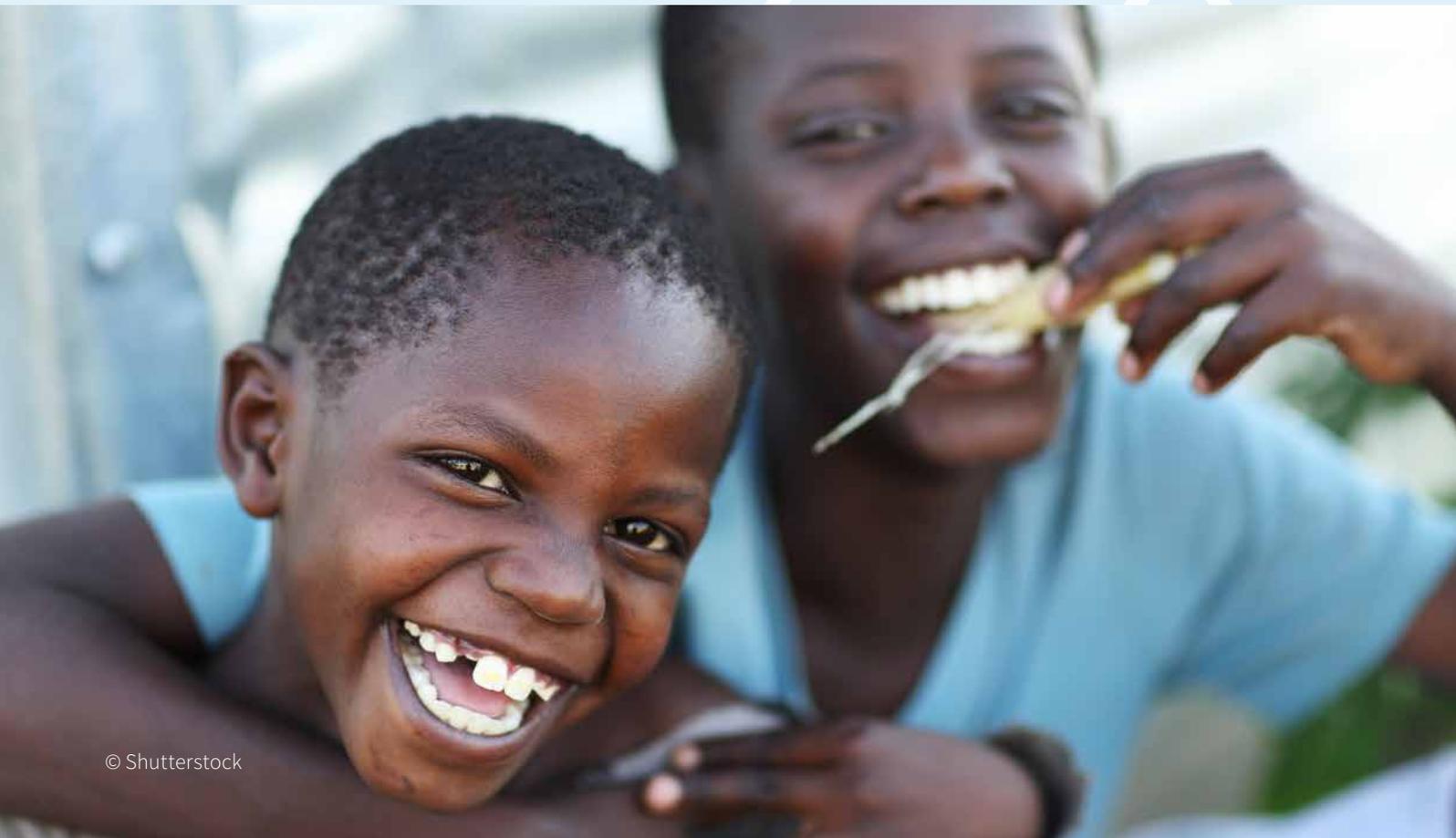
When Maurine was first diagnosed with HIV in the early 2000s, there were no treatments available to her in her home country of Kenya, let alone for her newborn son.

“We were just surviving – waiting to become sick and to die,” she says.

“The doctor told me I had six months to live. Without any intervention, I was unable to prevent my child from contracting HIV. When the first antiretrovirals became available, there was still no guidance on how to treat our children, or medicines adapted for their use.

“We could not watch and wait for our children to become sick while we got treated. Many mothers, like me, gave the adult medicines to our children, breaking the pills into pieces without knowing the repercussions.”

Today, child-friendly medicines are available and affordable in low- and middle-income countries thanks to 75% price reductions secured by Unitaid.



Without treatment, 80% of children born with HIV will die before the age of five. For decades, most children in low- and middle-income countries went without access and countless young lives were lost.

Medicines are typically developed for adults first and adapted for children later – a lengthy and complex process that, without adequate funding and attention, can leave children waiting for years.

Unitaid invested heavily to address the lagging response so Maurine’s son – and millions of others like him – could benefit from the ground-breaking progress achieved in HIV treatment in the past decades.

**These investments accelerated the development of child formulations of antiretroviral medicines – adapted formulas that are properly dosed, flavored, and easy for a young child to swallow. Today, these safe and effective pediatric HIV medicines are widely available. And, thanks to 75% price reductions secured by Unitaid, this life-saving treatment is more affordable, driving crucial savings to stretch limited budgets further.**

Child friendly treatments have transformed care for the 1.7 million children living with HIV worldwide, but our work is far from finished. Although treatment rates have been steadily increasing, just over half of all children with HIV have access to antiretrovirals and children account for a disproportionately high rate of AIDS-related deaths.

Unitaid is leading efforts to close remaining gaps – looking into novel medicine delivery technologies that could further simplify treatment for children and seeking solutions to confront the most common causes of death among children with HIV.



© Clinton Health Access Initiative

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The COVID-19 pandemic put access issues into stark relief. Today, people around the world have experienced varying degrees of what it means to not have ready access to the vital medicines and health tools we so desperately need. This critical facilitation has been Unitaid’s domain since our creation in 2006.

**Dr Philippe Duneton**  
Executive Director of Unitaid

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# **Access matters**

**Only by ensuring that everyone has access to better and more effective tests, treatments, and tools – at affordable prices – and by using smarter deployment of those tools, can we connect millions more people to life-saving care, and get our efforts back on track.**

Only through broad access to innovation can we get ahead of evolving diseases, outpace drug-resistance, build resilient primary healthcare, and increase the effectiveness of the global health response, so that every dollar invested yields a maximum return.

Innovation has been a key driver behind most of the big leaps in progress in global health. The use of medical oxygen, the discovery of antiretrovirals to treat HIV or artemisinin for malaria, the use of insecticide treated bed nets, oxytocin to stop severe bleeding after childbirth, and hundreds of other drugs and advances in medical technologies – have all contributed to dramatic progress against different diseases and pandemics over the past century.

Yet innovative health products and approaches do not automatically reach the people who need them most, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The reality is that high prices, regulatory obstacles, a lack of quality assurance or adaptation to local users' needs, among many other factors, keep most new innovative health tools from reaching people in resource-limited settings for years. Other health products, such as ones that require adaptations to be used to benefit children or pregnant women, are often never developed because the market for them is perceived as too small.

**Unitaid's work is critical to confronting the barriers that stand in the way of broad and equitable access to life-saving health innovations. Since 2006 we have worked in close collaboration with affected communities and global health partners to ensure people everywhere are afforded the benefits of advances in healthcare.**

Our work has helped make more than 100 vital tests, medicines, and other tools available in low- and middle-income countries around the world. These include methods for identifying TB, HIV, HPV, and hepatitis C, critical supplies of medical oxygen, life-saving treatments to prevent cervical cancer, and medicines and prevention approaches that form the foundations of HIV, TB, and malaria efforts worldwide.

Despite this enormous progress achieved over the last decades, our work is far from finished.

In too many instances, we are still using drugs that have toxic side effects or are not fully effective. We have products that, soon, we may not be able to rely on because bacteria, viruses and mosquitoes have grown resistant to them. We still see gaps in medicine formulations for children. Several key treatment regimens remain far too long and complex to for a patient to easily complete. Many diagnostic protocols require far too many hours, days and sometimes weeks to provide a result. We have some tools that, despite being effective, are complex to use and make delivering quality care in resource limited environments difficult. And we continue to see patients and communities that, too often, do not seek care because we do not offer solutions that suit their needs.

Access matters. The first antiretrovirals to treat HIV/AIDS appeared in the late 1980s but were not in widespread use in low-income countries until the mid-2000s, more than a decade later than in high-income countries. As a result of this delay, millions of lives were unnecessarily lost.

Unitaid knows what it takes to identify and develop ground-breaking health innovations and to successfully break down access barriers – such as availability, quality assurance, affordability, supply and delivery, and demand and adoption.

We do this by ensuring products are fit for purpose and adapted to low resource settings. We generate relevant evidence and overcome regulatory hurdles so that products are safe, of high quality, effective and rapidly available. We negotiate price reductions, create generic markets for products that drive down prices, and facilitate licensing agreements to promote competition and reduce costs. We address supply and manufacturing bottlenecks so products are available when they are needed and in the right quantities. And we work with partners and country stakeholders to understand how products function in real life and determine how best to deliver them so they can reach as many people as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible.

# How we work



## Our areas of focus

- HIV and co-infections, tuberculosis, malaria
- Women and children's health
- Global health emergency response



## Identify

We analyze complex access problems, identify promising tools, and develop pathways to solve them.



## Explore

We issue public calls for smart proposals that respond to key access barriers.



## Invest

We drive change by funding the proposals with the greatest potential impact in public health value or equity.



## Partner

Unitaid leads and convenes multisectoral partnerships that accelerate access and deliver greater impact.



## Scale up

We work with global, national and local health partners to hand over transformative models for scale up so communities everywhere can benefit.

# Our impact

## **Saving lives, time, and money**

**Breakthrough advances in health technologies have the power to revolutionize care and transform global health responses. Since 2006, our work has unlocked access to more than 100 vital medicines and tools for millions of people worldwide.**

### **Three-quarters of a million young lives saved through malaria prevention**

Nearly 45 million children at highest risk of malaria across Africa are now protected through seasonal delivery of antimalarial medicines that reduce infections by more than 80%. When this intervention, called seasonal malaria chemoprevention, was first recommended by the World Health Organization over a decade ago, it was considered too complex to be feasible, given the challenges of reaching children in remote communities during the rainy season.

Unitaid pioneered the adoption of this preventive strategy through an enormous initiative that proved its effectiveness and demonstrated that such delivery could be cost-effectively achieved at scale. Increased medicine supplies were critical to enabling the wide coverage seen today. Working in parallel, our investments helped bring in additional producers of the key antimalarial drug used in seasonal prevention and supported the development of child-adapted formulations.

The broad and successful demonstration sparked broader uptake, with several governments and scale-up partners stepping in to implement it widely. Today, coverage of seasonal malaria chemoprevention has grown from approximately 1 million children in 2013 to nearly 45 million children in 15 countries. More than 700,000 children's lives have been saved as a result. In 2022, the WHO expanded its recommendation to include children over five as well as additional regions where seasonal transmission occurs. The new guidance is expected to see continued growth, protecting even greater numbers of children at serious risk from malaria.



Unitaid drove the massive expansion of HIV self-testing throughout Africa and beyond, helping to grow the number of countries with self-testing policies from six at the program's outset in 2015, to nearly 90 countries by 2020.

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Thanks to Unitaid, more people across Africa have access to the best HIV treatments at a fraction of the original price. Young children have been cured of TB with high-quality formulations that are easy to administer. Millions of young people are better protected against malaria through large scale seasonal delivery of medicines, an approach that has dramatically reduced child mortality without raising costs.

**António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary General

## More than 21 million people accessing the best available HIV treatments

On their own, advances to medicines and health technologies can take years – often up to a decade – to clear the hurdles restricting access. When new HIV medicines that promised more effective, less toxic treatment emerged, Unitaid intervened to avoid repeating delays in access experienced in the earlier years of the HIV epidemic.

Through early market introduction, price negotiations and catalytic procurement efforts, the best available HIV treatments reached low- and middle-income countries in record time. These medicines are now available for as little as US\$50 per year.

But access is more than simply making products available and affordable. Working to close the gender gap in medical access, Unitaid funded critical research to ensure that pregnant women could safely use new antiretroviral treatments. This breakthrough clinical trial extended access to the highest quality medicines to women of childbearing age across the world and provided vital protection to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV – a key route of infection in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Reaching 90% cervical cancer prevention targets

Cervical cancer is highly preventable when women have access to screening and early treatment. But in low- and middle-income countries where 9 out of 10 deaths from cervical cancer occur, the tools that have driven successful reductions in cases in high-income settings are poorly adapted to use in resource-limited ones, keeping critical care out of reach.

As the largest funder working to ensure women in lower income countries have access to life-saving cervical cancer prevention tools, Unitaid is advancing models that integrate a package of preventive care using high-performance HPV screening and portable devices for treating pre-cancerous cells into existing health structures to increase coverage and awareness. This highly performant and cost-effective package is already demonstrating how to reach WHO cervical cancer elimination targets at sites in seven countries.

To further accelerate uptake, Unitaid, with its partners, secured pricing agreements that have reduced the cost of HPV tests by nearly 40%. The price of thermal ablation devices has decreased by nearly 45%, though field data from countries show that its overall cost is nearly ten times less than the alternative per woman treated.

These tools are ready for scale up. Implemented widely, they can help achieve the WHO elimination strategy target for secondary prevention and contribute to averting 300,000 deaths by 2030.

More than **700,000** children's lives have been saved using seasonal malaria chemoprevention

2013  
**1 million children**

2023  
**45 million children in 15 countries**

## New hope for children with TB in more than 120 countries

For decades, children with TB were treated by manually breaking or crushing bitter-tasting medicines made, and dosed, for adults. This made the months-long treatment journey near impossible for children and their caregivers and kept a cure just out of reach for millions of children.

In 2015, alongside partners, Unitaid launched a child friendly treatment for TB. The strawberry flavored water-dispersible tablets helped to simplify and improve treatment for children around the world. These medicines made it possible for children to complete treatment and help prevent the development of drug resistance.

Today, children in more than 120 countries that account for three-quarters of the global TB burden have access to these essential medicines. And, as the world's largest multilateral funder of TB research and development, contributing more than 99% of total multilateral funding on pediatric TB, we are leading the charge to find more effective ways to diagnose children with TB – a critical barrier limiting access to treatment.

## 11 million more people aware of their HIV status

Quick and convenient access to an accurate diagnosis is a critical first step in curbing disease. Yet less than a decade ago, nearly half of all people infected with HIV did not know it and clinic-based testing methods were not reaching far enough.

Unitaid saw the potential that self-testing could bring to the HIV response. By proving the efficacy of these tests, demonstrating cost-effective delivery models, and investing in locally focused communications strategies to increase uptake among affected communities, while in parallel negotiating price reductions for products, Unitaid spearheaded the introduction of HIV self-testing.

HIV self-tests have helped increase the number of people aware of their HIV status by 30% since 2014 when our investments began. These tests were particularly valuable in reaching populations such as men and young people who were less likely to seek out testing at health centers. Today, the number of countries implementing self-testing policies has increased nearly 15-fold, and the number of people on HIV treatment has nearly doubled. Over the next five years, it is estimated that access to self-testing will help identify an additional 4 million people living with HIV and connect 3.5 million more people to treatment.

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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

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# Transforming the response

**Unitaid occupies a unique place in global health. We champion equitable access to health tools. We ensure that innovative health solutions are fit-for-purpose, affordable, and rapidly available for people and communities who need them most.**

We primarily focus on the fights against HIV, TB, and malaria, improving women and children's health, and preparing for and responding to global health emergencies.

Unitaid sits at the intersection of industry, communities, civil society, and the practicalities of global health challenges. Our long-term vision turns possibilities into reality by leveraging our distinct comparative advantage as a pathfinder, investor, and influencer.

Equity, partnerships, and community engagement are key to our continuing success. We are committed to working with our partners in long-term alliances to define the goals of our interventions and carry the message of equitable access through every level of our work.

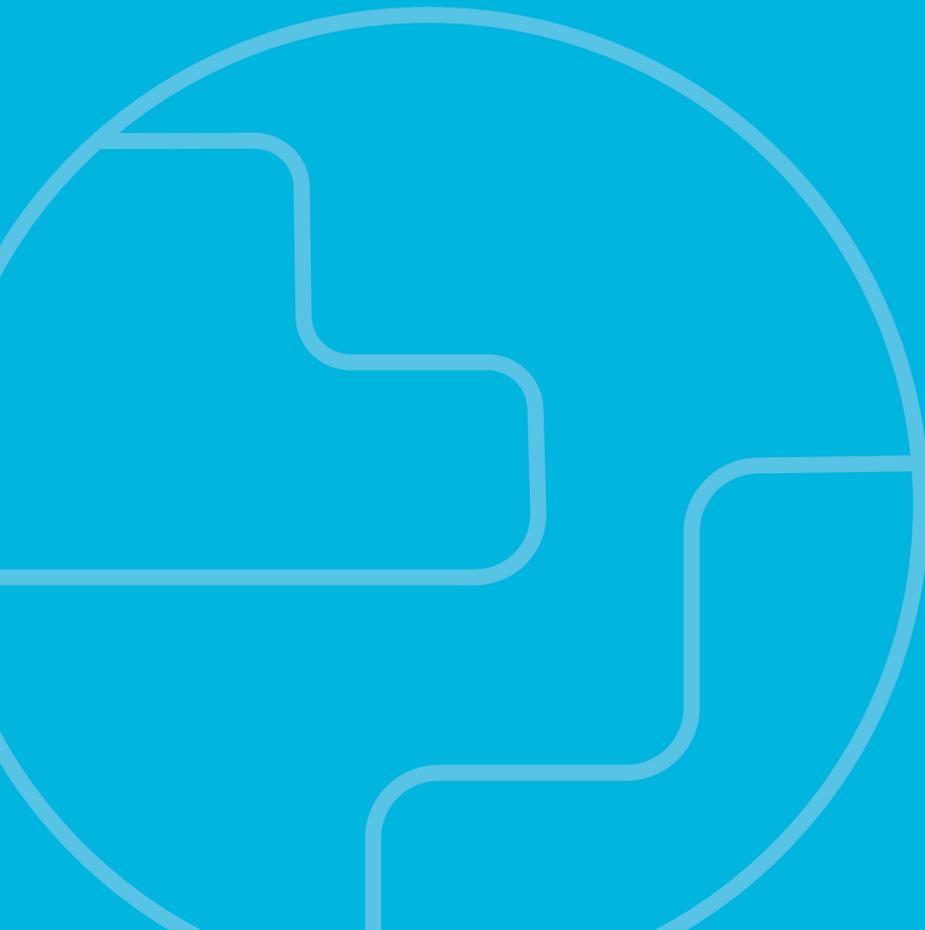
Our 2023-2027 Strategy provides the roadmap to get back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It outlines how we will work through several principles that underline our priorities. Through the strategy, we commit ourselves to invest in products that deliver clear health benefits beyond the current standard of care, support people and communities to take control of their own health, make systems more efficient and resilient, and make healthcare greener and more conducive to sustainable development.

# Climate and health: Averting a perfect storm

**Under our 2023-2027 Strategy, we will support health products and approaches that are more environmentally sensitive and make health systems and vulnerable populations more resilient to climate-related risks.**

This includes advancing environmentally sensitive and resilient product design and supporting market-shaping interventions to decarbonize manufacturing and supply chains. We will also generate evidence that integrates important climate and environmental implications into health research to introduce new products and develop others that respond to climate-induced disease evolutions and deterioration of the environment.

Alongside these efforts, we will continue to implement our Climate Action Roadmap to reduce carbon emissions from our operations, in line with targets outlined in the Paris Agreement on climate action.



# Community-driven malaria prevention in pregnancy: **Optimal delivery of proven solutions**

In areas of Africa where transmission is high, up to 10% of maternal deaths are caused by malaria in pregnancy. In 2012, the WHO recommended providing pregnant women in these areas at least three doses of a safe, effective, and affordable antimalarial medicine over the course of their pregnancy. Despite that, by 2020 only about 30% of eligible women were receiving the treatment.

With delivery routes identified as the weak link in the access chain, Unitaid backed a community-driven approach. Led by community health workers, this model demonstrated how to reach women where they live and effectively expanded protection to those at greatest risk of malarial infection.

By linking malaria prevention with antenatal care services, the community health workers not only addressed risks posed by malaria infection, they created new pathways to additional health services for women across the project sites.

Dorcas, a young woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a mother of three children and was just pregnant again when she learned of the importance of malaria prevention from one such community health worker.

“I met my community health worker and he asked me ‘Why are you just sleeping?’ I told him I felt pregnant. And he told me that if I’m pregnant, I need to go to the health center for antenatal care. In my previous pregnancy I had malaria, but I didn’t realize it. When I gave birth, one of my twins had malaria. He was sick and needed treatment.



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“So, when I went to my health center, my community health worker followed up with me and I received preventative malaria medicine and health tips. With my previous pregnancies I started antenatal care only after six or even seven months. But with this pregnancy I started in my third month.”

Working across sites in four countries – Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria – the program increased coverage of malaria prevention in pregnancy by an average of 35 percentage points - and up to 50% in some settings.

**Governments and partners are now working to replicate this model more broadly. At scale, this prevention method could benefit approximately 7 million additional women and prevent nearly 40,000 maternal and infant deaths every year.**

### Investing in high-impact solutions

Focused on five critical areas of global health – HIV and co-infections, TB, malaria, women and children’s health, and global health emergency response – our 2023-2027 Strategy identifies high-impact areas of focus for our work over the next five years. These programmatic priorities help focus resources, tighten our scope, and create a foundation for clearer impact-based investments.

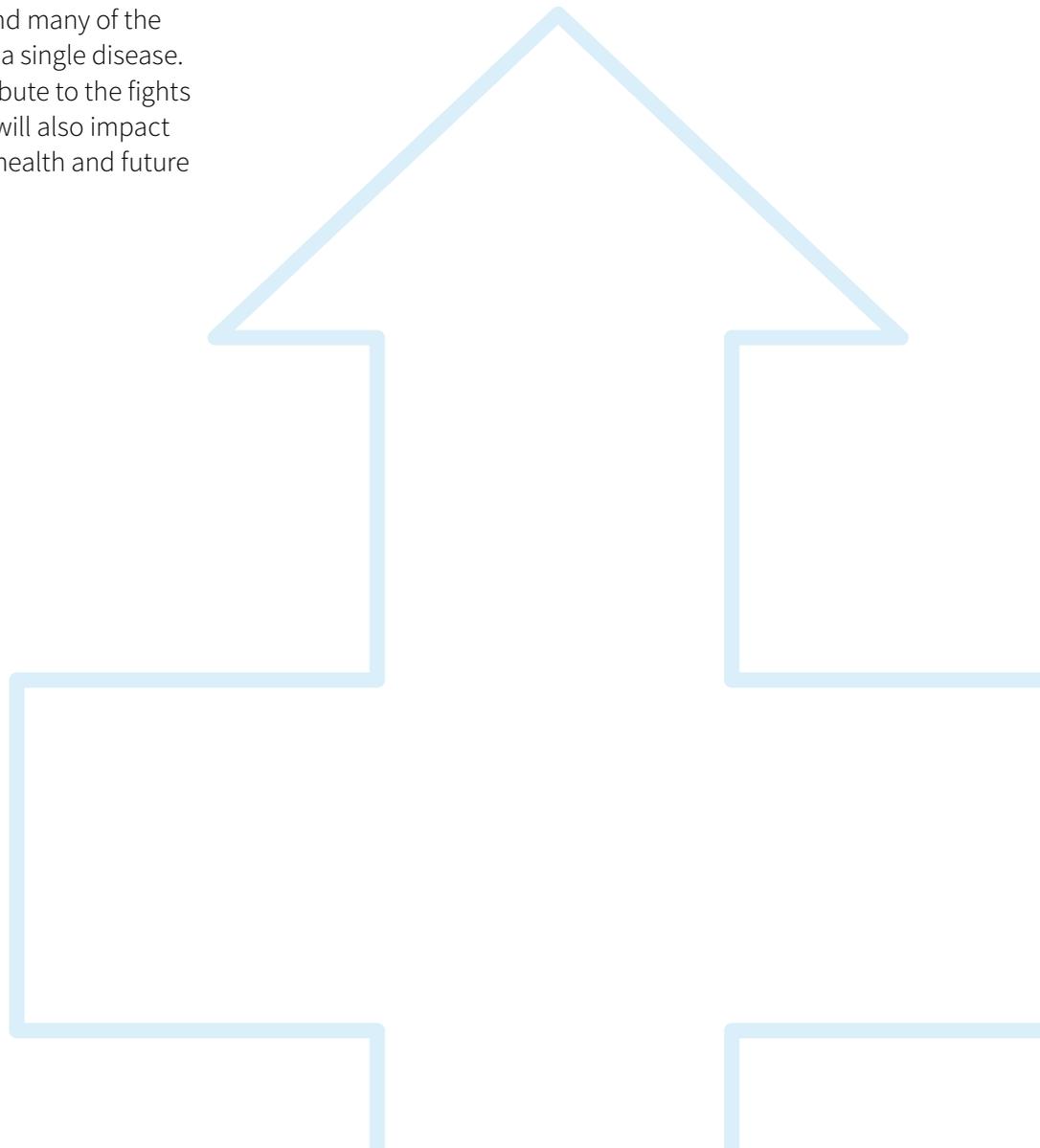
Critically, equity considerations have informed the design and direction of these priorities. In each, specific attention was given to the needs of populations or sub-populations disproportionately affected by diseases or lacking access to optimal care. We also considered the needs of low- and middle-income countries who lack control over their supply and access to products.

Engaging with affected communities is a key driver of this work, and we aim to ensure that our investments have even greater relevance by addressing the needs that communities themselves define.

Our overall approach is holistic and many of the priorities have an impact beyond a single disease. Cross-cutting priorities will contribute to the fights against HIV, TB, and malaria, but will also impact many others, including maternal health and future global health emergencies.

### Advancing critical health solutions for all

With 2030 targets looming, we are committed to introducing and optimizing a broad set of essential products to improve prevention, treatment and care for people affected by disease around the world. The following is a focused look at several investments in our 2023-2027 pipeline. These technologies could change the game in the global response to HIV, TB, and malaria, advance women and children’s health, and ensure that health systems are better prepared to respond to future health crises.



# Programmatic Priorities



## HIV & co-infections



## TB



## Malaria



## Women & children's health



## Respond to global health emergencies

 Sustain effectiveness of prevention and treatment	 Enable TB prevention tools for high-risk groups	 Introduce and optimize prevention tools	Improve access to better tools for safe pregnancy and birth for women and newborns	Improve quality of clinical care packages for COVID-19
Optimize and enable scale of AHD packages of care	Accelerate access to new detection tools	 Improve access to quality case management		
Drive HCV elimination through testing and prevention	 Accelerate adoption of new drugs and regimens			
 Increase access to screen & treat for cervical cancer and STIs	 Improve child survival with triage and treatment tools			
 Accelerate access to self-testing and integrated diagnostics			Decentralize testing and treatment for COVID-19	
 Long-acting and new technologies				
 Intellectual Property, regulatory and innovative supply models				

 Cross-linkages with improving health outcomes for women and children

 Cross-cutting programmatic priorities



## Ending HIV, TB, and malaria by 2030

**Long-acting HIV prevention** could revolutionize the AIDS response and more effectively prevent tens of thousands of new infections. With new choices for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, coming to market, people at risk of infection will be able to select the method of prevention that works for them – opting either for once-daily pills, injections six times a year, condoms, or a mix as their needs change. New technologies in the pipeline such as implants or patches could provide additional prevention methods. Unitaid is working across several fronts to develop generic markets, generate demand, and demonstrate implementation of long-acting injectable PrEP to ensure the latest innovations are affordable and available in low- and middle-income countries without delay.

**New vector control tools** are critical to counter growing mosquito resistance that poses an urgent threat to the malaria response. Unitaid is investing in an arsenal of next-generation malaria-fighting tools that could reduce the global malaria burden by one-fourth by 2030. A new class of insecticide-treated bed nets that cut malaria rates by nearly half have already reached more than 60 million people in wide-scale pilots that have proved their efficacy and provided the evidence needed to underpin a WHO recommendation for rapid scale up. Slow-release spatial repellents ward off disease-carrying mosquitoes and provide an additional layer of protection from dengue, zika, chikungunya, and other infections. And mass distribution of ivermectin, an anti-parasitic drug that kills biting mosquitoes, could dramatically reduce malaria cases annually when implemented at scale.

**More advanced TB diagnostic technologies and systematic screening approaches** promise to help find the estimated 4 million people with undiagnosed TB worldwide. To enable people timely access to TB treatment, Unitaid is investing in a combination strategy that will expand access to promising TB detection tools such as simpler, faster and more sensitive tests while greatly increasing coverage of TB screening at the community and primary care levels. These approaches will enable same-day, same-setting results and connect those at need with treatment or prevention without

delay. The scale-up of these tools and methods could reach over 10% of the ‘missing millions’ with a diagnosis by 2031.

### **Shorter, more effective TB preventive treatments**

have helped surpass targets to reach 6 million people living with HIV through efforts driven by Unitaid. These new treatment regimens make it possible to clear the TB bacteria from a person’s body through 12 doses of medicine over a three-month period, compared to 180 doses over six months. Available in just one country at the outset of our work, nearly 140 countries now have access to this breakthrough preventive treatment at 20% of its original cost. Our work is now aimed at reaching young children and people in close contact with a person with TB in pursuit of the remaining TB prevention targets with even shorter one-month treatments.



## Advancing women’s health

### **Screen and treat solutions to prevent cervical cancer**

can address the massive access gap that causes nine in ten cervical cancer deaths to occur in women in low- and middle-income countries. Cervical cancer is highly preventable when women access early screening and treatment, but these services are largely unavailable in lower-income countries. This is due, in part, to health tools that are poorly adapted to these health systems and ineffective screening methods. Unitaid is advancing a one-stop-shop approach to prevention through a package of highly performant and cost-effective screening, combined with portable, easy-to-use thermal ablation devices that make pre-cancer treatment possible in primary health centers.

### **Effective medicines for treating and preventing severe bleeding in childbirth**

successfully save the lives of millions of women each year. However, the most widely used treatments require cold-chain storage or intravenous administration which makes them inaccessible in remote or resource-limited health settings. Unitaid is investing in equally effective alternatives to prevent hemorrhage after birth in low- and middle-income countries where nearly all maternal deaths occur.

**Fast, easy to use, and affordable diagnostic tools for pre-eclampsia** and eclampsia are critical to addressing the key barrier keeping low-cost, available medicines out of reach for many women in low-resource settings. Blood pressure monitors and improved urine dipstick tests for more accurate and earlier detection could bridge a critical gap that can lead to serious, even fatal, complications for both mother and baby during pregnancy and childbirth.

**Ending mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B** through accelerated adoption of newly available and underutilized tools could help prevent hundreds of thousands of fetal and neonatal deaths and infections. Several diagnostic tools are available or in development that could quickly and simply identify the three diseases at lower levels of the healthcare system and connect people to lifesaving care. Additional existing but under-implemented prevention tools such as the hepatitis B vaccination at birth could further reduce the burden of disease in the youngest and most vulnerable. With broader access to an effective set of tools, Unitaid’s efforts will drive advances in support of the WHO’s triple elimination agenda.



## Reinforcing the response to tackle all threats to global health – present and future

**Building stronger and more resilient health systems** starts with ensuring critical tools are available everywhere they are needed quickly, affordably, and efficiently. Improving access to breakthrough technologies and optimizing delivery of medicines and tools helps simplify and decentralize care to enable broader access and improve efficiencies in health settings. Unitaid works to advance products that address challenges in global health responses, and in the process brings down prices and grows markets so everyone can benefit. These products improve systems in several ways. Some, like self-tests or heat-stable products, help make services simpler and easier to access in resource-limited settings. Others, such as multiplatform diagnostic tools or combined treatments, increase efficiency, tackling more than one disease at

a time. Shorter treatment regimens reduce burdens on patients and health systems alike. And all these vital tools improve care for patients, reduce the financial burden on health systems, and bring us one step closer to achieving universal health coverage.

**Sustainable and affordable oxygen supplies** are a cornerstone of pandemic preparedness and response. Used to treat most of the top ten causes of death in Africa, this high-impact, high-return health investment will save countless lives beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on a strong network formed through delivering acute pandemic relief, Unitaid is now leading a global oxygen alliance working to secure sustainable oxygen solutions at affordable prices, support the shaping of relevant markets, and expand technical cooperation so countries can build resilient oxygen systems. Planned investments include financial incentives so smaller industrial gas companies can expand supply capacity, improve market competition and reduce prices. Unitaid will also drive demand, adoption and scale up of important innovations like solar powered oxygen generation systems and improved liquid oxygen storage units that will expand access for hundreds of facilities across Africa.

**Local and regional manufacturing capacity** is critical to building resilient countries and health systems. By building strong country and regional partnerships, working to introduce and build viable markets for transformative health products, and addressing critical access challenges such as intellectual property barriers, Unitaid is working to accelerate access to sustainable supplies of health products in Africa.



## Partnerships for greater global health impact

Led by the voices and needs of affected communities, we convene and lead strategic partnerships with technical, scale up, and industry partners that create rapid access to the health products we champion. We welcome a diverse range of stakeholders to participate in our governance, including affected communities, NGOs, implementing countries, donors and partners, ensuring that everyone involved has a seat at the table when investment decisions are made. Ultimately, this ensures the high impact of our investments.

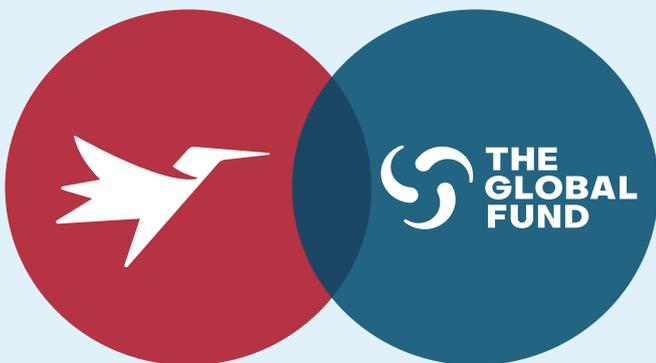
Our position as a hosted partnership of the World Health Organization, and our strategic relationships with other leading actors in global health, allow for systematic, close, and regular collaboration amongst the most influential players, translating effort into impact.

## Generic markets for affordable medicines

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) began as a groundbreaking idea within the walls of Unitaid. It was based on the belief that bringing pharmaceutical companies to the table to negotiate voluntary licenses could hold tremendous potential to bring vital medicines to those in need. Since then – over a decade later – the MPP has negotiated non-exclusive voluntary agreements with patent holders to provide more than 26 billion doses of vital treatments. This work is projected to save more than 160,000 lives and US\$3.5 billion by 2030.

We remain the MPP's principal funder and continue to work in close partnership to address global health challenges related to the availability and affordability of quality-assured medicines. This increases competition, which in turn brings down prices, and allows manufacturers the freedom to develop new treatments, such as child-friendly formulations and fixed-dose combinations.

## Unitaid and the Global Fund – A complementary approach to access



## Unitaid and the Global Fund work in close coordination to save lives.

Our partnership accelerates equitable access to lifesaving health products and brings new methods of fighting the world's deadliest infectious diseases to the people who need them most.

We join forces to ensure that the best global health innovations reach everyone, especially the most vulnerable. Unitaid invests in finding new ways to fight HIV, TB, malaria, and other diseases, and brings them to market, while the Global Fund supports countries in deploying them at scale. Together, we are committed to playing an active, deliberate and strategic role in shaping the global markets for health products to maximize access and improve health outcomes for people affected by these diseases.

Our negotiations with suppliers aim to achieve the best value for money so critical medicines and health tools can be made available everywhere they are needed. To support the adoption of these tools Unitaid proves they are cost effective, engages additional manufacturers to increase supply and works with communities to

## Unitaid and the WHO: Research to advance global health

WHO guidance is critical to advancing global health practices worldwide. Working closely with the WHO, we design and deliver the research studies that are most needed to move promising health technologies along the access pathway. This joint effort has resulted in close to 60 new policy recommendations from the WHO between 2017-2022, enabling an unprecedented number of game-changing health products, technologies, and approaches to be scaled up in low- and middle-income countries. These include tools to prevent, diagnose, treat, and care for people affected by HIV, TB, malaria, cervical cancer, hepatitis C, and COVID-19 used in countless countries around the world.

Access to safe, effective, and high-quality products ensures the highest standard of care for people everywhere. Unitaid's funding to the WHO's regulation and pre-qualification program provides quality assurance and clears the way for bulk procurement by national governments and global health agencies.

drive demand. Our collaborative efforts have included innovations like next-generation bed nets to protect people from malaria-carrying mosquitoes, self-tests for HIV, and pediatric treatments for HIV and TB.

By putting people and communities at the center of our efforts, we leverage our respective strengths to accelerate progress in deploying affordable health product innovations for all. Unitaid and the Global Fund focus on providing better health coverage to the most vulnerable communities.



Unitaid has also led efforts to strengthen and expand the scope of the pre-qualification program, helping respond more quickly to current and emerging public health needs.

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No one agency can do this alone. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that the most effective global response involves coordination and collaboration. Together with Unitaid, we are looking to shape the market in ways that benefit key and vulnerable populations, so that they gain rapid and equitable access to new tests and treatments.

**Peter Sands**

Executive Director of the Global Fund

## Best-in-class HIV treatments available in record time

When more effective, less toxic HIV treatments became available, Unitaid acted quickly to ensure these game-changing medicines would benefit people in low- and middle-income countries, where the majority of people with HIV live.

Working closely with partners including WHO, we identified critical research gaps that restricted access for certain populations. With major funding for clinical trials, our work helped ensure the new medicines were safe and effective for all groups, most notably amongst women of childbearing age who had been excluded from the originator's registration trials due to fears about potential complications during pregnancy. These trials also generated an important body of evidence on the use of the medicine in African populations, revealing unique reactions not observed in other groups.

Voluntary licences secured in partnership with MPP and price negotiations backed by Unitaid have made these treatments available for as little as US\$50 per year. Our investments supported introduction of the new medicines into countries across Africa and created the conditions and demand necessary for broader scale up.

Unitaid research underpinned recommendations for new medicines from the WHO, contributing to rapid uptake in high-burden countries and unlocking access to funding from scale-up partners such as the Global Fund, PEPFAR, and others. These partners, working alongside country-level programs, drove procurement and distribution so products could quickly reach affected people.

This massive multi-agency coordination ensured rapid and affordable access to best-in-class treatments in record time – reaching people in low- and middle-income countries just three years after the medicines entered high income markets. By 2023, an estimated 18 million people are expected to have access to the drugs.

## A partnership on the frontlines of the oxygen crisis

Against the backdrop of widespread oxygen shortages around the world, and a history of neglect for medical oxygen access, the ACT-A Oxygen Emergency Taskforce was launched in February 2021. Led by Unitaid, the Taskforce convened UN, donor, and NGO partners with a no-regrets, rapid response to assessing, financing and deploying solutions.

Thanks to effective leadership and partnership coordination, the effort mobilized US\$1 billion in oxygen financing. More than 120 countries have received technical and operational support with US\$400 million supporting the procurement of oxygen supplies and US\$600 million awarded to countries through the Global Fund. The Taskforce secured ground-breaking agreements with the world's biggest oxygen suppliers to increase supply to low- and middle-income countries. Catalytic interventions for price reductions, treatment facilities, pulse oximeters, oxygen access, equipment stockpiling, cylinders, concentrators, training, and market shaping were achieved.

Moving beyond the pandemic, the need for medical oxygen is no less critical. To implement and sustain investments made to improve oxygen supplies during the COVID-19 crisis, the Taskforce will transition towards a more mature and inclusive partnership supporting costed national oxygen roadmaps that are embedded in health sector plans. This Global Oxygen Alliance, GO2AL, will be co-led by Unitaid and the Global Fund, with all partners working to maintain momentum so all countries can have self-sufficient supply of medical oxygen for all who need it.

**More than 120 countries have received technical and operational support with US\$400 million supporting the procurement of oxygen supplies and US\$600 million awarded to countries through the Global Fund.**

# Oxygen: Building robust, sustainable solutions for current and future health crises

The COVID-19 pandemic placed never-before-seen demands on oxygen supplies – an essential medicine used for treating numerous life-threatening conditions, such as TB, pneumonia, complications during childbirth, among others. The sudden spike in demand during the pandemic revealed long-entrenched inequities in access across low- and middle-income countries and put millions of lives at risk.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our patients in intensive care were unable to maintain their oxygenation and died,” said Agnès Bisilwala, a nurse at the University Clinics of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who has been the head of the intensive care unit for 21 years.

“We were using small oxygen concentrators, and it was very difficult to provide enough oxygen for patients in respiratory distress.”

Unitaid quickly embarked on a massive effort to increase the capacity of local healthcare systems to source and provide medical-grade oxygen and rapidly respond to urgent needs. Working in parallel, we invested in mechanisms to improve infrastructure and secure pricing agreements to build robust and sustainable solutions for future needs.

A new plant near the University Clinics of Kinshasa began producing essential supplies of high-quality medical-grade oxygen as a result – just one of more than 60 oxygen plants globally that received support for repairs through Unitaid funding.



© WHO

“Before, we bought the oxygen from a factory in Kingabwa, more than 15 kilometers away. The transport costs were exorbitant, and the oxygen level was only 30% to 50%, which sometimes worsened the state of patients’ health. In contrast, the oxygen supplied by the newly built plant has a purity of 92% to 96%,” said Dr Bertain Nsitwa, a physician at the hospital.

This work, delivered through the ACT-A Oxygen Emergency Taskforce, helped quickly gather funds and support to meet urgent needs while building sustainable solutions for the future. Though COVID-19-related demands have eased, the urgent need for reliable supplies of quality medical oxygen is no less critical.

In several low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, up to 40% of health facilities still have no access to oxygen and other basic life-saving tools. Unitaid is heading up efforts to improve supplies, drive down prices, and expand technical cooperation so countries like these, and many others, can build strong, resilient oxygen systems capable of responding to current health crises and whatever is to come.



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# Invest in equity

**Billions are invested in developing new medicines and updating health technologies to advance the standard of care. This investment has helped improve quality and length of life for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.**

However, the benefits of those advances too often fall short of reaching their full potential, because without intervention, they will not get around access barriers, clear regulatory hurdles, or see the type of competition or healthy market activity that could help drive down prices.

Unitaid is dedicated to bridging the access gap. With just US\$1.5 billion in funding for our 2023-2027 Strategy period, we will play a critical role in improving the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, while delivering billions of dollars in savings that can be reinvested in building stronger, healthier communities.

# Bringing more effective tools to the fight against drug resistance

When Hugo was just 16 years old, he was diagnosed with multidrug-resistant TB, a strain of the infectious disease that has grown resistant to first-line medicines.

At that time, the standard treatment for MDR-TB was arduous and unaffordable, taking up to two years to complete and causing severe side effects like irreversible hearing loss and, in extreme cases, psychosis. Like hundreds of thousands of people like him, Hugo struggled with the medicines.

“I abandoned treatment after a year because of the extreme side effects I had from an injectable drug,” he recounts. “The injections hurt, and I felt very sick when I took the pills. I couldn’t go to school, and I was also afraid of infecting the other students. I told no one that I had MDR-TB apart from my family.”

But bedaquiline, the first new TB drug developed in over 40 years, showed promise in advancing treatment. Unitaid made a massive commitment to find shorter, less toxic and more effective treatments for MDR-TB using new and repurposed drugs. This large-scale study reduced treatment time to nine months, eliminated injections, and drastically reduced the negative side effects of treatment.

Hugo, now a healthy 20-year-old, was selected to take part.

“I was feeling much better with the new all-oral treatment. I completed my medicines and within a year was able to return to school.”



© Partners in Health

**By the end of 2021, 92 countries were using shorter treatment regimens for MDR-TB and 124 had started using bedaquiline.**

With more tolerable and effective treatments providing new hope for people with TB, Unitaid is committed to reaching everyone affected with care. More than 4 million people ill with TB go undiagnosed each year – a devastating barrier to improved treatments. No one diagnostic tool is currently capable of filling this gap, so Unitaid is investing in combination testing strategies to make a diagnosis possible in the same day at community and primary healthcare centers.



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# The cost of inaction

**With only a few short years left to deliver upon commitments set under the Sustainable Development Goals, we are faced with a critical decision. Will we seize the opportunity and fulfill our promises for a better world? Or will we squander the momentum and lessons learned through the pandemic and allow our progress to slip backwards?**

There is no doubt that we can and must continue to push the boundaries to improve care and reduce the burden of disease. But as we continue to strive for better, we have an arsenal of tools effective in confronting some of the most pressing global health challenges that currently face the world. Let us not fail in our efforts due to an inexcusable inability to ensure those tools reach all those in need.

By getting better, more affordable, and more effective lifesaving health innovations to people and communities who need them several years earlier, Unitaid's work is crucial to our success. Our work will help save millions of lives, billions of dollars, and help us reach global health targets several years sooner.

The costs – relatively speaking – are modest, and the returns are exceptional.

The cost of inaction, however, is colossal. With 15 million lives lost and an estimated global spending of at least US\$16 trillion to counter the economic damage, the COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent, graphic example of the cost to societies when infectious diseases spread uncontrollably<sup>7</sup>.

Unitaid stands out as a particularly cost-effective investment in global health. An investment in our work has ripple effects across the entire sector. We work in partnership so major actors in global health are better equipped to achieve greater success. We make it so more effective drugs and improved health tools are available more quickly to optimize operations and improve efficiencies in health systems. We take the risk out of implementation so all our partners in global health – and ultimately, the people accessing care – will thrive.

**Confront inequity.  
Accelerate access.  
Act now.**

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2022-14.9-million-excess-deaths-were-associated-with-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2020-and-2021>





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