



## Fact sheet

### Background

UNITAID, initiated by Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom, now has 27 member countries, 19 of which are in Africa. UNITAID is an innovative funding facility, benefiting particularly from contributions on air tickets levies. Its Secretariat and Trust Fund are hosted by WHO.

UNITAID's mission is to contribute to scaling up access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for people primarily in low income countries by leveraging quality drug- and diagnostic- price reductions and accelerating the pace at which these are made available. UNITAID achieves impact by applying its market dynamics toolkit comprising of pool procurement, volume price negotiation (including cost plus negotiation) and supporting the pre-qualification of drugs.

UNITAID works strategically with partners who can contribute and add value to achieving UNITAID's goals and objectives. Current partners include the Clinton Foundation, a not- for -profit corporation engaged in humanitarian efforts, the Global Fund, Stop TB Partnership, UNICEF and WHO Joint Prequalification Programme.

Hitherto, UNITAID has focused its interventions in the following niche areas: Paediatric and Second Line ARVs, Acceleration of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and scale up of linkages to paediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment; Scaling-up of ACT drugs for malaria treatments, and treatments for tuberculosis (First Line TB: Transitional Grants& Strategic Rotating Stockpile; UNITAID Support to Paediatric TB and; MDR-TB Scale-up Initiative).

For 2006-2007, UNITAID's budget was US\$383.2 million. As stipulated in UNITAID's Constitution, 85% UNITAID's funds are allocated to low income countries.

### Actions

In its first year of operation, through strategic alliances with partners, UNITAID has already demonstrated via the actions presented below how its added value can be effectively leveraged:

- ***ARV against HIV/AIDS for children***

This Project was initiated in November 2006, in partnership with the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative, with a budget of US\$ 35.9 million to be executed until December 2007. Its main objectives included the expansion of HIV/AIDS treatment and care to 100,000 children, the stimulation of market competition and the development of paediatric formulations and fixed-dose combinations and the contribution to price reductions of antiretrovirals and monitoring and diagnostic tests. Up to present, the Project has reduced the price of ARVs on average by 40%, facilitated the introduction of triple paediatric FDCs and other paediatric formulations, and is funding the supply of diagnostics and treatment for more than 102,000 children, including more than 62,000 new treatments, in 38 developing countries. The UNITAID Board has approved a project extension for 2008, and gave a political 'green light' for extending it until 2010. The extension for 2008 has a budget of US\$ 58.6 million.

- ***Second line ARV against HIV/AIDS***

This Project commenced in May 2007, in partnership with the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative, with an approved budget of US\$ 45 million for that year, benefiting 26 countries. The Project's ultimate objective is to influence

the market to reduce the price of key second line drugs. Whilst promoting price reduction, the Project is stimulating market competition and incentivising new manufactures of antiretrovirals. UNITAID is currently supplying second line antiretrovirals for 56,000 patients in 20 countries. The UNITAID Board has approved a budget of US\$ 64 million for 2008 and the Project is expected to continue its price negotiation and supply activities until 2009.

- ***Acceleration of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and Scale-up of Paediatric HIV Care and treatment for 2007-2008***

The overall objective of this Initiative undertaken by UNITAID together with UNICEF and WHO is to contribute to the acceleration of the global scale up of national PMTCT programmes with the explicit associated benefits of improved maternal and child health and survival in the context of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. With UNITAID funds of US\$ 20.8 million for the procurement and delivery of high quality HIV drugs, diagnostics and related PMTCT commodities, including more efficacious ARV combination regimens, for a period of 24 months to recipients in seven low-income countries (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia) and one low-middle-income country (Cameroon), the women and infants reached will be closely monitored against the specific targets set.

- ***ACT scale up***

UNITAID, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, delivered more than 1.4 million treatments in Burundi and Liberia, which faced risks of disruption in treatments in 2007. The close collaboration between UNITAID and its partners made it possible for the medicines to reach Liberia 8 days before the expected delivery date. For Burundi, actual delivery date was within 3 days of expected delivery.

In late December 2007, UNITAID finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNICEF and the Global Fund to scale up the delivery of ACTs in 8 countries through various grants under Rounds 1 to 5. This scale up Project amounts to US\$ 65.4 million and will support the identified grants for the remainder of the grants' life. The beneficiary countries are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sudan, Zambia, Cambodia and Indonesia. UNITAID has also committed to provide US\$ 21.5 million for 13 countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Somalia, Bangladesh, Cambodia and China) through the Global Fund Round 6 grants.

- ***First-line treatments against tuberculosis - (1st Line TB - Transitional Grants & Strategic Rotating Stockpile)***

UNITAID, in collaboration with the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF), is supporting: through transitional grants, the minimization of the risk of stock-outs. Furthermore, through the establishment of Strategic rotating Stockpile(s), lead times and the overall treatment costs for drug deliveries have been reduced and cost containment of anti-TB drugs in the short-term (2007/2008) has been achieved, with a view to securing price reduction in the medium-term (2009).

- ***Paediatric formulations against tuberculosis - (Paediatric TB: Development of new child-friendly formulations for children under Age 4 & provision of appropriate strength paediatric drugs for children under Age 15)***

In January 2007, UNITAID provided financial support to the Global Drug Facility (GDF) of the Stop TB Partnership for the provision of appropriate-strength paediatric drugs for children under 15 years of age and to ensure the development of new child-friendly formulations for infants under 5 years of age. A total supply of 150,000 paediatric anti-Tuberculosis treatments for children in 20 countries was provided.

With the financial support of UNITAID, GDF has been able, through pooled procurement, to generate significant price reductions for paediatric anti-TB drugs. UNITAID's funds have contributed to expand the supply of paediatric anti-TB drugs to approximately 600,000 children in an estimated 40 countries. This will be supplied over a 3-year period (2008-2010).

- ***Treatments against multidrug-resistant tuberculosis - (MDR-TB Scale-up Initiative)***

UNITAID, in collaboration with the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, is helping to increase access to, and affordability of, quality-assured 2nd Line anti-TB drugs for use in MDR-TB control. UNITAID's funding would make it possible (through GDF) to procure and supply an estimated 4,716 patient treatments to MDR programmes in 17 countries by the end of 2011.

To date, this partnership has achieved: the establishment of a Rotating stockpile production initiated by procurement agent; a continuation of joint activities with WHO prequalification programme; and the securing of competitive prices via direct negotiation.

- ***Support for the prequalification of drugs***

UNITAID is a major funder of the WHO Prequalification Programme with US\$ 1 million in 2006 and US\$ 6 million in 2007 to support its mission in influencing the market by facilitating and speeding up the pace at which prequalified key HIV/AIDS-, tuberculosis- and malaria- medicines are made available. The Project also carries out testing and sampling of medicines funded by UNITAID projects, an activity which is being developed with national regulatory agencies, with the objective not only of certifying the quality of drugs, but also of strengthening national capacities.

### ***UNITAID and the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria***

UNITAID responded to a request from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF) for the purchase of drugs under Round 6, Phase 1, to an amount of US\$ 52.5 million. It has been agreed that UNITAID funds will be used exclusively to finance 2nd line ARVs to an amount of US\$ 8.7 million, ACTs to an amount of US\$ 21.5million, MDR TB drugs to an amount of US\$ 10.3million, Paediatric ARV to an amount of US\$ 12.0 million. The Global Fund allocations to beneficiary countries will be consistent with UNITAID eligibility criteria (at least 85% to low income countries).

*Last update: 30 January 2008*