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## Unitaid and Tuberculosis

Unitaid invests in new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat tuberculosis (TB) more quickly, more cheaply and more effectively. Some of our interventions include:

### Accelerating diagnosis

The most widely used test for TB is to take a patient's sputum sample and identify the bacterium under a microscope. The bacteria are then grown in a dish containing anti-TB drugs to see if they are resistant to the most commonly used drugs to treat TB. This can take 2 to 6 weeks to get results.

- Unitaid has invested \$25.8 million over four years in scaling up the use of GeneXpert® — a machine that identifies genetic material from drug-resistant strains of TB in less than 2 hours.

### Enabling better treatments

The vast majority of TB cases can be cured, but many patients do not have access to appropriate medicines.

- Unitaid's \$60 million endTB project — with Partners in Health, Médecins Sans Frontières, and Interactive Research & Development — is reshaping the market for treatment for a multi-drug resistant form of TB (MDR-TB) by expanding access to the new TB drugs bedaquiline and delamanid in 15 countries.
- Unitaid's US\$16.7 million STEP-TB project - with TB Alliance and WHO - has led to the development of high quality, affordable child-friendly TB medicines that are correctly dosed.

### New core investment areas

- Current MDR-TB regimens are complex, expensive, long, toxic, and often ineffective. Unitaid will speed up access to better, shorter MDR-TB treatments.
- TB is one of the top 10 causes of death in children, and those with TB are treated with suboptimal medicines, if at all. Unitaid will scale up better TB treatment in children using the new child-friendly medicines launched in 2015.
- Vulnerable groups, including children under the age of five and people living with HIV, are particularly at risk of developing active TB following initial infection. Unitaid will invest in making new, shorter preventative TB treatments more easily available to those who can benefit most.



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## Some of our partners

Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Global Drug Facility, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Global Laboratory Initiative, Interactive Research & Development (IRD), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Partners in Health (PIH), Stop TB Partnership, TB Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO).

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which generally affects the lungs. TB spreads through the air when people who have active TB cough, spit, speak, or sneeze. According to WHO, 10.4 million people fell ill with TB in 2015, 480,000 developed multidrug-resistant TB, and 1.8 million died from the disease.

**Ending TB by 2030 is a target of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.**