

Background for session: Investments in Tuberculosis, 15 March 2018**Unitaid's TB investments to date**

Since its inception, Unitaid has committed more than US\$ 460 million in grants for TB. Unitaid's active TB portfolio includes TB grants worth nearly US\$ 180 million. In the last quarter of 2017 alone, Unitaid committed US\$ 117 million to four new projects designed to prevent, diagnose and treat TB in countries most affected by the disease. For more information on Unitaid's recent TB grants, please refer to attached overview (*Unitaid and TB, Oct 2017*).

Unitaid's investments in TB support our strategic objectives: innovation, access and scalability. Our projects sit squarely within our mandate, speeding access to innovation and catalyzing scale-up. We can stretch or adapt where warranted to achieve our objectives. This is illustrated by projects that have included:

- Late-stage development of products such as the child-friendly fixed-dose combination medicines (FDCs), which also included activities to support development and access to child-friendly multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB drugs
- Follow-on early scale-up work to continue to promote access to the child-friendly FDCs and emphasize integrated approaches
- Research & development of new regimens for MDR TB including an observational trial and late-stage clinical trial

Context for further investment

In May 2017, Unitaid issued a call for proposals to complement Unitaid's existing investments in MDR TB to further improve diagnosis and treatment. After careful review of all submissions, Unitaid's Joint Review Committee did not recommend further development of new projects. The outcome of the call was discussed with the Unitaid Executive Board in December 2017 and Unitaid subsequently reaffirmed its commitment to TB, including MDR TB, in a statement posted on our website after the meeting.

Although some of the proposals showed promise, the Joint Review Committee considered the time needed to achieve impact, the added value that Unitaid funding could provide and the degree of compatibility with Unitaid's strategy and operating model. Unitaid recognizes that many current innovations are at early stages of development and careful targeting is needed to ensure our funding can accelerate access to these innovations and bring them to scale.

As a result, Unitaid is continuing to work to identify and refine concrete opportunities for investment in this challenging area, and greatly welcomes input from the TB community.

Consultation and next steps

To inform its continued work in TB, Unitaid is considering:

- the current TB portfolio mapped against Unitaid's strategic objectives;
- challenges related to funding additional work in TB; and
- next steps to identify, validate, and act on potential opportunities.

Unitaid conducts regular partner consultations to ensure it invests in the innovations and market interventions most needed by the community. Unitaid will continue its consultations to ensure a complete and validated landscape of opportunities including estimation of impact, cost and risk associated with each one. In addition, an online consultation is planned to allow Unitaid to seek feedback from a broad range of voices, soliciting innovative ideas or opportunities that may inform a future Unitaid call for proposals.