

France - Case study on UNITAID, for website version

France and Brazil together with Chile, Norway and the United-Kingdom, has played a leading role to launch UNITAID in 2006.

UNITAID is unique among global health organizations, particularly through its funding model, as well as the way the funds are channelled.

1/ A large part of the resources of the organisation originate from an air ticket levy implemented by donor countries. Developed, emerging, as well as developing countries have implemented the mechanism, demonstrating the feasibility of this instrument to raise money in favour of development. Through this levy, France has contributed more than 806 Millions € to UNITAID since 2006 (60% of the total resources received by the organization).

2/ UNITAID focuses exclusively on addressing market shortcomings at the global level to contribute to scale-up access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for people in developing countries. UNITAID leverages price reductions of quality drugs and diagnostics, which currently are unaffordable for most developing countries, and accelerates the pace at which they are made available.

UNITAID has incentivized producers to develop better adapted products in the HIV paediatric market and has achieved price reductions of up to 80%. 600 000 children are currently under antiretroviral treatments, compared to less than 10 000 children in 2005.

French engagement in UNITAID is complementary to its contributions to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria and a strong element of France's commitment to the fight against communicable diseases (MDG 6).