

UNDP Health Implementation Support Services

Partnering to save lives and develop capacity.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Introduction

UNDP is the operational arm of the United Nations, with strong presence in over 170 countries and a central role in integration and coordination of UN development support to help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNDP is a key partner to Governments, with a close collaborative relationship in the areas of health, finance and development. It is also a major partner to civil society, collaborating with over 300 NGOs in the health sector alone.

UNDP has longstanding expertise and experience in delivering large, complex programmes for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund) and other public health donors, while also helping Governments to strengthen health systems and build capacity in managing donor and national resources. This work is carried out in close coordination with WHO, UNICEF and other UN agencies, complementing existing mandates and leveraging each other's expertise. UNDP's Health Implementation support team provides end-to-end support to UNDP Country Offices, including the design of programmes and implementation arrangements, support to procurement processes, follow up on audit recommendations, feeding back the lessons of implementation through tools and guidance and making this accessible through the [UNDP Health Systems](#) website.

While UNDP's work with the Global Fund represents a core channel for its health implementation support to countries, this partnership contributes to and is reinforced by broader UNDP efforts to build sustainable and resilient systems for health, promote effective governance, and reduce inequalities driving poor health.

Global Fund Partnership

The UNDP - Global Fund partnership helps both organizations to more effectively reach the poorest and most marginalized communities in challenging country contexts. The partnership supports millions of people across the world through life-saving programmes to address HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria, and ensures Global Fund investments reach countries most in need.

This requires a [focus](#) on developing national capacity and strengthening the national systems necessary for the implementation of national programmes and Global Fund grants. Areas of support include programme management, financial management and oversight, sub-recipient management, Health Information Systems and procurement and supply chain management. This enables UNDP to sustainably transition management and implementation of Global Fund activities to national entities at the end of programmes.

UNDP has also supported the Global Fund in reducing the risk of corruption and fraud by strengthening financial management, working together with national entities to better manage grants, setting up web-based accounting systems, and introducing robust control frameworks.

As Cosponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and a member of the UNAIDS delegation to the Global Fund Board, UNDP also promotes the incorporation of good governance, human rights and gender initiatives into national programmes and Global Fund grants. This includes ensuring financing and services reaches [key populations](#) affected by the three diseases. For HIV, this requires a focus on sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who use drugs. Similarly, populations most at risk of TB and malaria infection are also often those who live in conditions of poverty, social inequality and marginalization.

Working closely with national governments and civil society organizations, the partnership has [saved 3.1 million lives](#) since its inception in 2003 and treated **880,000 cases of TB and 67 million cases of malaria**. Currently, **2.2 million people are receiving HIV treatment** through UNDP-managed programmes. Despite the challenging, high-risk environments, 96 percent of the grants managed by UNDP and evaluated by the Global Fund were positively rated (A1, A2 or B1.)

Procurement of medicines and other health products

UNDP supports public health institutions through direct procurement and by offering reliable and timely delivery of quality-assured products, and best value for money. Simultaneously, it supports Governments to build sustainable and resilient health systems and improve the national procurement and supply chain systems. UNDP also provides technical expertise to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks, manage intellectual property rights, improve procurement strategies and regulations, and address potential barriers to equitable access to affordable medicines.

UNDP specializes primarily in the [procurement of medicines and diagnostics](#) for infectious diseases, including TB and HIV, as well as a broad range of laboratory and hospital equipment¹. In the last two years, it has been increasingly asked to procure other health products, including for non-communicable diseases.

UNDP has a proven track record of procuring medicines at highly competitive costs. By leveraging its experience and reputation, it is able to secure the best prices for partners. For example, in 2016, **savings of US\$29.6 million in the procurement of a 1st line anti-retroviral (ARV) were generated in reduced unit costs as compared to the previous year**. These savings are reinvested to increase health service coverage or to strengthen national supply chain systems. UNDP also acts as a single interface with suppliers, limiting the contracts its partners manage and reducing administration costs.

UNDP also promotes [sustainable health procurement](#) by working together with manufacturers on social and environmental scorecard assessments, reducing CO₂ emissions through enhanced data collection and analysis of shipments, and through medical waste management and packaging optimization of health products.

UNDP procures over US\$310 million a year worth of health products for Governments, using its consolidated international procurement architecture and long-term agreements with suppliers and leveraging significant economies of scale.

¹ For malaria products and reproductive health products we procure through UNICEF and UNFPA respectively.

Solar for Health

UNDP's [Solar for Health](#) initiative is working with governments and other partners to install solar systems in health facilities across Africa, the Arab States and Central Asia, helping to **provide reliable and cost-effective access to electricity** while also **mitigating the impact of climate change** and **advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals**.

The impact of *Solar for Health* is already evident in Zimbabwe, where many clinics have limited access to electricity, with only four hours of power supply a day. UNDP and the Global Fund have **equipped 405 health facilities with solar panels**, meaning people can get the health care they need, when they need it. Utilizing the solar energy, clinics can now maintain the quality of temperature-sensitive medicines, sterilize equipment and store vaccines safely, while also increasing access to quality health services, which includes safe delivery for pregnant women. Early reports from the *Solar for Health* initiative in Zimbabwe already show an increasing number of pregnant women and children under 5 years old accessing rural health facilities, with some clinics reporting an increase of up to 80 percent.

In Zambia, UNDP has been working in close partnership with Medical Stores Limited (MSL), an autonomous government agency mandated to receive, store and distribute pharmaceutical health products, across the country. MSL has faced regular power interruptions in the past, preventing them from effectively keeping medicines in good storage conditions in warehouses. With the support of UNDP and the Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System, **Zambia's 7000 m2 national medical warehouse, roughly the size of a football pitch, is now reaping the benefits of solar power**. Solar panels are currently cooling approximately half of the warehouse space.

A further **16 health facilities in Zambia** have also been equipped with solar power, with clinics reporting the number of consultations, vaccinations and emergency services have increased sharply. The preliminary results of the *Solar for Health* initiative in Zambia showed reduced electricity bills (up to 60%), providing vital budget savings that can then be reinvested to support other priority health programmes.

Gavi Partnership

UNDP and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), share a common vision to ensure equitable access to vital health services, which includes safe and affordable vaccines, for all people. UNDP supports Gavi in three interconnected areas: implementation and management of health programmes, capacity development of national partners and civil society, and policy engagement to foster an enabling environment for universal immunization coverage. UNDP has partnership agreements with Gavi in India, Tajikistan, and Zambia to support health systems strengthening (HSS), including through capacity development for financial management, fiduciary controls and project oversight. It further engages with Gavi in Afghanistan, Chad, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and South Sudan, among others, providing support in the form of knowledge sharing, policy guidance, and technical assistance.

In India, UNDP took lead of a US\$38.5 million component of a Gavi HSS grant to support the government with the development of its national monitoring and evaluation framework for immunization and national research, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO. Under this grant, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015 to pilot the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), a digital logistic management information system utilizing a mobile- and cloud-based application to **improve the efficiency of the Universal Immunization Programme, reaching 27 million new children each year**. By providing cold chain handlers with real time data on vaccine stock levels and movements across the entire supply chain, eVIN has helped to empower health workers and reduce wastage, including through an 80 percent

reduction in vaccine stock-out incidents in eVIN-enabled health centers. This successful partnership, now extended to a second phase (2017-21) with up to an additional \$40 million, has inspired plans to expand it to other essential medicines and to implement eVIN in other countries, including Indonesia, Sudan, and Malawi.

In Tajikistan, UNDP signed a US\$1.4 million agreement with Gavi in September 2017 to support the government to **build 10 new health facilities and refurbish 30 health facilities**, in partnership with WHO and UNICEF. The project includes the provision of equipment and mobile service, complemented by staff training and monitoring. UNDP is also collaborating with Gavi in Zambia to support implementation of a HSS grant by providing financial mentorship to seven District Health Offices. The capacity building for the Ministry of Health will not only improve project reporting to Gavi but will also strengthen vaccine service delivery by minimizing delays in disbursements caused by missing or incomplete reports.

UNDP mandate: The Global Fund and Health Implementation Support is guided by UNDP’s “HIV, Health and Development Strategy 2016-2021” and is in line with UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021 to support and strengthen multi-sectoral responses by providing integrated policy, programme and capacity development support. For more information on UNDP please go to www.undp.org