



medicines
patent
pool

GREATER ACCESS

to medicines and health technologies
for those who need them

About MPP

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) is a United Nations-backed public health organisation working to increase access to, and facilitate the development of, life-saving medicines for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Through its innovative business model, MPP partners with civil society, governments, international organisations, industry, patient groups, and other stakeholders to prioritise and license needed medicines and pool intellectual property to encourage generic manufacture and the development of new formulations.

MPP's mandate covers patented medicines for infectious diseases – HIV, TB, hepatitis C and also non-communicable diseases including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, in addition to COVID-19 treatments and technologies and more recently maternal health.



Vision

A world in which people in need in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have rapid access to effective and affordable medical treatments and health technologies.



Mission

Our mission is to increase equitable access to innovative medicines and other health technologies through public health-oriented voluntary licensing and technology transfer.

The need

HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis C claimed 2.32 million deaths in 2022. Over 80% of people suffering from these diseases live in LMICs. But half of the population living in these countries lack regular access to essential medicines in a wide range of therapeutic areas. The right medicines, in the right formulations and at the right price, will prolong and save lives.

In 2022 out of nearly 10 million cancer-related deaths worldwide, 70% were in LMICs. Diabetes prevalence has been rising more rapidly in LMICs, and more than three-quarters of cardiovascular disease deaths take place in these countries.

Maternal mortality remains a key issue affecting women of reproductive age across the African Region. Despite the global decline in the maternal mortality ratio, MMR is still increasing in the Africa region. In 2020, 287,000 women died during and following pregnancy and childbirth, of which almost 95% occurred in LMICs (Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for approximately 70% of global maternal deaths in 2020).

Half of the population living in LMICs still lacks proper access to essential medicines and healthcare and millions of people face catastrophic health expenditures that drive them into poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated such inequities.

Indeed, there have been flagrant inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines especially in Africa. Without more distributed manufacturing capacity across the world, LMICs will always remain at the back of the line in a pandemic. Not only does inequity in access to vaccines and therapeutics prolong and intensify the impact of pandemics but it also hinders global efforts to bring a pandemic under control.

Front cover photograph: Parthiban and his family, he is a TB survivor living in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, India. (Sept 2023 by Marc Bader)

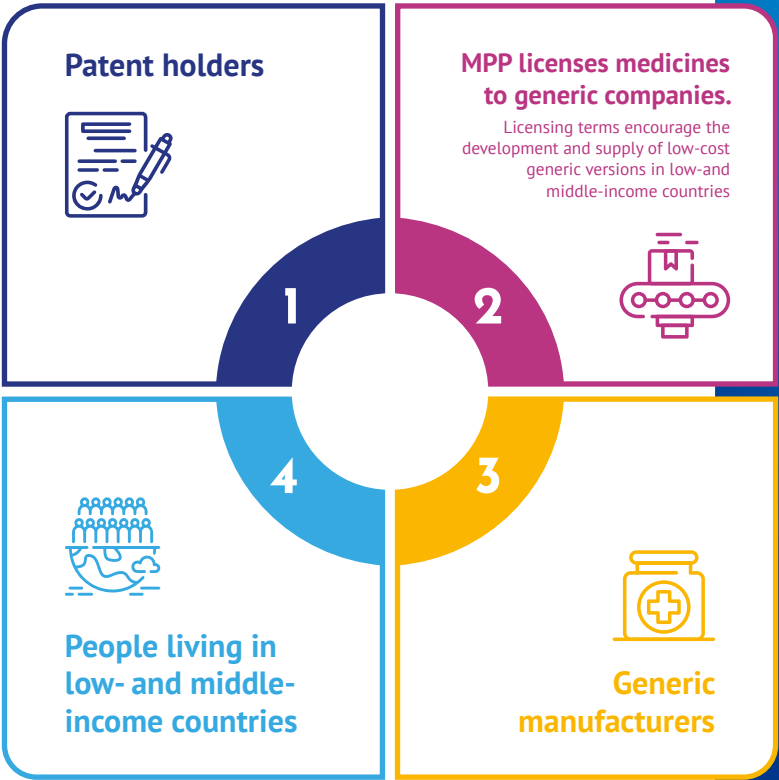


Licensing for Public Health

MPP aims to improve access to medicines and health technologies, particularly in LMICs, and facilitate further innovation through non-exclusive voluntary licensing.

MPP operates as a non-profit voluntary licensing mechanism through partnerships with originator pharmaceutical companies and generic manufacturers that facilitate access and promote innovation.

MPP negotiates licences with patent holders and then sublicenses to multiple manufacturers, who develop and supply the licensed medicines, including new formulations and combinations. The treatments are made available in a defined set of LMICs, sometimes in exchange for royalties.



Key features of MPP licences

The terms and conditions in MPP licences seek to improve treatment options for the broadest number of people living in LMICs, and are negotiated on a case-by-case basis with each patent holder.

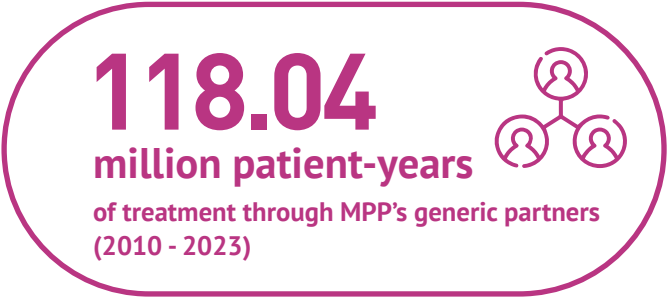
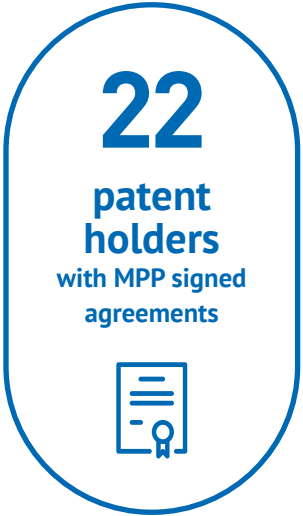
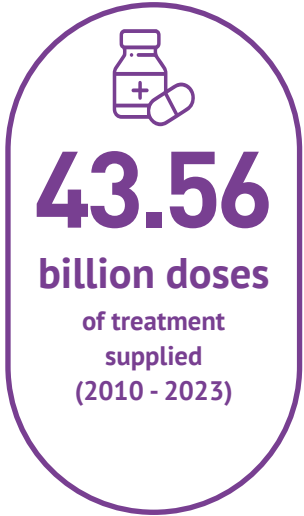


Our footprint – MPP’s impact

Modelling the impact of public health-oriented voluntary licensing

Positively impacting peoples’ lives is one of the main goals of MPP activities. MPP’s impact assessment is based on country-level modelling and contrasting MPP’s contribution to alternative scenarios where key WHO-recommended medicines would not have been available through MPP licences. The methodology considers the role of MPP licences in supporting expanded generic competition and supporting increased uptake, with beneficial health and economic outcomes.¹

¹ Morin S, Moak HB, Bubh-Humfries O, von Drehle C, Lazarus JV, Burrone E. The economic and public health impact of intellectual property licensing of medicines for low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study. *Lancet Public Health*. 2022;7(2):e169-e176. doi:10.1016/S2468-2667(21)00202-4



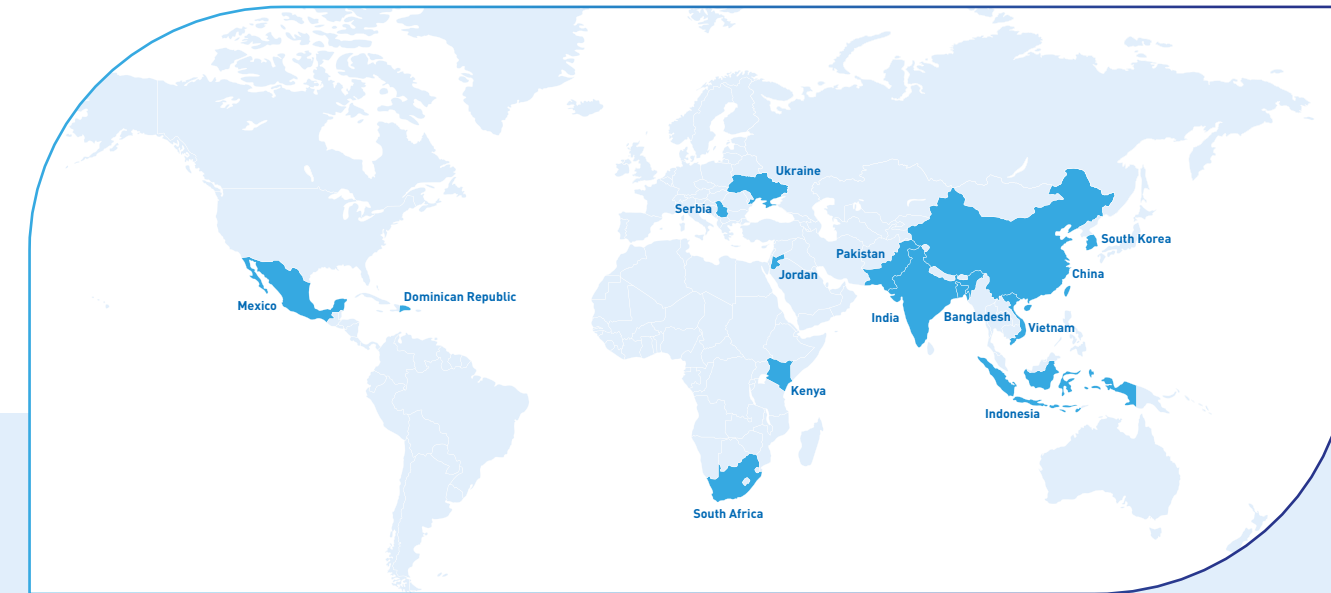
MPP's collaborations

MPP collaborates closely with product developers and generic manufacturers through its licence management programme to ensure its licences result in the rapid distribution of quality, effective medicines at affordable prices. The organisation's current remit includes patented essential medicines with high-medical value, with a priority given to small molecules, and those with strong potential for future inclusion on the World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines (EML).

By the end of 2023, companies working through MPP have distributed more than 43.56 billion doses of high-quality medicines to LMICs.



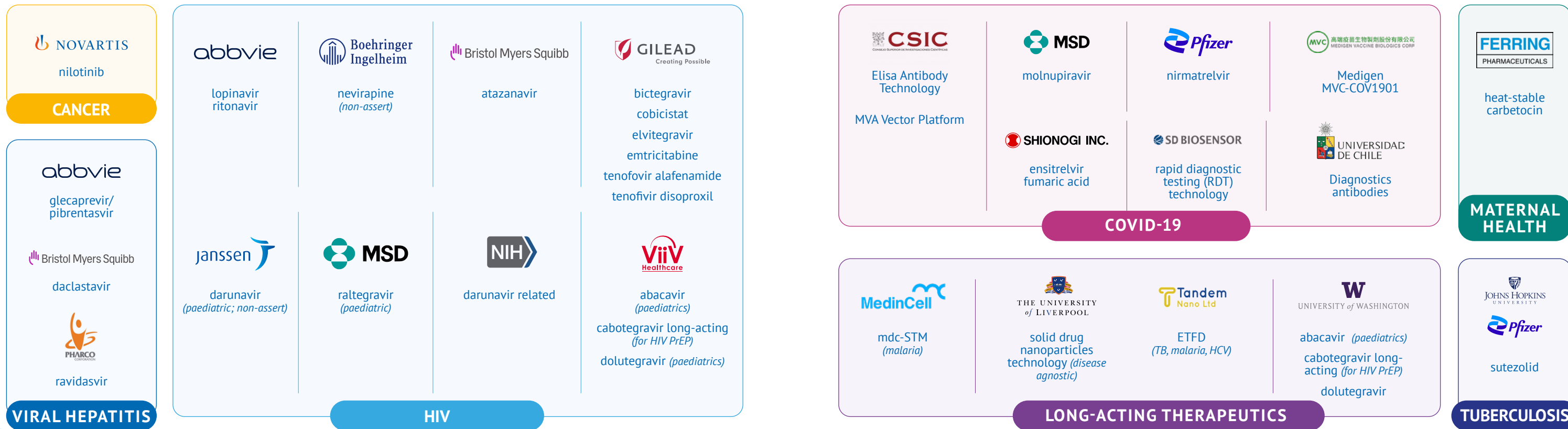
MPP's current network of generic manufacturers and product developers are in 14 countries ensuring the importance of local production



57 generic manufacturers and product developers

Bangladesh Beximco Incepta	China Apeloa Aurisco Biochem BrightGene Desano	Fosun Jiuzhou Huahai Langhua Lepu Pharma Zhejiang Charioteer	Dominican Republic Magnachem	India Amneal Arene Aurobindo Biocon Biophore Cadila Cipla	Divi's Dr Reddy's Emcure Eugia Glenmark Granules Hetero Laurus	Lupin Macleods Mangalam Micro Labs MSN Natco SMS Pharma	Strides Sun Torrent USV Viatris Zydus Cadila	Indonesia Kimia Farma	Kenya UCL	Serbia FHI Zdravlje	South Korea Celltrion Dongbang	Vietnam Stella
								Jordan Hikma	Mexico Neolpharma	South Africa Adcock Ingram CPT	Ukraine Darnitsa Lekhim	Product developers Biotech TB Alliance Gates MRI
								Pakistan Remington				

Agreements with innovators by end of December 2023



Sharing expertise

MedsPaL
THE MEDICINES PATENTS AND LICENCES DATABASE

www.medspal.org

As part of MPP's mission to improve patent transparency, MPP created a suite of Patent Information tools and Licenses Database: MedsPal is a free resource that provides information on the intellectual property status of the following key health technologies and products:



Patented essential **Medicines** on WHO EML and medicines prioritised by MPP in LMICs



Selected COVID-19 **Vaccines** worldwide, which will evolve to cover other key patented vaccines

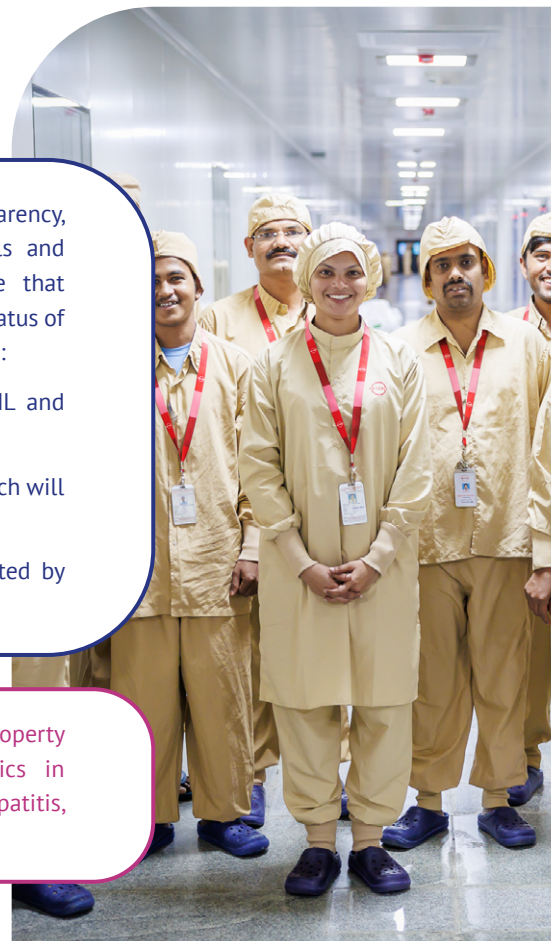


Long-acting **Technologies** worldwide selected by MPP in the context of LAPaL

LAPaL
THE LONG-ACTING THERAPEUTICS PATENTS AND LICENCES DATABASE

www.lapal.ch

LAPaL provides technical and intellectual property information on selected long-acting therapeutics in various health areas, including HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis and malaria.



mRNA Technology Transfer Programme

The mRNA Technology Transfer Programme was set up to address the inequalities in access to vaccines in LMICs that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the Programme are to establish and enhance sustainable mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity and to develop skilled human capital in the regions where mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity is established or can be enhanced.

The key principles leading the Programme activities are:

- 1 **Equitable access to mRNA technologies** suitable for pandemic response.
- 2 **Create value and share intellectual property** through open access to innovation.
- 3 **Promote sustainable capacity to produce mRNA vaccines** with coherent policies and adequate investments.

THE PROGRAMME OPERATING MODEL is a global collaborative network driven by multilateral technology transfers



A centre for mRNA Technology Development and Transfer based at Afrigen in South Africa, will **develop an effective mRNA vaccine technology** by using COVID-19 vaccine as a proof-of-concept model.

1



The centre for Technology Development & Transfer will **transfer the know-how**, along with a comprehensive technical package and appropriate training to manufacturers in LMICs.

2



The first manufacturer to receive the technology is Biovac in Cape Town. Biovac will **scale-up and industrialise the process** and make this information available for tech transfer through the network.

3



A global collaborative network is established to explore and **share improvements** to the mRNA vaccine technology and its application to **other disease targets** relevant for the LMICs.

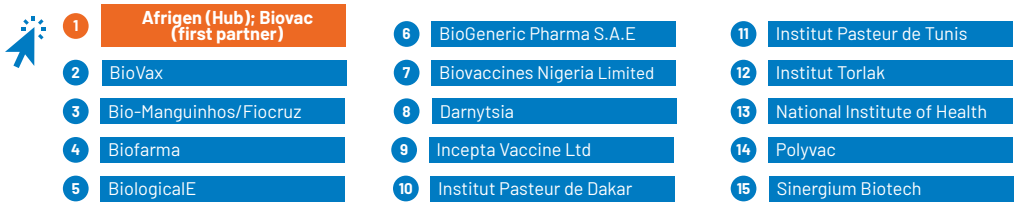
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Sharing expertise across the global collaborative network

Sharing is an essential component of sustainability. The Programme will create an environment supporting joint research and development projects. The sharing of expertise and technology, and the co-development of new technologies and disease targets, including COVID-19 and beyond, will be shared across the network.

As new technologies emerge from the collaboration it will lead to decreased cost of goods and improved vaccine characteristics (e.g. thermostability) and products that are readily available and better suited to LMICs.

WHO has selected 15 manufacturers to join the mRNA Technology Transfer Programme to receive the mRNA technology platform



A success based on partnerships and sustainability

The project is long-term and constructed with sustainability in mind. It is co-led by WHO and MPP. The organisations participating in the consortium are: Afrigen - the Hub, Biovac - the first partner, SAMRC - working on the research and training aspects, South African Department of Science and Innovation and Africa CDC. The 15 partners are also part of the collaboration along with leading research institutions.

The Consortium engages regularly with stakeholders, as this Programme is inclusive and relies on partnerships. The Programme keeps stakeholders updated on developments and provides an opportunity to input and build its success. These include consultations with funders, biomanufacturing companies and civil society organisations.

Fostering Regional Health Innovation: South-East Asia's mRNA Consortia

In March 2024, a significant milestone was reached as four South-East Asia research consortia signed a declaration of commitment during a WHO/MPP meeting of Programme Partners held in Singapore. Establishing these four consortia signifies a crucial step forward in combating prevalent diseases in the region.

The consortia are:

DENGUE MRNA VACCINE CONSORTIUM International Vaccine Institute (IVI), with Duke-NUS, Chula VRC, Hilleman, Bio Farma and Incepta.	HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE (HFMD) CONSORTIUM Hilleman Labs, with NUS, A*STAR, Chula VRC, Polyvac.	THERAPEUTIC HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (Tx HPV) CONSORTIUM Chula VRC, Chulalongkorn University with Chula VRC, A*STAR, Incepta, Afrigen, NVI.	PLASMODIUM VIVAX MALARIA CONSORTIUM Mahidol University with Mahidol University, Chula VRC, Burnet Institute, Eijkman Institute, Bio Farma.
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The signing of the declaration underscores the collective dedication of the South-East Asia health community toward harnessing the transformative potential of the mRNA Technology Transfer Programme in and for LMICs. Through this commitment, they agree to share material, data, and intellectual property equitably and non-exclusively with the Programme Partners.

The Programme funders


The Programme continues to receive exceptional support both from high-income countries and LMICs. **The overall mobilised budget is \$123M (to cover the South African consortium and Partners activities) for the period 2021-2025.** This is seed money and the aim is for the project to be self-sustaining after 2026. Funding covers the coordination of the project, activities at Afrigen and the development of local innovation and products by programme partners. A significant portion of the funds have been secured. **The project is funded by:** the African Union, Belgium, Canada, ELMA Foundation, the European Commission, France, Germany, Norway, SAM RC and South Africa.



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MPP was founded by Unitaid, which continues to be MPP's main funder. MPP's work on access to essential medicines is also funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Government of Canada and WIPO. MPP's activities in COVID-19 are undertaken with the financial support of the Japanese Government, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the German Agency for International Cooperation, and SDC.

