



UNITAID Urges India to Tax Air Tickets to Fund HIV Meds

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UNITAID, a U.N. agency, is lobbying countries to tax air tickets as a way to raise funds for HIV and AIDS medications, reports Reuters. Under the program, countries add a small levy on airfare tickets, which then funds UNITAID to buy HIV drugs for people in the developing world. Ten countries have so far imposed the levy and have generated \$200 million for low-cost meds. UNITAID is now asking India to join the group. Though India's airlines are struggling under \$20 billion of debt, the country has the fastest growing air passenger market of any major economy, with 61 million people traveling last year. Officials say that charging a tax of 18 cents on domestic tickets and \$1 on international flights would be enough to fund low-cost drug programs.

To read the Reuters article, [click here](#).

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