



UNITAID Gives \$63M to Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

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The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) will receive up to \$63 million from UNITAID to invest in programs that improve early infant diagnosis of HIV in nine African countries, according to an EGPAF [press release](#).

By supplying 650 HIV testing devices, the program will result in more than 780,000 infant HIV tests over a three year period, which will meet about 40 percent of the infant testing needs in those countries.

Starting HIV-positive infants on treatment before 12 weeks of age can reduce their HIV-related morbidity by 75 percent. But currently only half the babies born to HIV-positive mothers are tested for the virus within two months of being born and only half of those get their test results.

UNITAID is a global health initiative that gets 60 percent of its funding from a small levy on airline tickets. It was launched in 2006 by the governments of Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom.

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