Smart diagnostic solutions to drive effective treatment and elimination of poverty related diseases

Like most diseases of poverty, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and non-malarial fever disproportionately affect the poorest populations. Critical diagnostic gaps prevent patients affected by these diseases from receiving appropriate and early treatment. To enable broad and early access, diagnostic tools need to be designed to fit the lowest levels of the health system while meeting defined quality characteristics and still being affordable.

Not many new tools that meet the needs of people in resource-limited settings are being developed and many diagnostics that are in development still encounter perpetual delays within fragmented regulatory and policy settings. Market penetration of existing tools is slow and expected impact is often stifled due to inefficiencies in the delivery system.

FIND’s mission is to turn complex diagnostic challenges into simple solutions to overcome diseases of poverty and transform lives

FIND’s project aims to turn complex diagnostic challenges for hepatitis C virus (HCV), tuberculosis and non-malarial fevers into simple solutions that will drive effective treatment and elimination of these poverty related diseases in low- and middle income countries. FIND intends to achieve this by:

1. Catalysing the development and delivery of rapid diagnostics for HCV that will reduce the number of tests needed for diagnosis from 5 to 1 or 2, with the long-term goal of HCV eradication.
2. Driving the development and introduction of transformational diagnostic tools to detect and treat the 3 million tuberculosis cases that remain undiagnosed every year.
3. Accelerating development of a rapid test to differentiate bacterial from non-bacterial infections, allowing health workers in primary settings to make rational treatment decisions.

FIND Cooperates in partnerships to amplify result

FIND is the only product development partnership (PDP) focused on diagnostics. FIND’s operating structure is a very lean core team complemented by additional expertise through consultancy networks. FIND builds partnerships with other PDP’s, where alignment of disease-level strategies is pursued and development of complementary, rather than duplicative initiatives, is encouraged. Such collaborations facilitate joint funding and implementation opportunities.

For instance, FIND’s partnerships with Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, Clinton Health Access Initiative and the TB Alliance have the potential to achieve more and have greater impact.

FIND’s skill-set

- End-to-end product development experience that facilitates anticipation of bottlenecks or missteps in development before they occur, and to help product developers avoid them.
• Broad technical expertise that allows FIND to act as translator between developers and end-users.
• Clinical trial experience and know-how that allow FIND to shape the clinical process and dramatically reduce the time for test development and validation.
• In-country knowledge and the ability to identify and act on the true needs, constraints and behaviours of end-users in endemic regions.
• Proven mechanisms to create feedback loops that enable communication between end-users, product developers, and everyone in-between.
• Strong relationships with country governments, laboratories, and implementers that allow FIND to support rapid uptake of products.

**Previous funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)**
Improved detection of TB in HIV patients and also shaped the TB point-of-care development space both in the search for biomarkers and in the detection of TB in immunocompromised patients with tuberculosis. Furthermore, FIND improved the early detection of visceral leishmaniasis (VL) to aid in working towards the elimination of VL and HIV assays developed with MoFA support led to further development of Ebola tests.

**Key partners:** FIND has over 100 active partners worldwide, including commercial organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, independent non-profits (e.g. Institut Pasteur, FHI360), government funded organizations (e.g. CDC, PHE), multi-lateral organizations (e.g. WHO), multiple Ministries of Health, national disease programmes and clinical trial sites, and civil society groups. Examples of key commercial partners outside of The Netherlands include Alere Inc., Roche, Abbott, BD, Qiagen, bioMérieux and Cepheid.

**Partners in The Netherlands include:** MSF Holland, AIGHD, Deft Diagnostic Imaging, Radboud University of Nijmegen, Philips Handheld Diagnostics, and University of Utrecht. (Other funders: Additional funding received from UNITAID, UK Government, Australian Government, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Paul G Allen Family Foundation.)

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This publication has been commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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