

Innovations in the viral hepatitis response

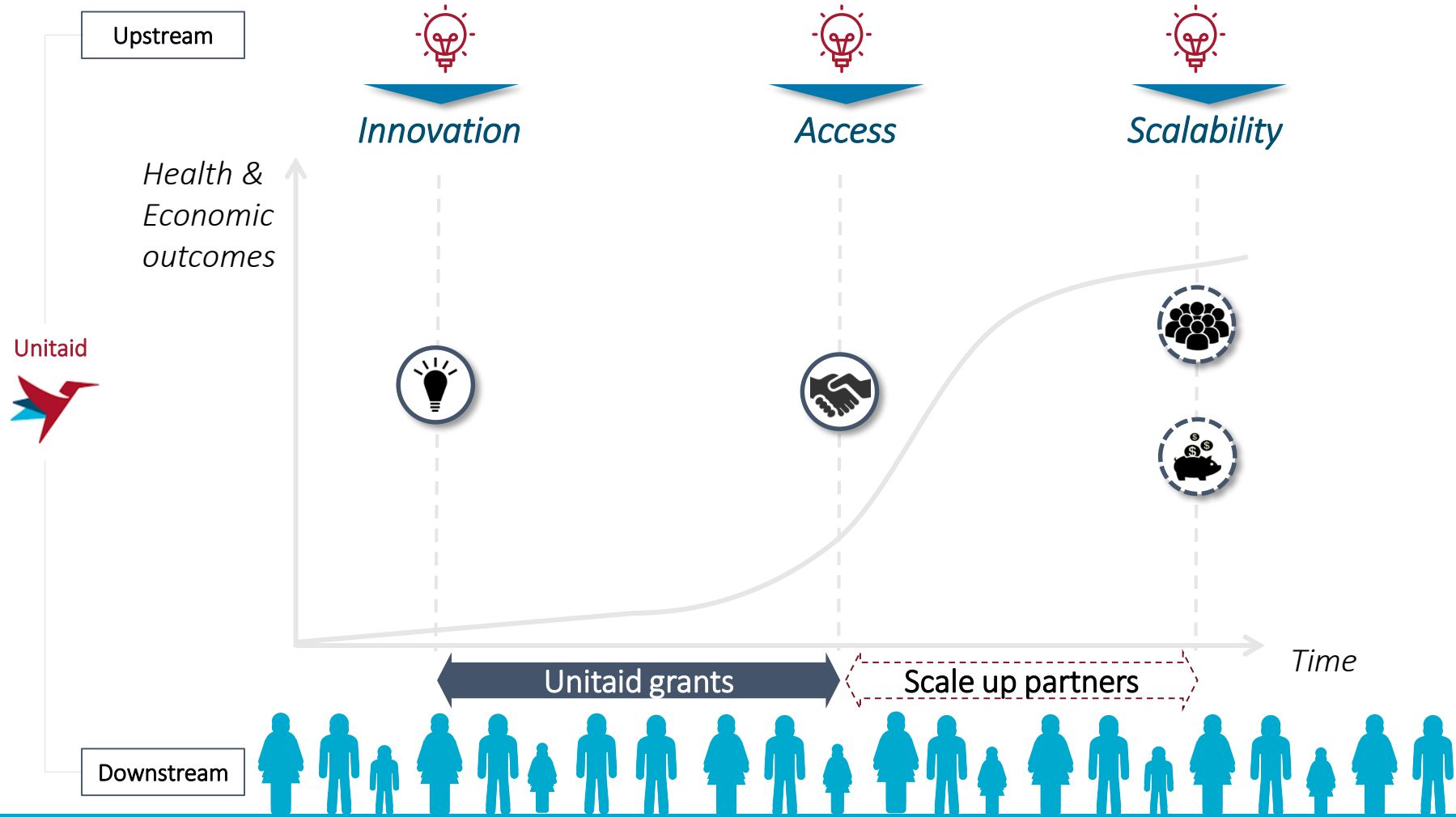
Dr Philippe Duneton

1st Regional Conference on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users (INHSU Africa)
Cape Town, 19 February 2020

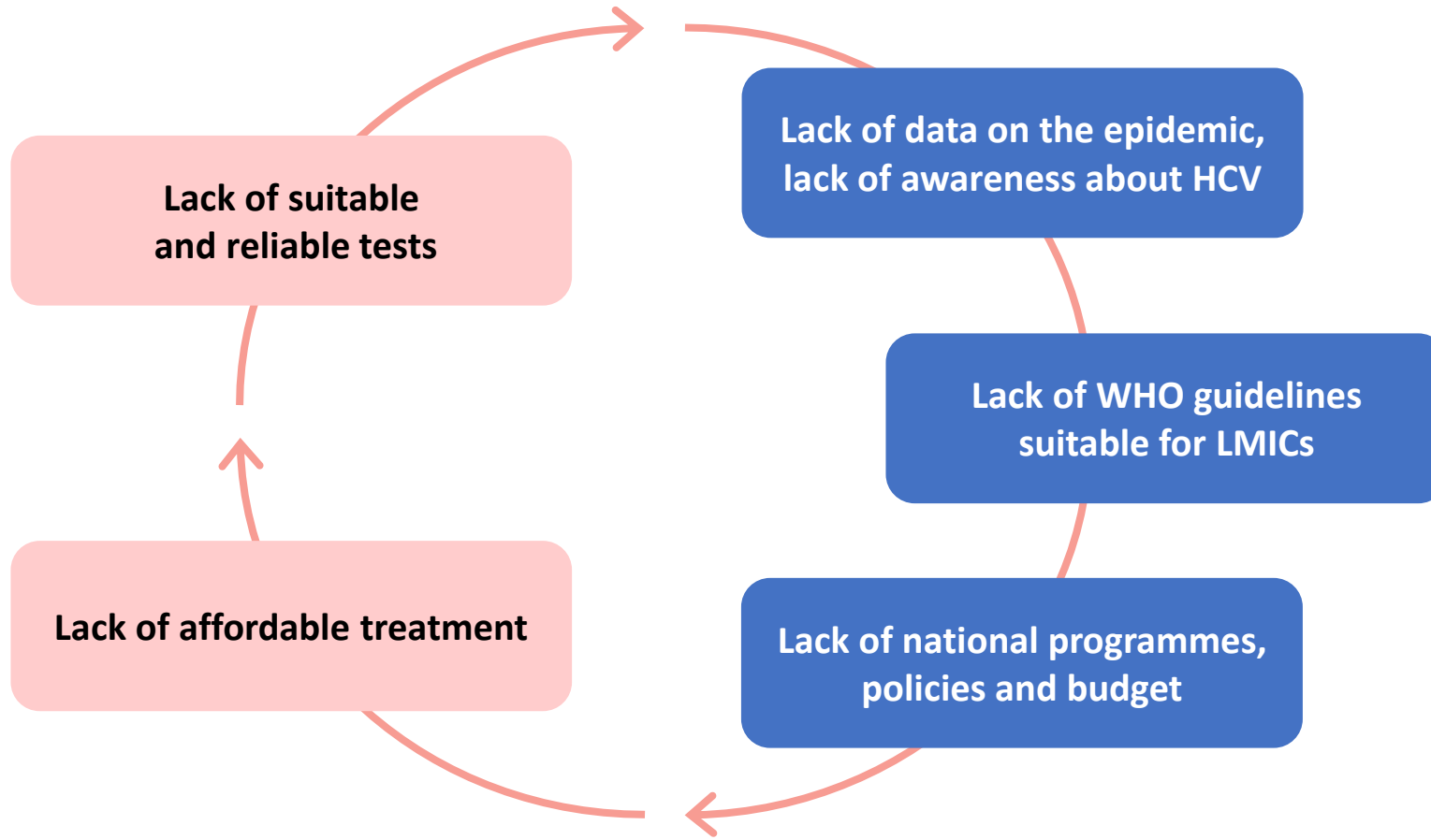


Unitaid's strategy and positioning

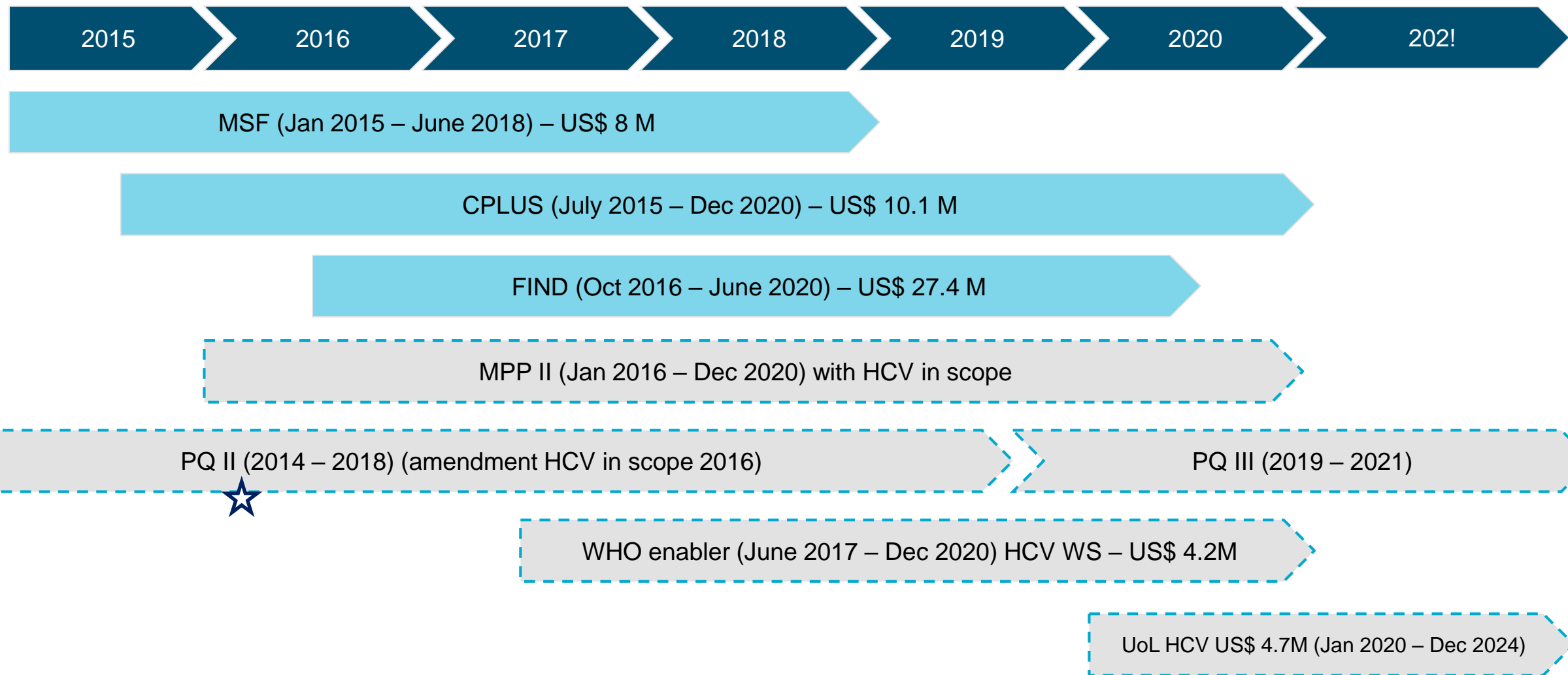
Unitaid's mission: maximize the effectiveness of the global health response by catalyzing equitable access to better health products



Multiple challenges hamper access to HCV treatment in L&MICs (2015)



US\$ 50M+ investment over the past 5 years



Key contributions to addressing access barriers for hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment

Innovation & availability



More and better technologies available for HCV screening and testing

FIND:

- ✓ Evaluating clinical performance and impact of **combo RDTs**
- ✓ Demonstrating acceptability, usability and performance of **HCV self-testing** in different settings and populations
- ✓ Developing **HCV core antigen RDT** for “on the spot” confirmation active HCV infection

University of Liverpool:

- ✓ Initiating research on long-acting HCV treatment

Quality



Increased quality assured RDTs for HCV screening on the market

FIND:

- ✓ Evaluated HCV serology RDTs; data will be used to apply to WHO PQ, **increasing the number of quality assured RDTs** on the market

WHO PQ:

- ✓ Several HCV medicines and diagnostics **prequalified**

Affordability



Downward trajectory of DAA treatment prices

MSF:

- ✓ Negotiated and publicly announced a **US\$120 price** for SOF+DAC

CPLUS:

- ✓ CSOs advocated for the use of affordable generic sofosbuvir in Malaysia and elsewhere

MPP:

- ✓ Generic DAC filed in 50 countries and approved in 28 countries (44% of PLHCV in LMIC)
- ✓ Generic DAC+SOF filed in 20 countries and approved in 7 countries (23% of PLHCV in LMIC)
- ✓ Average **price drop of 55%** from 2016-2018

Demand & Adoption



Strengthened civil society and adoption of proactive responses to eliminate HCV

MSF:

- ✓ Showed **HCV treatment is feasible** in resource limited settings
- ✓ Demonstrated the HCV model of care can be **simplified**
- ✓ Provided key data as input for WHO 2018 Treatment Guidelines

CPLUS:

- ✓ Demonstrated the value of civil society in driving demand
- ✓ Supported **inclusion of affected populations** in national committees
- ✓ Advocated for national HCV response in several countries

Supply & Delivery



Expanded decentralized, simplified, integrated care models

FIND:

- ✓ **Compared different testing approaches** and compiling evidence of effect (e.g. on LTFU)
- ✓ Catalyzed **decentralized testing** (and treatment) in several countries
- ✓ Pioneering **integration** of HCV testing on existing platforms

MSF/CPLUS/FIND:

- ✓ Accelerated and helped shape the HCV response in several countries

Conclusion

- Unitaid played a key role in HCV since 2015, even though at the time there was limited global commitment
- Unitaid contributed to the elimination target by:
 - demonstrating the feasibility of HCV cure in LMICs
 - simplifying the diagnostic pathway
 - helping to mobilize civil society
- The main outstanding challenge: funding for scaling up
- Unitaid remains committed to HCV elimination:
 - expecting new tools to further simplify diagnosis and treatment
 - looking into ways to reach key populations

Thank you

