

GHIT Fund invests in innovative TB diagnostics tools

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Fujifilm and FIND's TB-LAM diagnostic tool can diagnose tuberculosis by using a patient's urine instead of their sputum.



The Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund, Japan recently announced an investment of approximately 420 million yen (\$3.8 million) for a highly sensitive rapid diagnostic kit for tuberculosis (TB) known as TB-LAM, being developed by Japan's Fujifilm Corporation and Switzerland's Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND).

The current and most widely available method for diagnosing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* uses patients' sputum. However, TB diagnosis presents a challenge, particularly for people living with HIV, as some cannot produce sputum, resulting in untimely and inaccurate diagnoses.

Fujifilm and FIND's TB-LAM diagnostic tool, however, can overcome these challenges in diagnosing tuberculosis by using a patient's urine instead of their sputum. This breakthrough technology is also inexpensive, highly sensitive, and does not require large equipment or a power supply to operate, so it can be utilized in resource-limited settings in low- and middle-income countries.