

# Mechanisms used to reduce the price of antiretroviral medicines in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) has one of the fastest growing HIV epidemics in the world.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2010 there has been a **48%** increase in new HIV infections and a **32%** increase in AIDS-related deaths.<sup>2</sup>

Treatment for HIV includes combined antiretroviral drugs (ARV) that assist with suppressing the viral load and allow for the immune system to repair itself.<sup>2-4</sup>



However, the regional average price per-person for first-line and second-line ARV therapy in EECA\* was higher than any other region at USD\$409 and USD\$1,206 respectively in 2021.<sup>2</sup>



It has been noted that some of the key factors contributing to reduced access and high medicine prices are **corruption, lack of transparency, lack of competition, poor procurement processes and intellectual property and trade frameworks.**<sup>5,6</sup>

UNAIDS have noted that the price reduction of ARV medicines can be achieved through the strategic use of TRIPS flexibilities and by rearranging procurement and supply management systems to take advantage of economies of scale.<sup>7</sup>



Georgia



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



Moldova



Ukraine

## INCOME LEVEL

Upper-middle income country<sup>8</sup>

Upper-middle income country<sup>12</sup>

Lower-middle income country<sup>14</sup>

Upper-middle income country<sup>16</sup>

Lower-middle income country<sup>19</sup>

## PRICE REDUCTION MECHANISMS USED

**Pooled procurement**  
(via Global Fund)  
**Budget advocacy**  
(civil society organisations)

**Pooled procurement**  
(via UNICEF)  
**Budget advocacy**  
(civil society organisations)

**Generic competition**  
**Pooled procurement**  
(via United Nations Development Programme and Global Fund)  
**Budget advocacy**  
(civil society organisations)

**Generic competition**  
**An improved and transparent procurement system**  
(a system known as MTender allows for the procurement and distribution of medicines to be monitored creating more efficiency and competition)<sup>17</sup>  
**Budget advocacy**  
(civil society organisations - *Initiativa Pozitiva*)

**Pooled procurement**  
(via Global Fund)  
**State procurement agency**  
**An improved and transparent procurement system**  
(a system known as Prozorro allows for government information on public contracts to be accessed online, including tenders and competitive auctions)<sup>20</sup>  
**Budget advocacy**  
(civil society organisations)

## COVERAGE OF PEOPLE RECEIVING ARV TREATMENT

**71%**

[95% confidence interval (CI), 67-75]<sup>9</sup>

**64%**

[95% CI, 57-71]<sup>13</sup>

**50%**

[95% CI, 47-55]<sup>15</sup>

**48%**

[95% CI, 40-58]<sup>18</sup>

**62%**

[95% CI, 55-71]<sup>21</sup>

## AVERAGE COST OF ARV TREATMENT PER PATIENT IN 2021<sup>10</sup>

USD \$**116.62**

USD \$**661.32**

USD \$**103.12**

USD \$**104.59**

USD \$**79.72**

## PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF ARV PRICE FOR ONE PATIENT BETWEEN 2018-2021<sup>10</sup>

**-40.73%**

**-29.29%**

**-50.45%**

**-41.71%**

**-39.44%**

## CUMULATIVE SAVINGS BETWEEN 2018-2021<sup>11</sup>

USD \$**501,272.40**

USD \$**5,539,635.67**

USD \$**457,047.92**

USD \$**506,189.69**

USD \$**6,294,448.91**

\*The regional average includes Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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