

Press Statement

4 October 2024

“Not in Our Name” – African HIV Treatment Advocates React to Gilead’s Voluntary Licensing Agreement on Lenacapavir

Today’s announcement by Gilead that six generic manufacturers have been awarded voluntary licenses for the production of lenacapavir—a groundbreaking, twice-yearly injectable for HIV prevention and potential treatment—raises significant concerns despite the inclusion of most African countries in the license territory.

Exclusionary Practices: While most countries of the continent are part of the licensed territory, one African country, Algeria, has been excluded without any justification. Also, several other low- and middle-income countries in Latin America and Asia have been left out, despite the absence of granted patents, thus creating new and unmerited monopolies for Gilead. These exclusions establish unfair barriers to access that we cannot overlook.

Solidarity with Excluded Countries: As African treatment advocates, we recognize the potential impact of this license to waive patent protections in several countries and expedite access to generics. However, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Algeria but also in other excluded nations. No country should be left behind in access to life-saving medicines.

Concerns Over Supply Chain Dependence: We are concerned that out of the six licensed generic manufacturers, only one is based in Africa. This perpetuates Africa’s reliance on non-African manufacturers, undermining the continent’s ability to achieve self-sufficiency in drug manufacturing at a critical time when there is a strong call for local production and capacity building in Africa.

Access Barriers and Monopolistic Tactics: By binding key generic manufacturers to such agreements, Gilead is effectively locking supply options for excluded countries and restricting their ability to utilize compulsory licensing. This is a clear example of how Gilead’s so-called access strategies are being used to create and secure new monopolies, undermining the ability of countries to use TRIPS flexibilities such as compulsory licenses to address public health needs.

Call for True Global Access: Lenacapavir has the potential to be a game-changer for HIV prevention and HIV treatment in the future. Every person in need should be able to access it, regardless of where they live. Access strategies should prioritize the health needs of all people, not the monopolistic interests of pharmaceutical companies. We call on Gilead to revise its licensing strategy to include all excluded

countries and manufacturers, and to commit to an approach that truly reflects global health equity.

As African HIV treatment advocates strongly denounce Gilead's exclusionary tactics and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that no person is left behind in the fight against HIV.

Signing organizations:

1. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) - Regional
2. Dandora community Aids support Association - Kenya
3. Ringa women fighting Aids group - Kenya
4. ONG ASEFCE BENIN
5. International Community of Women living with HIV - Kenya
6. Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN)
7. Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) - Uganda
8. ONG OJADE BENIN
9. Harm Reduction International - UK
10. Wote Youth Development Projects CBO Kenya
11. ATL MST SIDA TUNIS - Tunisia
12. Nelson Mandela TB HIV Information CBO - Kenya
13. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC-MENA) - Morocco
14. Association des Gestionnaires pour le Développement - Mauritania
15. Network of TB Champions Kenya (NTBC-K)
16. Pamoja TB Group - Kenya
17. Coast Sex workers Alliance Kenya (COSWA-K)
18. Key Population Consortium of Kenya [KPC]
19. Dumaic Global Health (DGH) Uganda
20. Community Health Rights Advocacy(ChERA) Malawi
21. ENDA Santé Senegal
22. Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles - Burundi
23. Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)
24. LHL International, Norway

25. Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian Students (PANS) - Nigeria
26. Transform a Girl's Life (TAGL) - Kenya
27. Good Health Community Programmes Kenya
28. AIDS-Fondet - Denmark
29. The People's Matrix Association - Lesotho
30. MENA Community (network of individuals living with HIV in Middle East and North Africa)
31. Association marocaine de la vie positive (KAYNIN+) - Morocco
32. Association Tunisienne De Prévention Positive - Tunisia
33. Association rêve de vivre positive - Algeria
34. Transgender **Red** Umbrella (TGRU.org), Morocco
35. Réseau Africain des Personnes vivant avec le VIH Afrique de l'Ouest, (RAP+AO)
/ Network of African People living with HIV West Africa, (NAP+WA)
36. Coalition PLUS
37. Association ma santé mon environnement - Egypte.
38. Wote Youth Development Projects CBO ,Kenya
39. Wemos - The Netherlands
40. Chasing Zero (UK)
41. Centre for Wom Justice Uganda (CWJU)
42. Impact Santé Afrique
43. Corresponsales Clave
44. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (Maroc)
45. Rekat Peduli Indonesia Foundation
46. Homme pour les droits et la santé sexuelle, HODSAS (RD Congo)
47. UMANDE RD Congo
48. Alliance congolaise des droits humains projet travail du sexe, ACODHU-TS
49. CITAMplus Zambia
50. Coalition of Zambian Women Living with HIV