



A UICC-led initiative driving access solutions for cancer medicines

The challenge

In 2020, close to 10 million cancer-related deaths were reported, with a staggering 70% of these lives lost occurring in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Part of this disparity lies in the access gap that these countries face; over half of the cancer medicines on the World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines (WHO EML) remain out of reach for LMICs.

However, simply making medicines available does not assure that patients will receive the right medicines when they need them. Ensuring access to essential cancer medicines demands resilient health systems and infrastructure, comprehensive regulatory frameworks, efficient procurement practices and supply chains, along with trained healthcare professionals.

Addressing the global challenge for accessible, dependable, quality cancer medicines and diagnostics calls for novel, collaborative solutions.



The ATOM Coalition ambition:

To reduce suffering and deaths caused by cancer in low- and lower-middle income countries through improved access to and use of essential cancer medicines.

Improving access to essential medicines

Led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the Access to Oncology Medicines Coalition (ATOM Coalition) is a global initiative bringing together over 40 partners committed to addressing the challenges of availability, affordability, and appropriate use of oncology medicines in low- and lower-middle income countries (LLMICs).

Established in 2022, the ATOM Coalition builds on UICC's long-standing advocacy for the global availability of cancer medicines to drive further action across the public, private and civil society sectors, at both the global and country levels.

Goals of the ATOM Coalition:

- A.** Increase the availability of affordable cancer medicines and
- B.** Increase the capacity to use these medicines appropriately.

The ATOM Coalition focus areas

The work of the ATOM Coalition extends beyond short term solutions with a focus on addressing system-level barriers that limit patient access to quality, timely oncology medicines. These include supporting more **efficient registration processes for medicines** in countries, **strengthening medicine supply chains** and **ensuring pathology and diagnostic infrastructure are available**.

How the ATOM Coalition will achieve its goals:

- 1. Strengthening capacity:** By supporting governments and other stakeholders in ATOM Coalition target countries through locally relevant training, skill development and infrastructure strengthening aimed at building the country's capacity to receive and use cancer medicines.
- 2. Increasing availability of essential generics and biosimilars:** By working with generic, biosimilar and originator manufacturers to develop, register and supply quality-assured essential cancer medicines at affordable prices in ATOM Coalition target countries.
- 3. Increasing number of patented and new medicines in the pipeline:** By facilitating opportunities to extend company donations programmes, discounted pricing options and voluntary licensing pathways for ATOM Coalition target countries.

Country support

In its first phase, the ATOM Coalition will coordinate with UICC members in 46 target countries to support governments to strengthen access to essential oncology medicines in their respective countries. In parallel, the Coalition will begin capacity strengthening activities in 10 of these countries, taking into consideration the current presence of Coalition partners and UICC members, health system readiness, diagnostic capability, and the existence of other access programmes in the country.

Driving results through partnership

ATOM Coalition partners play an instrumental role in supporting and expanding current access programmes and developing new access initiatives. By coordinating efforts, fostering connections and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, the ATOM Coalition will help generate synergies across existing global and country-level health initiatives that complement, enhance and amplify impact across cancer-care access projects in LLMICs.

Robust governance and leadership

UICC serves as the ATOM Coalition secretariat to steer the strategy, foster stakeholder cooperation, and coordinate efforts and activities at the global and country levels. The secretariat is supported by a strong governance body, Coalition partners and several expert advisory groups.

Led by



In collaboration with ATOM Coalition partners



Supported by ATOM Coalition official observers



If you are interested in joining the ATOM Coalition please contact atom@uicc.org.