



ATOM
Access to Oncology Medicines



Operational Plan 2023–2024

Summary

May 2023



About the ATOM Coalition

Launched in May 2022, the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition is a global partnership spearheaded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) that currently brings together 40 leading organisations from civil society, and the public and private sectors in a shared ambition to reduce suffering and deaths caused by cancer in low- and lower middle-income countries (LLMICs) through improved access to and use of essential cancer medicines

Five workstreams

1. Access to medicines

Increasing the availability of essential oncology medicines in ATOM Coalition countries.

2. Cross-cutting global public good solutions

Implementing cross-cutting "global public good activities" which bring value to the broader global cancer control community, including ATOM Coalition countries and partners.

3. Strategic partnerships

Securing strategic partnerships to deliver the ATOM Coalition mission.

4. Country capacity strengthening

Implementing ATOM Coalition support for targeted country-level capacity building.

5. Governance and Operations

Continued development of ATOM Coalition governance and operations.

Reviewed and approved by the ATOM Coalition Executive Council, this Operational Plan sets out how the ATOM Coalition intends to progress on key objectives to support its ambitions in the next two years.

A shared 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."

Growth and progress

A diverse Coalition

The ATOM Coalition has a diverse partner network, including biopharma companies and key biopharma associations, diagnostic companies, Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Access to Medicine Foundation (ATMF), and civil society partners.

Improving access to essential medicines

With guidance from the Medicines Expert Advisory group, the Coalition has established a target list of priority generic, biosimilar, and patented medicines. Since its launch in May 2022, the ATOM Coalition has been engaging with manufacturers to increase access to priority essential medicines in 46 ATOM Coalition countries by providing these medicines at low-cost.

Collective decision-making and expertise

The ATOM Coalition has a multi-stakeholder governance framework consisting of an Executive Committee, an ATOM Coalition Council, and a Private Sector Council. Expert Advisory Groups have also been convened to provide guidance on medicines, diagnostics, and registration barriers. Additionally, country coordination committees with local stakeholders will be established in ATOM Coalition countries for capacity building implementation.

An informed way forward

The ATOM Coalition secretariat has conducted foundational research to assess the current scope of cancer-related access programs in LLMICs and determine a group of LLMIC countries for the first phase of operations. An initial set of 10 countries has been identified for phased implementation of capacity building activities. **[Download the research report here.](#)**

Future opportunities

The ATOM Coalition has the required structure in place to commence implementation of the operational plan set forward in this document. With the funding available, the Coalition Secretariat will initiate the five workstreams deemed critical to address access barriers identified by Coalition partners and country experts. Activities will be prioritised based on funding and resources available.

The key challenge is transforming commitments into delivery and ensuring increased access to medicines for patients in a sustainable way. With additional funding, workstream activities could potentially be delivered in a shorter time frame and with wider scope and greater impact.

Workstream 1

Supporting sustainable access to essential cancer medicines in ATOM Coalition countries.

OBJECTIVE

To increase the supply of essential oncology medicines in ATOM Coalition countries, with an initial focus on:

- five generic essential medicines on the WHO EML for breast cancer
- five patented medicines on the WHO EML for other priority cancers
- two patented medicines not currently on the WHO EML but recommended to pursue a voluntary license.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Map existing delivery mechanisms to identify and leverage viable delivery solutions and existing platforms that are replicable and adaptable to specific country contexts
- Engage with partners to increase supply of priority ATOM Coalition essential medicines at reduced prices in Coalition countries
- Provide support as official implementation partner to Coalition partners who have committed to supply medicines at low cost
- Develop feasible and scalable approaches to expand access to the nilotinib VL via capacity building support in seven VL countries

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2024

- Implementation support to key industry access programmes
- Capacity building support to maximise impact of industry donation programmes
- Implementation of access strategy, including capacity building, for the nilotinib VL
- One to two additional VLs secured
- Development of access strategy for priced medicines, including market platform and scope of support defined
- Commencement of prequalification work for priority medicines
- Increased number of EML-approved generic, biosimilar and patented medicines registered and available in Coalition countries at affordable prices

Workstream 2

Implementing cross-cutting global public good activities

OBJECTIVE

Identify and develop access solutions that address key barriers and have the potential to make substantial impact on global efforts to increase access to essential oncology medicines and improve health systems in LLMICs.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Identify solutions to ease the process of national registration
- Facilitate direct pathways for ATOM Coalition countries to secure sustainable financing for medicines
- Identify sustainable solutions to address diagnostic barriers, including a Social Impact Fund for the bulk purchase of key equipment and reagents
- Strengthen the ATOM Coalition network through best practice sharing
- Collectively identify and implement global initiatives to achieve the Coalition's long-term objectives

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2024

- Identification of global and country-level registration-related barriers for initial set of essential cancer medicines (defined in workstream 1)
- Work initiated to support the pre-qualification process for priority cancer medicines
- Increased networking, collaboration and knowledge sharing across the Coalition on critical access issues affecting LLMICs
- Defined pathways to facilitate registration process mechanism for additional essential medicines
- Implementation of collective actions (TBD) by ATOM Coalition private sector council partners to support Coalition's objectives

Workstream 3

Securing strategic partnerships to deliver the ATOM Coalition mission

Objective

Secure partnership agreements with key organisations, focused on strategic partners who:

- currently run scaled oncology medicines access programmes in LLMICs
- have core infrastructure to facilitate the movement of medicines between manufacturer and countries
- are not currently represented within the ATOM Coalition but support critical components of cancer treatment and care.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Secure formal agreements and define collaboration with all key partners, including scope of work, timelines, resources commitment, and capacity building support strategies
- Commence coordinated activities with strategic partners to deliver on operational plan
- Identify and outreach to other organisations and secure additional partnerships

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Key alliances forged with fit-for-purpose partners to deliver the ambitions of the Coalition
- Increased public awareness of the impact of strategic partners' access initiatives and activities
- Strengthened technical expertise as a Coalition
- Enhanced network and collective expertise to address key capacity building gaps in Coalition countries

Workstream 4

Implementing support for targeted country-level capacity building

OBJECTIVE

Deliver global capacity building (CB) support and activities, and initiate country engagement with 10 ATOM Coalition capacity building countries, with an initial focus on strengthening capacities to appropriately use breast cancer medicines.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Adapt WHO's Country Needs Assessment Tool to collect landscaping data, including readiness, capacity, processes and barriers, in CB countries
- Develop a matrix tool to match countries' CB needs with partner expertise
- Begin engagement and activities with CB countries to convene virtual workshops and exploratory missions
- Identify opportunities to support the CB needs of key strategic partners' access initiatives within CB countries
- Begin direct, high-level country engagement with first three countries to develop enabling policy environment and MoUs to define scope of work
- Develop situational analyses and health financing reports with recommendations on CB activities for first three countries
- Develop CB strategy to support country-level uptake and appropriate use of the nilotinib VL the seven VL countries
- Assemble a dedicated taskforce, including patient advocates, in the seven VL countries to identify critical barriers

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY END OF 2024

- Implementation of CB activities across 10 CB countries through matrix matching
- Formal engagement and scope of work agreed with first three countries
- Completed situation analyses and health financing reports for initial three countries
- Refined WHO needs assessment tool
- Adoption and dissemination of CB tools and best practices in 10 CB countries
- Application and dissemination of Coalition partner resources and best practices
- Implementation of CB activities to expand access to the nilotinib VL
- Additional funding secured to finance in-country CB activities

Workstream 5

Continued development of governance and operations

Objective

Secure additional funding, build on Coalition governance and focus on high-impact, low-resource activities.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Convene a Registration Expert Advisory Group in first half of 2023
- Set up a Capacity Building Expert Advisory Group in the second half of 2023
- Develop additional governance policies related to approval of new members and partners and qualifying criteria for new members of governance groups
- Refine proposal for a Social Impact Fund for Diagnostics
- Outreach to philanthropic foundations with interest in health systems strengthening in LLMICs and global cancer control
- Assess potential to provide implementation support to Coalition partners to scale their access programmes

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Focus on developing specific funding proposals to provide implementation and CB support for all prioritised medicines
- Determine high impact, low resource activities
- UICC to continue to support the ATOM Coalition and take the lead on some aspects of the Operational Plan in 2023

Expected outcomes by 2024

- An **increased number of essential cancer medicines** provided by ATOM Coalition partners available and used in ATOM Coalition countries.
- An **increased number of ATOM Coalition partners delivering donated and/or discounted priced medicines** in ATOM Coalition countries.
- **Efficient and effective operational and infrastructure solutions** identified, in process and/or in place to **support ATOM Coalition countries to receive medicines.**
- More **biopharmaceutical partners committed to provide VLs** for their patented medicines for ATOM Coalition priority cancers.



List of Essential Cancer Medicines the ATOM Coalition will focus on in 2023–24

	16	5
On patent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> osimertinib palbociclib ribociclib abemaciclib zanubrutinib pembrolizumab* nivolumab* atezolizumab durvalumab tislelizumab daratumumab rituximab–subcutaneous trastuzumab–subcutaneous dabrafenib+trametinib vemurafenib+cobimetinib encorafenib+binimetinib <p><i>*Anti- PD1/PD-L1 immune checkpoints inhibitors</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enzalutamide nilotinib pembrolizumab nivolumab ibrutinib
Off patent		<p>5 breast cancer medicines from the following MEAG approved list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> capecitabine carboplatin cyclophosphamide docetaxel doxorubicin fluorouracil methotrexate paclitaxel trastuzumab Aromatase inhibitors* tamoxifen
	Not on EML	On EML

ATOM Coalition country lists

ATOM Coalition country list (46)

Africa

Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

Americas

Belize, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua

Europe

Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Rep., Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Eastern Mediterranean

Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Pakistan

South and South-East Asia

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia Western Pacific – Cambodia, Lao, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines

ATOM Coalition countries for capacity building activities 2023–2025 (10)

Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, India (2 states), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia

ATOM Coalition countries – signatories to WHO/CRP or PAHO Strategic Fund (8)

Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, El Salvador, Honduras

ATOM Coalition countries within the nilotinib VL agreement (7)

Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia

ATOM Coalition Executive Committee members

Anil D'Cruz (Co-chair), Director of Oncology, Apollo Hospitals, India

Gilberto de Lima Lopes Junior (Co-chair), University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, USA

Cary Adams, CEO, UICC, Switzerland

Sanjeev Arora, Founder and Director, Project ECHO, USA

Matthew Bouchonville, Associate Director, Project ECHO, USA

Pat Garcia-Gonzalez, CEO, The Max Foundation, USA

Blair Holladay, CEO, American Society for Clinical Pathology, USA

Michele Mestrinaro, Global Head of Policy, Novartis, Switzerland

Dan Milner, Executive Director, ATOM Coalition, USA

Observers

Jay Iyer, Access to Medicines Foundation, Netherlands

Charles Gore, Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool, Switzerland



List of ATOM Coalition Expert Advisory Group members

Members of the ATOM Coalition Medicines Expert Advisory Group

Gilberto de Lima Lopes Junior (Chair), University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, USA
Zeba Aziz, Hameed Latif Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan
Esteban Burrone, Medicines Patent Pool, Switzerland
Jay Iyer, Access to Medicines Foundation, Netherlands
Yehoda Martei, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Dan Milner, Executive Director, ATOM Coalition
Verna Vanderpuye, National Center for Radiotherapy, Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Korlebu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana

Members of the ATOM Coalition Diagnostics Expert Advisory Group

Dan Milner (Chair), American Society for Clinical Pathology
Julia Elvin, Foundation Medicine
Julie Gralow, American Society of Clinical Oncology
Jason Hornick, Harvard Medical School
Blandina Mmbaga, Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI)



ATOM Coalition partners

as of 18 May 2023



THE ATOM COALITION



ATOM
Access to Oncology Medicines



"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"

The Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition

www.uicc.org/ATOMCoalition
[@atom_coalition](https://twitter.com/atom_coalition)

