

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HIV TREATMENT

CURRENT RESPONSE



In 2013, 1.56 million people living with HIV had access to antiretroviral therapy in Asia and the Pacific.



25% INCREASE

This is a 25% increase over the previous year, but still only a third of people living with HIV were accessing lifesaving treatment.

New Fast-Track Targets have been established by UNAIDS for the post-2015 era. The targets aim for:

- 90%** of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status
- 90%** of people who know their status receiving treatment
- 90%** of people on HIV treatment having a suppressed viral load.

LEGAL SITUATION



Access to affordable HIV treatment is under threat from increasingly restrictive intellectual property policies and free trade agreements which often go beyond what is required by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).



Flexibilities under TRIPS which allow implementation of measures for protecting affordable access to essential medicines have still not been fully utilized by most countries in the region.

Governments can strengthen their ability to utilize TRIPS flexibilities by:

- increasing awareness on how access to affordable medicines can be enhanced through balanced implementation of intellectual property rights;
- conducting thorough assessments of the impacts of trade agreements and investment treaties on access to affordable medicines;
- strengthening coordination and coherence among public health, trade and intellectual property rights agencies and policies.