

# WE NEED AIDS DRUGS FOR KIDS NOW

## HIV/AIDS IS TREATABLE, BUT MILLIONS OF CHILDREN ARE STILL WAITING

Across the globe last year, 700,000 children were newly infected with HIV – half a million of them live in Africa, compared to only 250 in Europe and North America. But there are no affordable AIDS tests that work in babies or medicines that kids can take easily. And without treatment, half of babies born with HIV in poor countries die before their second birthday. But because developing AIDS drugs for poor kids is not profitable, many companies don't even study their existing or new adult anti-retroviral drugs in children. As an example, the WHO recommends *efavirenz* for treating AIDS in children, but to date it has still not been studied in children under three years. At least two companies, Cipla and Ranbaxy, are developing much-needed triple-drug formulations for children. Other companies like GlaxoSmithKline are working on low dosage tablets for kids. **But we need to put pressure on all drug companies to systematically study all of their AIDS drugs in children and make easy-to-use formulations for kids now. We must make sure that the youngest people living with AIDS are not forgotten.**

### THE PROBLEM WITH THE DRUG FORMULATIONS AVAILABLE NOW:

**Syrups** can taste bitter, are hard to dose correctly, and often need refrigeration, which frequently doesn't exist in poorer countries. Plus, syrups always cost more than pills. **Adult tablets** need to be crushed so kids can take them, making it difficult to give the right dose – both over-dosing and under-dosing can be dangerous.

### WHAT WE NEED:

**Drugs in solid form** are the solution, but they need to come in varying sizes, so that caregivers can easily give kids the doses they need as they grow. Syrups will still be needed for the youngest of babies, but these should not require refrigeration.

## HELP OUT:

**SEND A POSTCARD TO ONE OF THE DRUG COMPANIES BELOW, AND JOIN MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES IN OUR PUSH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIDS DRUGS FOR CHILDREN.**

**This list shows what we need the major originator and generic drug companies to do for kids with AIDS:\***

**TODAY, THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES DON'T PRODUCE ANY OF THEIR AIDS DRUGS FOR CHILDREN:**

COMPANY	AIDS DRUG	FOR KIDS?	FORM	WE NEED
<b>Gilead</b> 333 Lakeside Drive Foster City, CA 94404 USA www.gilead.com	<i>tenofovir</i> <i>tenofovir/emtricitabine</i> <i>emtricitabine</i>	NO NO NO	NONE NONE NONE	We need Gilead to speed up studies of their AIDS drugs in kids
<b>Hetero</b> H.no .8-3-166/7/1, Erragadda, Hyderabad 500018 INDIA www.heterodrugs.com	<i>Produces 17 ARVs</i>	NO	NONE	We need Hetero to make AIDS drugs for kids.
<b>Ranbaxy</b> Gurgaon -122001 Haryana INDIA www.ranbaxy.com	<i>Produces 13 ARVs</i>	NO	NONE	We need Ranbaxy to speed up development of its three-in-one combination for kids.
<b>Strides</b> Bilekahalli Bannerghatta Road Bangalore – 560076 INDIA www.stridesarco.com	<i>Produces 8 ARVs</i>	NO	NONE	We need Strides to make AIDS drugs for kids.

**THESE ARE THE COMPANIES THAT PRODUCE SOME VERSIONS OF AIDS DRUGS FOR CHILDREN:**

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>AIDS DRUG</b>	<b>FOR KIDS?</b>	<b>FORM</b>	<b>WE NEED</b>
<b>Abbott</b> 100 Abbott Park Rd. Abbott Park, IL 60064 USA www.abbott.com	<i>lopinavir/ritonavir</i> <i>ritonavir</i>	Yes, BUT Yes, BUT	syrup syrup	We need Abbott to make easy-to-use AIDS drugs for kids.
<b>Aurobindo</b> Maitrivihar, Ameerpet Hyderabad 500 038 INDIA www.aurobindo.com	Of 11 ARVs only 4 in kids form: <i>didanosine</i> <i>efavirenz</i> <i>lamivudine</i> <i>nevirapine</i>	Yes, BUT Yes, BUT Yes, BUT Yes, BUT	syrup syrup syrup syrup	We need Aurobindo to make easy-to-use AIDS drugs for kids.
<b>Boehringer Ingelheim</b> Binger Str. 173 55216 Ingelheim GERMANY www.boehringer-ingelheim.com	<i>nevirapine</i>	Yes, BUT	syrup	We need BI to make this drug in easy-to-use pills for kids.
<b>Bristol Myers Squibb</b> 345 Park Avenue NY, NY 10154 USA www.bms.com	<i>stavudine</i> <i>atazanavir</i> <i>didanosine</i>	Yes <b>NO</b> <b>NO</b>	low-dose capsules <b>NONE</b> <b>NONE</b>	We need BMS to make easy-to-use kids doses of their 2 other AIDS drugs
<b>Cipla</b> Mumbai Central Mumbai 400 008 INDIA www.cipla.com	Of 15 ARVs only 5 in kids form: <i>abacavir</i> <i>lamivudine</i> <i>nevirapine</i> <i>stavudine</i> <i>zidovudine</i>	Yes, BUT Yes, BUT Yes, BUT Yes Yes, BUT	syrup syrup syrup low-dose capsules syrup	We need Cipla to speed up the development of their three-in-one pill combination for kids, and to make easy-to-use pills.
<b>Combinopharm</b> 6-8 Edificio Contata 2 08970 Sant Joan Despi Barcelona SPAIN www.combinopharm.com	<i>zidovudine</i>	Yes, BUT	syrup	We need Combinopharm to make easy-to-use pills for kids.
<b>GlaxoSmithKline</b> Stockley Park West Uxbridge Middlesex UB11 1BT UK www.gsk.com	<i>abacavir</i> <i>lamivudine</i> <i>zidovudine/lamivudine</i> <i>abacavir/lamivudine</i> <i>zidovudine/lamivudine/abacavir</i>	Yes, BUT Yes, BUT <b>NO</b> <b>NO</b> <b>NO</b>	syrup syrup <b>NONE</b> <b>NONE</b> <b>NONE</b>	We need GSK to speed up the development of low-dosage tablets, and to study all of their new AIDS drugs in kids.
<b>GPO</b> [Government Pharmaceutical Organization] 75/1 Rama VI Road Ratchathewi Bangkok 10400 THAILAND www.gpo.or.th	Of 7 ARVs, only 4 in kids form: <i>lamivudine</i> <i>nevirapine</i> <i>stavudine</i> <i>zidovudine</i>	Yes, BUT Yes, BUT Yes Yes, BUT	syrup syrup low-dose capsules syrup	We need GPO to speed up the development of their three-in-one pill combination for kids.
<b>Merck</b> One Merck Drive, P.O. Box 100 Whitehouse Station NJ 08889 USA www.merck.com	<i>efavirenz</i>	Yes, BUT	syrup + low-dose capsules	We need Merck to lower prices and make its drugs for kids more available. We urge them to study efavirenz in kids under 3.
<b>Roche</b> Grenzacherstr.124 CH-4070 Basel SWITZERLAND www.roche.com	<i>enfuvirtide</i> <i>saquinavir</i> <i>nelfinavir</i>	<b>NO</b> <b>NO</b> Yes, BUT	<b>NONE</b> <b>NONE</b> powder + tablets	We need Roche to study nelfinavir in kids and start making its other drugs for kids.

\*This is not an exhaustive list of needed and available drugs. The information in this table is based on information provided by companies for the MSF price report "Untangling the web"