



Latin American Civil Society Statement on Equitable Access to Lenacapavir

May 8, 2025

Medicines for the People, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), Public Citizen, regional networks, and the undersigned civil society organizations committed to the HIV response, issue an urgent call to governments across Latin America to ensure equitable access to Lenacapavir—an innovative, long-acting injectable medication with the potential to transform HIV prevention.

In 2023, 1.3 million people acquired HIV globally—well above the international targets for reducing new infections. This alarming reality underscores the need for a bold and immediate response.

Lenacapavir provides six-month protection through a single injection and holds significant promise for reducing new infections. However, its current price—exceeding USD 40,000 per person per year—renders it inaccessible, even for upper-middle-income countries in the region. This stands in stark contrast to an estimated production cost of less than USD 100. Gilead’s voluntary licensing arrangement has unjustly excluded key countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru—even though some participated in clinical trials—violating fundamental ethical principles of research.

In 2024, Latin American civil society mobilized to demand equitable access to Lenacapavir. On December 1, World AIDS Day, 113 organizations denounced the region’s exclusion under the slogan “Gilead in debt to Latin America.” On December 18, a new initiative—“Latin America Demands Equitable Access to Lenacapavir”—brought together 94 organizations and 13 social leaders to submit a regional appeal to 22 national governments.

These actions aim to encourage the use of legal flexibilities under the World Trade Organization’s TRIPS Agreement, including compulsory licensing, strengthened regulatory frameworks, and the promotion of local medicine production.

This collective response signals Latin American civil society’s strong opposition to Gilead’s prioritization of profits over public health and affirms the urgent need for governments to utilize all available legal mechanisms to ensure access, with the right to health and public interest as guiding principles.

In Argentina, the GEP Foundation successfully challenged Gilead’s patent application for Lenacapavir, arguing that the compounds lacked novelty and inventiveness. The National Institute for Industrial Property (INPI) subsequently rejected the application, citing failure to meet national patentability standards.



Secondary patent applications should also be rejected when they merely serve to extend monopolies without offering therapeutic benefits or meaningful innovation.

Access to Lenacapavir is further hindered by high costs, a lack of transparency, export restrictions within Gilead's licensing agreements, and delays in the availability of generic alternatives—currently not expected before 2028—factors that threaten to widen the gap in the global HIV response.

Ensuring access to Lenacapavir must be part of a broader structural shift recognizing publicly funded medicines as global public goods. We call on the international community to adopt policies that place public health above private profits.

We urge Latin American governments to act swiftly to improve access and promote regional production of essential medicines. Civil society organizations remain ready to collaborate with national authorities despite the lack of institutional response to date.

If concrete progress is not achieved in the near term, we strongly encourage governments to consider issuing compulsory licenses—an approach that has yielded success in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, and Ecuador in response to other patented medicines.

We, the undersigned, call on the governments of Latin America to:

- Ensure equitable access to Lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable medication used for HIV prevention and as an alternative for individuals with resistance to other antiretroviral treatments.
- Strengthen regulatory frameworks to facilitate the registration and availability of generic versions and support regional pharmaceutical production.
- Utilize the flexibilities under the WTO TRIPS Agreement, including compulsory licensing, and invite interest from generic manufacturers to produce the medication.
- Reject unjustified secondary patents that extend monopolies and hinder access to essential medicines.
- Involve civil society in dialogue and decision-making processes related to access to innovative treatments.



Organizations and individuals endorsing the statement:

AIDS Healthcare Foundation – Global
 AHF Latam y Caribe – Regional
 ABRAFH – Brasil
 Acción Internacional para la Salud – Perú
 Algodonal – Venezuela
 Alianza Lambda de Venezuela – Venezuela
 América Diversa – Estados Unidos
 Arcoíris Fundación – Venezuela
 Arcoíris – México
 Arcoíris en Positivo – México
 Arcoíris en Positivo el Algodonal – Venezuela
 Asoc. Civil Binca para Todos – Perú
 Asociaciones INPACVIH – Perú
 Asociación de Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay Unidas en la Esperanza – Paraguay
 Asociación de Mujeres con VIH "Santa Micaela" – Perú
 Asociación Juntos con Esperanza – Perú
 Asociación Para Una Vida Mejor de Personas Infectadas Afectadas por el VIH - Sida en Honduras (APUVIMEH) – Honduras
 Asociación de PVV, Poblaciones Clave y Vulnerables Sembrando Participación - CONSEMPAR - PERAs – Perú
 CEPRESI – Nicaragua
 CEPESJU – Perú
 Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina – Guatemala
 Centro Iberoamericano para el Fomento del Derecho Internacional y los Derechos Humanos – México
 Circuito de la Diversidad Sexual – México
 Colectiva Afrofeminista Bororó Violeta – Colombia
 Colectivo ConSentido – Venezuela
 Colectivo Los Pacientes Importan – México
 Colectivo es de Corazón Trans en Campeche – México
 Condomóvil A.C. – México
 Corresponsales Clave – Red Regional
 Diego Gaytán – México
 Diversidad Dominicana – República Dominicana
 FALGBT – Argentina
 FALGBT+ – Argentina
 Federación Argentina LGBT+ – Argentina
 Foro Regional por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos FORDES Arequipa – Perú
 Fundación Acción Positiva por la Vida – Guatemala
 Fundación Arcoíris – Honduras
 Fundación Damas de Hierro – México
 Fundación Damián – Guatemala
 Fundación Diverso – Guatemala
 Fundación Huésped – Argentina
 Fundación LLAVES – El Salvador
 Fundación Proyecto Arcoíris en Positivo – Venezuela
 Fundación SF México – México
 Fundación Shantall Ferrer – México
 Global Humanitarian Progress Corporation GHP Corp. – Colombia
 Grupo Multisectorial en VIH/SIDA e ITS del Estado de Veracruz – México
 Grupo Solidariedade do Estado de Minas Gerais – Brasil
 Grupo Impulsor de la Vigilancia de Antirretrovirales - GIVAR
 Hospital General Dr. José Baldo – Venezuela
 Huellas en la Pluma – México
 ICW Panamá
 ICW Argentina
 Igualdad Evita Chubut – Argentina
 Impulse Buenos Aires – Argentina
 Información y Educación Sexual del Caribe A.C. – México
 INPPARES – Perú
 Instituto para el Desarrollo Humano - Bolivia – Bolivia
 IRCA CASABIERTA – Costa Rica
 ITPC LATCA – Perú
 Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana en Argentina – Argentina
 Juntos por la Vida – Perú
 KARUNA, Salud y Desarrollo A.C. – México
 La Bancaria Sindicato – Argentina
 Lazos de Vida – Perú
 Liga Merideña contra el Sida – Venezuela
 Lugar de la Esperanza – Venezuela
 Medicinas para la Gente – Red Regional
 Mexicanas en Acción Positiva A.C. – México
 OTRANS-RN – Guatemala
 Pacientes Alto Costo – Colombia
 Planet Rescue Foundation Inc. – Estados Unidos
 PMA LAC – Regional
 Prevenir es Cuidar – Colombia
 Programa de Soporte y Autoayuda de Personas Seropositivas - PROSA
 Proyecto Arcoíris en Positivo – México
 Public Citizen - Estados Unidos
 Puerta Abierta / Iglesia Católica – México
 Red de Acceso a Medicamentos Guatemala
 Red Guatemalteca Mujeres Positivas en Acción – Guatemala
 Red Joven Profamilia – Colombia
 Red Juvenil Cultura de Paz y VIH / Venezuela – Venezuela
 Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad - Perú
 RENACER – Perú
 Salud y Fármacos – Perú
 Secretaría VIH/ITS de la Federación Argentina LGTBIQ – Argentina
 Secretaría de VIH y ITS FALGBT – Argentina
 SF México – México
 Sí a la Vida A.C. – México
 SidaVida - Perú
 Social Corporation – Venezuela
 Solidaridad Ed Thomas A.C. – México
 Somos Barrios de Pie – Argentina
 SOMOSLOUD – Perú
 SOMOSLOUD Iquitos – Perú
 Tu Mismx – Perú
 Una Mano Amiga en la Lucha contra el Sida A.C. – México
 VIHsibles – Argentina
 VIHve Libre – México
 Voluntades Lima Norte – Perú