

# The role of intellectual property in local production in developing countries

## Opportunities and challenges



 Intellectual Property and Trade

 R&D Innovation

 Technology Transfer

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**World Health Organization**



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**World Health  
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## Abbreviations

<b>AIDS</b>	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>ARIPO</b>	Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organisation
<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
<b>HPV</b>	human papillomavirus
<b>ICTSD</b>	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
<b>I-MAK</b>	Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge
<b>LDC</b>	least developed country
<b>OAPI</b>	Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle
<b>TRIPS Agreement</b>	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

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## Background

This paper forms part of Phase 2 of a project undertaken by the World Health Organization and supported by the European Commission on improving access to medical products in developing countries through building capacity for local production and related technology transfer.

Phase 1 of the project reviewed the main trends and barriers to local production of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and diagnostics. The evidence gathered in Phase 1 suggests that developing countries that have developed a viable and successful manufacturing industry adopted a long-term vision and followed it up with perseverance. It was identified that a mutually supportive, complementary and coherent combination of policies is required to ensure long-term sustainability. Alignment between medical regulation, industrial and investment policies, science, technology and innovation policies, intellectual property policies, health insurance policies, procurement policies and technology transfer policies appears to be particularly important (1).

Phase 2 of the project seeks to continue to develop the policy framework identified in Phase 1 by conducting a deeper analysis of the areas identified in order to develop policy coherence. One of the policy areas where further analysis is required is the role played by intellectual property rights in local production and access to medical products in developing countries – in particular, how indirect government support can be provided by the development of policies to support incremental innovation and production and suitable intellectual property rights regimes.

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