



April 17, 2025

The Secretary
WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Essential Medicines Team
Department of Health Products and Standards
World Health Organization, Geneva

Submission for the 25th WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines: Application to add SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for Children for Persons with Albinism

Dear WHO Expert Committee Members:

On behalf of a 9-year transdisciplinary global research-advocacy-policy partnership on [Mothering and Albinism](#), we are writing to support for the inclusion of adding SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for Persons with Albinism, especially children.

Persons with Albinism, who lack melanin in their skin, are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of long-term sun exposure. In addition, the impact of climate change, with high ultraviolet (UV) radiation and increasing temperatures, places them at a greater incidence of developing skin cancer. Alongside the harmful effects of sun exposure, access to sunscreen, an essential form of protection is limited, unavailable or the cost is prohibitive in many geographical locations of the world.

In our research on *Mothering and Albinism* in Sub-Saharan Africa and Canada, mothers voiced concerns about the harsh effects of the sun, the limited access to sunscreen for their children, and the cost being financially burdensome given their other expenses. One mother stated, “*the child cannot play well with others because Africa is hot naturally, so it becomes a bit of a challenge in allowing your child to play with others outside*”. Another mother stated, “*mostly you only access sunscreen once in six months when an NGO has a clinic and if there’s no clinic there’s no sunscreen*”. While another mother expressed, “*Financially, it’s not easy. Even if we receive the sunscreen, the little bit they are providing at the health centres, they don’t even last for a month. When you are unable to get more sunscreen, you need to go and buy it*”.

To mitigate the devastating long-term effects that can lead to skin cancer, alongside the voices from mothers with children with albinism, we respectfully request the



inclusion of broad-spectrum sunscreen to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for Children, specifically for Persons with Albinism.

Yours sincerely,

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With:

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