

Countries where people earn as little as \$2.86 per day—**about as much as the price of a cup of coffee in many countries**—are designated by the World Bank as Middle-Income Countries (MICs). By comparison, a High-Income Country such as the US, has an average daily income of \$148.48 per capita.

75% of the world's poor now reside in these countries.
The majority of people living with HIV/AIDS now reside in the MICs.

75 PERCENT



The World Bank designation of MICs understates the true extent of poverty in these countries.



The International Poverty Line is \$1.25 per day, while countries with per capita income of as little as \$2.86 per day are considered Middle Income – this is unconscionable.

MICs suffer because they receive less foreign aid and pay higher prices for essential medicines and medical commodities. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria gives the MICs less money, even though they have a high burden of the three diseases.

In Swaziland, for example, nearly 1 in 3 adults is HIV-positive. Despite this, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said it will stop providing condoms to Swaziland because it is an MIC, and is thus not a poor country.



SWAZILAND



MICs such as Mexico, Vietnam, and Ukraine have to pay as much as 10 times more for commonly prescribed HIV drugs, compared to the Low-Income Countries.

TAKE ACTION

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The World Bank needs to change how it groups countries by income level.



Country designations need to account for on-the-ground realities, such as disease burden, unequal pay, and the quality of life.



The lower limit of the MIC bracket should be raised to between \$10-\$15 per day.