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The Compounding Effect of Tariffs on Medicines: Estimating the Real Cost of Emerging Markets' Protectionism

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INTRODUCTION

TARIFFS ARE LIKE Hydras: they create more problems than they solve. Tariffs on pharmaceutical products are a case in point. By levying import tariffs on pharmaceutical products, the governments of many low and middle-income countries, including the world's major low and middle-income economies, explicitly aim to maintain a source of government income and, at the same time, protect domestic producers from foreign competition. However, by squeezing out financial rents from the import of much-needed medicinal products, these governments impair the affordability of these products for low income patients in their countries. Unlike high-income countries, patients in low and middle-income countries largely pay for medicines out of their own pockets and, in addition, suffer from a great number of inefficiencies along regional value chains for medicinal products.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Even low import tariff rates have a significant compounding effect on the final retail price of medicines, which in turn impacts on affordability. While much of the "access to affordable medicines" debate is about intellectual property rights (IPRs) and business practices of pharmaceutical manufacturers, import duties and national protectionism are swept under the political rug. In this paper, we provide a synopsis of tariff barriers for exports of pharmaceutical products to the world's major low and middle-income countries (BRICS-MINT countries). Studying the impact on final prices for consumers, we estimate that the annual compounded financial burden of import tariffs on pharmaceuticals and

prevailing trade facilitation inefficiencies is highest for China (up to 6.2bn USD), Russia (up to 2.8bn USD), Brazil (up to 2.6bn USD) and India (737m USD), followed by Mexico (663m USD), Turkey (290m USD), Indonesia (251m USD), South Africa (177m USD) and Nigeria (60,000 USD). For Brazil and India, tariffs on medicines increase their final price by up to 80 per cent of the original sales price ex-factory. As most BRICS-MINT governments directly buy or settle patients' invoices for a bulk of medicinal products, the sum of all tariff-induced premiums on final prices for pharmaceuticals tends to exceed by far the tariff revenues initially collected by these governments' customs authorities. While import tariffs on medicines can cause

substantial net losses for governments, taxpayers and patients, they effectively work as a subsidy for companies along national distribution chains. This may lead to a political economy, in which customs authorities and pharmaceutical distributors may have a common interest in maintaining (high) import tariffs. We call for all low and middle-income countries to join the "zero-for-zero" pharmaceutical agreement, which would help to significantly cut the costs of medicines in general, reduce obscurity and absurdities in government spending and create better conditions for the access to medicines for low-income patients in these countries.

The right to health is well-founded in international law. It was declared a fundamental human right in the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1946, stating that “[t]he enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being [...]” and that “[g]overnments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures.” (WHO 1946, p. 1; see also Sammut and Levine 2016 and Goel 2015).

While access to medicine is not a human right except, in those countries which have specifically codified the right to health in their constitutions (mainly South American countries), it is regarded by the United Nations a fundamental element of the right to health and governments are obliged to develop national health legislation and policies to strengthen their national health systems. For this purpose, key issues related to access to medicines, such as affordability of essential medicines, procurement practices and supply chains, must be taken into account (OHCHR 2017).

Improving health equity is a major priority in global development policymaking. In international development cooperation frameworks, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that came into force in 2016, improvements in global health and, more specifically, “making essential medicines and vaccines affordable” has become a top-tier priority once again. According to the United Nations’ official announcements, policy areas to be addressed comprise research and development (R&D), intellectual property rights policies (IPRs), healthcare finance and improvements in the management of national and global health risks (UN 2015).

In line with these overarching objectives, the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines recently called on private sector pharmaceutical companies to cooperate with governments, particularly in providing enhanced access to information regarding R&D costs, production costs, marketing and pricing practices and the distribution of healthcare products and technologies (UN 2016). There is, however, one fundamental piece that is missing in expert analyses, policy discussions and the public debate about global health and access to medicines respectively: tariffs and taxation. Access to medicines is also a function of prices and affordability (WHO 2004), which are directly affected by national trade policies and regional taxation practices.

As concerns trade policy, the UN High Panel indeed acknowledges that “[t]rade and intellectual property rules were not developed with the goal of protecting the right to health, just as human rights doctrine does not primarily concern itself with promoting trade or reducing tariffs.” (UN 2016, p 16). At the same time, the Panel does not at all address frictions in the system that are caused by national trade policies, i.e. import duties (tariffs) and other protectionist policies, beyond matters related to the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In other words, much of the “trade in medicines” debate is about intellectual property rights (IPRs) and, often, about putting the blame on pharmaceutical manufacturers, while tariffs and the quality of governance and taxation are swept under the political carpet. As a result, and as will be shown below, many governments still unnecessarily, but substantially, inflate the cost of medicines through import tariffs, taxation and other domestic regulations.

During the Uruguay Round negotiations (1989 to 1994), several major trading partners agreed to reciprocal tariff elimination - a “zero-for-zero initiative” - for pharmaceutical products and for chemical intermediates used in the production of pharmaceuticals. The “Pharmaceutical Tariff Elimination Agreement” was agreed by 22 countries (Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, European Communities, Japan, Norway, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US) and entered into force on 1 January 1995. Due to the EU’s enlargement, there are now 34 signatories to the zero-for-zero pharmaceutical agreement, which enshrines a commitment to zero tariffs on medicinal products that are imported from abroad and aims to not replace tariff barriers with non-tariff trade barriers. The treaty even extends to cover products imported from states not signatory to the zero-for-zero agreement, including low and middle-income countries.

Most developing countries are still net importers of pharmaceuticals, but many impose tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on finished drugs, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and excipients (inactive substances that contain the active ingredients). As shown by Banik and Stevens (2015), a larger proportion of globally marketed medicinal products are now potentially subject to tariffs and other trade barriers, increasing upstream prices along the distribution chain of these medicines. Accordingly, the impact of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products gained in relative importance and adverse distortions of markets and consumer welfare increased significantly in absolute terms (see analysis below).

Compared to policies that aim to tackle local frictions in the distribution of medicines, such as a lack of education, high levels of corruption, lack of medical advisory capacities or the lack of domestic innovative capacities, the elimination of tariffs on pharmaceutical imports would be low hanging fruit. It would enhance access to medicine and contribute to the realisation of the right to health in low and middle-income countries. For various reasons, such as maintaining tariff revenues and the facilitation of contentious national industrial policies, low and middle-income countries have not yet signed up to this agreement. Tariffs and NTBs, however, substantially contribute to pharmaceutical costs by increasing the final price of medicines, thus limiting access for the poorest people. As already outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2005, “[t]ariffs on medicines are essentially a regressive form of taxation since a smaller proportion of the payers’ income is affected by the tariff as income rises. This regressive ‘tax’ on medicines targets the poor and the sick” (Olcay and Laing 2005, p. 2).

Aware of the necessity to build policy coherence and government accountability in trade and domestic healthcare policy, we start by providing a synopsis of trade and major barriers for exports of pharmaceutical products to the world’s major low and middle-income countries, i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (so-called BRICS countries), Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey (so-called MINT countries). In the subsequent part, we analyse how tariffs and inefficient customs procedures contribute to an inflation of prices of imported medicines. We aim to estimate the real size of border protection against medicines from abroad. We will show that nominal tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers are still high in many BRICS-MINT economies and that these barriers are significantly pushing up the price of medicines, increasing the initial percentage tariff surcharge by a high multiple. The estimations will be based on existing research and data sources, but will add new elements showing the real (and not just the nominal) size of the financial burden imposed on the consumers of imported medicines in BRICS-MINT countries. Based on our findings, we call for a new free trade accord that would help to substantially cut the costs of medicines in low and middle-income countries in general and create better conditions for access to medicines for patients in these countries.

PATTERNS IN BRICS-MINT COUNTRIES’ TRADE IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

In this section, we provide an overview of trade and tariff data to get an understanding about the evolution and importance of trade in pharmaceuticals by country, the rate of nominal protection and how patterns in tariff protection differ between BRICS-MINT countries.

Patterns in Imports and Exports

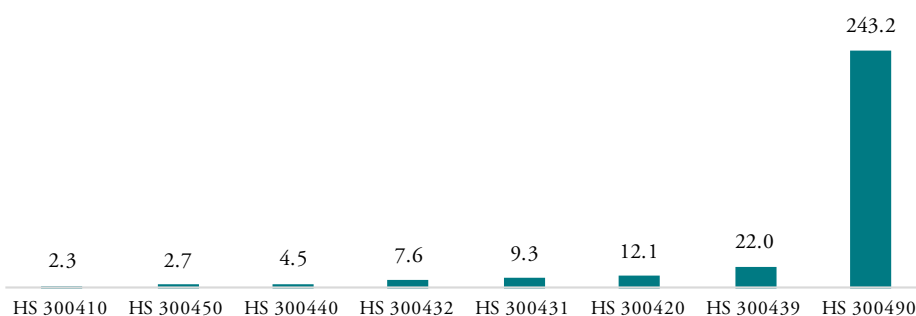
Since 2010, global trade in pharmaceutical products has stagnated, showing a relatively low aggregate growth rate of 1.3 per cent. While global trade volumes of products containing vitamins, penicillin, alkaloids and antibiotics generally decreased, global trade picked up for medicines containing hormones and insulin (see Table 1). At the same time, medicines “containing hormones” (HS 300439; 22bn USD in 2016) and medicines “containing other antibiotics” (HS 300420; 12.1bn USD in 2016) still account for high shares in global pharmaceuticals trade, only surpassed by “non-specified” other medicines, which account for 243bn USD in total pharmaceuticals trade (see Figure 1).

Table 1: Major medicines' product categories and development of trade value, 2010 to 2016

HS Category	Description	2010-2016 Growth in Total Trade Value
300450	Other medicaments containing vitamins or other products of heading 29.36	-27.4%
300410	Containing penicillins or derivatives thereof, with a penicillanic acid structure, or streptomycins or their derivatives	-21.4%
300440	Containing alkaloids or derivatives thereof but not containing hormones, other products of heading 29.37 or antibiotics	-11.8%
300420	Containing other antibiotics	-11.2%
3004	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06) consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses (including those in the form of transdermal administration systems) or in forms or packings for retail sale.	1.3%
300490	Other	1.4%
300432	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; Containing corticosteroid hormones, their derivatives or structural analogues	5.6%
300431	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; Containing insulin	20.0%
300439	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; other	33.1%

Source: WTO COMTRADE.

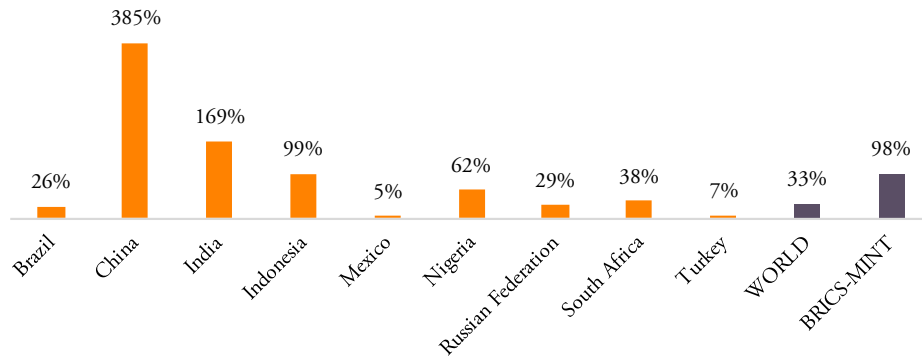
Figure 1: Total trade value of major pharmaceuticals product categories, 2016, in bn USD



Source: WTO COMTRADE.

The volume of medicinal products traded to and from BRICS and MINT countries has increased significantly in the past 20 years. BRICS and MINT countries' trade in pharmaceuticals stood at 51bn USD in 2016. Together the group of BRICS-MINT countries accounted for 17.1 per cent of total world trade in pharmaceutical products of about 300bn USD in 2016. While global trade in pharmaceutical products increased by 33 per cent between 2007 and 2016, BRICS-MINT countries trade in pharmaceuticals grew by 98 per cent between 2007 and 2016 (see Figure 2).

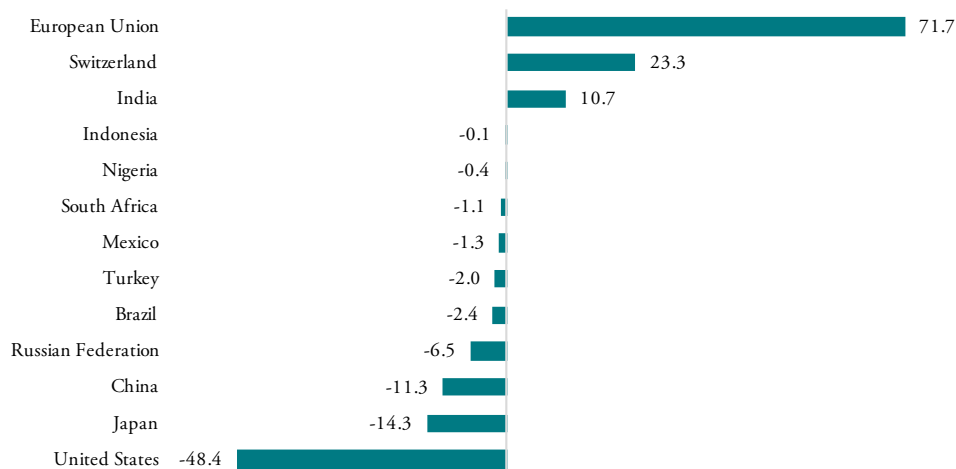
Figure 2: Growth rates of trade in pharmaceuticals, 2007 to 2016



Source: WTO COMTRADE. For Nigeria, growth is given for the period 2009 to 2014 (the earliest and latest data available).

Contrary to the world's largest producers of pharmaceutical products (the EU, Japan and Switzerland), BRICS-MINT countries' trade in pharmaceuticals is generally characterised by trade deficits with the rest of the world (see Figure 3). Imports exceed exports by 100m USD for Indonesia, 400m USD for Nigeria, 1.3bn USD for Mexico, 2bn USD for Turkey, 2.4bn USD for Brazil, 6.5bn USD for Russia, and 11.3bn USD for China. The only exception is India, which shows a trade surplus in pharmaceutical products of 10.7bn USD in 2016.

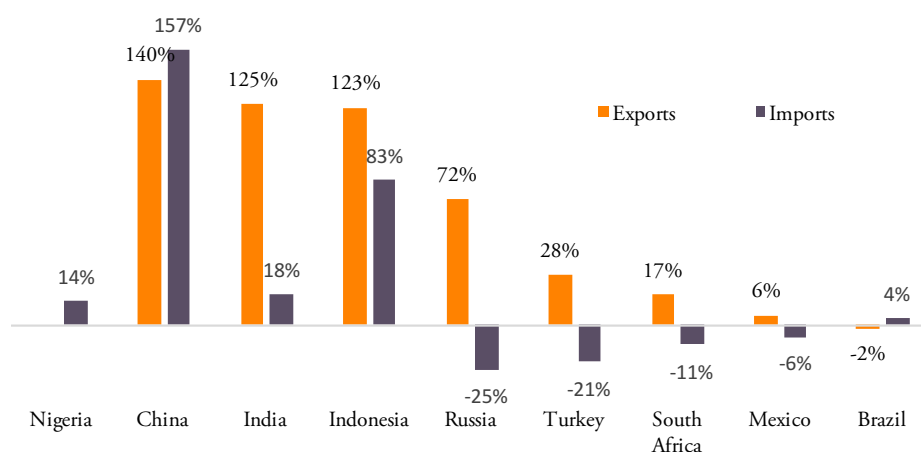
Figure 3: Trade balances in medicinal products, HS 3004, 2016, in bn USD



Source: WTO COMTRADE and Eurostat. For the EU, number are given in EUR.

Between 2007 and 2016, pharmaceutical exports increased for all BRICS-MINT countries, except for Brazil, which shows a low 2 per cent decline in medicine exports (see Figure 4). For pharmaceutical imports to BRICS-MINT countries, the picture is much more diverse. Nigeria, China, India and Indonesia show rising import values for pharmaceuticals from abroad, while imports to Russia, Turkey, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil are lower than in 2007. At the same time, China, India, Indonesia and Russia show relatively high growth rates in pharmaceutical exports.

Figure 4: Export vs. import growth rates, 2007 – 2016



Source: WTO COMTRADE and Eurostat. For the EU, number are given in EUR. Note: Nigeria's export growth rate for the period 2007 to 2014 (latest data available) was 1,499 per cent, an outlier, which has been eliminated from above chart.

Tariff Levels and Tariff Lines

WTO data show that tariffs on pharmaceuticals are still high among BRICS-MINT countries. Weighted average tariffs for pharmaceutical products, which represent the effective rate of protection at aggregate import level, are 4.2 per cent for China, 4.4 per cent for Indonesia, 4.3 per cent for Russia, and 2.6 per cent for Mexico. The highest weighted average tariffs are found for Brazil (10.1 per cent) and India (10 per cent). At the same time, Nigeria, South Africa and Turkey already apply zero tariffs medicinal products imported from abroad (see Figure 5). As concerns the development of tariff protection, the governments of China, Indonesia, Brazil and India have hardly reduced import tariffs for medicinal products in the past decade, while Nigeria eliminated tariffs for all pharmaceuticals products (in 2013)¹ and Mexico reduced its import tariffs from an average 7.1 per cent to an average 2.6 per cent.

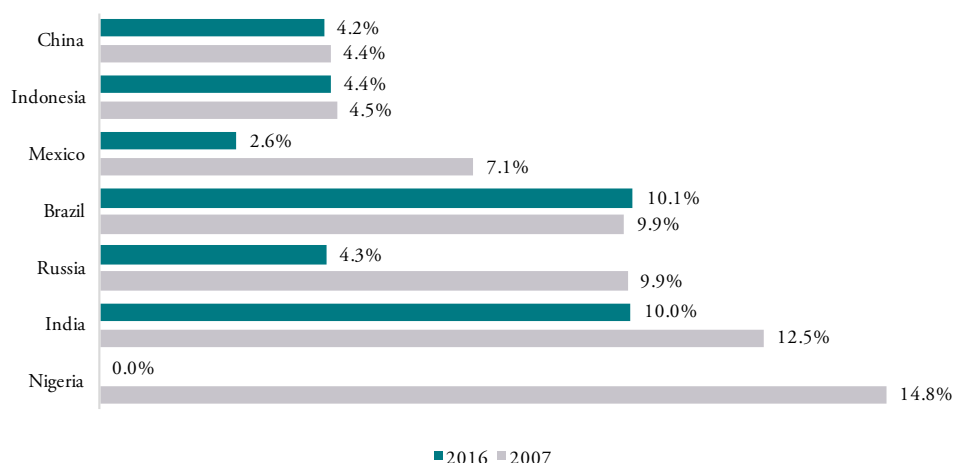
Similarly, the number of actively applied tariff lines² is still high for most BRICS-MINT countries, causing importers to struggle with administrative procedures and government discretion over product classification decisions. Figure 6 shows that, except for Nigeria (10 tariff lines), Turkey (11 tariff lines) and South Africa (17 tariff lines), all other BRICS-MINT countries apply more than 30 tariff lines for pharmaceuticals products within the HS 3004 product classification category. Brazil (146), India (137), China (125) and Mexico (78) apply the highest number of

¹ On 16 January 2017, MEDICALWORLD NIGERIA wrote that Nigeria fixed her Common External Tariff at 0 per cent, and that the effect "is that despite the astronomical rise in foreign exchange rates, many Nigerians can still afford to buy daily used drugs and medicaments." See <https://www.medicalworldnigeria.com/2017/01/association-of-pharmaceutical-importers-of-nigeria-press-statement-on-imminent-scarcity-and-high-cost-of-medicament-looming#.WakeOa2B1eg>, accessed on 1 September 2017.

² A tariff line reflects a product as defined in lists of tariff rates. Products can be sub-divided, the level of detail reflected in the number of digits in the Harmonized System (HS) code use to identify the product.

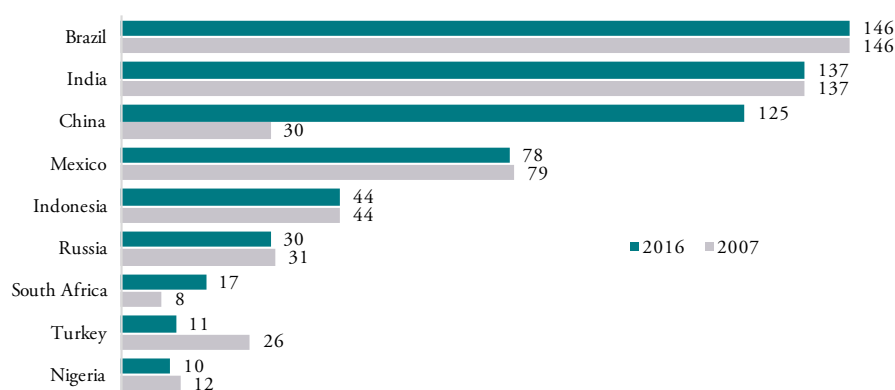
tariff lines. While the number of tariff lines applied by Brazil, India and Mexico did not change since 2007, the number of tariff lines applied by China significantly increased dramatically from 30 in 2007 to 125 in 2016, indicating a serious shift towards protectionism within the Chinese government.

Figure 5: Weighted average tariffs, by country, 2007 vs. 2016



Source: WTO TRAINS.

Figure 6: Number of tariff lines by country, 2016



Source: WTO TRAINS. *Tariff line: a product as defined in lists of tariff rates. Products can be subdivided, the level of detail reflected in the number of digits in the Harmonized System (HS) code used to identify the product. Note that Nigeria, South Africa and Turkey still disclose tariff lines even though tariffs are zero across all HS 3004 product categories.*

Table 2 shows that weighted applied average tariffs vary considerably across major sub-groups of pharmaceutical products. While India imposes a 10 per cent lump sum tariff across the board of imported medicinal products, applied import tariffs for different products categories range from 0 to 14 per cent for Brazil, 0 to 7.5 per cent for Russia, 3 to 6 per cent for China, 0 to 15 per cent for Mexico and 0 to 15 per cent for Indonesia (see Figure 7).

Table 2: Trade flows and weighted average import tariffs for major medicaments' product categories, 2016, trade flows, in million USD, tariffs, in per cent

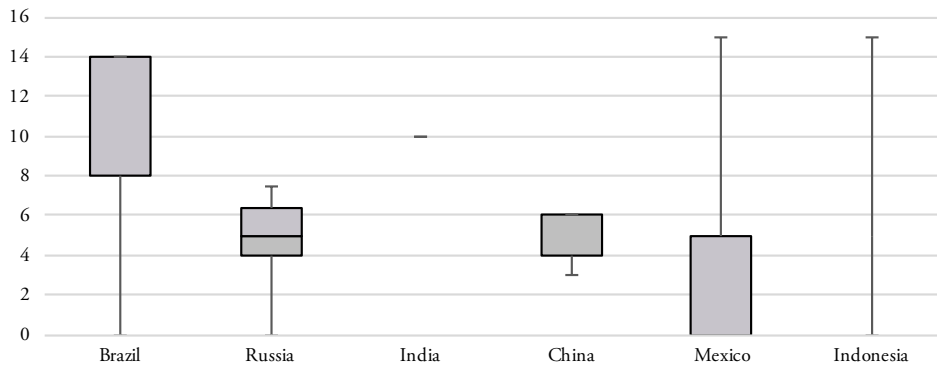
Country		HS 300410	HS 300420	HS 300431	HS 300432	HS 300439	HS 300440	HS 300450	HS 300490
Brazil	<i>Exports</i>	2.1	91.8	44.7	19.1	198.8	3.7	5.5	516.3
	<i>Imports</i>	51.1	200.2	56.3	46.4	406.3	42.7	32.3	2447.0
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-49.0	-108.3	-11.7	-27.3	-207.5	-39.0	-26.8	-1930.7
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	11.43	6.69	14	12	7.06	7.33	9.43	10.72
Russia	<i>Exports</i>	11.4	52.6	0.3	5.3	7.6	11.2	13.2	319.2
	<i>Imports</i>	106.9	445.3	96.8	237.5	380.8	327.9	191.7	5161.1
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-95.4	-392.7	-96.6	-232.2	-373.3	-316.7	-178.4	-4841.9
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.67
India	<i>Exports</i>	417.6	931.3	109.5	17.6	57.8	45.3	234.7	9798.2
	<i>Imports</i>	18.5	30.6	198.0	1.8	78.1	8.8	8.4	583.5
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	399.1	900.8	-88.5	15.7	-20.4	36.5	226.3	9214.7
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
China	<i>Exports</i>	142.9	263.8	159.0	28.3	31.1	12.3	58.4	2076.2
	<i>Imports</i>	69.3	1024.9	625.1	1105.3	1013.6	224.3	261.6	9766.3
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	73.7	-761.1	-466.1	-1077.0	-982.5	-211.9	-203.2	-7690.1
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	3.75
South Africa	<i>Exports</i>	3.8	2.7	0.5	0.1	1.1	32.1	4.6	271.9
	<i>Imports</i>	25.4	81.7	46.5	43.8	45.2	23.2	9.2	1143.4
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-21.5	-79.0	-46.0	-43.7	-44.1	8.9	-4.6	-871.5
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	<i>Exports</i>	3.8	68.2	4.0	12.3	55.6	21.9	97.7	970.5
	<i>Imports</i>	19.2	112.9	89.1	72.6	182.3	61.0	97.3	1878.4
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-15.4	-44.6	-85.1	-60.3	-126.7	-39.1	0.4	-908.0
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	10	3.75	10	5	2.86	6.25	6	1.84
Indonesia	<i>Exports</i>	72.2	27.6	0.0	4.1	12.2	0.0	33.0	293.4
	<i>Imports</i>	7.9	27.1	35.4	5.9	29.4	6.9	6.6	459.3
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	64.3	0.5	-35.4	-1.8	-17.2	-6.9	26.4	-166.0
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	4.67
Nigeria	<i>Exports</i>	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.9
	<i>Imports</i>	41.8	60.9	3.2	9.0	15.0	54.7	21.7	162.9
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-41.5	-60.8	-3.2	-9.0	-11.3	-54.7	-21.7	-162.0
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Turkey	<i>Exports</i>	1.1	60.8	1.7	0.5	13.2	1.3	8.1	501.7
	<i>Imports</i>	14.2	101.7	192.7	45.6	155.0	44.5	33.7	2023.3
	<i>Trade Balance</i>	-13.1	-40.9	-191.0	-45.2	-141.8	-43.2	-25.6	-1521.6
	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USA	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzer-land	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	<i>Average Tariff</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS. For Nigeria, trade values are given for 2014 (the latest data available).

Patterns in the Distribution of Import Tariffs on Pharmaceuticals (HS 3004)

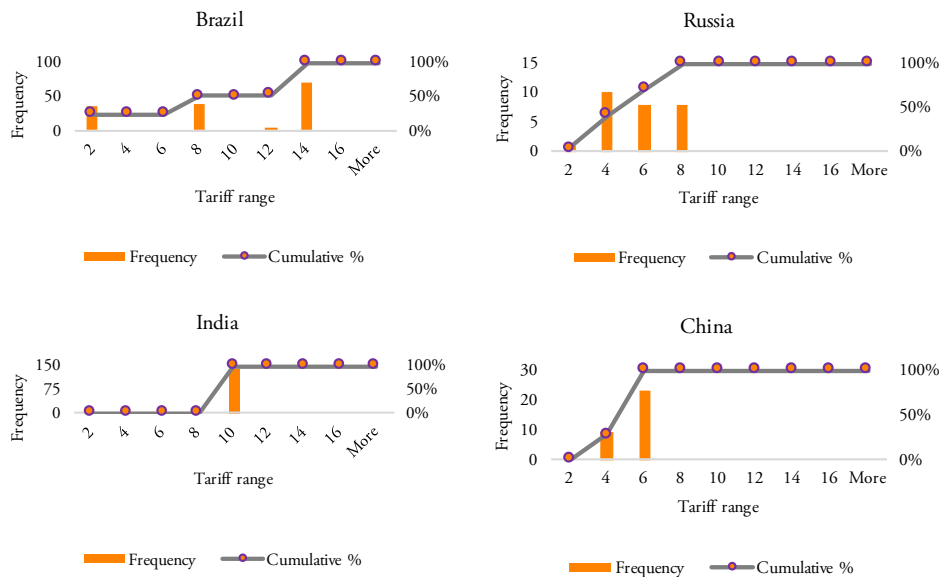
Our analysis of the distribution of import tariff levels across product-specific tariff lines reveals that half of Brazil’s tariff lines set import tariffs at levels of at least 8 per cent. Similarly, 50 per cent of pharmaceutical products’ tariff lines of Russia’s tariff schedule show import duties larger than 5 per cent. India, on the other hand, imposes a lump sum tariff of 10 per cent on every medicinal product that is imported from abroad. 50 per cent of Mexico’s tariff lines show zero tariffs, while 25 per cent of Mexico’s tariff lines are set levels between zero and 5 per cent and another 25 per cent of Mexico’s import tariff lines show tariff levels between 5 and 15 per cent. Finally, 75 per cent of tariff lines in Indonesia’s tariff schedule are set at levels of at least 5 per cent (see Figure 8).

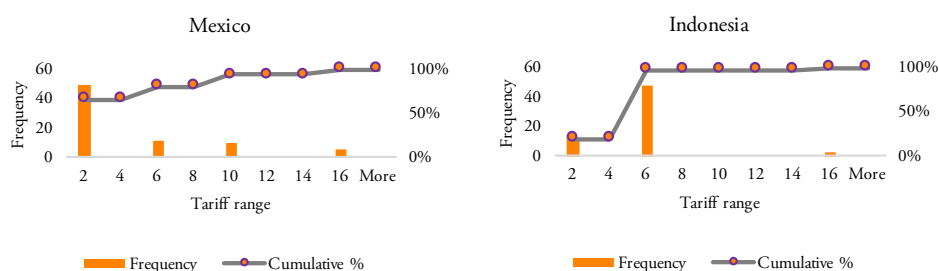
Figure 7: Distribution of pharmaceutical product tariffs within applied tariff lines



Source: WTO TRAINS. Note: numbers represent minimum, 1st quartile, median, 2nd quartile and maximum values for the entire range of applied tariff lines, by country.

Figure 8: Histograms representing the distribution of pharmaceuticals tariffs by country,





Source: WTO TRAINS. Own calculations for the entire range of applied tariff lines, by country.

Tariffs imposed on pharmaceuticals of specific product categories vary considerably across BRICS-MINT countries. For the 8 product categories of the HS 3004 category, Brazil, India and Mexico are the most protectionist countries among the group of BRICS-MINT countries. All three countries employ a very high number of tariff lines and relatively high tariffs on almost all pharmaceutical products of the HS 3004 product group. For these countries, high tariffs are applied across the board of pharmaceutical products, i.e. medicines containing hormones, penicillin, vitamins, alkaloids, and, except for Mexico, antibiotics. Indonesia also applies relatively high tariffs for imported drugs that contain vitamins, penicillin, hormones and antibiotics. By comparison, tariffs applied by the governments of China and Russia are still far from zero, but lower than those applied by the governments of Brazil, India, Indonesia and Mexico (see Table 3).

As applied tariffs also vary substantially within HS 3004 product lines, foreign importers willing to export to these countries have to employ specialized, and therefore expensive resources to administer databases, certificates, customs and payment procedures and liaise with government authorities to be eligible to serve customers in these markets. All of these costs are passed on to importers in these countries, which, in addition to the nominal import tariff and domestic sales taxes, are passed on to distributors, pharmacies, hospitals, doctors and, finally, patients. The alignment and simplification of heterogeneous customs procedures and import requirements is the key rationale of the WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which was concluded in 2013 and entered into force on 22 February 2017. The full implementation TFA, if effectively implemented, is estimated to reduce trade costs by an average 14.3 per cent for African countries, while least developed countries (LDCs) could enjoy an even bigger reduction in trade costs (WTO 2017).

Table 3: Heat map of average tariffs for HS 3004 product categories, 2016, in per cent

HS Code	Description	Brazil	India	Mexico	Indonesia	China	Russia
300431	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; Containing insulin	14	10	10	0	5	0
300432	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; Containing corticosteroid hormones, their derivatives or structural analogues	12	10	5	7.75	5	5
300410	Containing penicillins or derivatives thereof, with a penicillanic acid structure, or streptomycins or their derivatives	11.43	10	10	6.45	6	5
300490	Other	10.72	10	1.84	6.02	3.75	4.67
300450	Other medicaments containing vitamins or other products of heading 29.36	9.43	10	6	7.12	6	5
300440	Containing alkaloids or derivatives thereof but not containing hormones, other products of heading 29.37 or antibiotics	7.33	10	6.25	8.35	5	5
300439	Containing hormones or other products of heading 29.37 but not containing antibiotics; other	7.06	10	2.86	6.35	5	5
300420	Containing other antibiotics	6.69	10	3.75	7.82	6	5

Source: WTO TRAINS.

EFFECTIVE RATES OF IMPORT PROTECTION IN BRICS-MINT COUNTRIES

The nominal tariff charged by customs authorities only tells part of the story of the real burden imposed on final consumers. At the counter, the final price of a medicine paid for by a consumer is a combination of the manufacturer's price, various mark-ups by importers, wholesalers and distributors, and retail pharmacies, doctors and hospitals respectively (see, e.g., IFC 2017; IMS 2014a). Survey data presented by the International Finance Corporation (IFC 2017; referring to Health Action International (HAI) survey data) show that numerous mark-ups along the medicine distribution chain can account for up to 90 per cent of the final price to the consumer, and often are in the 30-50 per cent range in countries with unregulated mark-ups. Specifically, according to the IFC (2017), mark-ups range from

- 25 to 30 per cent for importers,
- 25 to 50 per cent for wholesalers,
- 25 to 75 per cent for sub-wholesalers,
- and 50 to 80 per cent for retailers (for generics products).

At a first glance, tariffs on pharmaceutical products in BRICS-MINT countries may look as if they make up a small proportion of the total cost of medicines only, adding a negligible amount of money to the price of medicines paid exclusively by importers. Yet, because of multiple percentage mark-ups that are added to the base import price of medicines (i.e. the ex-factory price of a drug), even low tariffs add significantly to the final price of a medicinal product when several mark-ups are charged by distributors along the distribution chain (see, e.g., Goel 2015; Olcay and Laing 2005³).

The compounding effect (CE) of import tariffs is reinforced by other measures, such as additional administrative costs due to inefficient border compliance procedures and documentation requirements.

In addition, in some countries, such as India, exclusive supply and distribution agreements, mandatory approvals and no-objection certificates issued (or not issued) by trade associations, limitations on the number of wholesalers, the abuse of market power and other forms of anti-competitive behaviour may adversely affect competition in the market and final prices paid by consumers (patients or the government, i.e. taxpayers and contributors to health insurance programs; see UNCTAD India 2015). Importantly, in cases where anti-competitive behaviour along the distribution chain of medicines gives power to incumbent companies to maintain (high) fixed percentage mark-ups, an import tariff will always work as a subsidy to distributors as it increases the upstream price on which mark-ups are based and absolute revenues of distributors respectively (see conclusion for additional considerations).

In the following, we estimate the compounding effect of imports tariffs on pharmaceutical imports to BRICS-MINT countries. We take into consideration average trade-weighted import tariffs for the HS 3004 product category. Since non-pecuniary border measures effectively contribute to the thickness of borders for imported commodities in general (see, e.g., Hornok and Koren 2011), we also take into consideration pre-shipment costs for exporters and importers due to current inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements. We do not take into consideration the tariff equivalents of non-tariff trade barriers (NTBs), which may arise due to complex and lengthy pharmaceutical testing and marketing approval procedures in the importing countries.

Methodological Considerations

For exporters, import tariffs create two major types of distortions, which directly and indirectly feedback to prices at the counter: first, the nominal import tariff charged by customs authorities in the importing country, and second, administrative and trade facilitation costs related to import requirements, which increase the pre-shipment value of a commodity and its ex-factory price respectively. As these two components add to the price of a medicinal product at the very beginning of national distribution chains, the final distortions that they create for consumers in pharmacies, hospitals or doctors' medical practices go well beyond the level of the actual tariff rate.

The following estimation illustrates how these distortions are passed on along the distribution chain of pharmaceutical imports in BRICS-MINT countries. We take into consideration a variety of components and their compounding effect on prices charged along the distribution chain of a pharmaceutical product, including:

- weighted average import tariffs for BRICS-MINT countries (P_{tariff}),
- pre-shipment administrative costs related to country-specific inefficiencies in border compliance and import documentation procedures (P_{Border}),
- mark-ups charged by importers ($P_{MImporter}$),

³ In their study, Olcay and Laing (2005) report that the compounded effect on final prices may add 20 per cent to the price of a medicinal product. They conclude that “there are NO good reasons why those countries should retain tariffs. Tariffs on medicines target the sick which cannot be good public policy” (see page 36).

- mark-ups charged by wholesalers (p_{MWhole}),
- mark-ups charged by sub-wholesalers ($p_{MSubWhole}$)
- mark-ups charged by retailers ($p_{MRetail}$), and
- country-specific sales taxes on pharmaceutical products (p_{Tax}),

For country i (e.g. individual BRICS-MINT countries), the compounding effect (CE_i) in percentage terms is calculated as follows:

$$CE_i = 1 * (1 + p_{Border,i}) * (1 + p_{tariff,i}) * (1 + p_{MImporter,i}) * (1 + p_{MWholesale,i}) * (1 + p_{MSubWholesale,i}) * (1 + p_{MRetail,i}) * (1 + p_{Tax,i}) - 1,$$

where $p_{Border,i}$ represents costs that accrue in both the exporting and the importing country.

It should be noted that the results presented below should not be taken by their precise face value. Due to data limitations and the use of proxy estimates for agents' mark-ups across the distribution chain of medicines in low and middle-income countries, we are not able to account for country-specific peculiarities in the logistics of medicines. In addition, we also did not account for preferential treatments of some imported medicines, e.g. special treatment resulting from tariff exemptions, tax exemptions or drug price controls and product-specific mark-up regulations,⁴ due to data limitations. However, the methodology chosen for this analysis stylises the major determinants of final prices for medicines in a way that allows us to estimate the direction and the size of the financial distortions created by import tariffs and border facilitation inefficiencies in a common way across all countries under study. At the same time, all our assumptions are based on empirical observations in pharmaceutical markets. Table 4 provides an overview of those variables that are used in our estimations as well as the sources of this data.

The compounding effect of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products is calculated for low and high mark-ups along national distribution chains, according to the estimates provided by IFC (2017). We provide estimates for two hypothetical trading regimes: one regime that is characterised by zero import tariffs on pharmaceutical products (i.e. the elimination of all existing import tariffs on HS 3004 pharmaceutical products) and a second regime that is, in addition to zero tariffs, characterised by a 50 per cent reduction of costs resulting from prevailing inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements (based on the World Bank' Doing Business indicators).

⁴ Prices for individual medicines can significantly vary among countries. In a survey of 60 countries, a study by Health Action International (HAI 2010) found that the price a patient would have to pay for 10ml soluble human insulin in 2010 varies significantly. Although Indonesia (\$16.61-\$51.15) and South Africa (\$32.89-\$40.47) had high prices, Nigeria (\$18.65-\$23.65), Brazil (\$20.23-\$25.46), India (\$3.35-\$7.89), and Turkey's (\$16.48-\$16.80) prices were very low. None of these countries had higher prices than the US (\$51.95-\$62.39) and Austria (\$76.69).

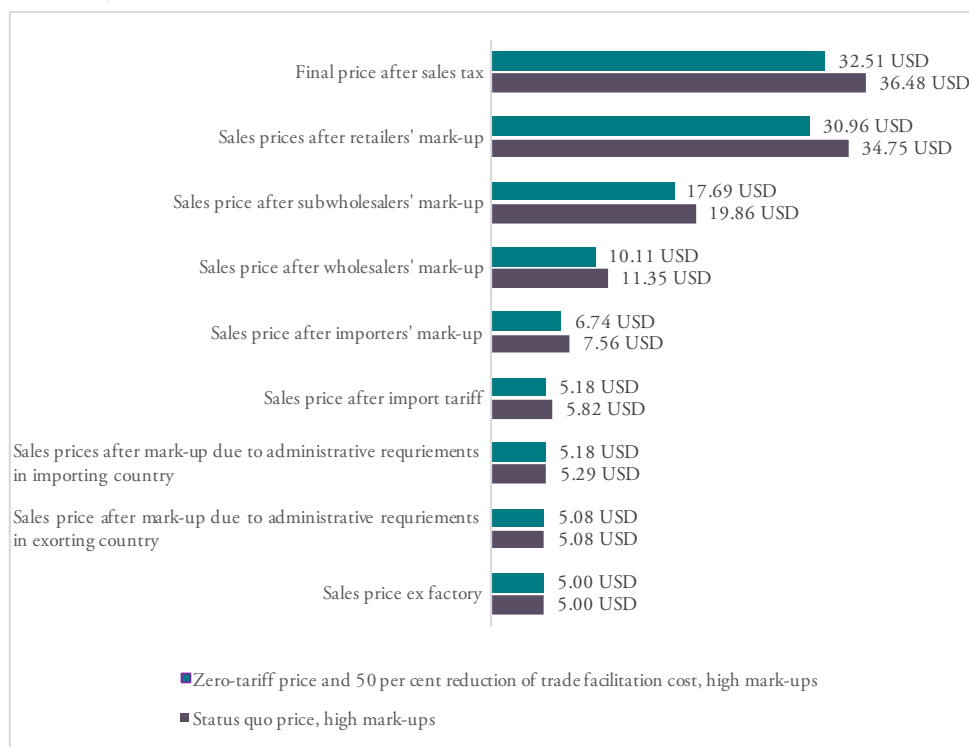
Table 4: Description of data and data sources

Component of final price of pharmaceutical product	Description and source of data
Weighted average import tariffs for BRICS-MINT countries	<p>Data: import-value weighted import tariffs by country, 2016.</p> <p><i>Source: WTO Trains database.</i></p>
Trade values	<p>Data: import values by country, 2016.</p> <p><i>Source: WTO COMTRADE.</i></p>
Pre-shipment administrative costs related country-specific inefficiencies in border compliance and import documentation procedures	<p>Data: percentage mark-ups based on Hornok and Koren (2011), who estimate that customs and documentation procedures for a typical transaction for US exporters cost 4.6 per cent of the pre-shipment value, of which 1.6 percentage points accrue in the US and a median cost of 3.0 per cent in importing countries (170 importing countries have been studied). To account for country-specific differences in the efficiency of border administration in BRICS-MINT countries, the 3.0 per cent number has been adjusted by the distance to frontier measure provided by the World Bank's most up-to-date "Trading Across Borders" measures (for the year 2016). The benchmark is the US (index value 92.01). Accordingly, the following cost estimates apply: 4.2 per cent for Brazil, 4.1 per cent for Russia, 4.1 per cent for India, 3.7 per cent for China, 4.1 per cent for South Africa, 3.3 per cent for Mexico, 3.9 per cent for Indonesia, and 5.4 per cent for Nigeria.</p> <p><i>Source: Hornok and Koren (2011) and World Bank Doing Business database for 2017 (http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploretopics/trading-across-borders).</i></p>
Mark-ups charged by importers	<p>Average price mark-ups for medicines in emerging markets, low: 25 per cent, high: 30 per cent.</p> <p><i>Source: International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC 2017).</i></p>
Mark-ups charged by wholesalers and sub-wholesalers	<p>Average price mark-ups for medicines in emerging markets, 1) for wholesalers: low: 25 per cent, high: 50 per cent; 2) for sub-wholesalers: low: 25 per cent, high: 75 per cent</p> <p><i>Source: International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC 2017).</i></p>
Mark-ups charged by retailers	<p>Average price mark-ups for medicines in emerging markets, low: 25 per cent, high: 75 per cent.</p> <p><i>Source: International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC 2017).</i></p>

Component of final price of pharmaceutical product	Description and source of data
Country-specific sales taxes on pharmaceutical products	Sales taxes for medicine and pharmaceutical products. <i>Source: www.vatlife.com.</i>
Population and population of 65 years and above	Absolute and relative numbers for total and elderly population. <i>Source: World Bank.</i>
GDP per capita	Source: World Bank.
Expenditure on healthcare	Total expenditure on healthcare, governmental expenditure on healthcare, private expenditure on healthcare. <i>Source: World Health Organization (http://apps.who.int/nhal/database/Country_Profile/Index/en).</i>
Out of the pocket healthcare spending	Out-of-pocket health expenditure (% of private expenditure on health) Source: World Health Organization (http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.OOPC.ZS).
Projected spending on medicine in low and middle-income countries	Numbers available for China, Brazil, Russia and India. Shares have been calculated relative to total annual expenditure on healthcare. For South Africa, Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey, an average share of 24.23 per cent has been calculated on the basis of China (29.6 per cent), Brazil (21.03 per cent), Russia (19.53 per cent) and India (26.8 per cent). <i>Source: IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics 2014, IMS (2014b).</i>
Private household size	Source: Nakono research (https://www.nakono.com/tekcarta/databank/households-average-household-size/).

Figure 9 provides estimated numbers for the example of India. The Indian government imposes a lump sum tariff of 10 per cent on any kind of pharmaceutical product listed in the HS 3004 category. Assuming high mark-ups along the Indian distribution chain of a medicinal product imported from abroad, the final sales price of a product sold at 5.00 USD ex-factory (which corresponds to the pre-shipment value of a hypothetical drug) would be 36.48 USD under the current regime. This price is 3.97 USD higher compared to a price that would result from trade at zero-tariffs including a 50 per cent reduction of the costs resulting from prevailing trade facilitation inefficiencies (all other things equal). Accordingly, the overall compounding effect, i.e. the percentage mark-up on the pre-shipment import price of a drug, is 79.5 per cent of the sales price ex-factory. For all countries under study, country-specific assumptions are outlined by Table 6 in the Appendix I.

Figure 9: Composition of the compounding effect for a medicinal product sold at 5.00 USD ex-factory



Source: own calculations.

RESULTS

For all BRICS-MINT countries, a summary of country-specific estimates and the final country ranking is provided by Table 5. We provide estimates for (1) the compounding effect in per cent of the net import value of pharmaceutical products (see Figures 10 and 11 and Table 7 in Appendix I), (2) the absolute aggregate compounding effect based on 2016 import values (see Figure 12), (3) absolute price effects for a range of import prices ranging from 0.50 USD to 100.00 USD (see Appendix I, Figures 24 and 25), and estimates for the financial burden (potential savings) expressed (4) in per cent of total annual health expenditure (see Appendix I, Figure 26), (5) in per cent of total annual spending on medicines (see Appendix I, Figure 27) and (6) in per cent of total annual out of pocket spending on medicine (see Appendix I, Figure 28). Finally, estimates for the compounded financial burden are provided (7) on a per capita basis (see Appendix I, Table 8) and attributed to (8) the government (see Appendix I Table 9) and (9) individual private consumers and private households (see Appendix I, Tables 10 and 11). Country snapshots are provided in Appendix II.

Table 5: Summary of country-specific estimates and final ranking, high mark-ups scenario

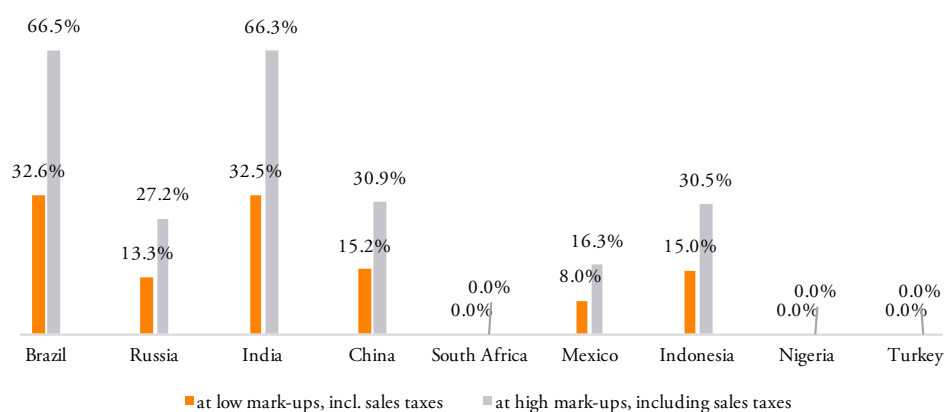
Estimate and rank		Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa	Mexico	Indonesia	Nigeria	Turkey
Absolute compounding effect (CE)	High mark-up estimate	2.6bn USD	2.8bn USD	737m USD	6.2bn USD	177m USD	663m USD	250m USD	59,925 USD	291m USD
	Rank	3	2	4	1	8	5	7	9	6
Relative compounding effect (CE) as per cent of import value	High mark-up estimate	79.8%	39.6%	79.5%	44.2%	12.5%	26.4%	43.4%	16.2%	11.1%
	Rank	1	5	2	3	8	6	4	7	9
CE as per cent of total annual health expenditure	High mark-up estimate	1.3%	2.2%	0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	Rank	2	1	6	3	8	5	4	9	7
CE as per cent of total annual spending on medicine	High mark-up estimate	6.4%	11.0%	2.8%	3.7%	2.4%	3.4%	4.1%	0.0%	2.8%
	Rank	2	1	6	4	8	5	3	9	7
CE as per cent of total annual out of pocket spending on medicine	High mark-up estimate	13.5%	24.0%	4.5%	11.5%	36.2%	7.7%	5.8%	0.0%	15.7%
	Rank	4	2	8	5	1	6	7	9	3
Absolute compounding effect (CE), per capita	High mark-up estimate	12.62 USD	19.08 USD	0.56 USD	4.52 USD	3.16 USD	5.20 USD	0.96 USD	0.00 USD	3.66 USD
	Rank	2	1	8	4	6	3	7	9	5
Absolute compounding effect (CE) on government, per capita	High mark-up estimate	8.10 USD	15.68 USD	0.20 USD	2.87 USD	2.54 USD	3.34 USD	0.62 USD	0.00 USD	2.60 USD
	Rank	2	1	8	4	6	3	7	9	5
Absolute gap [tariff revenue; CE attributed to government]	High mark-up estimate	1.35bn USD	1.97bn USD	171m USD	33.36bn USD	142m USD	360m USD	135m USD	22,389 USD	207m USD
	Rank	3	2	6	1	7	4	8	9	5
Absolute compounding effect (CE) on private consumers per capita	High mark-up estimate	2.90 USD	2.79 USD	0.13 USD	1.05 USD	0.50 USD	1.19 USD	0.22 USD	0.00 USD	0.75 USD
	Rank	1	2	8	4	6	3	7	9	5

Estimate and rank		Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa	Mexico	Indonesia	Nigeria	Turkey
Absolute compounding effect (CE) on private consumers per household	High mark-up estimate	9.28 USD	7.20 USD	0.53 USD	3.18 USD	1.95 USD	4.60 USD	0.83 USD	0.00 USD	2.90 USD
	Rank	1	2	8	4	6	3	7	9	5
Ranking	<i>Average rank</i>	2.2	1.9	6.2	3.2	6.4	4.4	6.0	8.8	5.8
	<i>Final ranking</i>	2	1	7	3	8	4	6	9	5

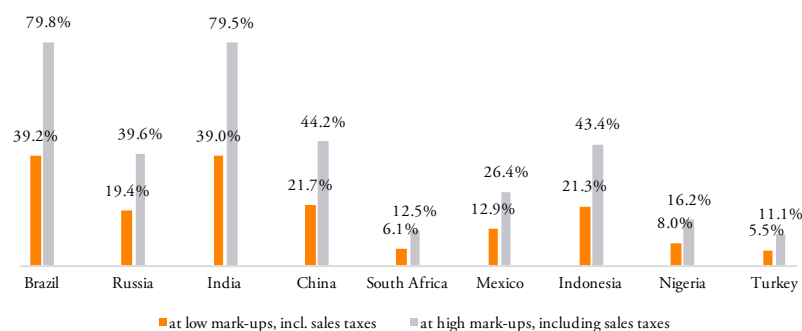
Source: own calculations. Note: numbers represent absolute and relative estimates derived from the compounding effect (CE) on the basis of high mark-ups in comparison to a scenario that is based on zero-tariff pharmaceuticals trade and a reduction of 50 per cent of costs related to general inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirement. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

For the high mark-ups scenario, a summary of indicators (1) to (9) as well as country-specific ranking is given by Table 5. When measured in per cent of the ex-factory price of a medicinal product (Figures 10 and 11), the compounding effect is highest in Brazil (up to 79.8 per cent) and India (79.5 per cent), followed by China (44.2 per cent), Indonesia (43.4 per cent), Russia (39.6 per cent), and Mexico (26.4 per cent). Even though Nigeria, Turkey and South Africa apply zero tariffs on imports of pharmaceuticals, the financial burden of inefficient trade facilitation measures amounts up to 16.2 per cent (Nigeria), 12.5 per cent (Turkey) and 11.1 per cent (South Africa) of the ex-factory price.

Figure 10: Effective financial burden of import tariff, in per cent of import value



Source: own calculations. Note: estimates do not include a reduction of (pre-shipment) trade costs due to inefficient border compliance procedures and documentation requirements.

Figure 11: Effective financial burden of import tariff and border inefficiencies, in per cent of import value

Source: own calculations. Note: estimates include sales taxes and a reduction of 50 per cent in (pre-shipment) trade costs due to inefficient border compliance and documentation inefficiencies. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

The compounding effect per capita is highest for Russia (19.08 USD), Brazil (12.62 USD), Mexico (5.20 USD) and China (4.52 USD), followed by Turkey (3.66 USD), South Africa (3.16 USD), Indonesia (0.96 USD), and India (0.56). Due to low import volumes as well as zero import tariffs, the estimated numbers are only marginal for Nigeria.

When measured in per cent of annual out of pocket spending on medicine, the financial burden “directly” imposed on patients is highest in South Africa (36.2 per cent), Russia (24.0 per cent), Turkey (15.7 per cent), Brazil (13.5 per cent) and China (11.5 per cent), followed by Mexico (7.7 per cent), Indonesia (5.8 per cent), and India (4.5 per cent). The fact that total government spending on healthcare relative to total spending on healthcare is comparatively high in China (63 per cent), Russia (82 per cent) and Brazil (64 per cent) explains the relatively low direct impact on patients out of pocket spending in these countries. However, as the citizens of these countries have to pay taxes and make financial (health insurance) contributions to government-run healthcare programs, the citizens of these countries have to bear the financial burden imposed by import tariffs and inefficient trade facilitation measures and, accordingly, leaves them with less disposable income. Due to low import volumes as well as zero import tariffs, the estimated numbers are only marginal for Nigeria.

The results also indicate that the aggregated adverse impact of import tariffs on pharmaceuticals and cross-border trade facilitation inefficiencies (see Figure 12), is highest in China (up to 6.2bn USD), Russia (up to 2.8bn USD), Brazil (up to 2.6bn USD) and India (737m USD; high tariffs, low import volume), followed by Mexico (663m USD), Turkey (290m USD; zero import tariffs), Indonesia (251m USD), South Africa (177m USD; zero import tariffs) and Nigeria (60tsd USD; zero import tariffs)⁵.

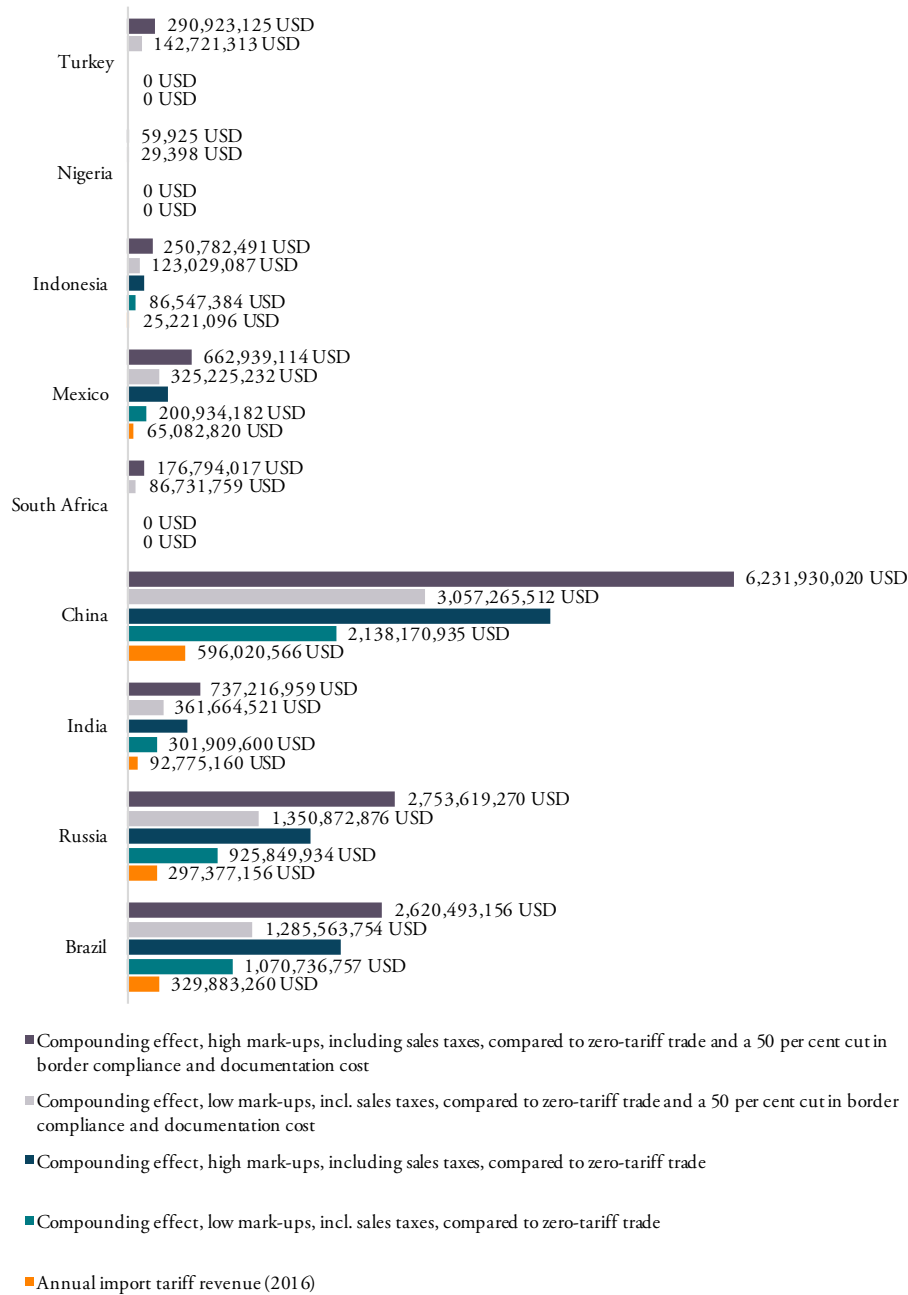
Taking into account annual government tariff revenues reveals that the financial burden of import tariffs and trade facilitation inefficiencies that can be attributed to government spending on medicines exceeds tariff revenues by 3.36bn USD in China, 1.97bn USD in Russia and 1.35bn USD in Brazil, followed by 360m USD in Mexico, 171m USD in India, and 15m USD in Indonesia. In other words, due to the compounding effect of import tariffs, governments alone tend to finally pay (or reimburse) between two and six times the amount they collect as tariff revenues at the border, while they would save that amount if trade would take place at zero tariffs.⁶

⁵ For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

⁶ Due to data limitations we did not account for preferential treatments of some imported medicines, e.g. special treatment resulting from tariff exemptions, tax exemptions or drug price controls and product-specific mark-up regulations. As several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration. Although sales taxes impact on the revenues and expenditures of several strands of government, the net impact on total government revenues would be neutral. For final consumers, i.e. patients, applicable sales taxes substantially increase the price of medicines that are purchased in hospitals, doctors’ practices and pharmacies.

The aggregate average ranking indicates that the adverse financial impact of import tariffs on pharmaceuticals and prevailing cross-border trade facilitation inefficiencies is highest for Russia, Brazil and China, followed by Mexico, Turkey and Indonesia. Although import tariffs for pharmaceutical products are comparatively high for imports to India, the overall compounding effect for India is contained by India's comparatively low volume of pharmaceutical imports. The fact that South Africa and Nigeria do not impose tariffs on pharmaceutical imports reflects these countries' good overall score in the ranking of BRICS-MINT countries.

Figure 12: Aggregate compounding effects (CE) in USD



Source: own calculations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The volume of pharmaceutical products traded to and from BRICS and MINT countries has increased substantially in the past 20 years. While global trade in pharmaceutical products increased by 33 per cent between 2007 and 2016, BRICS-MINT countries' trade in pharmaceuticals grew by 98 per cent over the same period. Accordingly, a larger proportion of globally marketed medicinal products are subject to tariffs, which our analysis shows substantially increase upstream prices along national distribution chains of medicines.

Except for South Africa, Turkey and Nigeria, tariffs on pharmaceuticals are still high among BRICS-MINT countries. While South Africa, Turkey and Nigeria successfully eliminated import tariffs on pharmaceuticals, other countries still apply tariffs of up to 15 per cent for some product categories. In addition to general inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements, the high number of actively managed “applied tariff lines” causes foreign producers and importers to struggle with opaque administrative procedures and government discretion over product classification issues.

The analytical component of this study has shown that even a low nominal import tariff and tariff equivalents related to inefficient trade facilitation procedures add significantly to the final price of a medicinal product in BRICS-MINT countries, where several wholesalers and sub-wholesalers amplify the compounding effect of import tariffs across the supply chain. Depending on country-specific characteristics, the overall compounding effects, i.e. the total financial burden accruing to consumers (patients) in the importing countries, range from 6 to 11 per cent of the import value in Turkey to 39 to 80 per cent of the import value in Brazil and India. The results indicate that the potential aggregate savings for consumers (patients) would be highest in China (up to 6.2bn USD), Russia (up to 2.8bn USD), Brazil (up to 2.6bn USD), and India (737m USD) – a financial burden that has so far not entered the scene of public debates about access to affordable medicines, and money that could be spent on other purposes and create additional economic activity and employment respectively. Assuming an average annual income of 10,000 USD, for example, the estimated compounded burden of import tariffs and prevailing trade facilitation inefficiencies amounts to an equivalent of up to 620,000 jobs in China. Similarly, assuming that low and medium skilled workers in India earn between 1,500 and 3,000 USD per year, the estimated compounded burden amounts to an equivalent of up to 250,000 to 500,000 jobs in India (even though India's current import volumes of pharmaceuticals are comparatively low).

Most BRICS-MINT governments directly buy, settle or reimburse patients' invoices for a bulk of medicinal products. Although we were not able to account for idiosyncratic characteristics of government purchase and reimbursement programs for medicines, e.g. price controls, exemptions from tariffs and sales taxes (Russia, South Africa, Mexico and Nigeria do not apply sales taxes on medicines products), the sum of all tariff-induced premiums on final prices for pharmaceuticals paid for by governments tends to exceed by far the tariff revenues initially collected by these governments' customs authorities – raising the serious question of whether the net burden for taxpayers and consumers alike constitutes an unintended consequence of national protectionism or deliberate industrial policymaking to the detriment of low income patients' access to medicines. In any case, patients in these countries could either pay less out of their own pockets for medicines or make fewer contributions (lower taxes, insurance premia) on governmental healthcare spending programs.

There is another important phenomenon that merits policymakers' attention: the compounding effect is significantly reinforced by prevailing inefficiencies and anti-competitive behaviour of firms that operate in national distribution chains. In countries where anti-competitive behaviour along the distribution chain of medicines gives power to incumbent companies to maintain (high) fixed percentage mark-ups, an import tariff will always work as a subsidy to distributors, because the tariff increases the upstream price on which mark-ups are based and absolute revenues of downstream distributors respectively. This may lead to a political economy, in which customs authorities and pharmaceutical distributors may have a common interest in maintaining (high) import tariffs – to the detriment of patients and government healthcare programs, which effectively have to redistribute income to customs authorities and distributors. Paradoxically, mark-up regulations that set maximum percentage limits on mark-ups charged by distributors may reinforce this effect.

Our results show that BRICS-MINT countries would strongly benefit from acceding the zero-for-zero agreement on pharmaceuticals, to which so far “only” 34 developed economies have so far signed up. Tariff-free trade should include all prescription drugs, all unfinished products (including antibiotics, vitamins, hormones and alkaloids), chemical intermediates used in the production of pharmaceuticals as well as vaccines. Regarding the latter, contrary to popular opinion, imports of vaccines are still subject to import tariffs in six BRICS-MINT countries (tariffs on vaccines are 3.8 per cent for Brazil, 3.0 per cent for China, 10.0 per cent for India, 2.2 per cent for Indonesia, 3.9 per cent for Mexico, and 3.4 per cent for Russia). Accordingly, given the high volumes of imports of vaccines, the financial burden on patients in BRICS-MINT countries would be even higher if vaccines were taken into consideration. Similar to pharmaceuticals, the public debate about access to vaccines does not touch on the adverse distortions created by import tariffs and trade facilitation inefficiencies, which are a direct responsibility of national governments, and neither in the reach of pharmaceutical manufacturers nor importers and distributors.

Summarising the above, contrary to political endeavors to tackle local frictions in the distribution of medicines in most low and middle-income countries, such as a lack of education of doctors and medical advisors, effective and non-discriminatory price and mark-up controls, high levels of corruption across the distribution chain, or the lack of domestic innovative and productive capacities, the elimination of all tariffs on pharmaceutical imports would be low hanging fruit. It would increase the access to medicine for low income patients and contribute to the realisation of the right to health in low and middle-income countries. Further empirical research should focus on tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and their socio-economic impact on access to medicines in BRICS and MINT economies as well as other low and middle income countries. Future research should also include vaccines, active and inactive ingredients of pharmaceutical products, medical devices and barriers to healthcare services that are traded across borders.

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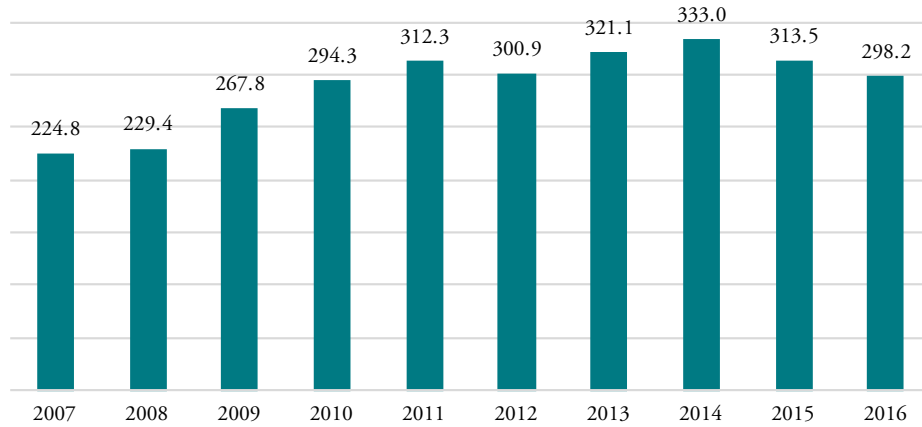
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WHO (1946), Constitution of the World Health Organization, available at: <http://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd47/EN/constitution-en.pdf?ua=1>, accessed on 10 August 2017.

WTO (2017), WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Fact Sheet, available at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tfa_factsheet2017_e.pdf, accessed on 1 September 2017.

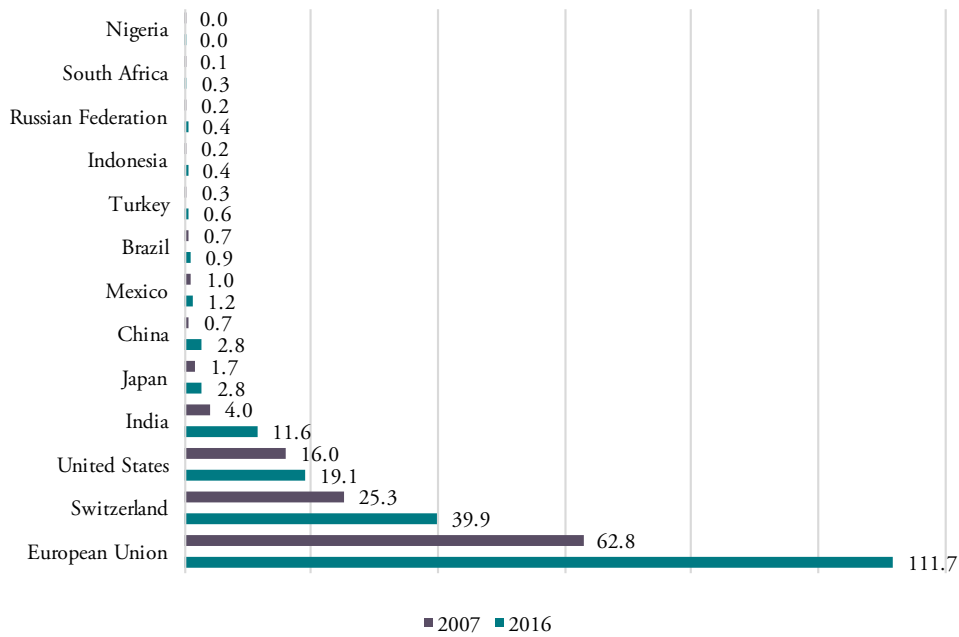
Appendix I

Figure 13: Development of total trade in pharmaceuticals, HS 3004, in billion USD



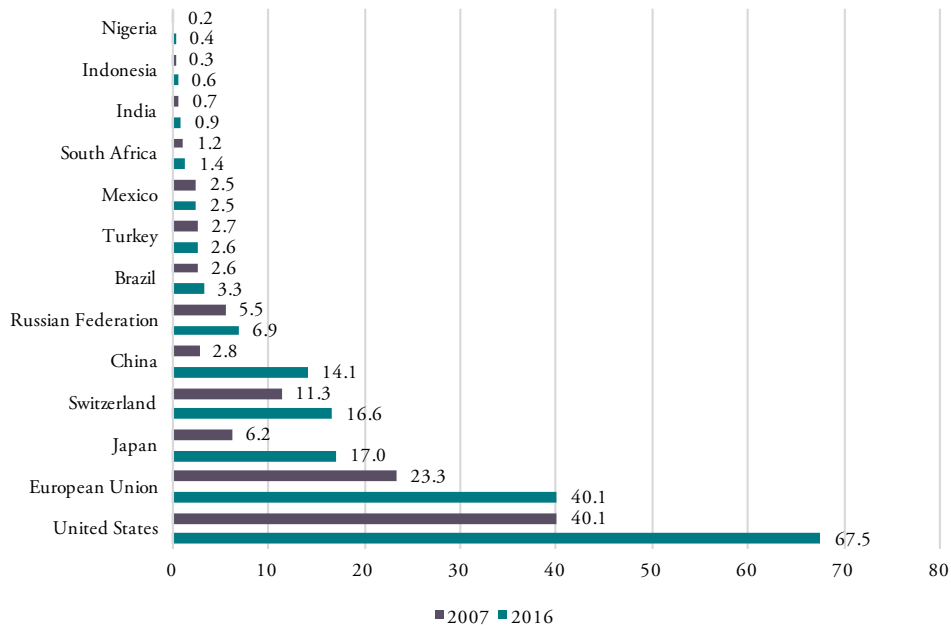
Source: WTO COMTRADE.

Figure 14: Total export values, HS 3004, BRICS, MINT and major export countries, in billion



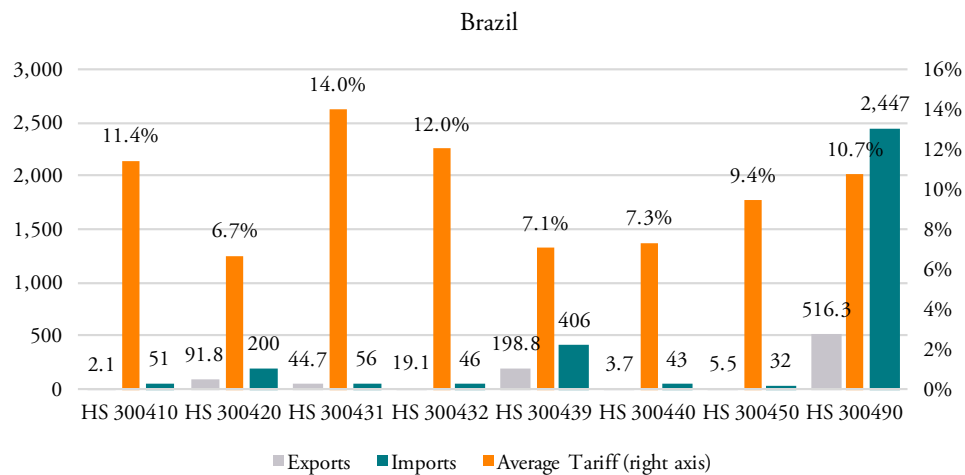
Source: WTO COMTRADE and Eurostat. For the EU, number are given in EUR. Numbers for Nigeria represent 2007 and 2014 export values.

Figure 15: Total import values, HS 3004, BRICS, MINT and import export countries, in billion USD



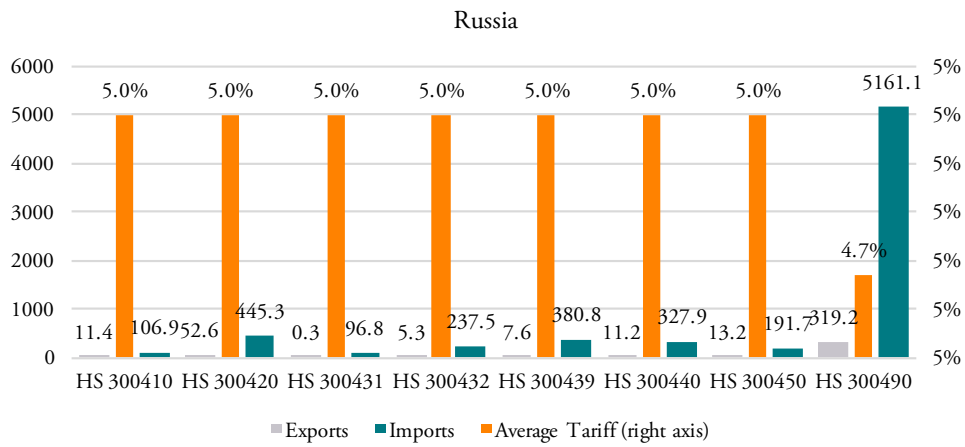
Source: WTO COMTRADE and Eurostat. For the EU, number are given in EUR. Numbers for Nigeria represent 2007 and 2014 import values.

Figure 16: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), Brazil



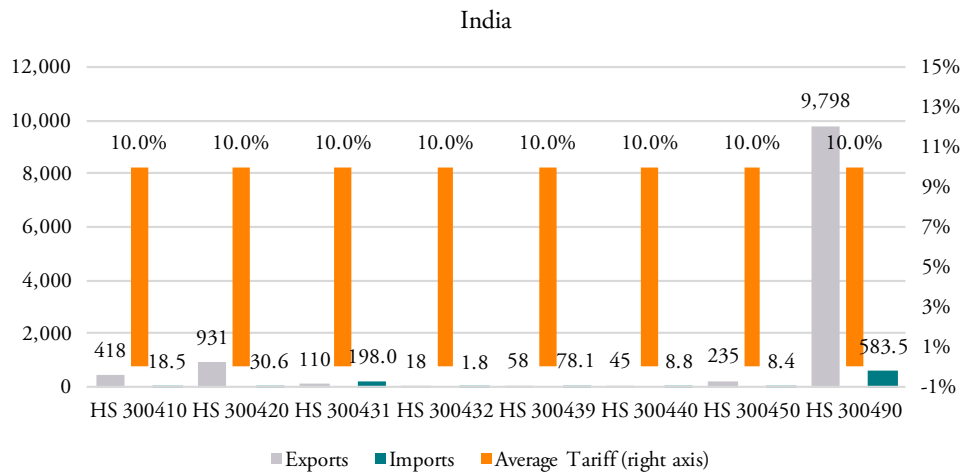
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 17: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), Russia



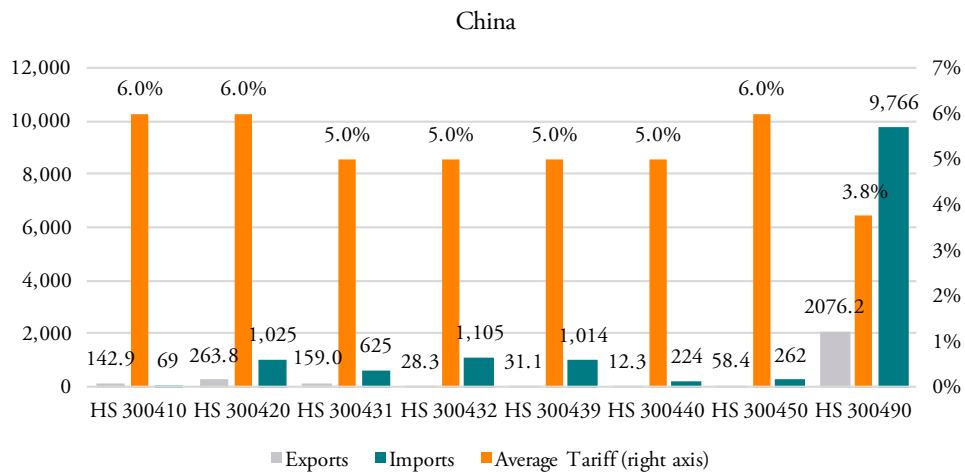
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 18: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), India



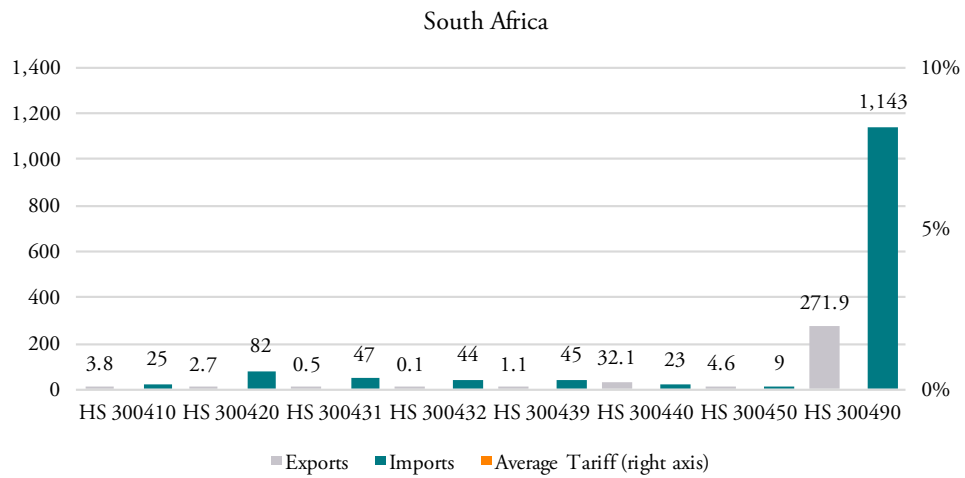
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 19: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), China



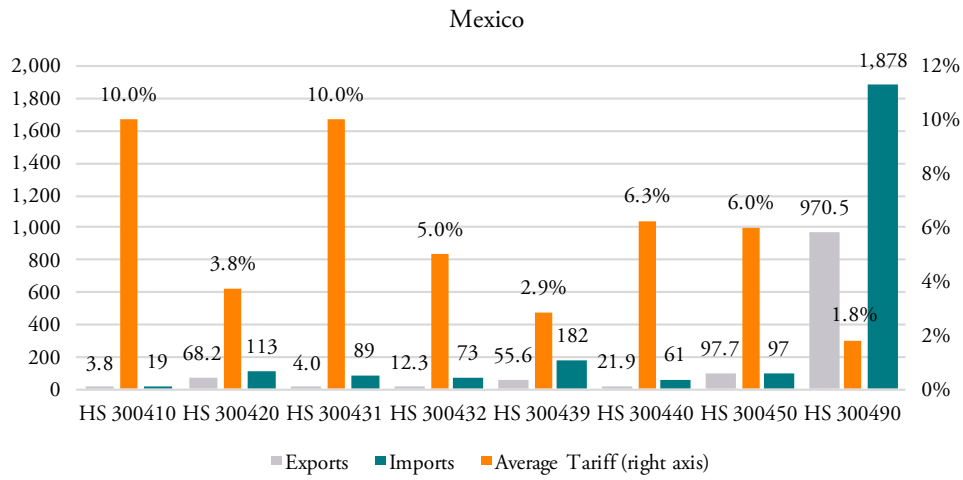
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 20: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), South Africa



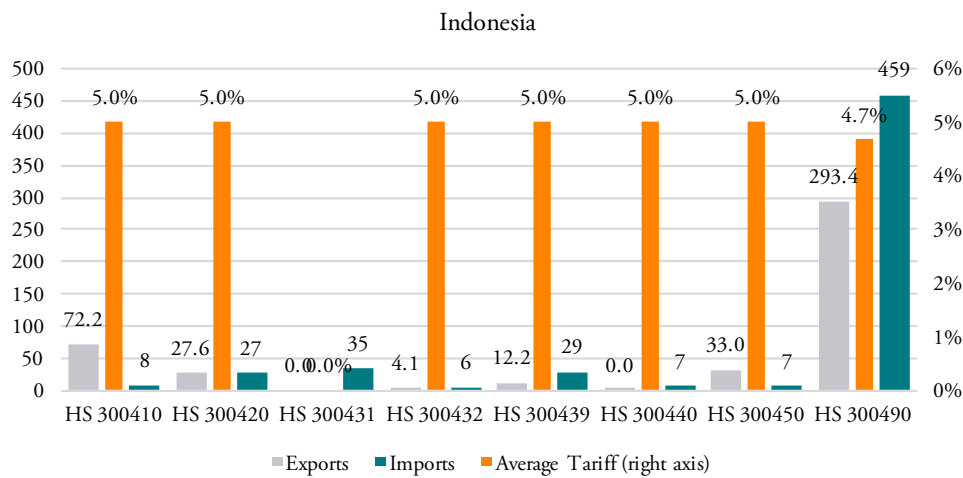
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 21: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), Mexico



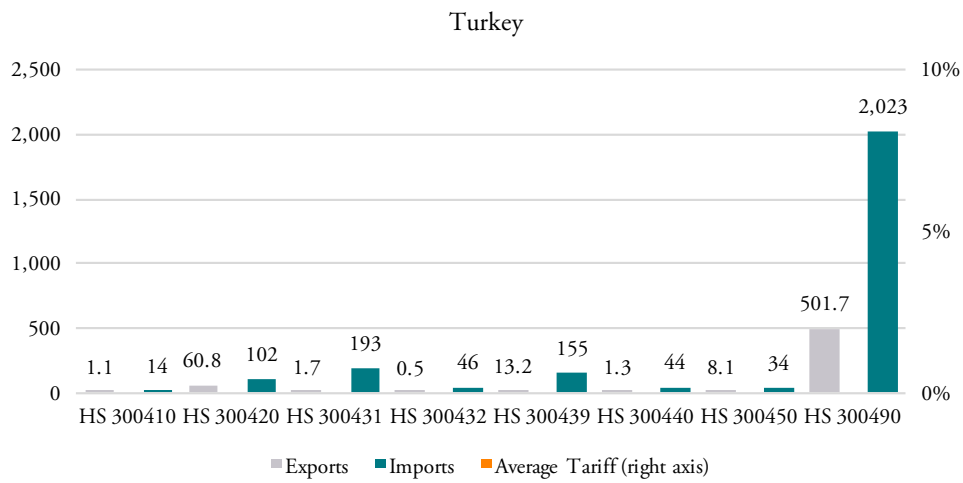
Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 22: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), Indonesia



Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Figure 23: Trade value in million USD and average tariff by country and HS product category, 2016 (trade value) and 2015 (tariff), Turkey



Source: WTO COMTRADE and WTO TRAINS.

Table 6: Mark-ups at each stage of the pharmaceuticals supply chain after manufacturing

Markups at each stage of the pharmaceuticals supply chain postmanufacturing	Net domestic pre-shipment price for pharmaceutical product	Pre-shipment cost of trade in <i>exporting</i> country, i.e. export-related administrative cost excluding pre-marketing approval procedures (benchmark: US exports studied in Hornok 2011)	Pre-shipment cost of trade in <i>importing</i> country, i.e. export-related administrative cost excluding pre-marketing approval procedures (median of 170 countries studied in Hornok 2011)	Import tariff (= tax on import)	Importers' markup		Wholesalers' markup		Sub-wholesalers' markup		Retailers' markup		Sales taxes charged final consumer of medicinal product
					low	high	low	high	low	high	low	high	
Brazil	Zero tariff	100.0%	4.2%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	5.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 10.1%	100.0%	1.6%	10.1%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	5.0%
Russia	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.3%	100.0%	1.6%	4.3%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
India	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	5.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 10%	100.0%	1.6%	10.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	5.0%
China	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	17.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.2%	100.0%	1.6%	4.2%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	17.0%
South Africa	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Mexico	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 2.6%	100.0%	1.6%	2.6%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Indonesia	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	10.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.4%	100.0%	1.6%	4.4%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	10.0%
Nigeria	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Turkey	Zero tariff	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	8.0%
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	100.0%	1.6%	0.0%	25.0%	30.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	75.0%	50.0%	75.0%	8.0%

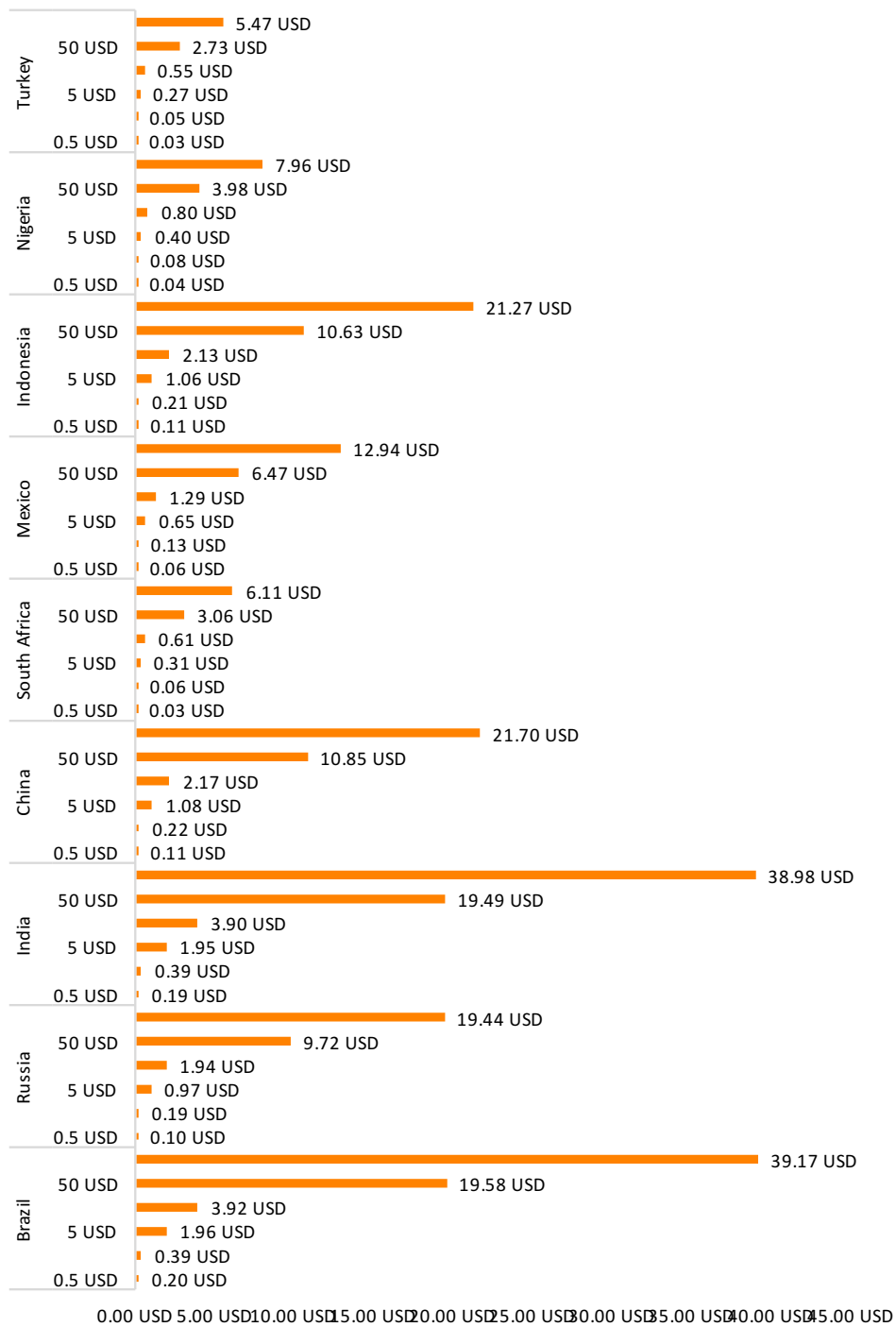
Source: own calculations.

Table 7: Cumulative percentage impact of import tariffs vs. zero tariff regime

Effective impact of import tariff on final consumer prices	Cumulative price of pharmaceutical product (I - VIII)	Difference in final prices after tariff elimination (trade at zero tariffs)		Cumulative price of pharmaceutical product after 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost (II)		Difference in final prices after tariff elimination (trade at zero tariffs) and 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost			
		low	high	low	high	low	high		
Brazil	Zero tariff	225.6%	563.8%			219.1%	550.4%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 10.1%	258.2%	630.3%	32.6%	66.5%	251.2%	615.8%	39.2%	79.8%
Russia	Zero tariff	209.9%	531.7%			203.8%	519.2%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.3%	223.2%	558.8%	13.3%	27.2%	216.8%	545.8%	19.4%	39.6%
India	Zero tariff	225.4%	563.3%			219.0%	550.2%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 10%	258.0%	629.7%	32.5%	66.3%	250.9%	615.2%	39.0%	79.5%
China	Zero tariff	261.3%	636.5%			254.8%	623.2%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.2%	276.5%	667.4%	15.2%	30.9%	269.7%	653.6%	21.7%	44.2%
South Africa	Zero tariff	209.9%	531.7%			203.8%	519.2%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	209.9%	531.7%	0.0%	0.0%	203.8%	519.2%	6.1%	12.5%
Mexico	Zero tariff	207.5%	526.9%			202.6%	516.8%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 2.6%	215.5%	543.2%	8.0%	16.3%	210.5%	532.9%	12.9%	26.4%
Indonesia	Zero tariff	240.0%	593.1%			233.7%	580.3%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 4.4%	255.0%	623.6%	15.0%	30.5%	248.4%	610.2%	21.3%	43.4%
Nigeria	Zero tariff	213.6%	539.2%			205.6%	523.0%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	213.6%	539.2%	0.0%	0.0%	205.6%	523.0%	8.0%	16.2%
Turkey	Zero tariff	232.4%	577.6%			226.9%	566.4%		
	Applied weighted average tariff: 0%	232.4%	577.6%	0.0%	0.0%	226.9%	566.4%	5.5%	11.1%

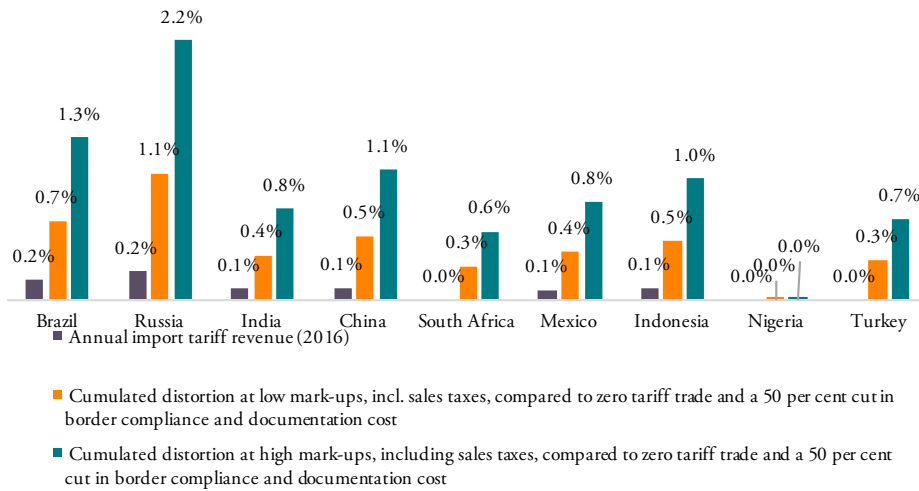
Source: own calculations.

Figure 24: Estimated absolute impact on final prices due to import tariffs pharmaceuticals of different production value (import value, CIF equivalent), low mark-up scenario



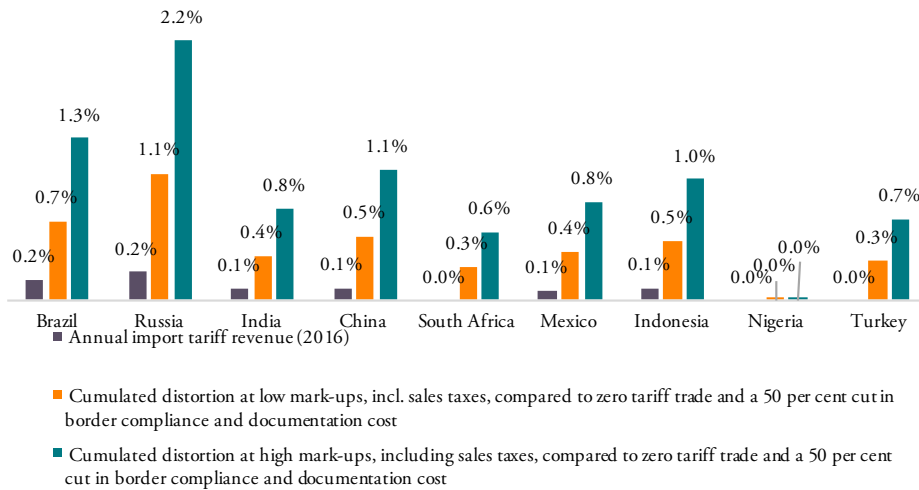
Source: own calculations. Note: estimates include sales taxes. Trade takes place at zero tariffs. A 50 per cent reduction of costs associated to inefficient border compliance and documentation has been applied.

Figure 25: Estimated absolute impact on final prices due to import tariffs pharmaceuticals of different production value (import value, CIF equivalent), high mark-up scenario



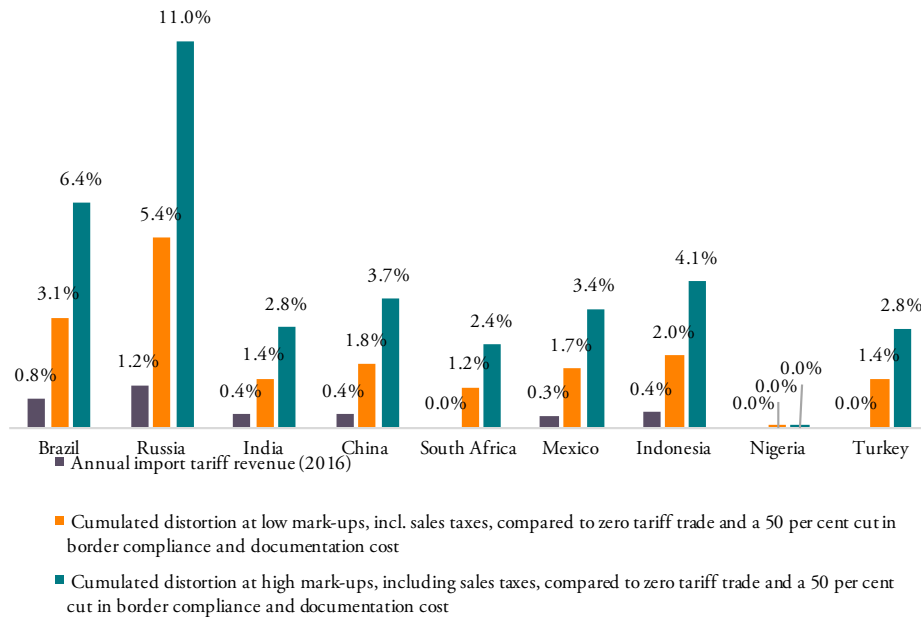
Source: own calculations. Note: estimates include sales taxes. Trade takes place at zero tariffs. A 50 per cent reduction of costs associated to inefficient border compliance and documentation has been applied.

Figure 26: Effective burden of import tariff as per cent of total annual health expenditure



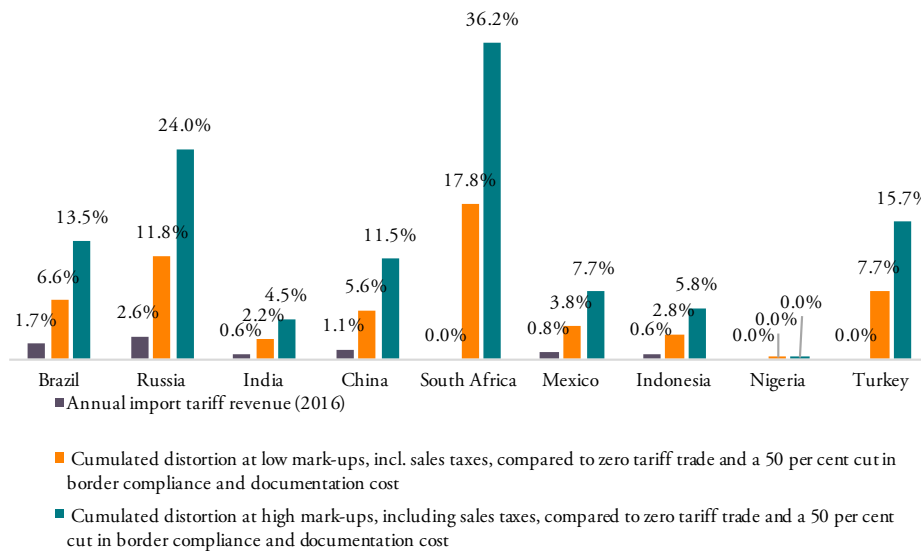
Source: own calculations. Note: calculated shares are based on estimates for total expenditure on healthcare provided by the World Health Organization for 2014: 195bn USD for Brazil, 128bn USD for Russia, 97 USD for India, 575 USD for China, 31bn USD for South Africa, 81bn USD for Mexico, 25bn USD for Indonesia, 21bn USD for Nigeria, and 43bn USD for Turkey. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Figure 27: Effective burden of import tariff as per cent of annual spending on medicine



Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Figure 28: Effective burden of import tariff as per cent of annual out of pocket spending on medicines



Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Table 8: Effective absolute burden of import tariff, government and private consumers, per capita

Total distortion (potential savings) accruing to government and private households, per capita	Annual import tariff revenue per capita (2016)	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita
Brazil	1.59 USD	5.16 USD	10.51 USD	6.19 USD	12.62 USD
Russia	2.06 USD	6.41 USD	13.07 USD	9.36 USD	19.08 USD
India	0.07 USD	0.23 USD	0.46 USD	0.27 USD	0.56 USD
China	0.43 USD	1.55 USD	3.16 USD	2.22 USD	4.52 USD
South Africa	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	1.55 USD	3.16 USD
Mexico	0.51 USD	1.58 USD	3.21 USD	2.55 USD	5.20 USD
Indonesia	0.10 USD	0.33 USD	0.68 USD	0.47 USD	0.96 USD
Nigeria	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD
Turkey	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	1.79 USD	3.66 USD

Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Table 9: Effective absolute burden of import tariff, government only, per capita

Total distortion (potential savings) accruing to government only, per capita	Annual import tariff revenue per capita (2016)	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita
Brazil	1.59 USD	3.31 USD	6.75 USD	3.97 USD	8.10 USD
Russia	2.06 USD	5.27 USD	10.75 USD	7.69 USD	15.68 USD
India	0.07 USD	0.08 USD	0.17 USD	0.10 USD	0.20 USD
China	0.43 USD	0.98 USD	2.00 USD	1.41 USD	2.87 USD
South Africa	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	1.25 USD	2.54 USD
Mexico	0.51 USD	1.01 USD	2.06 USD	1.64 USD	3.34 USD
Indonesia	0.10 USD	0.21 USD	0.43 USD	0.30 USD	0.62 USD
Nigeria	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD
Turkey	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	1.28 USD	2.60 USD

Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Table 10: Effective absolute burden of import tariff, private consumers only, per capita

Total distortion (potential savings) accruing to private consumers only, per capita	Annual import tariff revenue per capita (2016)	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per capita	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per capita
Brazil	1.59 USD	1.19 USD	2.42 USD	1.42 USD	2.90 USD
Russia	2.06 USD	0.94 USD	1.91 USD	1.37 USD	2.79 USD
India	0.07 USD	0.05 USD	0.11 USD	0.06 USD	0.13 USD
China	0.43 USD	0.36 USD	0.73 USD	0.51 USD	1.05 USD
South Africa	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.25 USD	0.50 USD
Mexico	0.51 USD	0.36 USD	0.74 USD	0.59 USD	1.19 USD
Indonesia	0.10 USD	0.08 USD	0.16 USD	0.11 USD	0.22 USD
Nigeria	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD
Turkey	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.37 USD	0.75 USD

Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

Table 11: Effective absolute burden of import tariff, private households only, by household

Total distortion (potential savings) accruing to private consumers only, per household	Annual import tariff revenue per capita (2016)	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per household	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade, per household	Compounding effect, low mark-ups, incl. sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per household	Compounding effect, high mark-ups, including sales taxes, compared to zero-tariff trade and a 50 per cent cut in border compliance and documentation cost, per household	Average household size
Brazil	1.59 USD	3.79 USD	7.73 USD	4.55 USD	9.28 USD	3.2
Russia	2.06 USD	2.42 USD	4.93 USD	3.53 USD	7.20 USD	2.58
India	0.07 USD	0.22 USD	0.44 USD	0.26 USD	0.53 USD	4.13
China	0.43 USD	1.09 USD	2.22 USD	1.56 USD	3.18 USD	3.03
South Africa	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.96 USD	1.95 USD	3.9
Mexico	0.51 USD	1.39 USD	2.84 USD	2.26 USD	4.60 USD	3.85
Indonesia	0.10 USD	0.29 USD	0.59 USD	0.41 USD	0.83 USD	3.78
Nigeria	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	3.99
Turkey	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	0.00 USD	1.42 USD	2.90 USD	3.86

Source: own calculations. For Nigeria, estimates were calculated on the basis of 2014 import data (the latest data available).

APPENDIX II - COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS**Brazil**

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to Brazil was 10.1 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 3.3bn USD. While tariff revenues collected by the Brazilian government amount to 330m USD, the total financial burden imposed on Brazilian consumers of medicines amounts up to 2.2bn USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 2.6bn USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Brazil, the compounding effect ranges from 33 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 80 per cent (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies) of the import value of a pharmaceutical product. In other words, Brazilian consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 80 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Brazil currently pay a premium ranging from 0.20 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.40 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Brazilian consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 39.17 USD to 79.83 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 1.3 per cent of Brazil's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 6.4 per cent of Brazilians total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 13.5 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 12.62 USD per capita. While the Brazilian government collects net tariff revenues of 1.59 USD per capita, it spends up to 6.75 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 8.10 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Brazilian government accounts for 64 per cent of total Brazilian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Brazilian government amounts up to 6.51 USD per capita or 1.35bn USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 36 per cent of total Brazilian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the average financial burden on Brazilian consumers amounts up to 2.90 USD per capita and 9.28 USD per household respectively.

Russia

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to Russia was 4.3 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 6.9bn USD. While tariff revenues collected by the Russian government amount to 297m USD, the total financial burden imposed on Russian consumers of medicines amounts up to 1.9bn USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 2.8bn USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Russia, the compounding effect ranges from 13 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 40 per cent (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies) of the import value of a pharmaceutical product. In other words, Russian consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 40 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Russia currently pay a premium ranging from 0.10 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.20 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Russian consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 19.44 USD to 39.63 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 2.2 per cent of Russia's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 11.0 per cent of Russians total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 24.0 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 19.08 USD per capita. While the Russian government collects net tariff revenues of 2.06 USD per capita, it spends up to 10.75 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 15.68 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Russian government accounts for 82 per cent of total Russian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Russian government amounts up to 13.62 USD per capita or 1.97bn USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 18 per cent of total Russian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the average financial burden on Russian consumers amounts up to 2.79 USD per capita and 7.20 USD per household respectively.

India

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to India was 10.0 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 927m USD. Although tariff revenues collected by the Indian government amount to 93m USD, the total financial burden imposed on Indian consumers of medicines amounts up to 615m USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 737m USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For India, the compounding effect ranges from 33 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 80 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Indian consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 80 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in India currently pay a premium ranging from 0.19 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.40 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Indian consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 38.98 USD to 79.46 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 0.8 per cent of India's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 2.8 per cent of India's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 4.5 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 0.56 USD per capita. While the Indian government collects net tariff revenues of 0.07 USD per capita, it spends up to 0.17 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 0.20 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Indian government accounts for 36 per cent of total Indian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss for the Indian government amounts up to 0.13 USD per capita or 171m USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 64 per cent of total Indian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the average financial burden on Indian consumers amounts up to 0.13 USD per capita and 0.53 USD per household respectively.

China

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to China was 4.2 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 14bn USD. While tariff revenues collected by the Chinese government amount to 596m USD, the total financial burden imposed on Chinese consumers of medicines amounts up to 4.36bn USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 6.23bn USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For China, the compounding effect ranges from 15.2 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 44.2 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Chinese consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 44.2 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in China currently pay a premium ranging from 0.11 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.22 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Chinese consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 21.70 USD to 44.23 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 1.1 per cent of China's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 3.7 per cent of China's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 11.5 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 4.52 USD per capita. While the Chinese government collects net tariff revenues of 0.43 USD per capita, it spends up to 2.00 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 2.87 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Chinese government accounts for 63 per cent of total Chinese healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Chinese government amounts up to 2.43 USD per capita or 3.36bn USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 37 per cent of total healthcare expenditure in China (WHO data), the average financial burden on Chinese consumers amounts up to 1.05 USD per capita and 3.18 USD per household respectively.

South Africa

The South African government does not impose tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals. In 2016, South Africa imported pharmaceutical products worth 1.4bn USD. The total financial burden imposed on South African consumers of medicines amounts up to 176m USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For South Africa, the compounding effect amounts to 12.5 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, South African consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 12.5 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to costs resulting from inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements.

Compared to a regime of more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in South Africa currently pay a premium ranging from 0.03 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.06 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, South African consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 6.11 USD to 12.46 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from a reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 0.6 per cent of South Africa's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 2.4 per cent of South Africa's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 36.2 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine (out of pocket spending on healthcare, as measured by the WHO, amounts to 7 per cent of total spending on healthcare in South Africa, which is low compared to other BRICS-MINT countries).

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 3.16 USD per capita. The South African government spends up to 2.54 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the South African government accounts for 80 per cent of total South African healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the South African government amounts up to 2.54 USD per capita or 142m USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 20 per cent of total healthcare expenditure in South Africa (WHO data), the average financial burden on South African consumers amounts up to 0.50 USD per capita and 1.95 USD per household respectively.

Mexico

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to Mexico was 2.6 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 2.5bn USD. Tariff revenues collected by the Mexican government amount to 65m USD and the total financial burden imposed on Mexican consumers of medicines amounts up to 409m USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 663m USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Mexico, the compounding effect ranges from 8.0 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 26.4 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Mexican consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 26.4 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Mexico currently pay a premium ranging from 0.06 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.13 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Mexican consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 12.94 USD to 26.38 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 0.8 per cent of Mexico's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 3.4 per cent of Mexico's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 7.7 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 5.20 USD per capita. While the Mexican government collects net tariff revenues of 0.51 USD per capita, it spends up to 2.06 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 3.34 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Mexican government accounts for 64 per cent of total Mexican healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Mexican government amounts up to 2.83 USD per capita or 360m USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 36 per cent of total healthcare expenditure in Mexico (WHO data), the average financial burden on Mexican consumers amounts up to 1.19 USD per capita and 4.60 USD per household respectively.

Indonesia

In 2016, the weighted average tariff for pharmaceuticals imported to Indonesia was 4.4 per cent, while imported pharmaceutical products were worth 578m USD. Meanwhile, tariff revenues collected by the Indonesian government amount to 25m USD, the total financial burden imposed on Indonesian consumers of medicines amounts up to 176m USD compared to trade at zero tariffs and 250m USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Indonesia, the compounding effect ranges from 15 per cent (low mark-ups, zero-tariff trade) to 43.4 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, zero-tariff trade, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Indonesian consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 43.4 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to the imposition of an import tariff at the border.

Compared to a zero-tariff trade regime and more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Indonesia currently pay a premium ranging from 0.11 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.22 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Indonesian consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 21.27 USD to 43.35 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from the elimination of import tariffs and the reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 1.0 per cent of Indonesia's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 4.1 per cent of Indonesia's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 5.8 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 0.96 USD per capita. While the Indonesian government collects net tariff revenues of 0.10 USD per capita, it spends up to 0.43 USD per capita more on medicines compared to trade at zero tariffs and 0.62 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Indonesian government accounts for 64 per cent of total Indonesian healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Indonesian government amounts up to 0.52 USD per capita or 136m USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 36 per cent of total healthcare expenditure in Indonesia (WHO data), the average financial burden on Indonesian consumers amounts up to 0.22 USD per capita and 0.83 USD per household respectively.

Nigeria

The Nigerian government does not impose tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals. In 2014 (latest import data available), Nigeria imported pharmaceutical products worth 369,000 USD. The total financial burden imposed on Nigerian consumers of medicines amounts up to 60,000 USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Nigeria, the compounding effect amounts to 16.2 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Nigerian consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 16.2 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to costs resulting from inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements.

Compared to a regime of more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Nigeria currently pay a premium ranging from 0.04 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.08 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Nigerian consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 7.96 USD to 16.23 USD per unit.

As Nigeria's imports of pharmaceutical products are relatively low compared to other BRICS-MINT countries, the percentage savings are only marginal when expressed in per cent of the country's overall spending on healthcare as well as medicines and out of pocket spending.

Turkey

The government of Turkey does not impose tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals. In 2016, Turkey imported pharmaceutical products worth 2.6bn USD. The total financial burden imposed on Turkish consumers of medicines amounts up to 291m USD when border compliance and documentation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. For Turkey, the compounding effect amounts to 11.1 per cent of the import value of a pharmaceutical product (high mark-ups, reduction in trade facilitation inefficiencies). In other words, Turkish consumers currently have to pay a premium of up to 11.1 per cent of the import value of a medicinal product due to costs resulting from inefficiencies in border compliance procedures and documentation requirements. Compared to a regime of more efficient trade facilitation procedures, consumers in Turkey currently pay a premium ranging from 0.03 USD (low mark-ups) and 0.06 USD (high mark-ups) on a medicinal product that is initially exported at a price of 0.50 USD. For medicines sold at 100 USD per unit at the border, Turkish consumers currently pay a premium ranging from 5.47 USD to 11.14 USD per unit.

The potential savings that would result from a reduction of existing inefficiencies in trade facilitation procedures amount up to 0.7 per cent of Turkey's total annual healthcare expenditure in 2014 (based on WHO data), 2.8 per cent of Turkey's total annual spending on medicines (based on IMS 2014b projections for 2018) and 15.7 per cent of total out of pocket spending on medicine.

The total financial burden imposed on both government and private consumers of pharmaceutical products amounts up to 3.66 USD per capita. The Turkish government spends up to 2.60 USD more per capita when border facilitation inefficiencies are taken into consideration. In other words, given that the Turkish government accounts for 71 per cent of total Turkish healthcare expenditure (WHO data), the net loss of the Turkish government amounts up to 2.60 USD per capita or 207m USD per year (as several exemptions apply for sales taxes and government(-mediated) purchases of pharmaceutical products, government revenues from sales taxes have not been taken into consideration). Given that private household expenditure on healthcare accounts for 29 per cent of total healthcare expenditure Turkey (WHO data), the average financial burden on Turkish consumers amounts up to 0.75 USD per capita and 2.90 USD per household respectively.