

# SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND EFFECTIVE MEDICINES FOR UKRAINIANS (SAFEMed) ACTIVITY

MONTHLY  
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DIGEST



## OVERVIEW

Our work in Ukraine aims to bolster pharmaceutical governance and financing, contribute to a longer-term plan for pharmaceutical financing, and strengthen rational pharmaceutical management and the pharmaceutical supply chain, ultimately leading to better availability and use of essential medicines, particularly for those living with TB, HIV and AIDS, and noncommunicable diseases. We support the Government of Ukraine in responding to COVID-19 through technical assistance in implementing its national vaccination plan.

## SAFEMED SUPPORTS PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

On May 5th, with the technical support of the USAID's SAFEMed Activity in Ukraine, the SoE "Medical Procurement of Ukraine" (MPU) conducted an online event for pharmaceutical product suppliers where new functionalities of the information and analytical MedData system were presented. Under martial law in Ukraine, auctions will be used to determine the most cost-effective offer to participants, as the competitive procedures of the Prozorro system are temporarily unavailable. Thus, given the urgency to expedite procurement procedures, MPU experts have developed the ability to conduct auctions in the MedData system to select suppliers and negotiate the procedure of non-competitive types of procurement for the state budget. This development helps to maintain the necessary level of transparency in procurement procedures in the face of limited capabilities during martial law.

The presentation outlined the basic rules of the auctions in the MedData system and other important details: the authorization process and the description of the auction process itself. Selection of the most competitive offers are assessed in real time by selecting 0.5% from the lowest price offered by participants. The winner of the auction is the participant who offers the lowest price. The auction procedure in MedData system is available for the participants

who have previously submitted commercial proposals to MPU and have passed the preliminary compliance for medical and technical qualifications as well as have successfully passed the validation process. At the same time, all anti-corruption and compliance procedures in place in MPU remain applicable under martial law.

**Moreover, in the context of the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, special attention is paid to checking potential counterparties for international and internal sanctions.**



## SAFEMED SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE PHARMACY STAFFING MODEL DURING WAR

On May 7th and 14th, two online training sessions entitled, "Pharmacy store: From Bench to Bedside", were conducted by the lecturers of Ternopil National Medical University. As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many pharmacies have been left without workers because they were forced to abandon their homes and jobs due to active hostilities and the threat of missile strikes.

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) issued an Order № 429 on March 8, 2022, allowing medical students and interns

to work in pharmacies as assistant pharmacists during martial law. The curriculum for medical students does not include how to manage a pharmacy store. Therefore, a quick and intensive online course was aimed at providing a better understanding of how to successfully provide medicines for patients through Ukrainian pharmacies.

Trainings were met with a high level of interest. A total of 678 participants took part in the trainings, almost half of whom are fourth-year students of Ukrainian medical institutions and almost 16% were medical interns. All course participants received training certificates. After the training, participants were asked to fill out feedback forms. 47.2% of the training participants stated that the training influenced their decision to join the pharmaceutical sector.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

As suggestions and wishes in the filled feedback form after the lectures, participants wrote:



*“This training was interesting, so I can only wish you further lectures on current topics of pharmacology and nuances related to the work of pharmacies, in particular regarding the nomenclature and classification of drugs and the work of pharmacies in wartime, thank you.”*



*“Wishes in the future that the trainings should be aimed at expanding the worldview and knowledge, and not a forced action during the war.”*



*“I really liked this format of lectures; lecturers explain the material in an interesting and accessible way. I would be happy to listen to the topics of proper pharmaceutical care and pharmacist protocols and pre-sales functions.”*



*“Thank you very much for the training, I learned a lot of new and interesting things, I hope it will help in employment.”*

## SAFEMED EXPLORED BEST PRACTICES IN VACCINATION EFFORTS AND SUPPLY CHAIN IN TURKEY

One week prior to Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, a SAFEMed representative joined the official delegation of MOH, Center of Public Health (CPH), and MPU, visit to Ankara which was supported by UNICEF. Turkey is one of the world’s countries with the most developed supply chain system and successful vaccination experience.

The country implemented a system for tracking each vaccine package using barcodes which allows for monitoring vaccine utilization through a general system. Turkey has a convenient vaccine distribution and accounting system that is used across the country in 81 provinces, 910 districts and 400 warehouses. Staff members of 50 call-centers that have access to the system provide information about vaccination efforts. Turkish colleagues are eager to share their experiences within the framework of Ukraine’s plans to implement a similar system.

It total, universal health coverage in Turkey is 90%. Also, 6% of GDP is allocated for healthcare and there are 750,000 healthcare professionals, including 28,000 of family doctors. The first stage of healthcare reform was implemented in 2002, and the hospital bed system was phased out.

**During their visit, the Ukrainian delegation expert also met with Turkish MOH colleagues and government representatives as well as visited the national and regional warehouses. The parties discussed top priorities related to the implementation of the vaccination supply chain experience in Ukraine and local activities in the area of healthcare in both countries.**

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