



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

MONTHLY NEWS 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 MPU IN ITS EFFORTS OF BECOMING A NATIONAL PROCUREMENT HUB

USAID’s SAFEMed Activity in Ukraine finalized an open tender to choose a company with the capacity and expertise to provide comprehensive support to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) to reorganize the State Enterprise (SE) “Ukrmedpostach” under the SE “Medical Procurement of Ukraine” (MPU). The aim of this reorganization is to consolidate supply chain functions under MPU to enable the entity to serve as a full-cycle entity responsible for procurement and delivery of medicines and medical devices to all regions in Ukraine. Together with SAFEMed, the selected service company will support MOH and both state-owned enterprises throughout the entire reorganization process from start to finish, providing strategic, legal, accounting, and auditing expertise.

In September 2021, SAFEMed was tapped by the MOH to

conduct a rapid financial and legal analysis of Ukrmedpostach and to outline different options for its future organization. The Ukrmedpostach maintains a warehouse and logistics infrastructure and is authorized by the MOH through a variety of contracts to receive and accept shipments, clear customs, stock warehouses, and deliver to customers (local clinics and hospitals) medicines and medical devices procured by international specialized agencies. Based on the findings of the analysis, MOH decided to reorganize the mentioned state enterprise under MPU operations to meet the strategic goal to establish a full-cycle procurement and supply agency with sustainable and independent functions.

Thus, ensuring timely and efficient patient access to the publicly procured and distributed healthcare products.

FIRST-AID TRAININGS PREPARE UKRAINIAN PROFESSIONALS TO SAVE LIVES

Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February, SAFEMed began to partner with the Ternopil National Medical University to organize and conduct first aid courses. A total of 1,015 individuals who offer first aid according to their job functions - including pharmacists, policemen, and firefighters — participated in the training. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine not only impacted countless civilians but also health care institutions. As of June 14, 2022, according to official statistics, the war in Ukraine claimed the lives of at least 4,432 civilians and wounded another 5,499. Accurate steps and precise approaches to lifesaving first aid activities are essential to Ukrainians and can save many lives if applied properly.



Photo credit: Ternopil National Medical University

The trainings took place at the Ternopil Medical University Stimulation Center (TESIMED) and experienced instructors from the European and Ukrainian Councils of Resuscitation and award winning paramedics conducted the twenty-nine five-hour

sessions. The courses included 90-minute lectures to raise awareness on proper approaches for first aid provision followed by practical hands-on skills building sessions conducted in small groups.

The courses were extremely well received by participants who were thrilled to gain knowledge on how to save lives in war zones and under emergency conditions. Upon completion of the courses, participants received certificates.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED PRESCRIBING OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

Throughout June, SAFEMed, with support of its local partner Legal Alliance and in cooperation with the MOH and the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), continued to develop draft regulations aimed at improving the processes for prescribing and controlling the dispensing of prescription medicines. Specifically, SAFEMed supported the drafting of several amendments to regulations to strengthen implementation of e-prescription. These include amendments to several Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Decrees (No. 458 on May 23, 2012, No. 333 on May 13, 2013; and No. 929 on November 30, 2016) as well as to MOH Orders (No. 360 on July 19, 2005; No. 490 on August 17, 2007; and others).

The priority focus has been on the launch of e-prescriptions for antibacterial medicines dispensed at health facilities followed by focusing on distribution at pharmacy level set to begin in 2023. These relevant amendments are currently

being prepared for public discussion.

In addition, two bills are under Parliamentary review. These include:

Bill No. 7444 on June 8, 2022 designed to amend certain laws in the field of the circulation of medicines. Specifically, the law is designed to control dispensing of medicines containing narcotic ingredients and psychotropic substances under e-prescription.

Bill No. 7445 on June 8, 2022, amending Article 42-4 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses, designed to strengthen administrative responsibility for prescriptions dispensing of medicines worth up to UAH 5,100 (repeated offense over the year is UAH 10,200).

Both bills, if adopted, will be put into effect three months after the cessation (abolition) of martial law in Ukraine.

SAFEMED ANALYZES THE CHANGES IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET IN UKRAINE DURING RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



Over the last several months, SAFEMed has engaged the pharmaceutical data firm, SMD to produce detailed monthly situational analyses of the fluctuations of the pharmaceutical market in Ukraine due to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

Each monthly report highlights the challenges faced by different components of the pharmaceutical market, including foreign and local producers, wholesale distributors, sales data in different segments of the market (in price and volume), and retail sales.

Through these reports, SAFEMed has been able to track the initial breakdown of the overall market, including the destruction of critical infrastructure and acute personnel shortages, while also following how market players are slowly rebuilding their businesses. For example, the total pharmaceutical sales (in medicines only) have declined by 21% April 2022 versus 36% in March 2022. Comparatively, it decreased by 51% from April 2021. One particularly important finding is that it is hard to fully assess how patient access to medicines is being impacted by the shrinking of the market due to inability to independently track the large volume of medicines arriving through humanitarian aid channels. One concern of many pharmaceutical leaders is the inability of the market to return to its pre-war strength, because the continued attacks on infrastructure, the loss of

personnel, as well as the potential to become overly dependent on donations of donated medicines and medical commodities. SMD has been able to rely on its own repository of sales data as well as its extensive relationships with government and industry representatives.

It has been especially encouraging to observe the market resiliency as many manufacturers seek to return to pre-war production levels, especially in regions far from active combat, and innovative approaches to delivery and distribution for essential medicines to those in need in Ukraine.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST