



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.

MPU LAUNCHED AN AUTOMATED CONFIDENTIAL ETHICS PLATFORM

Adherence to high anti-corruption, ethics and business culture standards is fundamental to the state enterprise “Medical Procurement of Ukraine” (MPU).

Thus, with comprehensive support from USAID’s SAFEMed Activity MPU has implemented an automated Ethicontrol Platform. This platform makes it possible to report potential violations of anti-corruption legislation, unethical behavior, and disregard of the enterprise policies. Reports can include suspected corruption offences or misdoings, ethical misconduct, HR issues, conflict of interests, discrimination, or bidding procedure abuse. With this web resource all external and internal stakeholders (suppliers, hospital employees, MPU employees, their relatives, or others) are free to provide information in a safe and

confidential way.

Under the general supervision of an independent third party, [Ethicontrol](#), the MPU Compliance Control Department will consider all information on the platform in accordance with the requirements of the legislation of Ukraine and MPU’s internal policies and procedures and will take any necessary relevant further measures. In case any legal components of a crime are revealed, the information will be transferred to law enforcement agencies.

The introduction of such platform is one of the many anti-corruption tools that MPU uses to improve its internal compliance procedures, thereby improving the quality of its work for the benefit of patients in Ukraine.

SAFEMED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MOH HELPED TO DELIVER PFIZER VACCINES RECEIVED FROM COVAX INITIATIVE

While attention has been placed on addressing the acute health needs associated with Russia’s ongoing invasion, the challenge of COVID-19 remains. Over the last six weeks, there has been a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections and as a result, the demand for vaccinations is on the rise. As such, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), together with the Center for Public Health, has worked to identify sources of additional vaccines to meet the growing need. On September 18, in partnership with COVAX and the MOH, nearly 500,000 additional doses of U.S.-donated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the country. SAFEMed logistics vendor Farmsoft accepted the shipment in its Kyiv warehouse and, together with its government counterparts and support from SAFEMed, the logistics company will distribute the vaccines throughout the country. The U.S. government has donated more than 4.1 million COVID-19 vaccines to the people of Ukraine since the launch of the vaccination campaign in early 2021.

SAFEMed provides ongoing support to build demand for vaccination and distribute vaccines safely throughout Ukraine.



Photo credit: USAID Ukraine

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MEDICINES VERIFICATION SYSTEM ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY

The new Law of Ukraine “On Medicinal Products” stipulates the creation of a National Medicines Verification System. Such a system would provide for the application of safe and secure features on medicine packaging to prevent and counteract the circulation of falsified medicines and to enhance visibility and accountability of medicines across the supply chain from production to the patient. These features include a unique identifier (bar code) and an indicator of unauthorized disclosure (sticker, tape). The respective information about such medicines shall be stored in the central database which will be created and governed by the National Medicines Verification Organization.

In compliance with the provisions of the Law and at the request of the MOH, SAFEMed along with its legal partner, Legal Alliance law firm, have

developed a draft Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which shall approve:



Order of application of safety features on packaging of the medicinal product and their use;



Regulation on the National Medicines Verification System;



A Model Charter of the National Medicines Verification Organisation.

Following the submission of the draft Decree to stakeholders, the MOH received relevant proposals and comments to the document. SAFEMed and Legal Alliance are currently reviewing the submitted proposals to the draft Decree with the aim of a final version ready for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

“I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT UKRAINE WILL WIN,” A STORY OF BRAVERY AND RESILIENCE FROM A SAFEMED TEAM MEMBER



A health professional currently working for SAFEMed project, Vira’s motivation has always been to help her country and her fellow citizens, including those most at risk.

Since the start of Russia’s war against Ukraine, Vira coordinates the transport of medicines, equipment, and medical devices from Ukraine’s international partners and donors to warehouses inside the country.

[READ VIRA’S STORY HERE:](#)

Photo credit: SAFEMed

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST