



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 PROVIDED THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN RTKS ASSESSMENT RESULT DISSEMINATION

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine is the second largest in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. HIV testing remains an essential component of HIV service provision, ensuring early detection of HIV infection and the earliest possible initiation of treatment for people living with HIV.

The consistent supply of HIV rapid test kits (RTKs) at clinic and community level is critical to meet ambitious treatment goals. Yet, even prior to the war, the national HIV program struggled with expiring test kits as well as test kit shortages and stock-outs — all challenges that demonstrated the need to increase the efficiency and sustainability of the RTK supply chain system.

To enhance understanding of the current system for HIV Rapid test kits (RTKs) provision in Ukraine and to identify opportunities for future action, USAID's SAFEMed Activity conducted an assessment of RTKs supply chain system. Government, donor, civil society, and implementing partner stakeholders at national and regional levels that are involved in HIV testing services and RTK provision shared their perspectives on the current barriers and opportunities to support improvements in the following dimensions of HIV RTK supply chain management: 1. Forecasting and planning. 2. Procurement. 3. Distribution. 4. Inventory management. 5. Monitoring and reporting.

The Center for Public Health (CPH) together with

SAFEMed held an event on October 18 to disseminate results and recommendations of the RTK assessment. More than 25 participants from national and international agencies (CPH, 100% life, AHF Ukraine, PACT, USAID, and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) attended the online meeting. Ihor Kuzin, Deputy Minister of Health/Chief State Sanitary Doctor, opened the meeting, highlighting the importance of the results of the assessment, especially during the war time when the demand for such testing is increased due to limited patient access to laboratory testing. A key recommendation of the assessment was to quickly finalize and implement the recently drafted methodological guidelines for contemporary RTK forecasting. Other recommendations focused on strengthening routine communication between partners involved in the procurement and distribution cycles of HIV RTs, implement national mapping of source of HIV RTs, and simplifying records and automating reporting of HIV RTs movement.

SAFEMed will continue providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) and CPH in the area of development and implementation of the quantification methodologies for RTKs as well as for procurement of HIV lab commodities.

SAFEMED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNICEF HELPED TO DELIVER THE LARGEST SINGLE DONATION OF PFIZER VACCINES TO UKRAINE

On October 25, in partnership with COVAX and the UNICEF, 2.3 million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the country.

It is largest single donation of COVID-19 vaccines to Ukraine since the start of the pandemic. 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 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccines to the people of Ukraine.

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



SAFEMED SUPPORTED THE MPU'S IT DIGEST RELEASE

With the support of SAFEMed, Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) developed and shared among its stakeholders an Information Technology (IT) Digest — a document explaining and visualizing the interoperability and functionality of the MPU IT infrastructure that consists of three interconnected and complementary IT systems: MedData, e-Stock and MedSupply.

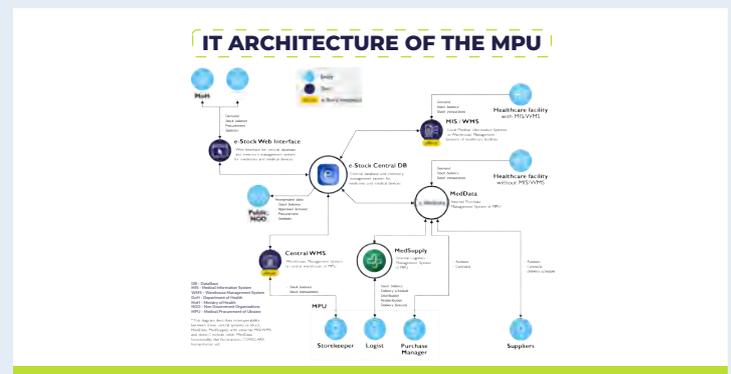
The systems aim to enhance efficiency and productivity of the health system through digitalization of the processes associated with health commodities procurement and supply chain management. Together, these three systems are intended to improve stock management, reduce the volume of paper records, provide access to real time information on procurements and distribution of medical commodities, improve data collection mechanisms and the transparency of the supply chain process, decrease costs and errors, and improve consumption and replenishment processes.

MedData will continue to serve as the data collection tool used to track and manage the COVID-19 vaccination

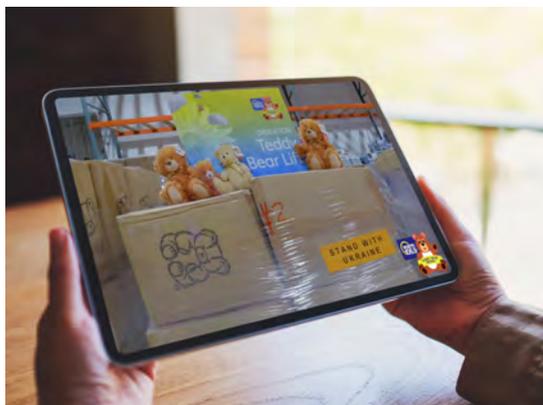
and humanitarian aid supply chain and the tool for communicating with suppliers under the budget for centralized procurement.

e-Stock will serve as a central database for medical stock management from the needs collection at health facility level and its approval by MOH through to facility-based stock management.

MedSupply will be used as a logistics management tool for items procured by MPU and will support delivery scheduling and calculation of stock replenishments.



SAFEMED PROVIDED MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE TEDDY BEAR LIFE OPERATION



Since the beginning of the war, Ukraine has received thousands of humanitarian cargoes from dozens of countries around the world, including medical goods. A significant part of the aid is directed to help children.

SAFEMed supported the creation of video-blurb that describes international partners efforts — [Ukrainian Association of Washington State](#), Hubbard Radio, and SECO logistics — in supporting children, through the MPU.

WATCH THE VIDEO

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST

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