



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST



OVERVIEW

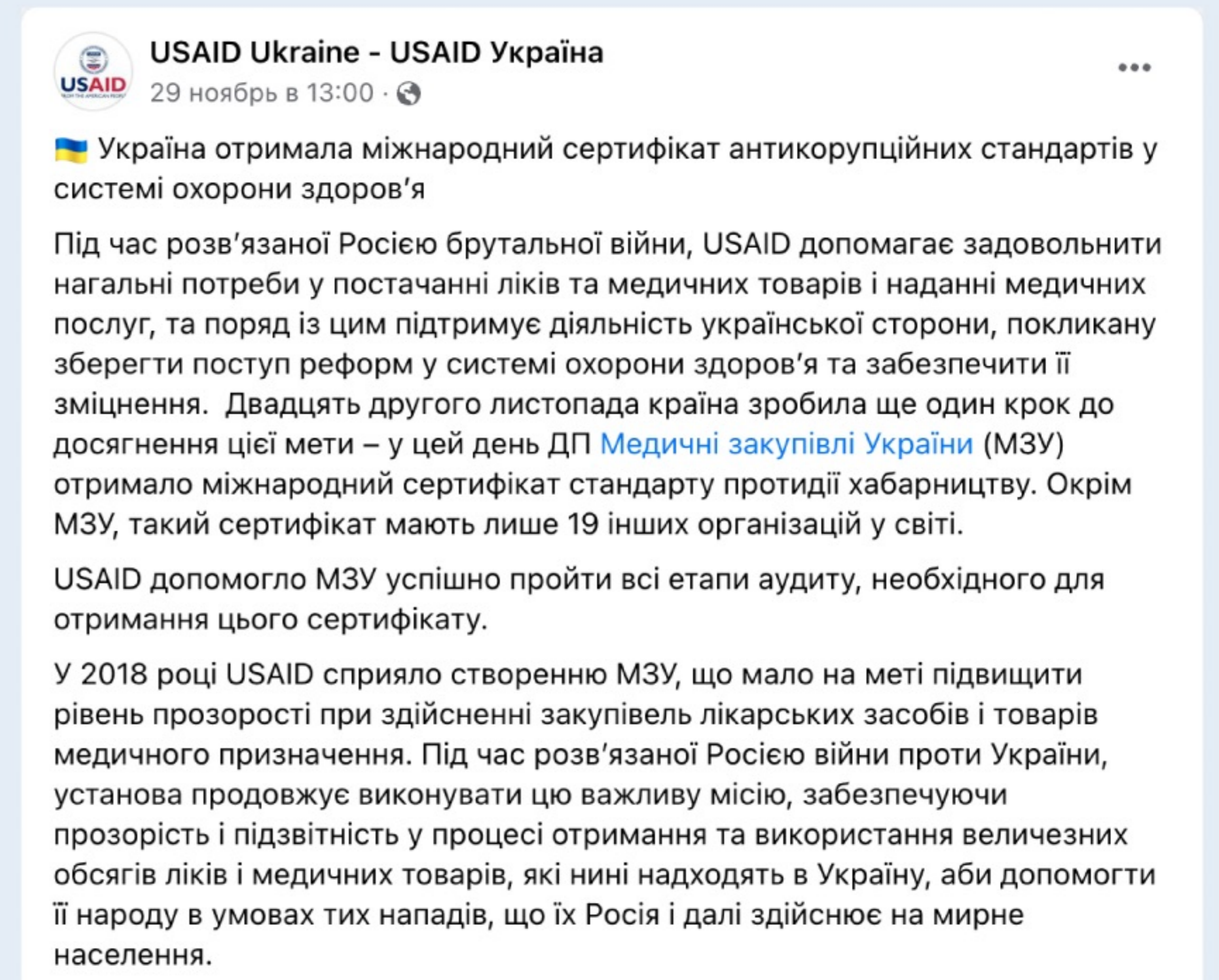
Our work in Ukraine aims to bolster pharmaceutical governance and financing, contribute to a longer-term plan for pharmaceutical financing, and strengthen rational pharmaceutical management and the pharmaceutical supply chain, ultimately leading to better availability and use of essential medicines, 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'S ADHERENCE TO ZERO-TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Over the years, the State Enterprise “Medical Procurement of Ukraine” (MPU) has developed its own Anti-Corruption Policy. This policy is aimed at identifying, preventing, and countering corruption in its work. The Anti-Corruption Policy of the MPU is based on important documents in the field of anti-corruption, in particular, the Anti-corruption Program and the Code of Professional Ethics as well as other operational procedures. These documents ensure effective functioning of the anti-corruption policy and relate to compliance with the zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and provide adequate operations of the MPU.

Since start of the war USAID's SAFEMed Activity provided its continuous support to the MPU, including obtaining international certification of the anti-bribery standard ISO 37001:2016. The anti-corruption management system symbolizes the highest commitment to ethical behavior and confirms the implementation of the best global practices in the field of anti-corruption. It ensures that a system of sustainable measures aimed at eliminating corrupt practices are put in place that lead to enhancing the reputation, gaining trust, and avoiding potential compliance risks. The MPU has become the first in the procurement field of Ukraine organization that successfully passed all the stages of the ISO 37001:2016 certification audit. Only 20 organizations around the world working in the medical procurement field have this ISO 37001:2016 certificate. And MPU is only the third Ukrainian institution that received the ISO 37001:2016 certification accordingly.

SAFEMed contracted PECB Group, an authorized ISP body, to undertake the two-stage audit. It consisted of verification of documents and operational processes as well as an assessment of the anti-corruption management system.



SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN LEGISLATION STRENGTHENING TO EXPAND HIV TREATMENT ACCESS

Expanding access to life-saving antiretrovirals (ARVs) through community-based models that facilitate HIV treatment initiation and adherence is a global best practice. SAFEMed and other key stakeholders have put significant effort in the legislative reforms necessary to address key policy barriers that limit access. SAFEMed's earlier proactive coordination and work with key government partners helped establish the legal ground for distribution of ARVs through a wider number of channels, including family doctors at the primary health level.

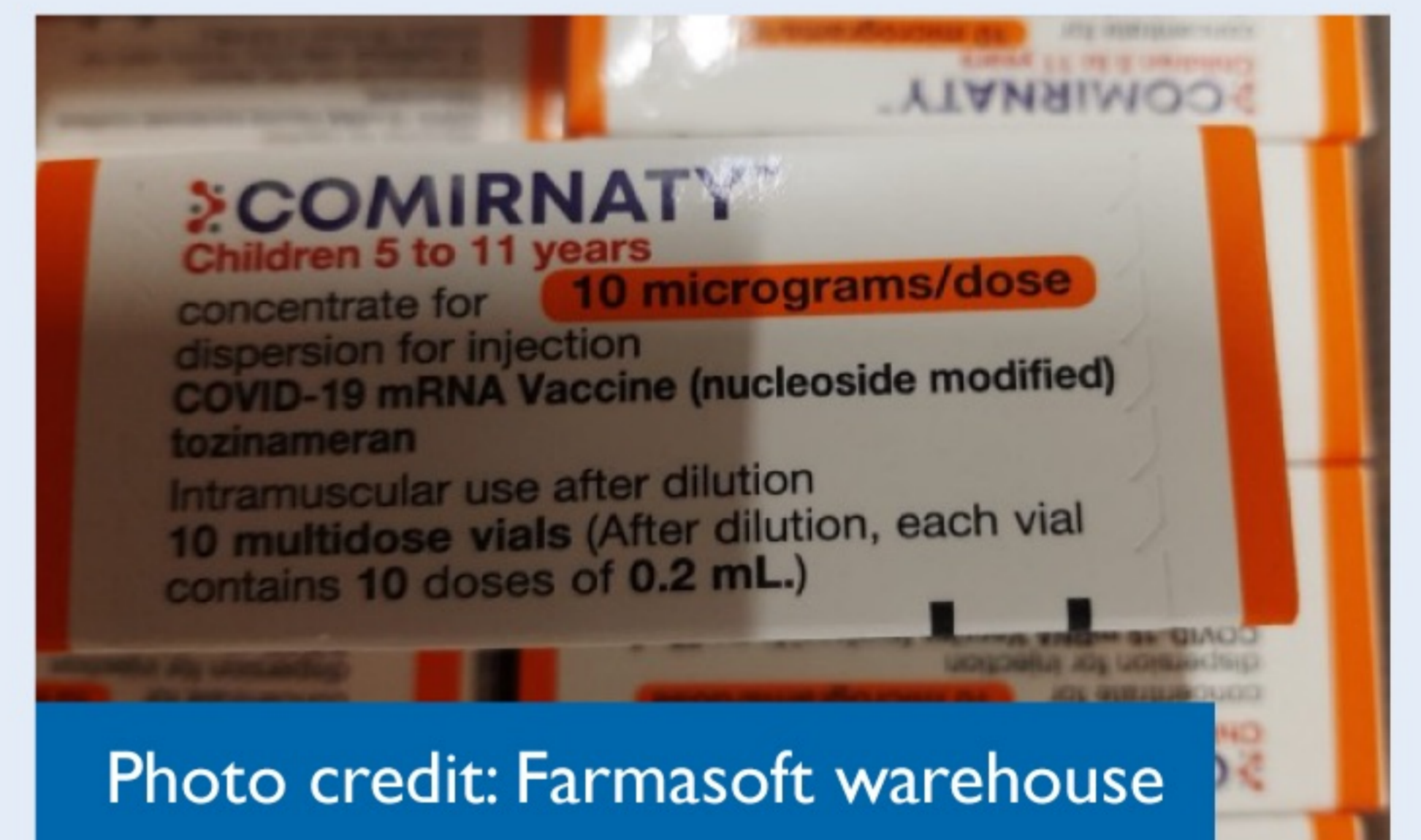
Now, a new law promises to build on this and create the legal basis to introduce ARVs distribution through pharmacies, which ultimately will facilitate more community-based distribution modalities for life-saving HIV treatment.

The new Law on HIV was presented on November 3 to Ukrainian Parliament. They endorsed it upon its first reading through a new unanimous vote (315). The draft Law moves into the second and, if necessary, the third reading before final approval. Importantly, the Ukrainian Parliament chose to proceed with the shorten voting procedure, which is expected to speed up the process significantly.

Engagement of the family doctors and pharmacies is an important step towards meeting one of the key objectives to reach the PEPFAR goals - to provide patient-friendly services, including multi-months ARVs dispensing and scripting. Final approval of the law would provide HIV patients with better access to ARV drugs and will increase treatment efficiency, retention, and adherence.

SAFEMED HELPED TO DELIVER THE PFIZER PED DOSES VACCINES FOR CHILDREN 5-12 YEARS

Having the aim to cover children under 5-12 years old with vaccinations against COVID-19, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) has requested global initiative COVAX to consider possibility of supplying vaccines not only for adults, but PFIZER PED doses as well. November 24 115K doses vaccines with prolonged shelf life till the end of next March have arrived to the Farmasoft warehouse and within nearest weeks will be delivered to the regions. SAFEMed provides ongoing support to distribute vaccines safely throughout Ukraine.



SAFEMED HELPED THE MOH RECOGNIZE WORK ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS



In the frame of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022 and a promotional campaign launched by the MOH, SAFEMed supported the creation of video-blurb that describes importance of antibiotic treatment prescription exclusively by a doctor.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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