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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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SAFEMED PARTICIPATES IN JOINT UKRAINE PEPFAR COP23 CO-PLANNING MEETING



Photo credit: SAFEMed

Left to right: Sergey Strashuk (Principal Technical Advisor, Supply Chain Management, SAFEMed), Liudmyla Chernenko (General Manager, CPH), Ihor Kuzin (Deputy Minister of Health, Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine), Rebecca Kohler (Chief-of-Party, SAFEMed), Vera Horovenko (Senior Technical Advisor, Supply Chain Management, SAFEMed), Leah Hasselback (Senior Commodities and Supply Chain Advisor, Office of Health, USAID/Ukraine).

During the week of March 13-17, national agencies met together with donor representatives, patient organizations, and civil society in Warsaw, Poland, to discuss plans to support Ukraine in the coming years. Attendees included the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), Center for Public Health (CPH), Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), and other institutions, along with representatives of PEPFAR, USAID, CDC, Global Fund, WHO, and UNAIDS. As the country continues to be engulfed in war, the meeting was designed to update these agencies on future assistance, specifically regarding the PEPFAR country's operational plan for 2023 and to present current progress on Ukraine's application for financing from the Global Fund for 2024–2026.

Collectively, stakeholders recognized the importance of ensuring a sustainable response to the HIV and tuberculosis epidemics in Ukraine during the war and into recovery. To help accomplish this, PEPFAR colleagues announced that they will be allocating \$118.5 million for Ukraine over the next two years, including the procurement of HIV commodities during that timeframe. In addition, the Global Fund announced the allocation of \$157 million for the next three years.

SAFEMED SUPPORTS DISTRIBUTION OF MONKEYPOX VACCINE FROM EU

The very first shipment of 10,000 doses of the JYNNEOS monkeypox vaccine, provided by the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, arrived in Ukraine in late February 2023 through EU4Health, the European Union's (EU) largest health program. JYNNEOS is a live, non-replicating vaccine against monkeypox, developed and manufactured by Bavarian Nordic. The JYNNEOS vaccine is approved for use in individuals 18 years of age and older at high risk for monkeypox infection and is administered as a 2-dose series, 28 days apart. Priority risk groups include health care workers, pregnant women, and patients with immunodeficiency. SAFEMed is supporting MOH in storage and distribution of the vaccine to regions. Through March, the project has already distributed 7,440 doses to regions as per demand announced by regional authorities. Monkeypox vaccine has been identified as one of the MOH vaccination priorities.

About SAFEMed

Our work in Ukraine aims to boost transparency, improve cost efficiency, and strengthen the pharmaceutical supply chain, ultimately leading to better availability and use of essential medicines and health commodities for TB, HIV and AIDS, COVID-19, and noncommunicable diseases. We support the Government of Ukraine in its ongoing efforts to reform its health care system in the wake of the war.

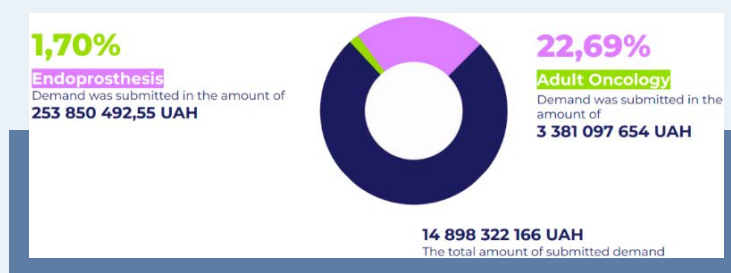
SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL MEDICINES VERIFICATION SYSTEM ROADMAP

In late March, MOH hosted an online dialogue with pharmaceutical stakeholders to share progress on the implementation of the medicines verification roadmap and foster dedication from the pharma industry to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the MOH as a key next step in the creation of the national organization. More than 50 stakeholders across government, international and local associations, and manufacturers joined the gathering. MOH and SAFEMed, including partner Legal Alliance, presented the outcomes of recent consultation with the European Medicines Verification Organization (EMVO) on key considerations for Ukraine to ensure that their verification system is in alignment with EU standards and highlights of the draft decree required for the implementation of the new Law on Medicines approved last August. A productive dialogue followed the presentations with several key questions raised regarding timelines and industry roles. MOH agreed to share the current draft of the MOU, the draft decree, and other related materials and plan for another consultation in the coming weeks.

MPU PILOTS E-STOCK DEMAND COLLECTION AND USER MANAGEMENT MODULES WITH SAFEMED SUPPORT

MOH and MPU recently finalized the pilot of the e-Stock demand collection and user management modules. The pilot, launched on January 2, aimed to conduct a real-time health facility-level demand collection and user management functionality testing exercise among two therapeutic directions: adult oncology and endoprosthesis. The pilot had three phases. First, health care facilities submitted data on demand, including information on existing stock and pipeline of expected deliveries through their medical information systems or through MedData. Next, regional authorities validated the data provided by the regional institutions. Last, MPU and MOH verified the data. As a result, 169 health care facilities submitted demand for 123 items across both directions. On average, it took around 1.5 months to collect, verify, and calculate quantities of demand. The pilot revealed that users at different levels felt the system was user-friendly, convenient, and fast. Further, the development team was able to quickly address any technical glitches and make improvements based on user feedback.

SAFEMed continues to support MOH and MPU on developing the next scheduled e-Stock module covering procurement.

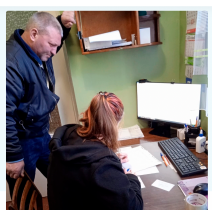


Results of the pilot demand collection for the two therapeutic directions covered nearly a quarter (24.39%) of all demand, with adult oncology being the highest.

Back to Stories

HIV & AIDS, Pharmaceutical and Supply Chain Management, Tuberculosis | March 17, 2023

Maintaining Last-Mile Distribution of Critical HIV and TB Treatments Despite the War: View from the Front Lines



Before the ongoing war with Russia began, Ukraine had long been battling another threat: epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis (TB). The rates of both diseases in Ukraine are high—the country has one of the world's highest HIV incidence rates and the second-largest HIV epidemic in Europe and the Central Asia region, and TB is the country's leading cause of death among infectious diseases. Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 threatened to jeopardize years of

MAINTAINING LAST-MILE DISTRIBUTION OF CRITICAL HIV AND TB TREATMENTS DESPITE THE WAR: VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINES

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