



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

JUNE 2023



SAFEMED HELPS DELIVER HUMANITARIAN MEDICAL AID TO REGIONS IMPACTED BY THE KAKHOVKA DAM DESTRUCTION

USAID's SAFEMed Activity quickly provided support to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) following the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam. Working closely with regional health authorities, the project delivered much-needed humanitarian aid to affected communities from June 6 to 15. This includes providing nearly 100 pallets of medicines, medical supplies, and disinfectants to communities affected by the flooding, which will be used at evacuation points to help ensure local medical professionals can provide care in sanitary conditions. Additionally, to ensure uninterrupted access to care in case of potential power outages, SAFEMed helped deliver eight high-power generators to health facilities in Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv.



SAFEMED HOLDS WORK PLANNING SESSION IN WARSAW, POLAND



From June 19–22, 2023, USAID SAFEMed hosted a work planning session in Warsaw, Poland, to review the project's strengths and challenges. Project personnel, including those from subcontractors Legal Alliance and Overseas Strategy Consulting, and representatives from Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and USAID attended the gathering.

During the four-day hybrid meeting, the team discussed key facilitating factors and barriers impacting the successful implementation of the project as well as outlined plans for project year seven that coincide with current strategies and priorities of the Government of Ukraine (GOU) and USAID. Time was also devoted to addressing the impact of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and the intense pressures of working under these conditions. The team worked together to identify ways to further enhance staff well-being, team unity, motivation, and professional development.

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 BUILDS ON EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PHARMACEUTICAL LEGISLATION

SAFEMed, with support from Legal Alliance, continues to provide expert assistance to the MOH in drafting legal documents that further strengthen the regulatory framework for e-prescriptions in Ukraine. The project recently helped draft amendments to MOH Order Number 360 to strengthen control over the circulation of narcotic drugs, which are currently issued both by electronic and paper prescriptions.

Once adopted, these proposed changes will require all finished narcotic drugs to be prescribed and dispensed exclusively by e-prescription. Exceptions will be permitted in the case of a technical failure in the eHealth system, when a paper prescription may be issued.

FIRST MODULE OF MPU'S MEDSUPPLY SYSTEM COMPLETED

SAFEMed provides ongoing comprehensive technical assistance to the MOH and Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) in digitizing procurement and supply chain processes. MedSupply, when fully operational, will enhance the effectiveness of MPU's interaction with suppliers by integrating with the other national supply chain platforms – MedData and eStock – allowing for control of the entire logistics processes.

MPU logistics specialists, who support contract implementation and management, will use MedSupply once a contract with a supplier and delivery dates are in place. Currently, this data either passes directly to MPU's logistics partner or is recorded manually, making transactions cumbersome to track. Utilizing MedSupply will help unify, standardize, and automate the work of these logistics specialists.

The software development team working with MPU and other stakeholders launched the initiative in

September 2022 and finished on schedule in May 2023. This module covers basic logistics processes through agreement, supply, and request management:

- Agreement and specification management as a kick-off point for logistic operations.
- Breaking specifications into chunks to allow for more effective planning.
- Supporting supplies from plan to delivery, which requires getting all the necessary certificates, payment confirmations, and other documents.
- Distribution of medical goods to beneficiaries in a trackable end-to-end mode.

Future modules are expected to provide advanced and integrated logistic process upgrades, forecasting capability at different levels across the system, and analytic insights and reporting.

NEW VIDEO-BLURB DESCRIBES MPU'S MEDICINES VERIFICATION PROCESSES

Nearly every day, MPU delivers medicines to health care facilities. From the procurement of medicines to transferring them to health facilities, many important verification stages must take place. SAFEMed supported the production of a video-blurb that describes the complicated and multi-step verification processes at MPU's warehouse, which are vital to ensuring that Ukrainians receive quality medicines. The video-blurb is shared on the MPU Facebook page.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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