



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2023



SAFEMED PRESENTS ON HUMANITARIAN AID SUPPLY CHAIN AT 16TH GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN SUMMIT IN KENYA

USAID's SAFEMed Activity technical advisors Dmytro Nestor and Mykhailo Murza were among the 450 global supply chain experts that came together for the 16th Global Health Supply Chain Summit (GHSCS) in Nairobi on November 14-16. Launched in 2008, GHSCS is an annual, three-day event that gives stakeholders from governments, NGOs, international organizations, and others the opportunity to discuss supply chain innovation strategies to improve health outcomes. Centered this year around the theme "THE JOURNEY TO SELF RELIANCE: Sustainable and Resilient Supply Chains for Equitable Access to Healthcare," staff from SAFEMed presented a poster highlighting the humanitarian medical aid supply chain system on the second day of the event.

SAFEMed's presentation demonstrated how the Activity has helped the country build a strong supply chain system to ensure Ukrainians maintain access to life-saving health commodities amidst a war-induced humanitarian crisis. The poster presentation focused on the development of MedData, a digital tool that monitors distribution and accounting of health commodities, as well as the role of the private sector in the humanitarian aid supply chain. SAFEMed staff also had the opportunity to answer participant questions about the process of transitioning the management of these efforts from the project to the government and next steps in improving the system.

The SAFEMed team met with manufacturers and logistics companies currently supporting activities in Ukraine, including SureChill, a freezer manufacturer procured by UNICEF, and Logenix International, a global logistics services provider that supports deliveries of PEPFAR-procured antiretrovirals (ARVs) to Ukraine. On the last day of the event, SAFEMed had the opportunity to visit the Kenyan Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS), an organization that offers procurement, warehousing, logistics, and distribution as well as quality assurance services for health commodities and technologies.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

SAFEMED HOSTS ROUND TABLE ON PRICING POLICY



Photo credit: SAFEMed

On November 28, SAFEMed held a round table on the "Evolution of the System of State Price Regulation for Medicines" to provide an overview of the regulatory environment for medicines pricing. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), State Expert Center (SEC), Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), World Health Organization (WHO), national and international experts. During the event, speakers highlighted analytical data of the pharmaceutical market and provided a review of the existing pricing mechanisms in Ukraine, along with proposals for short- and long-term strategies to improve pricing policies. The round table ended with a dynamic panel discussion where participants discussed challenges faced with implementing state pricing policy for medicines and

medical devices and strategies for coordinating further action. SAFEMed will continue supporting the Government of Ukraine (GOU) on its work to establish a single state pricing policy for medicines.

About SAFEMed

The Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines (SAFEMed) for Ukrainians Activity is designed to support the Government of Ukraine in its ongoing efforts to reform its health care system and expand access to affordable and reliable medicines. With support from USAID and PEPFAR, MSH provides technical and legal assistance to strengthen Ukraine's pharmaceutical sector. 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.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE TRAINING ON COLD CHAIN AND VACCINE MANAGEMENT

Throughout October and November, SAFEMed supported regional trainings on cold chain and vaccine management hosted by regional Centers for Disease Control (CDCs), with assistance from UNICEF. The trainings aimed to expand the knowledge and capabilities of health care professionals involved in cold chain management and covered topics such as cold-chain equipment, temperature monitoring, vaccine handling, and data management, as well as the legislative framework for these processes. The interactive presentations were accompanied by practical exercises and small group discussions. SAFEMed supported training and monitoring visits in five regions (Zhytomyr, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, and Kyiv city), where about 220 health care professionals participated in the sessions. While in each region, SAFEMed representatives visited regional warehouses for vaccine distribution to explore how regional CDCs equip these facilities and utilize new equipment, as well as monitor their compliance with licensing conditions. SAFEMed also presented on the upcoming logistics pilot for last-mile vaccine distribution, which will test potential strategies for implementation in different regions.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES SEEK TO STRENGTHEN PHYSICIAN PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

On October 17, the MOH approved legislation, drafted with support from SAFEMed partner Legal Alliance, requiring the international non-proprietary name (INN) of medicines to be indicated on paper and electronic prescriptions along with the mandatory indication of the form and dosage. This change is designed to expand use of generic medicines that are of equal quality but lower cost, thus increasing access and affordability of medicines for the Ukrainian population. Order No. 1806 amends the Rules for Prescribing Medicinal Products and Medical Devices, which has been in place since 2005, and states that, at the start of the new year, both paper and ePrescriptions will be issued under the trade name of the medicinal product only in the following cases:

- The medicinal product does not have an INN and contains more than four active substances.
- The medicinal product belongs to medicinal products of biological origin or similar biological products (biosimilars).

These changes come after the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine recommended strengthening the requirements regarding the possibility for health care professionals to indicate the trade names of medicinal products in prescriptions, taking into account international experience. Also, according to the amendments, ePrescriptions for products providing reimbursed palliative care are issued by family doctors for all patients, except those with mental and behavioral disorders. For individuals with mental and behavioral disorders, ePrescriptions for these specified products are exclusively issued by doctors specializing in psychiatry, child psychiatry, and narcology.

NEW SAFEMED RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS WORK TO ENHANCE HIV SUPPLY CHAIN

SAFEMed's new technical brief highlights how the project is working to combat Ukraine's HIV epidemic by strengthening the supply chain for life-saving health commodities to ensure patients can access the medical treatment they need.

[READ THE BRIEF](#)

NEW VIDEO CELEBRATES MPU ACHIEVEMENTS IN HONOR OF 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Last month, MPU celebrated its fifth anniversary and held a reception with partners at the national and international level. For this event, SAFEMed supported the creation of a video to describe organizational achievements during this period. The video-blurb has been shared on the MPU Facebook page.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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