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

## MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

MARCH 2024



## SAFEMED SUPPORTS MOH STUDY VISIT TO THE SWEDISH MEDICAL PRODUCT AGENCY

On March 14-15, a delegation from Ukraine comprising of key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and affiliated institutions held a study visit to the Swedish Medical Products Agency (Swedish MPA). The delegation aimed to gain insights into the best practices of European Union (EU) regulatory authorities, with a particular focus on enhancing Ukraine's regulatory framework in alignment with European standards.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

The delegation included the Deputy Minister of Health for European Integration, Head of the Pharmaceutical Department of MOH, Director of State Expert Center (SEC) of MOH, Deputy Director on Legal Issues of SEC, and staff from USAID's SAFEMed Activity team. The visit included a series of meetings covering structure and financing, operational mechanisms, IT systems, laboratory components, and regulatory procedures in the Swedish MPA.

In addition to these meetings, the delegation made an on-site visit to the Uppsala Monitoring Center, which is dedicated to strengthening pharmacovigilance and patient safety worldwide. This visit allowed the delegation to gain key insights to further help Ukraine enhance pharmacovigilance practices and promote the safer use of medicines.

It was agreed that regular meetings should be held between the Ukrainian delegation and representatives of the Swedish MPA. This commitment to sustained dialogue underscores the mutual aspiration to ongoing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and readiness to participate in an EC Twinning project.

## SAFEMED JOINS MOH-HOSTED MEETING ON MOBILE PHARMACIES

The March 11 meeting, arranged by MOH with SAFEMed, International Medical Corps (IMC) and State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control (SMDC) representatives, discussed new mechanisms of providing the population of Ukraine with medicines. There was a particular focus on the operation of mobile pharmacies in hard-to-reach regions and areas near territories affected by active hostilities.

As of today, mobile pharmacies have commenced operations in Kharkiv, Cherkasy, and Mykolaiv regions. The meeting

### 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.

reviewed initial outcomes, deliberated on strategies for route development, and explored methods to enhance the supply and control systems for medicines.

MOH highlighted plans to launch additional mobile pharmacies in the near future, targeting Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Zhytomyr regions with the support of the USAID Community Action for HIV Control activity.

During the meeting it was preliminarily agreed that IMC will lead the advancement of mobile pharmacies in Dnipro region and the formulation of a strategic plan for gradually expanding this mechanism to other territories. MOH will share developed legal acts, guidelines, and lists of medicines with IMC for the subsequent operation of mobile pharmacies.

SAFEMed reaffirmed its commitment to supporting MOH and other partners in implementing this crucial mechanism for medicine provision. Furthermore, SAFEMed will continue to support communication assistance in the ongoing development of mobile pharmacies.

## SAFEMED AND MPU PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PTD GLOBAL INDABA 2024 IN THAILAND

In Bangkok, supply chain management (SCM) enthusiasts, stakeholders, and experts converged March 6-8 for the People that Deliver (PtD) Global Indaba 2024. Since its inception in 2022, this conference has swiftly become the premier event for those passionate about enhancing the capabilities of the health SCM workforce. Over 250 attendees gathered to champion the cause of SCM capacity building, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

The SAFEMed Activity, represented by Senior Technical Advisors Vera Horovenko and Victoria Nosulenko, showcased Ukraine's innovative approaches in two abstracts presented during the conference. Horovenko's abstract delved into the encouraging potential of pharmacy-driven antiretroviral (ARV) dispensing, while Nosulenko shed light on the transformative impact of optimized staffing models on healthcare supply chains.

In a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by **Andrew Brown**, Senior Principal Technical Advisor, Management Sciences for Health, experts delved into innovative strategies for workforce development amidst changes in procurement and supply chain management. Edem Adamanov, the General Manager of the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), captivated the audience with MPU's journey towards transforming procurement into an end-to-end supply chain entity. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing soft skills in the workforce.

As the conference progressed, the conversation shifted to the evolving landscapes of SCM, propelled by technological advancements and changing demographics. Adamanov's insights into MPU's initiatives in integrating artificial intelligence into software tools sparked discussions on the workforce's preparedness for such innovations.



Reflecting on the enriching discussions and exchanges at PtD Global Indaba 2024, participants emphasized the need for adaptability, bravery, and patience in navigating the complexities of SCM transformations. There was a unanimous acknowledgment that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, underscoring the importance of tailored strategies and continuous learning in driving progress within the SCM ecosystem. As the curtains draw on PtD Global Indaba 2024, the echoes of impassioned discussions and shared insights reverberate, serving as catalysts for continued collaboration and innovation in the realm of supply chain management.

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