



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

AUGUST 2024

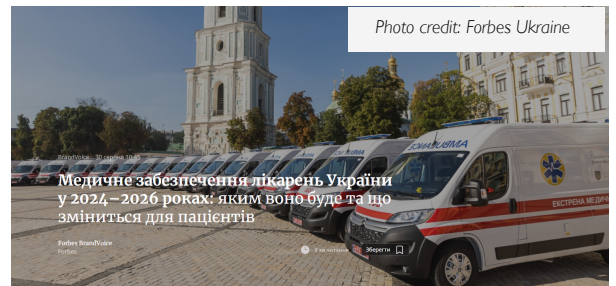


FORBES UKRAINE PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON MPU ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Among many areas of support, the USAID/SAFEMed Activity helps the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) implement their communication strategy and recently facilitated the publication of an article in Forbes Ukraine. The article highlights MPU's progress since its establishment in 2018, focusing on its mission to provide patients with essential medicines and medical equipment.

One of MPU's key achievements, supported by USAID/SAFEMed, is the introduction and expansion of the use of the Prozorro Market, or eCatalog, by health facilities to procure medicines and medical products. Through Prozorro, hospitals are able to source medical goods swiftly, reducing procurement processing time from weeks to just a few days, cutting bureaucracy and driving down costs by 16%. In 2024, more than 4,450 procurement contracts among 1,300 health facilities have been facilitated via eCatalog saving more than 1,9

billion UAH (approx. 45 million USD), enabling better access to essential supplies. As SAFEMed continued to support capacity building, MPU has moved from a procurement agency to full scale supply chain agency that continues to promote transparency and accountability while elevating the level of medicine provision for all Ukrainians.



[Read more about MPU's achievements in the article](#)

SAFEMED PARTICIPATES IN AIDS 2024

The 25th International AIDS Conference took place in Munich, Germany, on July 22-26, bringing together global experts to strategize on combating HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis. Staff from the USAID SAFEMed Activity as well as other projects supported by Management Science for Health (MSH) were in attendance to engage in discussions and share valuable insights. Acting Deputy General Director of the Center for Public Health (CPH) Olga Gvozdetska took part in a satellite session, co-organized by MSH, titled "Optimizing the Transition of Health System Functions as a Critical Pathway to Sustainability of the HIV Response." During her presentation, Ms. Gvozdetska discussed the severe challenges facing Ukraine's medical system during the full-scale invasion. She emphasized the crucial role of international partners in ensuring the continued provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART) to HIV-infected individuals and the rapid adaptation of drug distribution algorithms to meet the needs of the population under emergency conditions.

The conference reinforced SAFEMed's strategic objectives of sustaining and optimizing health system functions in Ukraine, even in the face of significant challenges. Sessions provided insights into innovative approaches and the importance of equity in the HIV response, which will be instrumental in guiding SAFEMed's efforts to ensure the resilience and sustainability of Ukraine's health care system.

The event also facilitated networking opportunities, allowing SAFEMed and government counterparts to strengthen partnerships and collaborate with global experts, and underscored the collective commitment to sustain and enhance the HIV response.

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.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Photo credit: SAFEMed



SAFEMED MAKES PROGRESS TO OPTIMIZE UKRAINE'S LABORATORY INFRASTRUCTURE

SAFEMed is assisting the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) and the Center of Public Health (CPH) to strengthen Ukraine's laboratory infrastructure and optimize the laboratory network for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis diagnostics. In August, following analysis and a comprehensive data collection on diagnostic equipment and consumables, SAFEMed evaluated different laboratory network models using the Delphi method with the support of 12 national experts, including representatives from the CPH and international organizations like PATH and UNAIDS, as well as staff from regional CDCs, laboratories, and health care facilities. These experts selected the Regional Centralization model as the most suitable organizational structure for Ukraine's laboratory diagnostics, which involves centralizing laboratory functions at the regional level with sample collection and preliminary processing conducted locally from the subregional level. In following this approach, regional laboratory centers with adequate equipment capacity will be established in each region, either based in existing specialized health care facilities or in regional CDCs.

This group also spent time planning for the future and discussed the potential transition towards the Supra-Regional Clustering model, which consolidates laboratories into a few large hubs serving multiple regions. This approach optimizes resource use by addressing varying diagnostic needs across the country. The group emphasized the need to standardize and select high-performance equipment and of minimizing the risks of relying on a single supplier and maintaining the quality of diagnostics. This collective research has been shared with key stakeholders to ensure broad support as the MOH and CPH move forward with integrating this model into the national strategy – a crucial step forward in preparing Ukraine's health system to meet both current and future health care challenges.



STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST

ua-safemed@safemedua.org