

# MEDISAFE

## Combating falsified medicines in Eastern and Central Africa -

### P66

The EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative  
[https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index_en)



Funded by the  
European Union

10  
YEARS



#### CONTEXT

The production, trafficking and consumption of falsified medicines poses a threat to public health and public security and fuels organized crime flows and networks. Although no country is protected against this threat, the impact is particularly important in developing countries where falsified medicines are found in the treatment of life-threatening diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and other severe microbial infections. The European Union, through the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative is tackling the issue of falsified medicines. MEDISAFE, implemented in Eastern and Central Africa, is part of this initiative.

#### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of MEDISAFE is to support the fight against the production and trafficking of substandard and falsified medicines and pharmaceuticals in eleven countries in East and Central Africa.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Specifically, the project contributes to fight against organized crime and to achieve better health outcomes based on two strategies:

1. Contributing to strengthening partner countries' capacities and added value in the identification of substandard and falsified medical products and in the fight against their production and trafficking in Eastern and Central Africa;
2. Strengthening regional cooperation and harmonization in terms of approaches, procedures and joint operations to combat the production and trafficking of falsified medical products and medicines.

The whole strategy relies on the development of a robust legal framework.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Strengthening risk awareness among civil society;
2. Strengthening legal frameworks to penalize the production and trafficking of substandard and falsified medical products;
3. Capacity building of the actors involved (security forces, judicial bodies, health professionals including pharmacists and laboratories);
4. Improving drug supply and distribution chains' security;
5. Improving inter-agency cooperation at national level (police, customs, pharmaceutical inspection, etc.);
6. Strengthening regional and international cooperation to support the harmonization of approaches and laws and to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against falsified medicines.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **22** national experts, including 6 women, in the project's 11 partner countries of East and Central Africa;
- **11** technical seminars on "Best Legislative Practices" for legal professionals concerning the application of the law, definitions and international alignments in relation to counterfeit, substandard and falsified medicines;
- **11** technical seminars on "Identification, Detection and Control of the SFMHP" building capacity of the national medical regulatory authority, national quality control laboratories and other institutions, including the private sector, to carry out post market surveillance and pharmacovigilance activities;
- **11** awareness-raising seminars with "Women Civil Society Organizations" to sensitize the community on the scourge of counterfeit medicines, street pharmacies or online medicines sales;
- The Bulk SMS campaign launched in Kenya touched **85,000** health workers through **170,000** SMS messages.

#### AMOUNT

Phase I: € 3.9 million

#### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Main implementer:

Expertise France (EF)

In partnership with:

- (1) Professional Association of Public Pharmacy Inspectors (APROPHISP),
- (2) Humanitarian Center for Pharmacy Trades (CHMP),
- (3) Network for Medicines and Development (ReMed),
- (4) Azienda Socio Sanitarie Territoriali (ASST) Fatebenefratelli Sacco,
- (5) International Conference of Francophone Orders of Pharmacists (CIOPF).

#### DURATION

Phase I: 60 months. From March 2018 until March 2023.

#### COUNTRIES COVERED

Kenya, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Zambia, Malawi

#### CONTACTS

European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)

FPI 1 – Global Threats

[FPI-1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:FPI-1@ec.europa.eu)