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| Report  Subject: UNDP Community Advisory Board Meeting  Date: 4 February 2021  Time: 14:00 - 15:30  Participants: 21 representatives of Ukrainian civil society and patient organizations, 8 representatives of the UNDP Health and Transparency Programme |
| Svilen Konov, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP |
| Gave a welcome speech inviting the participants to a fruitful and open dialogue, as well as assuring that UNDP intends to continue to make every effort to support nongovernmental and patient organizations, in particular by providing it’s all available information, as well as raising their concerns and/or problems during regular meetings with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MoH). |
| Nina Astaforova-Yatsenko, CF “Children with Hemophilia” |
| Presented the experience of cooperation between the CF ‘’Children with Hemophilia’’ and UNDP, in particular on the example of two projects under the -Low-value grant programme on monitoring the availability and use of purchased medicines (in 2018 and 2020), as well as under the Project for technical support of the ‘’E-Liky’’ system . In particular, through these activities it was possible to engage the patient community and give due attention to people with different diseases, and also begin to educate them on how to use existing open data. The organization also conducted [a training webinar](https://youtu.be/3w_ns8aMwmM) for NGO representatives on monitoring medicine supply by using the ‘’E-Liky’’ system. Also, on the example of one of the medicines, that is used in the treatment of hemophilia, the need for close cooperation in controlling the quality of medicines was noted. In particular, the control over the level of their effectiveness and the absence of side effects is necessary. Ms. Astaforova-Yatsenko thanked UNDP for an independent assessment of the quality of this medicine that will be carried out. |
| Tetyana Diachuk, Senior Procurement Specialist, UNDP |
| Noted that when carrying out purchases, UNDP Ukraine is guided by the UN global policy on quality assurance which applies to all representative offices of an international organization in all countries. In addition, UNDP specialists provide their recommendations and comments on all terms of reference for the procurement of medicines received from the Ministry of Health.  Also presented information on the procurement of medicines at the expense of the 2019/2020 state budgets. In particular, at the expense of the 2019 state fund UNDP purchases medicines and medical products under 27 programmes in the amount of UAH 2.6 billion ($ 110 million). The main purchases under all 27 programmes of the Ministry of Health were completed in full - medicines and medical products were purchased in quantities based on budget funding. Under 5 programmes (Child and Adult Hemophilia, Epidermolysis Bullosa, Transplantology and TB diagnostics), additional purchases and deliveries are carried out in separate lots on savings. In general, medicines were supplied in the amount of UAH 2.0 billion. ($ 85 million) or 94% of the amount of contracted medicines. Actual savings amounted to over UAH 673.8 million ($ 27.5 million) under 12 programmes. Under the programmes of Adult and Child Cystic Fibrosis, Adult Hemophilia, Adult and Child JRA, Cerebral Palsy 100% of the required medicines has already been purchased thanks to the efficient procurement process. For the 2020 BY UNDP purchases medicines and medical products under 11 programmes (Adult and Child Cystic Fibrosis, Adult and Child JRA, Arterial Hypertension, Dwarfism, Epidermolysis Bullosa, Orphan diseases, PID, TB medicines and Transplantology) for the amount of UAH 1.9 billion ($ 68.5 million). Despite the signing of the Agreement with the Ministry at the end of November 2020, the first deliveries (under the Orphans programme) were made at the end of 2020. To date, 46 percent of contracted medicines and medical devices have been delivered, mainly under the Orphans programme. For 2021, it is expected that 11 programs will be allocated to international specialized organizations under which requirements are currently being collected. |
| Anna Pylypchuk, Data Management, Monitoring & Evaluation Programme Associate, UNDP |
| Presented a report on the supplied medicines, as well as plans for future supplies by UNDP which is published on [the Project page](https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/projects/procurement-support-services-to-the-MOH.html) at the beginning of each month. In particular, the published tables contain information on the names of programmes (nosologies), international non-proprietary names, form of release, dosage, supplier, trade name, contracted and delivered quantities, as well as the expected and actual delivery date. All information is regularly updated and is on open access for organizations and citizens. There were no comments or requests for additional information to be presented in the report, so the method and scope of information provision in 2021 is approved. |
| Q&A |
| During the meeting, representatives of patient organizations raised a number of questions regarding purchases/additional purchases of medicines under particular programmes, information on saved funds, dates of announcement of tenders, etc.  The questions and answers to them are summarized below:  - At what stage are additional purchases under the programme ‘’Medicinal Products for Patients Suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa’’?  - To date, the Additional agreement on the reallocation of funds was sent to the Ministry of Health. As soon as it is signed and the money is reallocated, the procurement process will be launched. The products are reserved at the manufacturer's warehouse.  - When will all the information on the savings for the budget of 2019 be available?  - When all programmes for 2019 are finalized, it will be possible to talk about the full amount of saved funds. At the moment, the procurement process of medicines under some of the 2019 programmes continues.  - When will procurement for 2021 start?  - At the moment, the Ministry of Health is collecting information on needs. As soon as this process is finalized, the procedure for selecting agencies/international organizations for procurement will begin. According to preliminary information from the Ministry, the selection procedure will be initiated in March 2021.  - Is information on additional purchases displayed in the tables published by UNDP on the website?  - Yes, the tables contain information on all contracted supplies of medicines. Medicines purchased on savings are not separately marked.  - Has UNDP received guidance from the MoH regarding the allocation of the 2019 savings for the pulmonary arterial hypertension programme?  - UNDP purchased the bulk of medicines according to the instructions received from the Ministry of Health. After additional purchases were made, about $ 1 million remained. Instructions on their reallocation from the Ministry of Health have not yet been received.  - When will the tenders for the pulmonary arterial hypertension programme for 2020 be announced?  - Regarding this and several other programmes for 2020, UNDP is awaiting comments and responses to comments on terms of reference from the Ministry of Health. This information is currently being reviewed by a group of experts.  - How can patients receive the glucocorticoid deflazacort, which is not registered in Ukraine, at the expense of the state budget?  - For the procurement of a medicine at the expense of the public funds, it is necessary for it to be included in the nomenclature at the state level. The need for a medicine at the national level is also important. Lawyers can suggest the legal way of adding a medicine to the nomenclature.  Commentary: It is also necessary to work on increasing funding at the state level. In addition, the purchase of unregistered medicines was allowed by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 82 adopted on February 3, 2021.  - Was there any experience of holding joint meetings and clarifying the timing and necessary documents in cases of transferring certain programmes from UNDP to the State-owned Enterprise "Medical Procurement of Ukraine"? And in case of failure, is there a "plan B" in which these programmes will be returned to UNDP back?  - Representatives of UNDP have repeatedly conducted training sessions with the State Enterprise "Medical Procurement of Ukraine" during which they shared their experience and explained what first of all should be paid attention to. UNDP is ready to further support the Enterprise in order to procure quality medicines in a timely manner and prevent interruption of patient treatment.  Commentary: Procurement by the State-owned enterprise directly depends on the Ministry of Health, and the process is complicated by the conflict between them. In the previous year, it caused the delay in the procurement of medicines under certain programmes, in particular under the Oncology programme. At the same time, the transfer process of these programmes back to UNDP has not been initiated. At the meantime, there is a mechanism of medium-term commitments which allows not to lose the allocated budget funds and to buy medicines at their expense next year. But this mechanism must be improved. |
| Dorin Rotaru, Health Programme Specialist, UNDP |
| UNDP understands the importance of the role of civil society and patient organizations and is ready to continue to facilitate their participation in exercising control over the process of public procurement of medicines in Ukraine, in particular by providing all available information. One of UNDP's priorities is to support the development of the central procurement agency and the development of a modern system for the procurement of medicines, and, accordingly, increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the national health procurement system. |