Survey – Questions for UN Organizations

As mandated by WHA74 and for input towards EB 150. August 2021

UN Organization	UNOPS
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WHO thanks you very much for your participation in the meeting to discuss the standardization of medical devices nomenclature, as mandated by WHA74.

Please find below the survey for the UN Organizations, as mentioned during our meeting. Please provide all the evidence required for every statement provided (for example, website screenshots, links to your website or attach the documents required).

1. Is your organization currently using one or more Medical Device Nomenclature? If yes, please indicate:	
a. which one(s) do you use?	
EMDN	
GMDN	
UMDNS	
UNSPSC	X
Other, specify: Business Units and Project teams may adopt, besides UNSPSC, Country Specific (e.g. National Compendium of Health Supplies) or Manufacturers' coding/nomenclature systems as per applicable. The level of UNSPSC codes used in procurement activities is normally high, not granular enough for identifying the classes and types of medical devices.	
Developed by your own: Yes: , No: X	

b. In which language(s) is your nomenclature available?	
English	X
Spanish	X (not kept timely up to date)
French	X (not kept timely up to date)
Russian	
Chinese	X (not kept timely up to date)
Arabic	X (not kept timely up to date)

c. Please provide a copy of your license agreement including any subscription or other costs associated with the use of your nomenclature
UNSPSC standard licensing for UN Agencies and UNGM.

d. Is the subscription free? For each level and in what conditions?

The subscription is not free. The UN Global Marketplace (UNGM), hosted by UNOPS, maintains a UNSPSC subscription, which historically has cost $750 per annum. See the UNSPSC website for more information about subscriptions.

e. What are the limitation(s) of the nomenclature(s) used?					
Limitations / Nomenclature	**GMDN**	**EMDN**	**UNSPSC**	**UMDNS**	**Other**
Language			X languages other than English not timely updated		
Definitions			X not available or not exhaustive		
Terms			X not exhaustive		
Hierarchy			X not t developed specifically for the medical devices sector, despite being adapted to it		
Codes			X rigid coding system, not dynamic		
Structure			X rigid structure, not open and not an		

			ontology or a relational database		
Continuous updating			X sometimes not timely		
Economical resources			X not free		
Other (specify)			Level of detail used in procurement.		

2. Does your organization see the need of using a standardized nomenclature? Please elaborate.
Yes, to harmonize and ensure traceability, uniformity, exchange of information, standardisation of the equipment and its usage, referencing, safety, regulatory issues and equipment procurement, management and maintenance. A common nomenclature would also improve the standardisation and harmonisation of healthcare programs and "disease or commodity packages".

3. Please describe the reasons your Agency uses the Nomenclature	
a. Planning and evaluation	x
b. Budget and financing	
c. Procurement	x
d. Maintenance (CMMS)	If required by the specific project.
e. Medical Technologies quality assurance and surveillance	x
f. Medical Technologies Assessment	If required by the specific project.
g. Complete follow up to supply chain for medical devices	If required by the specific project.
h. Other (specify):	

4. Please describe how codes / nomenclature are used by your final users (beneficiaries)?
Partners and Beneficiaries use their nomenclature system, or sometimes UNSPSC, mainly for procurement, planning, management, surveillance and regulatory purposes.

5. How do you reconcile when your final users use different nomenclature than your UN Agency, is using?

Where possible and necessary we use mappings to align user nomenclature with the UNSPSC products used internally.

6. Do you map nomenclatures? If yes, how do you map them?
As above. This process is generally not automated and is time consuming, therefore this is not done for all projects.

7. **For UNDP (only)**: How do you structure the "United Nations Standard Product and Services Codes (UNSPSC)" for medical devices? Can you describe the methodology to assign codes, terms, definitions, and hierarchy? Please provide examples.

8. **For UNDP (only)**: Please describe your relationship with GS1 in developing and maintaining the UNSPSC

9. According to your experience with Health Technology Providers, do they use their own nomenclature? If yes, do you map UNSPSC to the nomenclature used by the Health Technology Provider? How do you map them?
In our experience the Providers don't use their own nomenclature, but they may classify their products in the most common nomenclature systems in the market where they operate. UNSPSC does not seem the most common system in use amongst the Providers. We don't map UNSPSC to the Providers' nomenclature.

10. According to your experience with final users (beneficiaries), if the receipt country has not developed their own nomenclature or adopted an international relevant nomenclature (EMDN, GMDN, UMDNS, for example), what is the methodology to implement UNSPSC with final users (beneficiaries)?
It depends on the specific project, however in general we are not used to implementing UNSPSC with the final users/beneficiaries if they don't adopt any nomenclature

11. Have you had any experience working with Unique Device Identifiers? If so, please describe any nomenclature-related work in this area.
It depends on the specific project, however normally UDI are managed by the Beneficiaries rather than by UNOPS.