VACCINATION SAVES LIVES
Supporting the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccination systems in the Eastern Partnership

A 3-year, €40 million project of the European Union and WHO Regional Office for Europe in six countries of the Eastern Partnership – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine

PROJECT IMPACT: FEBRUARY 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022

Supporting national vaccination systems and data management

- National Deployment and Vaccination Plan developed; regular technical assistance provided to national health partners: on developing an application to receive emergency stock of cholera vaccines; on maintaining the vaccine cold chain system during power outages caused by the war; and facilitating the approval of new COVID-19 vaccines.
- WHO global guidance on monitoring COVID-19 vaccination translated and provided to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Technical assistance provided to ensure immunization is reflected in the national recovery plans.
- 150 computers and software distributed to regional hubs and immunization units.

Providing health professionals with capacity-building opportunities

- 95% of all health-care workers (HCWs) involved in COVID-19 vaccination services trained in all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination.
- 170 000 copies of factsheets on the COVID-19 vaccines available in Ukraine and 38 000 copies of informational material on vaccine administration and cold chain system distributed.
- 350 regional trainers regularly supervised and continuously supported with technical assistance to help them pass on knowledge to peers.
- Over 250 health professionals trained and in-person on communicating in times of crisis, interacting with media, working with spokespersons, and reducing the risk of misinformation.
- 287 000 personal protective equipment items distributed to HCWs.
- 8300 attendees at the IVth International Congress of the Ukrainian Academy of Pediatric Specialties trained on various issues related to vaccination during a conflict.
- Courses for HCWs made available on the OpenWHO and the MoH’s platform: on vaccine safety, COVID-19 vaccines, and cholera outbreak response.
- 31 educational videos on immunization adapted reaching more than 5000 HCWs on the MoH platform.
- 26 specialists from the Regional Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) trained to improve public speaking skills on immunization.

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Delivery of immunization services

- 2 buses handed over to medical facilities to assist older people, people living in rural areas, and other people living in vulnerable situations, in accessing vaccination centres.
- 5 million medical masks and 3 million gloves distributed for COVID-19 vaccinations across the country.
- Field visits to promote COVID-19 vaccination among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) launched during European Immunization Week 2022.
- 941 IDP centres visited, hosting nearly 120,000 people, to provide information on vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Over 13,000 vaccinations administered directly in IDP centres.
- Vaccination status verification procedure developed to ensure continuity of care for IDPs.
- Informational video developed and 845,000 copies of a leaflet distributed to increase vaccination uptake among IDPs.

Risk communication and community engagement

- 93 videos from the WHO Collaborative Centre on Vaccine Safety adapted and Q&As published answering over 100 questions, reaching some 9 million people. To facilitate access to information in remote places, 23,500 copies of Q&As printed and distributed to healthcare providers.
- 25,000 copies of awareness-raising materials distributed.
- Awareness-raising campaign working with volunteers implemented in the Poltava region to reach priority groups, specifically older people, with COVID-19 vaccines information and outreach vaccination services: mobile vaccination units, vaccination at marketplaces, and extended work schedules for fixed vaccination sites.
- Leaflets developed and 845,000 copies distributed to increase vaccination uptake among IDPs.