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Pharma-Unternehmen
Research-Based
Pharmaceutical Companies

Side Event World Health Summit 2023 The Fight against Falsified and Substandard Medicines –

25 Years of Global Pharma Health Fund's Minilab and beyond

Date: 15. October 2023, 11:00-12:30 h

Background

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), one in ten medical products is substandard or falsified. Even medicines without any active ingredient are often in circulation, endangering human lives or causing death. Anti-malarial medicines and antibiotics are particularly affected, and it is often sick children who suffer the consequences.

For the past 25 years, so-called Minilabs, compact and transportable field laboratories to detect falsified or substandard medicines, have been in use in resource-poor areas in the global South.

With the Minilab laboratory-in-a-suitcase, developed by experts from the Global Pharma Health Fund e.V. (GPHF) in Frankfurt and manufactured by Technology Transfer Marburg (TTM), it is possible to perform quality tests on medicines at low cost and without additional infrastructure. Government officials, pharmaceutical supply chain staff and healthcare personnel are trained to use these "laboratories-in-a-suitcase" to be able to detect falsified or substandard medicines. Detected cases are reported to the WHO and local authorities, followed up, and the respective products are withdrawn from sale. About 1000 Minilabs have been sold so far, but it is expected that many more will be needed.

We are using the Minilab's 25th anniversary to celebrate the positive impact this particular instrument has made on public health in resource-poor settings. An uncounted number of lives has been saved, and severe damage to the health of many more people has been prevented.

Programme

Welcome

Moderator **Prof. Dr. Lutz Heide**, Pharmaceutical Institute, University of Tübingen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Andrew Ullmann, Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Opening remarks

Dr. Jutta Reinhard-Rupp, Vice Chairwoman Global Pharma Health Fund e.V. (GPHF)

Role and work of Global Pharma Health Fund e.V.

Pernette Bourdillon-Esteve, Technical Officer, Incidents and substandard/falsified medical products, WHO

The WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System for Substandard and Falsified Medical Products

Experiences from the use of the GPHF Minilab in the field

Richard Neci, Executive Director, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), Kenya:
The use of the GPHF Minilab as a means to detect falsified medicines in the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network

Stephen Kigera, Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS), Kenya:
Medicine quality assurance by the Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (Kenya) and the GPHF Minilab

Joanita Namutebi Lwanyanga, Joint Medical Store (JMS), Uganda:
Safeguarding medicine quality in the Joint Medical Stores, Uganda

Julia Gabel and Michael Lächele, Pharmazeutisches Institut, Universität Tübingen
Medicine quality research in Nigeria using the GPHF Minilab as screening tool

General discussion:

The fight against falsified and substandard medicines – GPHF Minilab and beyond

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Lutz Heide, Pharmaceutical Institute, University of Tübingen, Germany