Substandard and falsified medicines particularly affect the most vulnerable communities. They only exist because access to quality, affordable medicines does not.

Our biggest challenge is ensuring people have access to high-quality, affordable medicines.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization
Today you will learn about:

1. Falsified & Substandard Medicines
2. Facts & Foes
3. Fight the Fakes Alliance
4. What you can continue to do
World Health Organization Definitions of Substandard and Falsified (SF) Medical Products

Seventieth World Health Assembly update, 29 May 2017

**Substandard**

Also called “out of specification”, these are authorised medical products that fail to meet either their quality standards or specifications, or both.

**Unregistered/Unlicensed**

Medical products that have not undergone evaluation and/or approval by the National or Regional Regulatory Authority (NRRA) for the market in which they are marketed/distributed or used, subject to permitted conditions under national or regional regulation and legislation.

**Falsified**

Medical products that deliberately/fraudulently misrepresent their identity, composition or source.
Anti-malarials and antibiotics are amongst the most commonly reported substandard and falsified medical products. They are often designed to appear identical to the genuine product and may not cause an obvious adverse reaction.

Falsified medical products may contain no active ingredient, the wrong active ingredient or the wrong amount of the correct active ingredient.

They can be found in illegal street markets, via unregulated websites through to pharmacies, clinics and hospitals.

Some substandard and falsified medical products have been toxic in nature with either fatal levels of the wrong active ingredient or other toxic chemicals.

Fake medicines have been reported from all main therapeutic categories including medicines, vaccines and in vitro diagnostics.

They affect every region of the world.

Both generic and innovator medicines can be falsified, ranging from very expensive products for cancer to very inexpensive products for treatment of pain.

An estimated 1 in 10 medical products in low- and middle-income countries is substandard or falsified.
Some falsified medical products are almost visually identical to the genuine product and very difficult to detect.
Can you spot the fake medicine?
Can you spot the fake medicine?
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[Image of two packs of Halfan 250mg]
Can you spot the fake medicine?
**ACTION**

Train primary healthcare professionals to consider the potential presence of fake and substandard medicines

Collaborate on an international scale

Raise awareness and empower patients

Invest in robust healthcare systems to safeguard patients

Set up strong regulatory systems to ensure access to safe and high-quality medicines

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**NO ACTION**

Crime and criminal networks

Development of Antimicrobial Resistance

Further illness, disability and even death

Undermined healthcare systems and professionals

Massive economic burden affecting people everywhere
The vulnerable vs. the criminals

10.5% failure rate in LMIC

72,430 ~ 169,271 deaths caused by SF antibiotics in children under 5 suffering from pneumonia

30.5 bn $ in LMIC

38.5 bn $ in sub-Saharan Africa on SF antimalarials
Deadly cough syrups are spreading around the world

Diethylene glycol concentration was detected in samples of syrups as much as 28.6%. The acceptable limit for Diethylene Glycol is no more than 0.10%. Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal, with reported cases since the 1930’s.
We are a multi-stakeholder association bringing together diverse partners from various sectors of the medicines supply chain, with a collective mission to enhance awareness and drive impactful change in addressing the risks and consequences posed by fake and substandard medicines.
DYK The death toll of the 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquake has surpassed 50,000 people.
Public awareness and risk communication is critical

Fake medicines kill almost 500,000 sub-Saharan Africans a year: UNODC report

Africa accounts for 42% of all reported SF medicines

Online raising awareness campaign
Information booths
Lectures and panel discussions
Open letters
Call to Action
Interviews
Staying safe from fake and substandard medicines begins with more awareness

1. Inform your colleagues and family of what you have learned today
2. Support us to reach more people by sharing our messages
3. Do you know someone that fell victim to fake or substandard medicines? Let’s give them a voice
#Fakemeds are claiming the lives of almost 500,000 sub-Saharan Africans every year. We must speak up and stand up to eradicate substandard and falsified medicines and save countless lives. #FightTheFakes #StopFakeMedsAfrica
Learn more on www.FightTheFakes.org