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Our reference:	180524vpi	Your reference:
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Date: 24 May 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Dr Belkania,

National survey on shortages of medicines and vaccines

Access to affordable quality-assured essential medicines and vaccines has been recognized as a crucial element of the solutions to numerous important public health problems in World Health Assembly resolutions; it represents one of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals; and it is essential to achieving universal health coverage.

The 69th WHA in May 2016, acknowledging the increasing incidence of global shortages of medicines and vaccines, requested WHO secretariat to work on definitions for medicines and vaccines shortages and stockouts; assess the magnitude and nature of the problem of shortages; and establish a global medicine shortage notification system.

In response to those requests, WHO has carried out literature reviews, technical consultations, key informant interviews and issued a series of technical reports. Based on the information identified through these activities, the attached survey was developed as a means to identify additional information from Member States and fill the remaining information gaps.

The aim of this questionnaire is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of strategies used by countries to mitigate the risk of shortages and to assess to what extent shortages impact delivery of optimal health care to patients.

The aim of the survey is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of strategies used by countries to mitigate the risk of shortages, to assess the extent and impact of shortages across countries and regions, as well as to contribute to the ongoing work to developing a global reporting mechanism on shortages, as requested in the resolution.

It is expected that relevant national stakeholders at country level are engaged to completing the survey, such as: medicines regulatory authorities, pharmacy authorities and central medical stores; national or sub-national procurement authorities; immunization programmes.

We look forward to receiving your country agreement to participate in the survey and would be grateful if the completed questionnaire is submitted to WHO Regional Office for Europe **no later than 25 June 2018**.

Should you have questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Tifenn Lucile Marie Humbert, Technical Officer, Health Technologies and Pharmaceuticals (tel. +45 45 33 70 56, E-mail: humbertt@who.int) Division of Health Systems and Public Health and Dr Oleg Benes, Technical Officer, Vaccine-preventable Diseases & Immunization (tel. +45 45 33 70 52, E-mail: beneso@who.int).

Should you have questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu
Director of Programme Management
Director of the Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Encls:

Questionnaire on shortages of medicines and vaccines

Copy for information to:

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