UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum

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Fight the Fakes

Contribution
by

Novartis

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
SAME PACKAGING, SAME SHAPE AND SAME COLOR...

PILLS THAT DO NOT ACTUALLY CONTAIN WHAT WE THINK THEY DO
- no active ingredient
- wrong ingredient
- wrong dose
- dangerous substances

…and that are concocted in unsanitary and unregulated conditions, like in garages, warehouses or sheds.

- Can mimic brand-name or generic prescription or over-the-counter medicines.¹
- Life-saving medicines accounts for 52.8% of all fake medicines detected in the legitimate supply chain.¹
- Over 50% of medicines purchased from illegal websites that hide their physical address are fake.²
- Most of fake medicines penetrating the legitimate medicine supply chain are knockoffs of lifesaving medicines.

A DANGEROUS BUSINESS THAT PUTS PATIENTS’ LIVES AT RISK

People running the fake medicine trade are criminals.
Fake medicines put patients and the general public at risk. They trick patients into believing they are receiving genuine treatment, when instead they are getting deceitful products that could cause:
- further illness
- disability
- death
- or contribute to the development of resistance to the real medicines

700,000 PEOPLE DIE
BECAUSE OF FAKE MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS MEDICINES EVERY YEAR.³

10%
FAKE
10% of medicines in circulation worldwide may be fake.³

50%
FAKE
In certain parts of the globe, up to 50% of medicines in circulation are possibly fake.³

34% INCREASE
Pharmaceutical crime incidents have increased by 34% between 2014 and 2015⁴

$75/$200 BILLION
Highly profitable crime that could be worth between $75 billion and $200 billion a year.⁴

FAKE MEDICINES ARE EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS!
COUNTERFEITERS MADE IT THEIR BUSINESS, MAKE IT YOURS TOO! JOIN FIGHT THE FAKEs!

A campaign to spread the word about fake medicines and their impact on people. Voice your concerns from the frontline and opportunities for actions. Visit www.fightthefakes.org and contact us at info@fightthefakes.org.

Sources:
4. International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)
6. Edna Alexander Dubois